



These people look hapless as sand lifting from the Tangkabati river threatens their homesteads in Chattogram's Lohagara upazila. Right, a Bishnu temple at Banik Para in the area lies ruined due to erosion caused by sand lifting.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

CHATTOGRAM'S LOHAGARA

# Illegal sand lifting wreaks havoc

32 families leave area as erosion destroys houses, farmlands

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, back from Lohagara

Mindless sand lifting from the Tangkabati river in Amirabad area of Chattogram's Lohagara upazila has affected serious erosion in large areas, forcing 32 families to leave their ancestral home during the last couple of years.

Vast farmlands, a few roads, a temple and an old bazaar has already gone into the riverbed and hundreds of families are under threat due to the erosion.

The families who have already left the area belong to the Hindu community living for generations in Banik Para, Brammon Para, and Shil Para of the upazila.

"How painful it is for a family to leave their own home? On several occasions, we protested against sand lifting from the Tangkabati river near our neighbourhood but no one helped us as the sand lifters are

influential," said Paromesh Dhar, 38, who took shelter with his family at a relative's house in Chattogram's Boalkhali upazila around two and a half years ago.

Sumon Dhar, whose family took shelter at a relative's house at Dharmapur in Dohazari upazila around one and a half years ago, echoed the same.

During a visit to the area a couple of days ago, this correspondent saw that a large number of villagers are facing threat due to the erosion.

Tapon Chakrabarty, 55, priest of a local Bishnu Temple, said the illegal sand lifting has virtually destroyed the ancient temple.

Local people alleged that ruling party men Md Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury and Md Yousuf, among others, are involved in the illegal sand lifting business for long.

The sand lifters gave death threat to

those who protested, they said.

Contacted, Md Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, who introduced himself as general secretary of Krishok League's Lohagara unit, said he is lifting sand legally.

"I took permission from the local administration and if you have any query in this regard you can contact with them," he said.

Md Yousuf, who claimed to be a ruling party man, said, "I am working for Rafiqul. No one is affected here due to sand lifting."

The affected villagers submitted an application to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Lohagara on February 26, requesting him to save the area from the sand lifters.

Contacted, UNO Abu Aslam said, "We didn't give permission to anyone to extract sand from the Tangkabati river."

"Since my joining here eight months ago, I have conducted at least 15 mobile courts and seized several dredgers and huge quality of sand from the illegal sand collectors. But the callous act could not be stopped as the perpetrators, who are influential people, resumed it shortly afterwards."

Showkat Ibne Shahid, sub divisional engineer (additional charge) of Water Development Board's Patiya office in Chattogram, said, "The major cause of serious erosion by the Tangkabati river is sand lifting. We urged the local administration on several occasion to take action against sand lifters but they failed."

The 60-kilometre-long Tangkabati river originates from the hills in eastern Bandarban and falls into Chattogram's Dalu river, he said.

NETRAKONA, MYMENSINGH

# AL faces party 'rebels' in 10 UZs

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Awami League (AL) nominated candidates in 10 upazilas of Netrakona and Panchagarh will face party rebels in the upazila parishad election to be held today, report our Mymensingh and Thakurgaon correspondents.

Eleven rebel candidates in six upazilas of Netrakona will vie for chairman post in today's polls, the first phase of the election.

There are 10 upazilas in Netrakona and election to Aatpara upazila will be held later.

Out of nine upazilas, two local AL leaders were elected as upazila parishad chairmen in Sadar and Kendua unopposed.

The Election Commission has postponed the election to Purbadhala upazila as the present situation is not fit for free and fair polls, said Abdullah-Al-Muthasir, district election officer.

In Mohanganj, AL candidate is Md Shahid Iqbal while rebel candidates are upazila AL's former presi-

dent Mujibur Rahman Kacha Miah and former president of Jubo League Ejajul Haque Royal.

In Khaliajury, upazila AL President Golam Kibria Jobber is facing rebel candidate incumbent Chairman Shamduzzaman Talukder Soyeab Siddiquee.

In Barhatta, AL-backed candidate is Golam Rasul Talukder, vice president of Netrakona district AL, while rebel candidate is Mainul Haque Kashem, member of district AL.

In Durgapur, AL nominated aspirant Emdadul Haque Khan, party's upazila vice president, is facing rebel candidates - district AL member Jannatul Ferdous Jhuma Talukder; upazila AL former secretary Saidul Hossain Akunjee and upazila AL members Kamal Pasha and Abdul Gani.

In Kalmakanda, AL-backed candidate is freedom fighter Abdul Khaleque Talukder while local AL leader Fazlul Haque is in the race as rebel candidate.

In Madan, upazila member of the party Md Habibur Rahman is AL nominated candidate and his rival

candidate is Touhidul Islam, president of the upazila unit, while Joint Secretary of the same unit advocate Anisur Rahman is contesting as independent candidate.

In Tentulia upaila, Kazi Mahamudur Rahman Dablu, upazila unit general secretary, is AL nominated candidate and his uncle's wife former lawmaker Farida Akhter, also the vice president of district unit of AL, is rebel candidate while Muktarul Haque, member of upazila BNP, is contesting as independent candidate.

In Debiganj, AL nominated candidate Hasnat Zaman Chowdhury, incumbent chairman and also the upazila unit general secretary, is facing six party rebels in the election.

Besides, 25 people are contesting for vice chairman post and 18 women are contesting for vice chairman (reserved) in five upazilas of the district.

District Election Officer Mohammad Ashrafur Alam said they are taking necessary measures to ensure a free and fair election in the upazilas.

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Locals blockade Dharmapur-Gaibandha road at Fakirer Bazar in Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday demanding immediate end to the use of rubber tyres and plastic items as fuel to melt bitumen emulsion for road construction, which causes serious air pollution and poses health risk for children of an adjacent kindergarten as well as locals.

BARAPIKURIA COAL MINE

## Production resumes after eight days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Coal production at Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) resumed on Friday, after eight days of its scheduled time, on assurance that the dues to the contracted company will be paid as early possible, said officials.

CMC-XMC Consortium is the contracted company of BCMCL, a firm of Petrobangla in Parbatipur upazila. The company is responsible for coal production and maintenance of the mine.

According to the officials of BCMCL, the coal production was to start on March 1, after a suspension of 40 days for development of a new coal pocket in the mine.

But, the firm declined to join the work on March 1 demanding its dues.

CMC-XMC Consortium in a letter on February 26 urged the BCMCL authorities to pay its due Tk 186 crore under different heads before March 1 and expressed their reluctance to resume the coal production otherwise. As the payment was not paid before March 1, the hired company declined to join the work.

## বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি

৫ম তলা, হাসপাতাল ভবন, বারডেম  
১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির (ব্যাডাস) সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্য এবং অধিভুক্ত ও সাব-অধিভুক্ত সমিতিসমূহের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ১৯ এপ্রিল ২০১৯ তারিখ শুক্রবার বেলা ৪:৩০ মিনিটে সমিতির ৬০তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা (এজিএম) এবং ২০১৮-২০২১ মেয়াদের ব্যাডাস ন্যাশনাল কাউন্সিলের সদস্যদের এক তৃতীয়াংশ শূন্য পদে (আজীবন ও ডেলিগেট কাউন্সিলি) নির্বাচন বিইউএইচএস, দারুস সালাম, মিরপুর, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

এ ব্যাপারে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্র ১০ মার্চ ২০১৯ তারিখ হতে প্রতিদিন (শুক্রবার এবং সরকারি ছুটির দিন ছাড়া) সকাল ৯টা থেকে বেলা ২টা পর্যন্ত সমিতির কার্যালয় ১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা থেকে (বারডেম জেনারেল হাসপাতালের ২য় তলায় ২৪০ নম্বর কক্ষে জনাব আহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, ব্যাডাস, ফোন: ০১৭১১-২৪০০১৯) সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আগামী ১৯ এপ্রিল ২০১৯ তারিখ বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা এবং ভোটার তালিকাসহ নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য ও কাগজপত্র সমিতির ৫ম তলায় নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রদর্শন করা হয়েছে।

আজীবন সদস্যদের মধ্যে যাদের সদস্যপদ এক বছর পূর্ণ হয়েছে শুধুমাত্র তাঁরা এবং অধিভুক্ত সমিতিসমূহের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিরাই বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির ন্যাশনাল কাউন্সিলের সদস্য নির্বাচনে ভোট দিতে/অংশ নিতে পারবেন। উল্লেখ্য, ভোট প্রদানের জন্য সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্যবৃন্দকে 'আজীবন সদস্য কার্ড' সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। যারা আজীবন সদস্য কার্ড হারিয়ে ফেলেছেন অথবা ভোটার তালিকায় নাম আছে অথচ সদস্য কার্ড এখনো সংগ্রহ করেননি তাদেরকে আগামী ০১ এপ্রিল ২০১৯ তারিখের মধ্যে বর্তমান ঠিকানাসহ ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি সমিতির কার্যালয়ে জমা দিয়ে নিজ দায়িত্বে 'আজীবন সদস্য কার্ড' সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুপ্রেরণা জ্ঞাপন করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ সাইফ উদ্দিন  
মহাসচিব

UPAZILA POLLS

# Campaign begins amid clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

At least 80 people were injured in clashes between men of Awami League (AL) backed candidate and the party's 'rebel' candidate at Taltola Bazar in Kathalia upazila on the first day of campaign for the upcoming upazila parishad election on Friday.

Of them, seven people of both the groups were rushed to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

AL nominated Enamul Haque Monir said supporters of the incumbent upazila Chairman Golam Kibria Shikder, led by Jamai Rasel, launched a series of attacks on his men that left many injured.

They also vandalized an AL election campaign office at Taltola Bazar, he said, adding that 10 of the injured were admitted to different private hospitals.

"At least 70 of my supporters were injured by Monir's men while around 100 motorcycles and several houses were vandalised," Kibria said.

"Kibria is one of the yaba peddlers in the area," Monir said, adding that failing to get the party nomination his men launched attacks on his supporters.

Both the groups filed cases with Kathalia Police Station naming a total of 50 people and 300 unnamed, OC of the police station MA Salam said.

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Locals form a human chain in front of Nazipur Girls' High School in Pirjapur yesterday demanding arrest of those who assaulted HM Lahel Mahmud, Nazirpur correspondent of Bangla daily Jugantor and president of Nazirpur Press Club, on Friday.

NOTICE : EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM 1)

Cadet College Club Limited  
CCCL/EGM(1)/2019 07 March 2019

The Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (1) of the Cadet College Club Limited will be held as per Art. 50 of the Articles of Association.

Date : 30 March 2019 (Saturday)  
Time : 1430 hours  
Venue : Cadet College Club Compound, Purbachal

Agenda :

Approval of the Audited Statement of the Accounts for the Financial Year (FY) ending 30 June 2018.

Sd/ (Jashim Mohammad Al-Amin)  
Secretary General

NOTICE : EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM 2)

Cadet College Club Limited  
CCCL/EGM(1)/2019 07 March 2019

The Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (2) of the Cadet College Club Limited will be held as per Art. 50 of the Articles of Association.

Date : 30 March 2019 (Saturday)  
Time : 1530 hours  
Venue : Cadet College Club Compound, Purbachal

Agenda :

1. Consideration & Approval of conceptual Plan for design of club facilities for Permanent Club Complex at Purbachal Land.
2. Consideration & Approval of Planned Budget & Fund raising for implementation of approved conceptual plan of Permanent Club Complex at Purbachal Land.

Sd/ (Jashim Mohammad Al-Amin)  
Secretary General