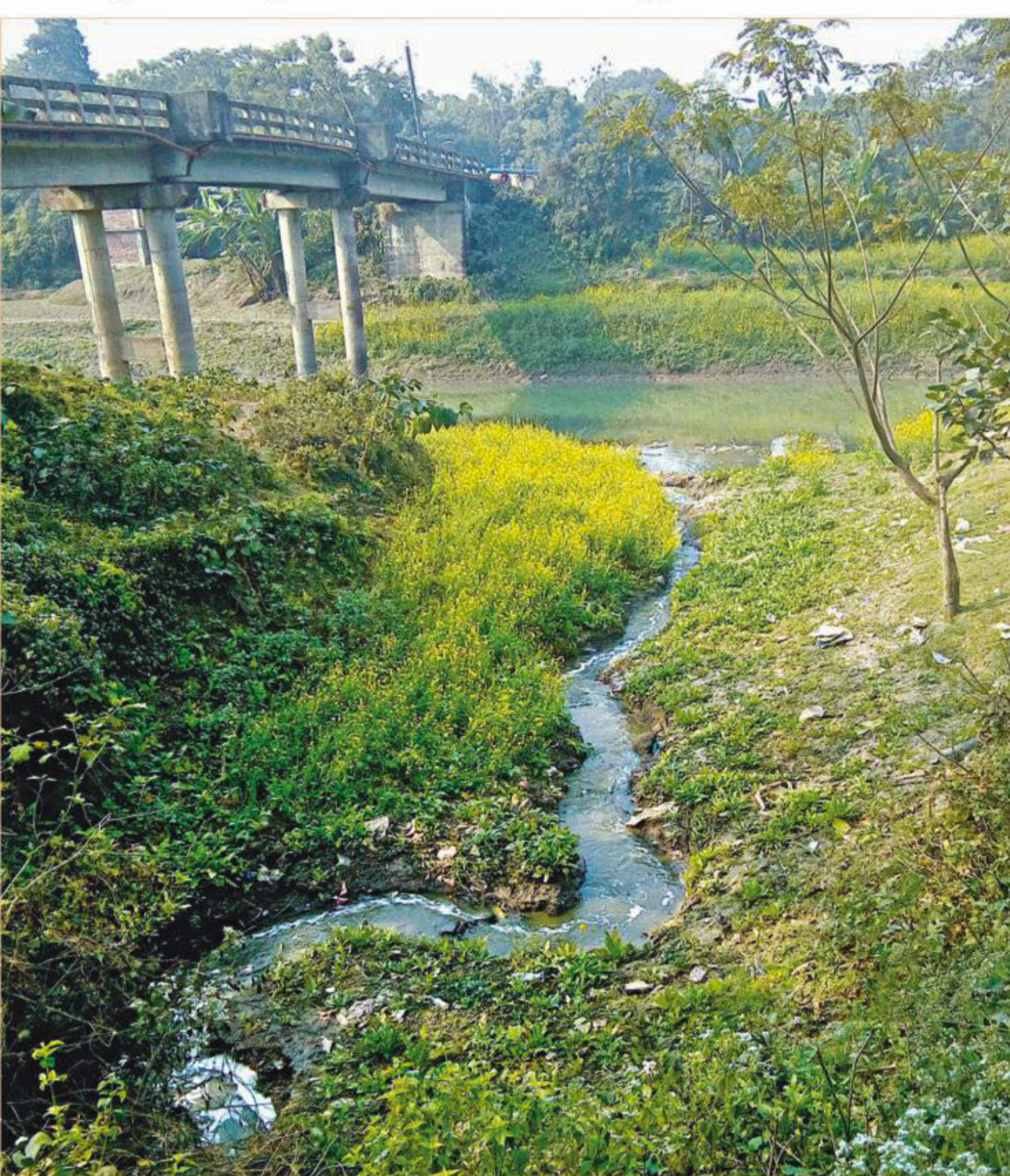


# Sugar mill pollutes Chandona river

Faridpur Sugar Mills discharges untreated toxic effluent to the water body



Untreated toxic water from Faridpur Sugar Mills flows into the Chandona river at Mohishapur in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur. The picture was taken recently.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**

Untreated toxic effluent discharged into the Chandona river by a sugar mill in Madhukhali municipality of the district has been polluting the river and its surrounding areas during sugarcane crushing season for the last seven years.

On a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found untreated toxic water from Faridpur Sugar Mills falling into a canal in the area and flowing into the river in Mohishapur area of Madhukhali upazila. The mill, which is around 300 metres upstream of the Chandona, releases the untreated water through the canal.

Around 3,000 people of four villages in the municipality have been suffering due to the strong smell of the chemicals. About 1,500 students of Ideal Academy and Faridpur Sugar Mills High School, and traders of Mill Gate Bazar area, are the worst sufferers as the canal is situated beside the school and the bazar.

Faridpur Sugar Mills was set up by the government in 1974 and started trial production in 1976.

Locals said negligence of the mill authorities is the main cause of their suffering, adding that they sometimes found dead fish floating in the water near the area where the untreated toxic water met the river.

"We cannot pay attention in class due to the strong smell of chemicals. We also get the smell in our houses," said a student of Faridpur Sugar Mills High School said.

"The number of students in our institution is decreasing day by day due to the strong smell of untreated toxic water. I shall talk with the mill authorities about it as soon as possible," said Ideal Academy Principal Md Masudur Rahman.

"We suffer a lot all through the crushing season as the canal flows past our shops," said Palash Saha, a trader in Mill Gate Bazar.

"I shall send our inspector to visit the area and then I will ask the authorities of the mill to take necessary steps," said district Department of Environment Deputy Director Lutfur Rahman.

"Chandona is a very important river in the area. Pollution of the river with untreated toxic water must be stopped. I shall take steps against it," district Water Development Board Executive Engineer Sultan Mahmud said.

"Lime and sulphur-dioxide mix with the water and create the strong smell. We use the water of our mill's pond, and I do not know if it flows into the river," the mill's Managing Director Md Rafilul Islam said.

PHOTO: STAR

## 6 new deans, one provost at Comilla Univ

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**

Six deans and a hall provost were appointed at Comilla University yesterday for two years.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Anamul Kabir Chowdhury made the appointments, said Registrar Md Mojibur Rahman Mazumder.

Assistant Professor of anthropology department NM Rabiul Awal Chowdhury was appointed as provost of Nawab Faizunessa Chowdhury Hall. Dr AKM Raihan Uddin, associate professor of chemistry department was appointed as dean of science faculty, Dr Masuda Kamal of public administration department as dean of social science faculty, Dr GM Moniruzzaman of Bangla department as dean of arts and humanities faculty, Dr Amzad Hossain of marketing department as dean of business studies faculty, Dr Sajal Chandra Mazumder of physics department as dean of engineering faculty and Dr Aminul Islam Akand of economics department as dean of law faculty.

Deans of science and social science departments will take charge from February 20, while the other appointees will take charge from appointment date.

## Bhasani dreamt of non-communal Bangladesh

**Syed Abul Moksud tells discussion on historic Kagmari Conference**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

Great national leader Maulana Abdul Khan Bhasani believed that politics is meant for protecting the interest of the deprived people and serving the humanity, prominent researcher and columnist Syed Abul Moksud said at a discussion in the district town yesterday.

"Maulana Bhasani was a leader of the oppressed and downtrodden people from the beginning," Moksud said while addressing as the chief guest at the discussion at Tangail Public Library auditorium in the town. Bhasani Foundation organised the programme marking the 61st anniversary of historic Kagmari Conference.

Of the numerous political programmes organised by Bhasani during his long political life, Kagmari Conference of 1957 remains a most prominent and unforgettable one, he said.

"Kagmari Conference is a milestone in the history of the movement for independent Bangladesh. The pledge to form a non-communal and democratic country was declared from the conference," he added.

Bhasani Foundation Chairman Khandakar Nazim Uddin presided over the meeting.

Advisers of the foundation Bulbul Khan Mahub, Syed Irfanul Bari and Prof Abdur Razzak, Secretary General of the foundation Mahmudul Haque Shanu, district Jatiya Party Organising Secretary Fakir Shah Alam, social activist Azad Khan Bhasani and Tangail Press Club President Zafar Ahmed spoke at the meeting.

Kagmari Conference, the council meeting of the then opposition Awami League along with a cultural conference, was held on February 6-10 in 1957 at Kagmari in Tangail.

The main agenda for discussion in the council session on February 7 was full autonomy for the then East Pakistan.

## Improve more on healthcare

**Stakeholders urge at public hearing**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon**

"It was a different day today [Wednesday] for Thakurgaon people as they shared different healthcare issues freely," said Thakurgaon Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Abu Mohammad Khairul Kabir.

The CS said this at a public hearing programme, aiming to provide improved healthcare service at Thakurgaon Modernised Sadar Hospital.

Local lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen delivered the inaugural speech with the CS in the chair.

Teachers, journalists, people's representatives and businessmen attended the programme.

Acknowledging improvement of healthcare service, compared to the previous years, people urged the organisers to go for more improvement.

They said rural people are getting healthcare services now through the community clinics and urged the authorities concerned to continue it.

## DHARLA RIVER DYKE CONSTRUCTION Firm misses first deadline

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat**

The construction firm missed the first deadline of completing work of bank protection embankment of the Dharla river in October last year while the second one would end by this month.

Villagers in Sadar upazila are frustrated as the work in Dakkhin Shiberkuti area is progressing too slowly.

Besides, the people in Aditmari upazila protested use of low quality materials in construction of CC blocks for repairing the damaged spar dyke on the left bank of the Teesta river.

Locals said GO textile bags filled with sand have not been dumped along the bank of the Dharla river at Kulaghat union in Sadar upazila and if protection work is not completed soon, it will create a threat of erosion and flood.

Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer Abdullah Al Mamun said construction firm Karmokar Agency was supposed to complete temporary protection work of Dharla river's 400-metre-long right bank with sand filled GO bags at a cost of Tk 1.2 crore by October 25 in 2017, but it missed the deadline. The firm was also contracted to repair the 30-metre-long protection work of the spar dyke on Teesta river's left bank at a cost of Tk 29 lakh, he added.

Mamun said the contractor has been given a second deadline to complete the protection work at Dakkhin Shiberkuti by February this year.

"As the firm didn't start work for protecting Dharla river bank, the dyke was eroded by the river in July last year, flooding four villages," said Lokman Hossain, 63, of Dakkhin Shiberkuti village. Blaming WDB and the contractor, he said they are badly affected by the flood due to breach in the dyke.

Another local Shamsul Islam, 58, said sand filled GO textile bags have not been dumped to protect the river bank for months and they would face erosion and flood if the work is not completed.

Blaming WDB and the contractor, Kulaghat Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Idris Ali said his union faced serious flood last year as the dyke was eroded. He said it happened as the protection work was not done in time.

Nazrul Islam, 62, of Gobordhan village, said they protested preparing of CC blocks with low quality materials and stopped the repair work of the damaged spar dyke on the left bank of the Teesta river. He said the WDB officials assured them of completing the work as per schedule.

## Yaba, heroin seized in two districts

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur**

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Tuesday arrested three drug peddlers and seized illegal drugs from their possession in Patnitola upazila of Naogaon and Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat.

Joypurhat Rab Deputy Director Jahurul Islam said, acting on information, a team of Rab-5 raided Atithi Filling Station in Patnitola upazila of Naogaon on Tuesday and arrested Harun Ur Rashid, 33, and Yousuf Ali, 26. The team recovered 13,300 Yaba pills from their possession.

The arrestees are sons of Kafil Uddin of Helenchadangapara village under Patnitola upazila of Naogaon.

In another raid, another Rab team arrested Md Niloy Hossain, 28, from Rajakanda village in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat in the early hours of Tuesday and seized 76 grams of heroin from his possession.

Niloy is son of Abdul Hossain of Dighirpur village in Chapainwabganj.

## Winter means business for Jhenidah potters

**AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE**

In many a Bangladeshi village, sugar date palm sap consumed either fresh, as syrup or refined into jaggery is one of winter's signature delights. Earthen pots tied to the palms to collect the sap are a familiar sight. In Jhenidah, the more than 900 potters who craft these vessels are busiest through the cooler months. Winter is their peak season.

"For me, pottery is an ancestral profession," says Sadananda Paul from Anupampur village in Kaliganj upazila. "From around December, pots for collecting sugar date palm sap offer a good profit. They sell for at up to Tk 80 per pair, which is close to double what they sell for through the rest of the year."

His neighbour Ananda Kumar looks forward to winter for the same reason. "From clay pots, we earn well in this season," he says, "Demand from right across the country is high; our pots aren't only sold locally but as far away as Chittagong, Sylhet and Dhaka."

The peak season for sap receptacle sales, during which potters hope to build savings to help support their families through the rest of the year, lasts until March.

"Through winter demand for earthen wares is very high," says the president of Jhenidah's chamber of commerce and local mayor Saidul Karim Minto. "Potters can earn a handsome amount during this season."



Altaf Hossain feeds chickens at his farm in Ganna village of Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

## He sees success in chicken farming too

**AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah**

This time he has established a layer chicken farm at his village home in Sadar upazila after achieving a tremendous success in vegetable farming.

Besides producing vegetables like papaya, brinjal, cauliflower and bean on 150 bighas of land, 68-year-old Altaf Hossain, widely known as Altu Mia, has recently started rearing layer chickens to get more profit.

He received best award in eco-friendly vegetable production in the country in 2016, said Jhenidah District Livestock Officer Hafizur Rahman.

Altu, a resident of Ganna village, started nursing 4,000 one-day chickens of layer variety from Kazi Farms in Dhaka after buying them at Tk 37 each in October last year.

"On Monday, I got at least 20 eggs from the farm for the first time. Sale of the eggs and the hens will continue till January next year," said the farmer.

He hopes to get about 3,200 eggs a day when all the chickens will start laying eggs.

"I will have to spend about Tk 20 lakh for the farming till January next year and hope that I will earn Tk 16 lakh from it," he said.

College student Abdus Sabur, attendant of the farm, said staffs of the livestock department have been rendering their services to keep the chicken free from any disease. Only naturally produced feeds like puffed rice are fed to the chickens.

Altu said he wants to establish chicken farms to ensure eggs and chicken for the people of the district and surrounding areas at an affordable price.

To make the venture a success, he has already talked to the vendors so that the produced items might be supplied from the farm directly, said the farmer.

PHOTO: STAR

## In Remembrance



We fondly remember Late Ekramul Hossain, the founder of modern poultry breeding farm and hatchery in Bangladesh, on his 29th death anniversary. He established the first poultry hatchery, Eggs and Hens Ltd. at Joydebpur, Gazipur in 1964. He is the pioneer and a role model in the poultry industry in this country. His unfathomable knowledge, vision and perseverance inspire all of us. He worked closely with Unicef and various NGO's like Care, Nari Punorbashon and Food For The Hungry. He assisted hundreds of people with the skill and knowledge to establish commercial poultry farms and gain sustainable income thus reduce unemployment. His contribution in building war torn Bangladesh is phenomenon.

He was brutally murdered in his farm house on the 8th February, 1989. Today we ask for doa for his departed soul.

Family members, Well-wishers and Employees of

Eggs And Hens Ltd. Building Blocks Ltd. and Quick Chicks Ltd.