



A part of the canal that has been filled up by Sadarpur Upazila Parishad. The photo was taken recently.

Easy-bike stand filling up canal!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A large section of an entire width of a canal has been filled up by Sadarpur Upazila Parishad -- a body entrusted with development in the area and wellbeing of inhabitants of the upazila.

Locals said the upazila parishad has been filling up the canal for the past one month to set up a stand for battery-operated three-wheelers, widely known as 'easy-bikes'.

The nine-kilometre-long canal, locally known as Sadarpur Bazar Khal, is crucial for local agriculture as it is the primary source of water for irrigation and retting of jute, they also said.

Connecting the Bhubaneshwar and Kumar rivers, the canal flows from Bhashanchar Union Parishad area of the upazila through Bhanga upazila in the south.

During a visit to the area recently, this correspondent came across a 500-metre-long stretch of the canal where its entire width has been filled with sand dredged from the Bhubaneshwar river.

The sand filling was done in multiple layers with polythene sheets in between. Sabbir Hossain, a resident of Shyampur village, said, "The canal is the lone source

of water for farmers in our area. The local farmers will suffer immensely if the canal stops flowing."

Contacted, Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, chairman of the upazila parishad, claimed that they have stopped filling up the canal.

They needed a piece of land to use as a stand for 'easy bikes' in order to solve traffic congestion in the upazila headquarters. After finding no such land, they were filling up a portion of the canal. But now, they are planning on removing the sand from the canal and build some sort of a platform over the canal to ensure its flow, he also said.

Robi Goldar, upazila nirbahi officer of Sadarpur upazila, said he found out about the encroachment on the canal after the sand-filling started there.

The work has been stopped and a process was underway to remove the sand from the canal, he said, adding that a design would be worked out to install a platform over the canal, while keeping its flow.

Executive Engineer Sultan Mahmud of Water Development Board, the custodian of waterbodies, said, "I had no knowledge of the matter. We will take [necessary] measures after investigation."

Woman arrested over nephew's death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was arrested on charge of killing her three-year-old nephew in Santhia upazila on Tuesday.

Kona Begum, wife of Shahin Hossain of Koromza Mallikpara village, confessed to have killed the toddler, Rabiul Islam, son of her brother-in-law Shamim Hossain, over feud between her husband and his brother, said Jahangir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Santhia Police Station.

Until police, with the help of suspecting family members, discovered the child's body inside a toilet used by Kona in the evening, he had been missing since the morning the same day.

The boy's father filed a case with the police station that night accusing four people.

Yesterday, the arrestee was sent to jail by a Pabna court after she was produced before it.

Stabbed by stalkers, nurse Tanjina loses fight for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Tanjina Akhter, who was stabbed by stalkers on 20 June in Thakurgaon, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday.

Tanjina, 24, was working as a nurse at Grameen Eye Hospital, Thakurgaon.

"Around 8:30am on June 20, Arman Hossain Jiban, 19, son of Delwar Hossain of the same village and his four or five accomplices waylaid Tanjina near Grameen Eye Hospital while she was on way to her workplace. They stabbed her indiscriminately, leaving her unconscious," victim's father Abdul Hamid of Madrasapara village under Sadar upazila stated in his case filed with Thakurgaon Police Station the same day.

"Jiban and his accomplices often stalked girls including Tanjina. About two weeks ago, she protested the stalking and asked the culprits to stop the evil act. Consequently, the stalkers attacked my daughter when she reached near her workplace.

The victim was taken to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital and then brought to RMCH as her condition deteriorated.

Tanjina was the youngest among four siblings including one brother and three sisters.

"Police arrested Jiban, the prime accused of the case, on the night of June 20 and he gave statement before a court under Section 164 the following day," said Sub-Inspector of the police station Md Motaazzaman, also investigation officer of the case.

Investigation is on and police are trying to find out and arrest the other culprits, he said.

Low price upsets Lalmonirhat maize growers

Local syndicates control the market in absence of govt fixed price for procurement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Though maize is considered as one of the main cash crops in agriculture based Lalmonirhat, farmers are very much upset as they are not getting fair price of their produce this year.

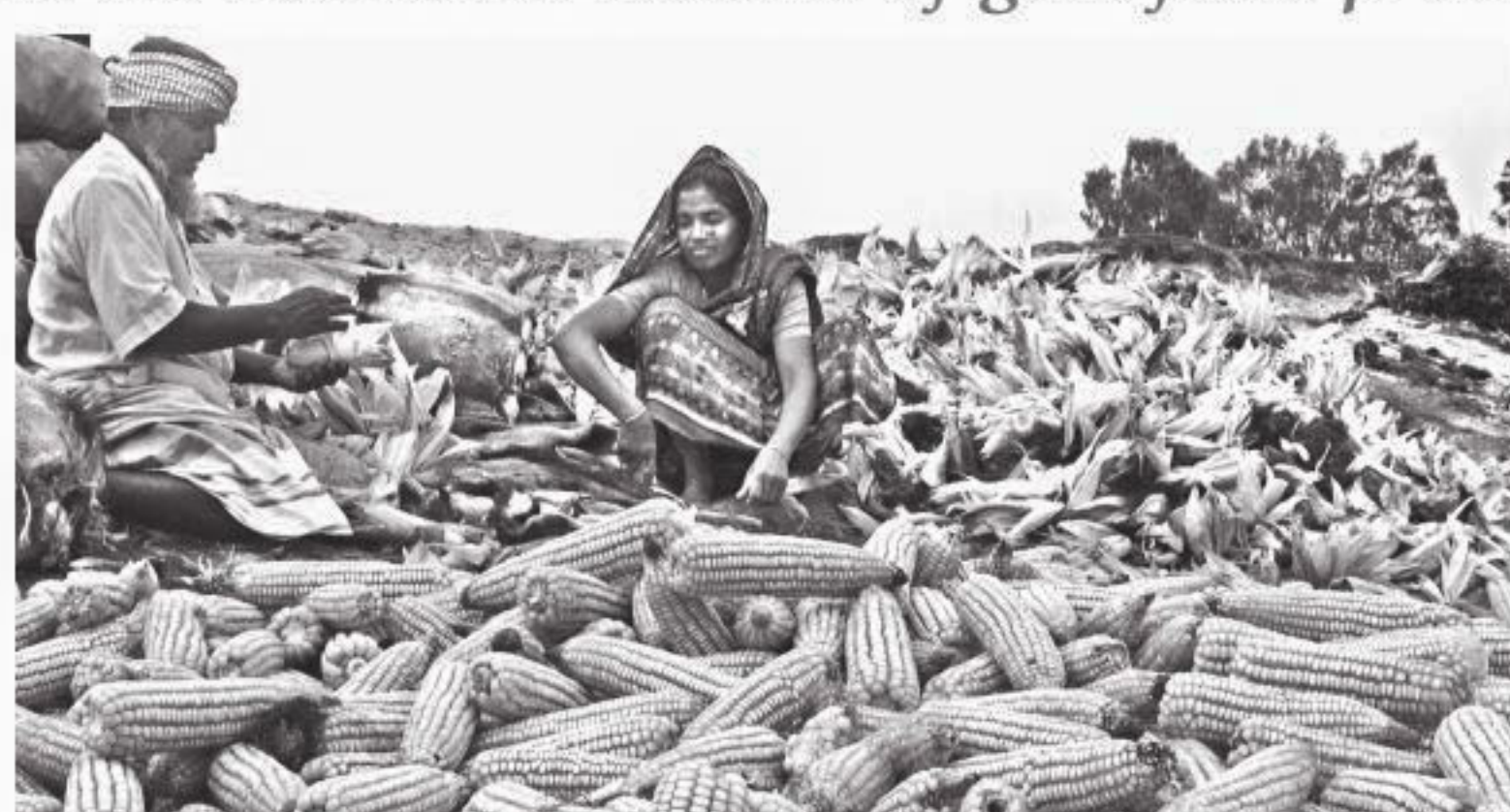
A number of maize growers in the district alleged that all the local markets are controlled by influential syndicates as there is no government fixed price for maize procurement.

They got a good price of maize in the local markets and at different private purchase centres of the district last year, this year they are selling the crop at low prices.

Now each maund (one maund=40 kg) is selling at Tk 550 to Tk 600 in local markets while the production cost was Tk 400 to Tk 420.

Last year the price was Tk 750 to Tk 850 per maund.

Maize grower Golap Hossain of Char Dawabari in Hatibandha upazila said he spent Tk 10 to Tk 12 thousand for farming maize on one bigha of land and got an output of 30 to 35 maunds from each bigha.



A farmer couple sort maize harvested from their field at Char Dowani village in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

"I cultivated maize on 12 bigha of land this year while the cultivation area was nine bigha last year," Golap said.

"We hoped that we would get a good price for our produce like the previous year, but it is fading away now as we are not getting

our expected price this year," said farmer Shahidar Rahman of Char Shalmari area in Kaliganj upazila.

District Marketing Officer in Lalmonirhat Abdur Rahim said, "There is no government fixed price for maize procurement. Though the market price was pretty good last year, it

saw a drastic fall this year and the syndicates are taking its advantage."

Mostafa Tazawar, managing director of Latif Farm, a maize purchase centre at Bawra in Patgram upazila, said they have huge stock as many feed mill owners imported a vast amount of maize from neighbouring India.

Sharif Mohammad Mahbul Alam, senior purchase officer at Agro Industrial Trust (AIT) in Patgram upazila, said there are around 100 maize purchase centres in the district where farmers can sell their produce.

According to Lalmonirhat Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), maize was cultivated on 27,800 hectares of land this year, while it was 25,600 hectares in 2018, 24,300 hectares in 2017 and 8,700 hectares in 2010.

Lalmonirhat DAE Deputy Director Bidhubhushan Roy said a good number of farmers in the district now prefer to grow maize instead of wheat as it has a high demand in local feed mills.



People have to cross amid risk the rickety bamboo bridge at Singor-Chandipur village in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat as the authorities concerned have not taken any initiative after a concrete bridge at the spot collapsed 12 years ago.

PHOTO: STAR

College boy, child among three murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people, including a college boy and a child, were killed in Pabna and Mymensingh on Wednesday and the day before, report our correspondents.

A man was stabbed to death allegedly by his nephew at Shantipur Beturia village in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased is Md Kalam Hossain, 45, son of Abdus Samad of the village.

There was a longstanding conflict between Kalam and his nephew Ripon Hossain over a piece of land in the area.

Around 9:00pm on Wednesday, the two rival families locked in clash over the land.

At one stage, Ripon stabbed Kalam indiscriminately. Critically injured Kalam died on the way to a hospital,

said Md Hadiul Islam, inspector of Sujanagar Police Station.

Four people, including Ripon, also sustained injuries during the clash, said the inspector, adding that police arrested Ripon from the spot.

Meanwhile, a three-year-old boy was strangled at Karomza Mallikpara village in Santhia upazila on Tuesday.

Police arrested the victim's aunt Kona Begum, wife of Shahin Hossain of the village, in connection with the killing.

Deceased Rabiul Islam, son of Shamim Hossain of the area, went missing the same morning.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the toilet of Kona's house in the evening, said Officer in Charge of Santhia Police Station Md Zahangir Hossain.

During primary interrogation, the arrestee confessed to strangling the boy over a family feud.

In Mymensingh, a college student, who was stabbed allegedly by a drug addict in the city on Tuesday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Police arrested accused Limon alias Rimon, 19, son of Mohammad Ali of Charpara Kopiketh area in the city, from Gazipur yesterday.

Deceased Shakil, 17, son of Nazrul Islam of the area, was friend of the arrestee. Shakil was the student of Mymensingh College.

Police and locals said Rimon stabbed Shakil following an altercation over collection of illegal toll in the area on Tuesday. The following day, critically injured Shakil died at a hospital in the capital.

3 ex-officials serve legal notice to 8 BCMCL officials, 13 journalists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three former officials of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) on Tuesday served legal notices to eight top officials of BCMCL, including its Managing Director, and 13 journalists of different newspapers and online portal for running false and fabricated report against them.

The legal notice receivers were also asked to reply within the next 15 days. The eight BCMCL officials are Fazlur Rahman, managing director (MD), Zafar Sadik, deputy general manager, Mosharrar Hossain, manager (survey and mine planning), Saidur Rahman, manager (bill), Arifur Rahman, manager (maintenance and operation), Jahid Anwar, manager (personal), Safayet Ali Miah, deputy manager, Abdul Wahed, CBA president of BCMCL.

On the other hand, the 13 journalists, who received the legal notices, are Mozammel Haque, editor and publisher of Daily Karatoa, Sabir Ali, its Phulbari correspondent, Alamgir Mohiuddin, editor of Naya Diganta, Shamsul Huda, publisher of Naya Dinganta, Sheikh Sabir Ali, Phulbari correspondent of Naya Diganta, Dr Rezwon Siddiqi, acting editor of Dainik Dinkal, Afzal Hossain, Phulbari correspondent of Dainik Dinkal, AHM Rokmunur Zaman, editor and publisher of Dainik Dinkal, Imdadul Haque Milon, editor Dainik Kaler Kantho, Moinal Hossain Chowdhury, publisher of Dainik Kaler Kantho, Abdul Kadir, Parbatipur correspondent of Dainik Kaler Kantho, Atiqullah Khan Masud, editor and publisher of Dainik Janakantha and its Parbatipur correspondent SAM Haidar.

Abul Nashar Azad, a Supreme Court lawyer, served notices on behalf of Habib Uddin, former MD, Abdul Mannan, former general manager (finance and accounts) and Abul Kashem, former company secretary.

Mentionable, several reports were published in different newspapers in between June 19 to June 21 this year.

MURDER OF TEEN GIRL Man gets death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A Pirojpur court yesterday handed down death penalty to a man for killing a college girl after kidnapping her in Nesarabad upazila in 2009.

The convict, Liton Mondal, 34, son of Sudhir Ranjan Mondal from Atghar village in the upazila, was tried in absentia.

Judge Md Mizanur Rahman, of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Pirojpur, delivered the verdict. The court acquitted three other accused who were produced before the court.

According to the prosecution, Liton used to stalk Jhorna Rani Dewri, 19, daughter of Subhas Chandra Dewri from the same village and an HSC examinee from Shah Mahmudia College in Jhalakathi.

On May 14 in 2009, while Jhorna was returning home from her elder sister's house in Andharmanik village of Kachua upazila in Bagerhat, Liton and four to five youths kidnapped her from Kourikhara boat terminal on the Sandhya river in Nesarabad.

On May 17, her father went to Barishal's Banaripara upazila and identified his daughter's body that the local police had buried as an unidentified victim of murder.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Roads and Highways Department accompanied by volunteers start an emergency repair work to restore communication after the Dharla river washed away parts of a road at Shiberkuthi village in Kulaghat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Wednesday. The work will hopefully complete within three or four days, said Lalmonirhat DC Abu Jafor.