

Sluice gate in water for three years

It is useless since dyke collapsed in Galachipa

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali
 Uncertainty has gripped crop cultivation on over 3,000 acres of land at a number of villages in two upazilas of Patuakhali and adjacent Barguna as saline water keeps entering the croplands through the collapsed embankment on Bauria canal.

Farmers of the eight villages in Patuakhali's Galachipa and Barguna's Amtali upazilas are worried over Aman cultivation this year as the dykes on both sides of a sluice gate remained without repair since it was washed away in June, 2015.

Due to the collapsed dyke, the lone sluice gate on Bauria canal at Bauria village has remained useless and the saline water kept entering the nearby farmlands and hampering the crop cultivation, they said.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said WDB built the two-door sluice gate on Bauria canal at a cost of Tk 50 lakh in 1991 to protect the croplands of nearby villages from saline water from the nearby Buragourano river.

The sluice gate still stands there since the dyke on both sides of the sluice gate was washed away by heavy tidal surge over three years ago and saline water enters the villages through the damaged portion of the collapsed dyke.

The affected villages include, Bauria, Ramanando, Kanchonbaria in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali and Chalitabunia, Khontakhali, Gerabunia and Sonakhali in Amtali upazila of Barguna.

Former union parishad (UP) member Mokhsed Mridha of Bauria village said they tried to construct the collapsed dyke on voluntary basis to protect their agricultural land from saline water but failed.

Betel leaf farmer Juran said at least 10 betel gardens in the area are badly damaged due to the saline water.

Galachipa Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Officer Mohammad Saidullah said farmers of a number of villages in the upazila are in great uncertainty over cultivating Aman paddy this year as saline water already damaged over 3,000 acres of cultivable cropland due to the dyke collapse.



The collapsed dyke beside the useless sluice gate on Bauria canal in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila remains without repair since it was washed away in June, 2015. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Two killed in Comilla clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Two people were killed and 15 others injured in a clash between two rival groups over erecting fence around a disputed land in Brahmanpara upazila yesterday.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital while the rest given first aid.

The deceased were Khorshed Alam, 52, son of Abdul wadud, and Sanu Mia, 50, son of Abdus Sobhan of Sidhlai village in the upazila.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Liton and Shamsul Haque of the village over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, the men of the two rival groups yesterday attacked each other over erecting fence around the disputed land, leaving Khorshed dead on the spot and 16 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Sanu died on the way to the hospital, said Shahjahan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Brahmanpara Police Station.

Gias Uddin, chairman of Sidhlai Union Parishad, said Liton's uncle Mofiz was killed in a clash a few years ago.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble.

One murdered over alcohol purchase

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A youth was killed while one of his friends sustained serious stab injuries when two rival groups clashed in sweeper colony area at Chawk Sutrapur of the town over purchasing alcohol on Friday.

The deceased, Md Shakil, 23, was son of Shah Jajal of Chawk Farid Colony. Injured Bishal Mahmud, 22, son of Sonu Mia of Rahmannagar area in the town, is now undergoing treatment at Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMC).

Bogra Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanatan Chakraborty said they have already identified the attackers and were conducting drives to arrest them.

Aurangzeb Bazlu, deceased's cousin, said Friday was Shakil's birthday. Quoting Shakil's another friend Mishu, who was accompanying him, police said after ending of the birthday party, Shakil along with his friends went to sweeper colony area where they had an altercation with one Firoz and his gang over buying alcohol around 9:00pm.

At one stage, about ten to twelve youths belonging to Firoz group swooped on Shakil and his friends and stabbed the two with sharp weapon before fleeing the spot.

Later, Mishu, who managed to escape the attack unhurt, took the two injured to Bogra Sadar Police Station, from where police rushed them to SZMC. There where doctors pronounced Shakil dead.

Police said they were interrogating Shakil's friend Mishu in custody to know further details in connection with the clash.

According to police, Shakil was accused in at least five cases including those for murder, throwing acid and attacking policemen, while injured Bishal is an accused in two cases.

Kid saves herself from rape bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A courageous seven-year-old girl saved herself from rape attempt by a local restaurant owner at School Bazar in Padumshaher union of Saghata upazila on Friday afternoon.

Locals staged demonstration demanding exemplary punishment of the culprit who went into hiding to evade people's wrath.

Kohinur Begum, a student of Class II, went for shopping at the village market when Ibrahim Ali, 40, owner of a local restaurant, called her.

As he tried to molest the girl, she bit his hand and ran away.

As the matter spread in the area, locals thronged there and damaged the restaurant while Ibrahim managed to flee.

Ibrahim should be punished as he committed such acts several times earlier too, said local trader Shamsul Alam.

Meanwhile, Sub-Inspector Jahid of Bonarpara Police Outpost visited the spot after locals inform him of the matter.

Mostafizur Rahman, OC of Saghata Police Station, said the matter is being investigated and action will be taken against the accused.

11-yr-old dies for 'wrong treatment'

Claim relatives in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

An 11-year-old girl who was suffering from spasm died at a local hospital in the town on Friday allegedly due to doctor's 'wrong treatment'.

Deceased Asha Moni, a physically challenged child, was daughter of Saudi expatriate Mizanur Rahman, hailing from Natai village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

Victim's maternal uncle Mehedi Hasan said his niece who had been suffering from spasm disease was admitted to the hospital at 5:30am on Friday as her condition appeared serious.

"The on-duty doctor first nebulized her and prescribed some injections. They called child specialist Dr Monir Hossain who suggested pushing those injections, mixing with a saline. Immediately after pushing the saline, the child turned pale and the relatives present at the hospital started crying," he said.

Hearing the hue and cry, the on-duty doctor came again and declared the child dead, he said.

The child's mother Samela Begum, 32, said, "We forbade them not to push so many injections but the clinic authorities ignored us. I believe, my daughter died due to pushing of too many injections."

Dr Monir admitted about the prescription and said, "I suggested the on-duty doctor to push the injections and another injection named Fosfen to push if spasm intensifies. But they probably pushed all the injections at a time, which might have caused the death."

On-duty doctor's comment about the matter could not be taken as he fled the hospital immediately after death of the child.



Four-year-old Sumon Hossain on the lap of his mother at Domar Upazila Health Complex in Nilphamari. Condition of the injured child earlier took a dangerous turn amid treatment by a village quack. PHOTO: STASR

Quack puts Sumon's life at risk

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Four-year-old Sumon Hossain is groaning in pain at Domar Upazila Health Complex in the district as treatment by a village quack led to a deadly gangrene in his injured leg.

Sumon is the only son of small cow milk trader Delwar Hossain, 32, and Sheuli Begum, 25, of Patkapara village in Jaldhaka upazila.

"One month ago, I with my son was going to nearby Kherkati Bazar on a bicycle. He was sitting on the carrier behind me. On the way, his right leg accidentally got into the spikes of the back wheel of the running cycle and it caused a deep and long injury with profuse bleeding," said Delwar Hossain.

As Delwar and his wife were taking their child to nearby Domar Upazila Health Complex, village doctor Khorshed Alam Dulal intercepted them near Kherkati Bazar and convinced them, saying that he could cure their son as he had successfully treated a number of such patients.

"Before starting treatment, he reached a verbal agreement with us to take Tk 4,000 as fee and gave the child 13 stitches on the injured leg with a long used needle without sterilising it. He told us to buy some tablets from local medicine shop and took Tk 1,500 as first instalment of the fee, said Delwar.

"After passing of two weeks, we noticed that the flesh around the injury spot started decomposing. There was bad odour with pus and blood coming out. The boy cried in pain but the quack tried to convince us to continue treatment with him," said Sheuli Begum.

"Finding no way, we took our seriously ailing son to Domar Upazila Health Complex two weeks ago. He was admitted there and doctors started his treatment under strict monitoring," she said.

Raihan Bari, resident medical officer (RMO) of the health complex, said, "The boy didn't get proper treatment and hygienic care for long two weeks after getting injured and it caused severe infection leading to the symptom of gangrene."

"We're treating the boy with high antibiotic alongside washing and dressing the wound. It will take a few weeks to cure him fully," he added.

Contacted, Khorshed Alam Dulal refuted the allegation of his mistreatment and blamed the child's parents for 'negligence' in taking care of him as per his advice.

Fake note factory busted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) busted a fake money making factory and seized a huge quantity of Indian and Bangladeshi counterfeit notes from a house at Tikrampur in the town on Friday evening.

They also arrested Rubel Islam, 21, son of Akbar Ali of Chandlai in this connection.

On secret information, a team of Rab-5 raided the area and they unearthed the den and arrested Rubel from the house.

The elite force seized 70 lakh and 15 thousand Indian counterfeit notes and three lakh Bangladeshi fake notes from the house, said Rab official Squadron Leader Sayeed Abdullah Al Murad.

7 Benapole policemen withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Officer-in-Charge Tariqul Islam and six sub-inspectors have been withdrawn from Benapole International Check Post Police Immigration yesterday.

Tariqul said he has been transferred to Dhaka Armed Police Battalion. He joined Benapole International Check Post Police Immigration on December 25 last year.

The authorities concerned withdrew him and six other officers following an order, the OC added.

According to land port authorities, police are giving illegal benefits to the passport brokers for long.

A noble initiative

Villagers rebuild dyke thru voluntary work in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Residents of Dhubni village in the Teesta river basin area of Hatibandha upazila rebuilt a collapsed dyke with their own efforts and funds and assistance from the local administration as the district Water Development Board (WDB) did not any steps to build the collapsed dyke.

Villagers said a 300-metre dyke collapsed due to pressure of water from the Teesta river between August 7 and August 10 and the floodwater entered many villages and damaged a huge quantity of Aman saplings in the fields.

Azgar Ali, 55, a farmer of Dhubni village, said Aman saplings on his four bighas of land were under water as the river entered the fields after the dyke collapsed. "As the WDB officials and local administration did not take steps immediately to repair the collapsed dyke, the villagers decided to rebuild it voluntarily on August 11," he said, adding that he donated 20 bamboos.

"Local administration stood besides us when we started working voluntarily to build the collapsed dyke on August 11," said Nazrul Islam, 62, a farmer of Dhubni village. "Over 100 villagers worked together to build the collapsed dyke for three days from August 11," he said, adding that he donated 30 bamboos.

Mahibar Rahman, 45, of the village, said at least 1,000 bamboos and 1,500 sand-filled bags were used to build the collapsed dyke and now the villages are free from floodwater from the Teesta river. "Most of the bamboos and sandbags were donated by villagers, while some were given by the local administration," he said.

"Now we are happy as we unitedly built a dyke in the village, and of course we feel proud of working together in the greater interest of saving villagers from floodwaters," said Atiqur Rahman, a college student of the village. "We collected bamboos and funds from the villagers by visiting door to door," he added.

Upazila Project Implementation

Officer Ferdous Ahmed said sandbags and funds for purchasing bamboos were allocated to the villagers for building the dyke.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Anwar Hossain told this correspondent that Aman saplings on large tracts of land in six villages were washed away after the collapse of the dyke, and the agriculture officials were assessing the damage.

Upazila Parishad Chairman Liakot Hossain Bachchu said he tried to contact the WDB authorities several times in this regard but did not get any response.

"As the WDB authorities did not help repair or build the collapsed dyke, villagers built the dyke with their own efforts," he said. "I did my level best to help the villagers, and I was with them on the spot," he added.

District WDB Executive Engineer Abdullah Al-Mamun said no fund was available to conduct any work immediately. "We will prepare a project profile to build paramagnet dyke on the spot in the dry season," he added.



Over 100 villagers work voluntarily to rebuild a dyke that collapsed due to pressure of the Teesta water at Dhubni village in Singimari union under Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat. PHOTO: STASR