

30 canals lost to shrimp enclosures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A section of influential shrimp enclosure owners has grabbed almost all the roads and canals in Baharbania union of Morrelganj upazila to bring saline water to their enclosures.

They brought in saline water from concrete pipes laid in the canals. They also put some wooden boxes there to control the water flow, said local people.

The wooden structures often obstructed water flow in the canals, flooding the nearby areas, they said.

Fishing is the main source of income for the people in the area. Most people of the union are engaged in the shrimp business.

Upazila parishad office sources said there are 800 shrimp enclosures, 31 government canals, 20 km of earthen roads and 11 km of brick made roads in the union. Of them, 30 canals have already been grabbed by the shrimp enclosure owners.

The canals include Nader Ali Khal of Hindu Para in Purba Baharbania, Jabbar Ali Khal of College market area and Kata Khal of Siraj Master's market in the union.

The roads lie in between the canals and enclosures. The shrimp enclosure owners are also cutting the roads to bring saline water from the canals.

The owners continued grabbing the canals and roads, but nobody dared to protest against them as they are very powerful, said locals.

The same situation prevails in Jewdhara and Panchakaron unions, they said, adding that many canals are no more in existence.

Baharbania UP Chairman Ripon Talukder, also the owner of few shrimp enclosures, grabbed Mir Khal and Jabbar Ali Khal, said locals.

The chairman said water flow in the 31 canals is not obstructed and if it happens, local people would have been affected.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Quamruzzaman said action will be taken against cutting of roads immediately.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Deputy Director of Local Government Md Zahirul Islam said they will take immediate steps against the canal grabbers.



Influential people have cut this road to bring saline water from a canal to their shrimp enclosures in Baharbania union of Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat. Shrimp farmers have also built dams, dividing several other canals in the area, to use the parts for shrimp cultivation.

PHOTO: STAR

WIDENING OF ROAD

Ditch, dug 3 months ago, yet to be filled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A ditch (150-metre-long and 2.6-metre-width), dug by a construction firm to widen Birganj-Khansama-Darwani road three months ago, is yet to be filled at Darwani Bazar point in Sadar upazila, causing immense sufferings to people.

Locals blamed Nilphamari Roads and Highways Department (RHD) for lax monitoring as the contractor shifted the ditch's earth to other points of the 27.5 km road connecting Nilphamari to Dinajpur, leaving it abandoned.

According to Nilphamari RHD office sources, Dinajpur circle office last year called

a tender for widening the road.

In December 2018, Oyster Construction and Shipping Company Ltd got the Tk 29.4 crore work order to complete widening of the road by March 2020. Of the 27.5 km road, seven kilometer lies in Nilphamari while the rest in Dinajpur.

Visiting the bazar on Sunday, this correspondent found that there is a number of shops beside the ditch over which owners set up makeshift wooden bridges for customers.

Nuruzzaman, a shop owner, said they cannot do their business smoothly as customers are reluctant to come crossing the deep ditch in fear of accident.

Shamsul Islam, owner of a battery-run easy-bike, said a number of their vehicles accidentally fell in the ditch at night, leaving many people injured as it occupies half of the road, 16 feet in width, in the bazar area.

Md Azad, in-charge cum accountant of the company, said the road work at Darwani Bazar has been suspended till Eid at request of public representatives as unauthorised shops will be evicted for widening the road.

Nilphamari RHD Sub-divisional Engineer Shafiq Molla said they are strictly monitoring the road work and all kind of irregularities will be removed if found.



A ditch, dug to widen Birganj-Khansama-Darwani road three months ago, is yet to be filled at Darwani Bazar in Nilphamari Sadar upazila, causing immense sufferings to passengers.

PHOTO: STAR

Two Lalmonirhat prison guards arrested with drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Wednesday night arrested two prison guards after finding a bottle of Phensedyl and five yaba tablets in their possession in Mahendranagar area of Sadar upazila.

One of them is Tahurul Islam, member of IG prisons' intelligence branch, while the other is Firoz Kabir, driver of Lalmonirhat district jail superintendent.

The arrestees were handed over to Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station and a case was filed against the two the same night, said Maqbul Hossain, officer-in-charge of DB in Lalmonirhat.

After receiving a tip off, the DB made the arrests in Mahendranagar area as the

two were transporting the contraband drugs to Lalmonirhat prison. "We had information that the two jail guards had long been involved in dealing illegal drugs," he added.

A guard at the prison requesting anonymity said at least three or four guards, including the two arrested, sell drugs to addicted inmates.

A man who recently got out of the prison after serving time in a drug related case said drugs are readily available inside the prison.

Kishor Kumar Nag, superintendent of Lalmonirhat district jail, however refuted the claim, saying that they were investigating whether any prison guards are involved in drugs trade inside the prison.

Man electrocuted in Jashore

He fell victim, coming in contact with a snapped electric wire in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A man died from electrocution at Dakkhin Lauri village in Jashore's Monirampur upazila on Saturday morning.

The deceased, Golam Mortuza, 50, was son of late Abdus Sohrab of the village.

He was a fish trader.

Quoting the deceased's family members, police said Mortuza came in contact with a snapped live electric wire when he went to his pond adjacent to his house and died instantly on the spot.

Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy.

Man arrested over abduction of housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police on Wednesday night arrested a man accused in a case filed for abducting a married woman, from Aditdari upazila, with false promise of work.

The arrestee is Mannan Miah, 40, from Telitari village of Sarpukur union in Aditdari upazila.

The case's prime accused -- Moksudar Rahman, 24, from Mandaltari village in the same union -- is still at large.

According to the case statement, Lipi Rani Das, 27, wife of fisherman Parimol Chandra Das of the union's Daspara village, was abducted by Moksudar and Mannan on the night of May 15 when her husband

was out of the house, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Ranju Miah, investigation officer of Aditdari Police Station.

The abductors had been offering work to the woman, mother of a six-year-old, he said, adding that Parimol filed the case with the police station accusing Moksudar and Mannan on May 19.

Based on information gleaned from the arrestee, they hope to rescue the woman and arrest the prime accused soon, SI Ranju also said.

Sarpukur Union Parishad Chairman Azizul Islam said Moksudar, the prime accused in the case, is known as a troublemaker in the area for his involvement in at least two other offenses against women over the last two years.



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