



Local influential built dams on a canal in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila for fish cultivation, hampering agricultural activities.

PHOTO: STAR

Illegal dams restrict water flow on important canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Water flow in Borohar canal, the primary source of irrigation in 11 villages under Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, is being constricted due to illegal dams allegedly built by a section of influential locals.

At least 20,000 farmers are dependent on the canal flowing through Dhulashar and Latachaplee unions.

Its water was used for agriculture and household chores but some six years ago, a union parishad member built a dam on the canal near his residence and started fish farming, according to locals.

Many others followed suit and built several dams on the seven kilometre long canal stretching from Tulatali sluice gate to Ghoja village in Kuakata. As a result, the flow was blocked and some 50 pond-like water bodies emerged, they said.

A farmer of Latachaplee village Abul Hossain said, "We face serious crisis of sweet water during dry season. Water remains stagnant in the rainy season as it cannot flow through the sluice gate anymore."

"We are suffering greatly because we are not being able to use the water. The grabbers filled up the water bodies with saline water for fish farming but we need sweet water to irrigate our land," Omar Faruq, another farmer of the village, said.

He urged the authorities concerned

to take steps to remove the dams for the farmers' sake.

Similar accounts came from the farmers of Thoupara, Natunpara, Boroharpara, Gongamoti, Asalatpara, Mombipara, Musulliabad, Husenpara, Mishripura, and Tulatali.

The union council member in question is Shah Alam and some of the other 'influential grabbers' are Khalil, Chunnu Mia, Sagir, Abdullah, and Abu Mia, according to locals.

They are wealthy people and thus farmers are scared to raise voice against them, locals told this paper.

This correspondent contacted all of them but only Shah Alam agreed to speak on the matter.

He said, "I had taken the canal on lease from the upazila land office. I will remove the dam only if the office asks me to do so." The UP member, however, failed to show relevant documents when asked.

Anup Das, assistant commissioner (land) in Kalapara, brushed off Alam's claim that he took the canal on lease. "All these dams are illegal. We are taking legal steps to free the canal. Its natural flow will be restored at any cost."

Ansar Uddin Molla, chairman of Latachaplee Union Parishad, said, "All illegal dams should be removed considering the inconvenience to the farmers."

MADDHYAPARA GRANITE MINE

Rock extraction suspended since April 3

MGMCL authorities decide to cut rock price to increase sales

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rock extraction at Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Limited (MGMCL) remained suspended for the last 15 days due to a technical glitch.

They were not sure when the production will resume, officials said.

According to the officials of MGMCL in Parbatipur upazila, experts of Germania Trest Consortium (GTC), a contracted company, detected a technical glitch in the Winding machine on April 3.

MGMCL is an organisation of Petrobangla.

After failing to fix the trouble, officials of GTC decided to suspend the rock production for an indefinite period.

Officials said a technical glitch developed in the gearbox of the Winding machine and it either need to repair or replace. The Winding machine was imported from China.

"Nobody knows how long it will take to repair the machine," said an official, seeking anonymity.

GTC authorities have already

communicated with the company concerned in China to fix the trouble, he said.

Managing Director (MD) of MGMCL Jabeen Chowdhury said due to the technical glitch, rock production at MGMCL remained suspended for the last 15 days.

GTC was trying its best to resume the production as early as possible.

Meanwhile, as the sale of produced hard rock has declined alarmingly in the last couple of years, MGMCL authorities has planned to cut its price to increase its daily sale.

Currently, around six lakh tonnes of the extracted rock have remained piled up at the company yard.

According to the officials, sale of rock started declining since the authorities concerned put a bar in carrying rock in overloaded-trucks.

As per the government's decision, a six-wheeler truck can carry 22 tonnes of rock while a 10-wheeler can transport 30 tonnes.

MD Jabeen said they will cut the rock price if the ministry concerned approve it.



A two-day-long traditional horse race competition was held at Latenga village in Gopalganj's Kotalipara upazila on Wednesday and the day before. Twenty-eight horse riders from Satkhira, Khulna, Narail, Jashore, Madaripur and Gopalganj took part in the competition. The villagers organise the event on the occasion of Bangla New Year every year.

PHOTO: STAR

Dharla erosion turns serious

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the Dharla river has taken a serious turn at two bordering villages -- Chawratari and Dighaltari -- in Sadar upazila in the last three weeks, eroding a vast tract of land and banana orchards.

About 200 bighas of land, two banana orchards and three bamboo clusters have already been washed away by the river, said locals.

Over 2000 villagers are now under threat of erosion as their homesteads may go into the river anytime.

Erosion-hit victim Suzal Uddin, 48, of Chawratari village, said as India built a dyke at

Bharbanda- Gidaldah of Cooch Behar district around 2 km upstream off no-man's land, the river's flowing channel was changed. Due to this, Dharla joining trans-boundary river Gidari has been flowing through these two villages alarmingly.

Saheron Bewa, 67, a widow of Chawratari village, said her five bighas of maize land were devoured by Dharla.

As Dharla continued devouring, her homestead may go into the river anytime, she said.

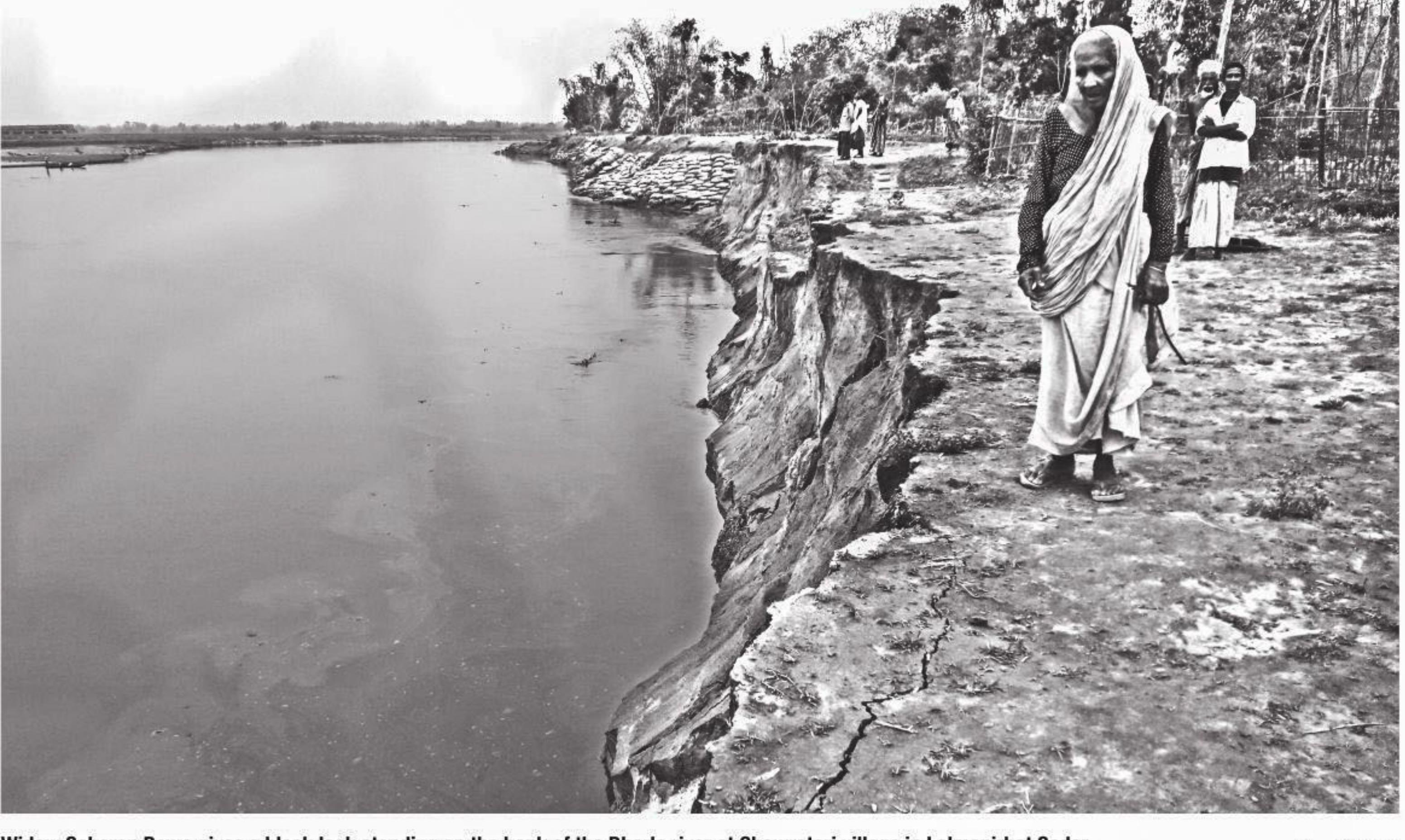
Abu Sifian, 52, a farmer of the same village, said his eight bighas of arable land and two banana orchards on four bighas of land have been eroded during the time.

The villagers urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to check the erosion to save their homesteads.

Habibur Rahman, chairman of Mogholhat Union Parishad, said the authorities should take necessary measures on an urgent basis to check the erosion otherwise Dharla will devour homesteads and render many people homeless.

He has already informed the officials of Water Development Board (WDB) about the matter, said the chairman.

Lalmonirhat WDB Sub-Divisional Engineer Bajle Rashid said he has already written to the higher authorities for fund but no response yet to come.



Widow Saheron Bewa gives a bleak look standing on the bank of the Dharla river at Chawratari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila where her five bighas of maize land were devoured.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Thakurgaon

www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গতি

শেখ হাসিনার মুলমন্ত্র

Date: 16/04/2019

e-Tender Notice-39/2018-19

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of 04 Nos. OSTETM Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for FY. 2018-2019 for this district.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work & Package No.	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1	305531	A) Improvement of Birashi hat-Routhnogarhat via Kulik River Road Ch. 3000-3800m ID No. 194864072 B) Improvement of Ranisankail H/Q Bondar hat-Birashi hat Road at Ch. 2400-3400m ID No. 194864029 under Ranisankail Upazila Dist-Thakurgaon package No. RDRIP-2/W-VRA-149	20/05/2019 15:00pm	21/05/2019 10:00am
2	305532	A) Improvement of KD Girls School Mor-Bakradangi Edga mat via Premium Seed Ltd Road Ch. 800-1800m ID No. 1948640236 B) Improvement of Rampurhat R&H Gazirhat UZR via Jowgahat Road Ch. 4100-5100m ID No. 194864028 under Ranisankail Upazila Dist-Thakurgaon package No. RDRIP-2/W-VRA-150	20/05/2019 15:00pm	21/05/2019 10:00am
3	305536	A) Improvement of Tojam brick field-Bhootharam house via Nadabari Dr para Road at Ch. 500-1000m ID No. 194865120 B) Improvement of Amjuan Chowrasta more-Madhabpur Sankor Ray Road at Ch. 830-1835m ID No. 194865152 C) Improvement of Ghoghodara R&H-Choto rani kone via Khudra Bashbari GPS Road at Ch. 00-1044m ID No. 194865092 under Ranisankail Upazila Dist-Thakurgaon package No. RDRIP-2/W-VRB-195	20/05/2019 15:00pm	21/05/2019 10:00am
4	305537	Improvement of Fakirgonj Road (Dianagar hat)-Kathaldangi hat (Bhutdangi ghat) Road (BOP Road) at Ch. 1500-4695m ID No. 194865038 under Ranisankail Upazila Dist-Thakurgaon package No. RDRIP-2/W-VRB-194	20/05/2019 15:00pm	21/05/2019 10:00am

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 20-05-2019 for 3:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from E-mail: xen.thakurgaon@lged.gov.bd or Call to +880561-52042.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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GD-718