



Many structures are being built haphazardly in Kuakata municipality of Patuakhali, defying ban.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Kuakata: An unplanned tourist spot

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Influential people are building structures in Kuakata town haphazardly, defying ban on construction without permission.

The authorities concerned approved the Kuakata Master Plan two years ago, imposing a ban on construction of structures without permission to make Kuakata a planned and attractive tourist town.

The government framed the master plan to make Kuakata a planned tourist spot in 1998. Afterwards, a section of investors started construction of structures there.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Dr Masumur Rahman said Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation formed a 10-member committee to prepare a master plan and appointed a consulting firm, Sheltech, for this purpose on May 19 in 2010. Latachapple, Kawar Char, Gangamati and Char Chaplee villages in Kuakata were brought under the master plan,

the DC said.

The Housing and Public Works Ministry formed a five-member Patuakhali Development Authority headed by the deputy commissioner with the Public Works Department (PWD) executive engineer as member secretary on May 3 in 2011 to make Kuakata a planned town, said PWD Executive Engineer Jerald Guda Oliver.

The ministry also formed a nine-member committee for Kuakata and Payra port area on July 18 in 2016 to implement registration of real estate developers and other activities. Headed by Barisal divisional commissioner, PWD executive engineer was made its member secretary.

The Prime Minister's Office on May 20 in 2012 issued an instruction to implement the master plan, saying permission from the DC's office is a must to build structures or sell or buy land in those four villages.

The then DC on September 6 in 2012 asked the people to take per-

mission in this regard.

This correspondent recently found that a good number of permanent structures were being constructed in Kuakata town, defying the ban.

One Abdur Rahim Khan is constructing a multi-storied building near the Kuakata municipality office, ignoring the ban.

When asked Rahim said he submitted a prayer to the committee for its approval of a plan and a design in November in 2016 and another prayer was submitted to the Kuakata municipality on June 26 in 2017. But he did not get any approval yet, he added.

Businessman Md Hannan said he started construction of a four-storey building beside the Kuakata-Patuakhali highway as his prayer for permission is yet to be approved.

Kuakata Municipality Mayor Abdul Bareq Mollah said around 40 buildings are being constructed in the municipality area without permission, but no step has been taken against the violators.

Architect Milon Mondol in Barisal said a master plan is needed to build a planned town, including educational institutions, roads, traffic system, public housing and health organisations.

He said Kuakata has been brought under a master plan to make it more attractive and protect its biodiversity. But it is now turning into a concrete town due to lack of implementation of the master plan, he added.

The committee for Kuakata and Payra port at a meeting on August 17 last year asked the Kuakata mayor to stop construction of illegal structures and send a list of the structures.

The mayor said he would send the list of illegal structures to the committee soon.

Oliver, also member secretary of the committee, said 10 people submitted prayers seeking permission, but the committee rejected all of them at a meeting in November last year as their designs were not approved by the architecture department.

Crab farming their new livelihood

NURUL AMIN, Noakhali

Thousands of people in the coastal areas of the district are now involved in catching crabs and its cultivation as the profitable item can be produced well in small areas and at low cost.

The crab catchers collect the item throughout the year from canals, beels and rivers in the coastal areas, especially newly emerged chars in Subarnachar and Hatia upazilas.

"But we do not get fair price for our catches as we take advance money as loan from the wholesalers," said Haripada Das, a crab collector at Kamal Bazar in Mohammadpur union of Subarnachar.

Mohammad Rahim Uddin, another crab catcher of Bangla Bazar area in Char Clarke union of the same upazila, said he cannot make much headway in the business due to

lack of adequate capital.

The collectors sell big-sized crabs in the market and small ones to the farm owners.

The young crabs are reared in the hatcheries and small ghers (enclosures) for 15 to 16 days when they get matured.

Visiting different markets in the coastal areas it was found that a kg of crab is sold for Tk 400 to Tk 1000, depending on their size.

"Crab farming is a very profitable business. Many people would be interested in the trade if easy term bank loans are provided for the purpose," said Ratan, who maintains a crab gher at Nijhum Dwip in Hatia.

Dr Abdul Motaleb, district fisheries officer, said, "If proper training and loan facilities are provided, crab farming will spread rapidly and the export item will bring huge foreign currency."



Crabs collected for sale beside a water body in Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

Risky bridge only means

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thousands of people have been crossing the Khiru river in Trishal upazila using a risky bridge for years.

The 242-foot long and 14-foot wide Bailey bridge was constructed on the river in Porabari Bazar area in 1982.

The bridge became vulnerable within 10 years after its construction due to heavy pressure of vehicles on it, said Abinash Chandra Dam, headmaster of Porabari High School.

Since then over 10,000 people, especially school and college going students, have been using the bridge

amid risk of accident.

The broken steel-platform of the bridge was repaired on various occasions but no step was taken to replace the bridge with a new one, said the villagers.

As people have to cross the river, many accidents occurred due to the broken state of the bridge, they said.

There are some 10 educational institutions, including a college, on both sides of the bridge and around 10,000 people use the bridge daily, said the headmaster.

Although the bridge was declared risky recently, there is no ban yet to stop heavily loaded vehicles plying

the bridge, he said.

Despite repeated calls, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to build a new bridge there, said Abdul Quddus Mandol, chairman of Mothbari Union Parishad.

Shahed Hossain, upazila engineer of Local Government Engineering Department, said due to dilapidated state, the bridge was declared risky recently and the local union parishad was asked to monitor it so that heavy vehicles cannot use it.

They have already written to the higher authorities for funds to renovate the bridge but a response is yet to come, he said.



A Bailey bridge lies in an awful state for years in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

17 injured as Nagarkanda AL factions clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 17 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Ghonapara village in Nagarkanda upazila yesterday.

Police fired 26 bullets and 10 teargas shells to bring the situation under control. They also arrested eight people from the spot.

Quoting locals, ASM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Nagarkanda Police Station, said "There was a long-standing conflict between Purapara Union Parishad Chairman Abdus Sobahan Mia, also the senior vice president of upazila AL, and Abdul Mannan, an activist of the union unit of the party, over establishing supremacy in the area.

Informed by a supporter of Mannan, police arrested five men of Sobahan when they were playing cards in the village on Monday.

After the incident, the rival groups, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked each other, that left 17 people from both sides injured yesterday morning.

They also vandalised five houses during the clash, said the OC.

Marine institute closed sine die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Bagerhat Institute of Marine Technology in Chitali Baitpur area of Sadar upazila has been closed indefinitely and the students were asked to leave the dormitories by 2:00pm yesterday.

Students demonstrated on the campus for the fourth day yesterday for removal of acting Principal Sirajul Islam and demanded posting of a new principal. The students have locked the classrooms and the office rooms. Police have been deployed since yesterday morning to prevent any untoward situation.

Sirajul Islam has been the acting principal for nearly two years.

The students had been protesting against various irregularities and alleged corruption of the principal from Sunday night. Yesterday, the students stood in front of the main gate of the institute to prevent the entry of the principal into the campus.

The protesting students said the principal kept outsiders in the dormitories for rent. Because of this, the students of the institutes have to stay outside the campus due to shortage of seats, they added.

The institute gets Tk 1,84,000 a year from the government to pay the gas bill, but Sirajul took the amount again from the students, students alleged.

Tk 84,000 was allocated for housekeeping, but that money was also taken from the students, they alleged.

Sirajul rejected all the allegations and said he is not involved in any corruption.

Bagerhat Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mahtab Uddin said they have received a letter signed by Director General of Manpower Employment and Training Bureau Selim Reza, ordering the closure of the institute.

The letter said the training programme of Bagerhat Institute of Marine Technology was declared closed till further notice due to unavoidable reasons. Copies of the letter were submitted to the divisional commissioner, deputy commissioner, police superintendent and the department concerned. The police are taking necessary action, the OC added.

2014 ROAD ACCIDENT 9 kids' death remembered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

People from all walks of life in Benapole observed a mourning day yesterday marking the death anniversary of the nine school kids, who were killed in a road accident in 2014.

Hundreds of student, teachers, guardians and public representatives took part at the rally, organised by Benapole municipality at Benapole Ball-field.

Besides, black flags were hoisted at all the educational institutions in the municipality. Sharsha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Pulok Kumar Mondal and students of different institutions, attended the event with Benapole Municipality Mayor Ashrafu Alam Liton as chief guest.

Marking the day, Benapole Government Primary School arranged special prayers and recitation from the holy Quran for salvation of the departed souls.

On February 15, 2014, nine students of the primary school were killed when a bus carrying them from Mujibnagar in Meherpur skidded off the road and fell into a pond in Chougachha upazila of Jessore.

At least 70 others were injured.

মৃত্তিকা, পানি ও পরিবেশ বিভাগ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০১/২০১৭-১৮/SWE

তারিখঃ ১৪/০২/২০১৮ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মৃত্তিকা, পানি ও পরিবেশ বিভাগের জন্য বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে স্থানীয় সরবরাহকারী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সিলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়াটি PPA-২০০৮-এর নিয়মানুযায়ী সম্পাদন করা হবে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত প্রতিবেদন সিডিউল এর মূল্য ৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জনতা ব্যাংক লিঃ, টি.এস.সি শাখায় বন্ধিত সিডিউল বিক্রি হিসাব ৩৬০০৩৯২ নং একাউন্টে জমা দিয়ে জমার রসিদের মাধ্যমে অত্র বিভাগে সিডিউল পাওয়া যাবে। পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে আগামী ০৬/০৩/২০১৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১.৩০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে সিডিউল ক্রয় ও জমা দেয়া যাবে এবং এ দিন দুপুর ১২.০০ টায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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মৃত্তিকা, পানি ও পরিবেশ বিভাগ, ঢা.বি.

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