

BRICKFIELD BESIDE CULTIVABLE LANDS

Emission of hot air damages Boro fields

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Standing Boro paddies on at least 16 acres of land were completely damaged due to the emission of excessive heat and hot air from a nearby brick kiln in Mirzapur upazila.

Abdur Rahim of Sohagpara village in the upazila and one of his relatives Rezaul Karim, a resident of Kodda area in Gazipur, started the brick kiln along a vast tract of cropland at Bohuria Purbopara village about a year ago.

Local farmers first noticed their damaged Boro field about a week ago, villagers said.

Affected farmers alleged that the damage occurred due to emission of excessive heat and hot air from the burner of the brick kiln.

After completion of brick burning, labourers open the air pockets of the burner to cool it down, villagers said, adding that during the process hot air and ashes are emitted through the pockets and swiftly lashes through the nearby areas.

Several affected farmers including Tara Miah, Raham Ali, Karim Shikder and Thandu Miah said they were expecting a good yield due to favourable weather condition this season.

Unfortunately, the damage occurred only two to three weeks before the harvest, they added.

Mirzapur Upazila Agriculture Officer Moshirur Rahman said he sent a sub-assistant agriculture officer to the area to investigate the matter.

Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Tofayel Hossain, also the block supervisor, said he has visited the affected Boro fields and estimated the damage.

Boro paddy on at least 16 acres of land worth around Tk 7 to Tk 8 lakh were completely damaged due to the heat and hot air released from the nearby brick kiln, he added.

Abdur Rahim, one of the owners of the brick kiln, admitted the fact and assured the affected farmers of providing necessary compensation.

The amount will be fixed through discussions with the local union parishad chairman, agriculture officer and affected farmers, he added.

Contacted, Mirzapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Malek said he did not receive any complaint yet.

He said steps will be taken against the brick kiln owners if he receives any complaint in this regard.



Farmer Tara Miah sees damaged Boro plants at his field at Bohuria Purbopara village in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

2 missing in speedboat crash found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The bodies of two passengers, who went missing after a speedboat crash in Kawrakandi ghat area on Thursday, were recovered from the Padma river in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Amir Hamza, 6, son of Imran Faraji of Kharakandi village in Shibchar, and Md Miraz Hossain, 20, son of Rahman Khandakar of Udaykhata area in Barishal's Banaripara upazila. Miraz was a student of Government Kabi Nazrul College in Dhaka.

Locals said a speedboat with 20 passengers was coming to Kharakandi ghat from Mawa ghat of Munshiganj when it collided head-on with a trawler near Kawrakandi ghat area and overturned around 9:30pm on Thursday.

At the time, three passengers sustained injuries and two went missing. Of the injured, Mudar Sheikh, 25, son of Ismail Mia of Palashola village in Jamalpur Sadar upazila, died on way to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex.

Informed by locals, police recovered the bodies of Amir and Miraz from the area yesterday morning and sent those to Madaripur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Zakir Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Police Station, said after the accident, police arrested 10 speedboat drivers from Kawrakandi ghat.

UNIT-2 OF ROOPPUR NUKE PLANT

Core catcher setting starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Science and Technology Minister Yafes Osman on Friday inaugurated the installation of core catcher, a device for catching the molten core material, at Unit-2 of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The initiative, following completion of installing core catcher at Unit-1 of the plant two months ago, is meant for ensuring effective passive safety system there, officials said.

"The core catcher has been introduced for ensuring the highest safety measures for the country's first nuclear power plant, especially keeping in mind the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan," said Yafes Osman after inaugurating the installing of core catcher.

Atomstroyexport, engineering division of ROSATOM, the general contractor of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, is conducting the installation of 'core catcher' at the site.

Core catcher for Rooppur NPP is designed

considering the condition of the site and its safety requirements, said Vury Kushelev, chief engineer of Atomstroyexport.

"With improved hydro-dynamic and shock absorption properties, it is more resistant to seismic activities. It is also equipped with flood protection features and possesses simplified installation and assembly technology," he said.

Core catchers at the two units of the Rooppur plant will make it safe from any disaster, said Dr Shawkat Akbar, project director of Rooppur Nuclear Plant.

"The plant, being constructed with the technical and financial assistance from Russia, will have two units, each with 1200MW capacity. World's latest 3+ Generation VVER 1200 reactors have been chosen for the plant, completely fulfilling the safety requirements set by International Atomic Energy Agency," he added.

IMPACT OF CYCLONE FANI

Trading sees sharp fall in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Import-export and travel through Benapole Port saw a sharp decrease yesterday due to the impact of cyclone Fani.

During a visit to the area yesterday this correspondent saw most of the business houses were closed.

Besides, loading and unloading of goods and its delivery also remained suspended due to the bad weather condition.

ROW OVER TRIFLING MATTER Youth stabs cousin, cuts tendons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A young man stabbed his cousin and severed tendons of his both legs following an altercation allegedly over a trifling matter near Iterghat Bazar in Kulaura upazila on Friday.

Critically injured Sohel Mia, 25, son of Kaiyum Mia of the area, is now undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police said an altercation took place between Sohel and his paternal cousin Zahir Ahmed, 24, son of Rais Ali of the area, while Sohel was talking loudly to someone over his mobile phone around 6:30pm.

At one stage, Zakir and his friend Jewel Mia, who was then accompanying him, stabbed Sohel with a knife and cut off tendons of his both legs, leaving him critically injured.

Hearing screams, locals rescued Sohel and took him to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, from where he was referred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated, Resident Medical Officer at Sadar Hospital Polish Roy said.



Treatment seekers lie on floor of Adhunik Sadar Hospital in Chapainawabganj as the 12-bed diarrhoea ward of the hospital fails to accommodate the rising number of patients attacked with the waterborne disease in the town.

PHOTO: RABUL HASAN DOLLAR

Sudden rise of diarrhoea patients in C'nawabganj

Doctors struggling to handle it due to shortage of supply of IV fluids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The spread of diarrhoea has sharply increased in the district in the last seven days, triggering a sudden influx of patients into Adhunik Sadar Hospital in Chapainawabganj.

Dr Nadim Sarkar, resident medical officer (RMO) of Adhunik Sadar Hospital, said they are struggling to handle the sudden rise of diarrhoea patients due to shortage of supply of intravenous (IV) fluids in the 100-bed hospital.

Diarrhoea, a gastrointestinal infection caused by a variety of bacterial, viral and parasitic organisms, generally occurs due to taking of contaminated food or drinking water and spreads from the infected people to others due to poor hygiene, said doctors at the hospital.

Over 40 diarrhoea patients, especially women and children, are being admitted at the hospital every day, said the RMO.

But most of them lie on floor of the hospital as the 12-bed diarrhoea ward is too inadequate, said Kohinoor Nesa, senior staff nurse of the hospital.

"Although oral saline and necessary medicines are available at the hospital, we are facing problems to deal with the growing number of patients due to manpower shortage," she said.

Shyamal Nandi, 50, of Malopara in Chapainawabganj town, said he received treatment at on the floor as all the beds of diarrhoea were filled up.

Another diarrhoea patient Mohidul Islam, 46, of Atahar village in Sadar upazila, said the hospital authorities did not provide any IV fluids.

He bought IV fluids from a medicine shop in the area, said Mohidul.

The RMO said there is no crisis of oral saline and necessary medicines at the hospital to cope with the diarrhoea affected patients.

But, IV fluids are not available in the hospital and they have already informed the higher authorities about the matter, he said.

Most of the people have been attacked with diarrhoea due to hot weather and drinking of unsafe water, said the doctor.

Missing youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police yesterday recovered the throat-slit body of a youth, two days after he went missing on Thursday, from a roadside ditch in Ashuganj upazila.

The deceased, Ramjan Mia, 32, son of Joj Mia, was a resident of Tajpur village under Durgapur union in the upazila.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Ashuganj Police Station Mohammad Masud Alam said Ramjan went out of his house on Thursday evening and remained missing since then.

Locals spotted his body floating in a ditch near his house yesterday noon and informed the police, who later recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria General Hospital for autopsy, the OC said.

Criminals might have killed him over previous enmity, he said, adding that they were trying to find the motive behind the murder.

ROAD CRASH IN KSA

Two Kalihati families left devastated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Monir Hossain from Tangail's Kalihati upazila left for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) only 18 days ago and Bahadur from the same upazila went there a bit earlier, 37 days ago.

Now their families are left devastated as both of them, along with eight others, died in a tragic road crash in the foreign country on Thursday.

Twenty-five-year old Monir, son of Shamsul Haque, was from Kasturypara village, while Bahadur, 35, son of Hafiz Uddin, was from Jhagarman village in the upazila.

The accident took place when a tyre of a minibus, carrying them from Dammam to their workplace

in Madina, burst on the highway near Shaqra.

Their grieving family members said both of them had borrowed large sums of money to go abroad for work and had high hopes of supporting their impoverished families with earnings in Saudi Arabia.

Perplexed about future, Monir's mother Momtaz Begum said the news of her son's death in Saudi Arabia came at a time when her husband, also an expatriate worker in Iraq, remains hospitalised after losing four of his fingers at a factory in that country a few days ago.

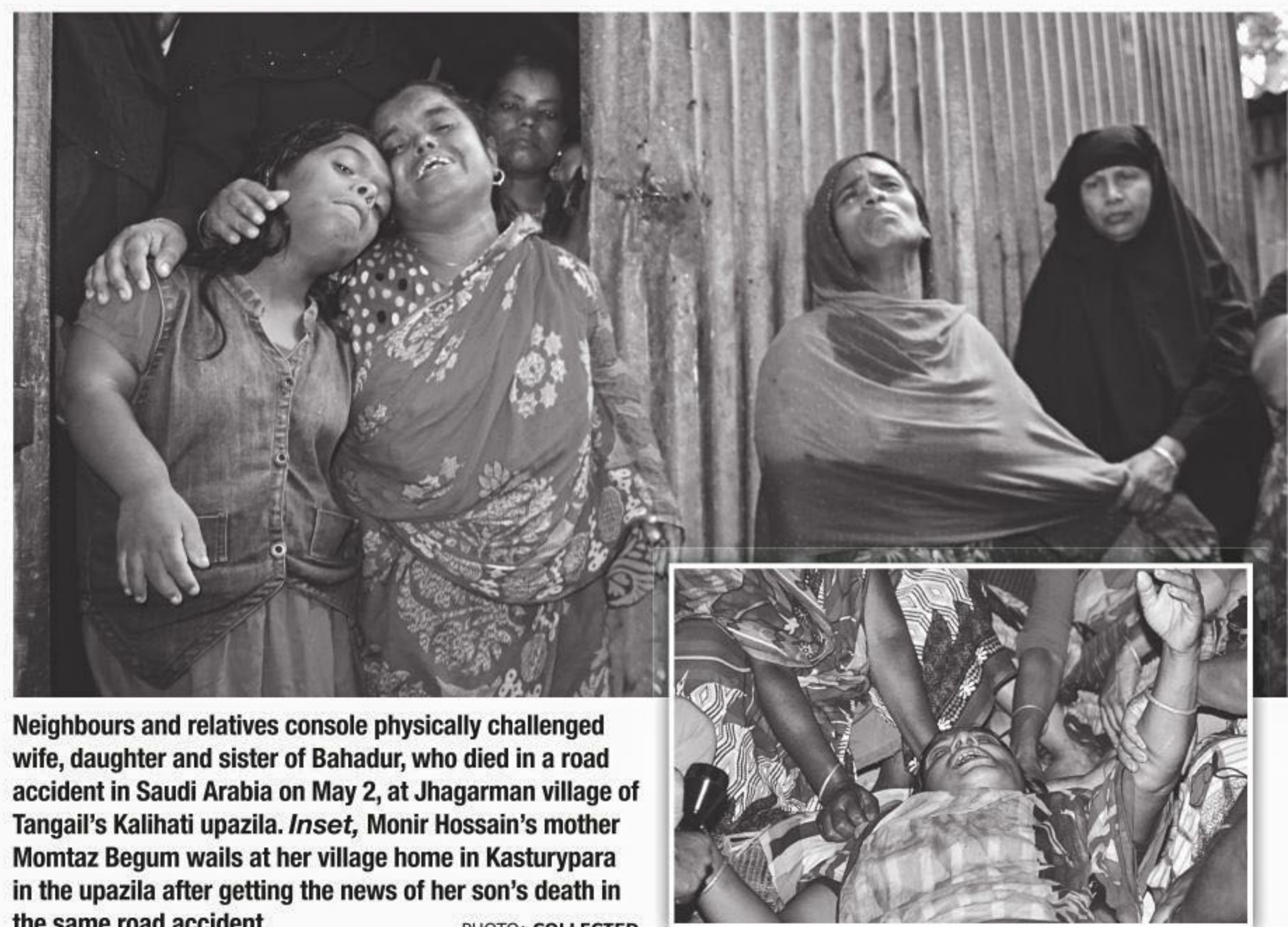
"How can I bear the pain of losing my son and a serious injury to my husband at the same time?" Momotaz said.

Bahadur's family on the other hand is in no better situation. He was the sole earner for his ailing parents, physically challenged wife, a daughter and a sister.

Rashida Akter, his widow, said her husband took loan at high interest for going to the kingdom. "Now how would the family run? How would we repay the loan?"

Kalihati Municipality Mayor Ali Akbar Jabbar said, "I wasn't aware of the difficult situation Bahadur's family had been facing. I will arrange allowance cards for the physically challenged members of his family."

Both Monir and Bahadur's family now hope that the government would soon bring home their bodies for burial at home.



Neighbours and relatives console physically challenged wife, daughter and sister of Bahadur, who died in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on May 2, at Jhagarman village of Tangail's Kalihati upazila. Inset, Monir Hossain's mother Momtaz Begum waits at her village home in Kasturypara in the upazila after getting the news of her son's death in the same road accident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED