



Illegal structures are being built on the canal in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

## Illegal structures on Patuakhali canal

Farmers of 10 adjacent villages in Kalapara upazila depend on the canal's water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Illegal structures are being built on Bharani khal in Dhankhali union under Kalapara upazila of the district, causing hindrance to the normal flow of water in the canal.

There are 10 villages, including paved roads, on both sides of the nine-km-long canal from Devpur dam to Londa area. About five thousand farmers of the villages cultivate several thousand acres of agricultural land through this single canal.

At least 70 structures have already been erected by occupying the canal, said locals.

A list of 70 occupants has already been submitted to the upazila land office to evict the structures. These occupants are so influential that the people in the land office have become helpless to them.

The canal, which is connected to the Ramnabad river, has a normal tidal flow and the local farmers use its water to produce various crops on their land throughout the year. The water of the canal is also used for household purposes.

According to the locals, farmers of at least 10 villages including Chalitabunia, Dhankhali, Devpur, Panchjunia, Uttar Devpur, Nishanbaria, Daser Howla, Fultali



and Londa use this canal's water. But in addition to building the structures at a few spots of this important canal, people have set up nets in the canal in the name of fishing that is also obstructing the free flow of water.

During a visit, this correspondent found a local influential person named Abdus Sattar Khan setting up a structure in front of the local NGO Codec office.

Wishing anonymity, a local resident said they dared not protest the act of Sattar as he is very influential person in the area.

The authority of the local land office is not taking any effective action even after being informed of the matter, he alleged.

Abdul Hadi Hawladar, a farmer from Panchjunia village, said if the

normal flow of water in the canal was severely disrupted due to construction of various structures, the growers would face severe waterlogging in the rainy season.

Contacted, Abdus Sattar Khan, who is building structures on the canal, declined to make any comments over the matter.

Dhankhali Union Land Assistant Officer Hamidul Haque Bachchu Biswas said a list of occupiers of at least 70 structures from Sombaria Bazar to Fultali has already been sent to the upazila office.

Kalapara Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Jagatbandhu Mondal said immediate action will be taken after investigating the matter.

## Going abroad for cancer treatment not necessary

Survivors, caregivers, experts tell Eskayef Oncology webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Empathy for cancer patients and proper treatment, instead of fear or social stigma, can save millions of lives every year, said cancer survivors, caregivers and medical experts.

They said the traditional fear about cancer should in no way dominate the social discourse, as medical scientists have developed high-quality medicines and sophisticated technology, many of which are available at home.

The observations came at a webinar titled "The Stories of Conquering Cancer" jointly organised by Eskayef Oncology and The Daily Star yesterday, on the eve of World Cancer Day today, with theme "#IAmAndWill".

The campaign says: "Our actions have an impact on everyone around us, within our neighbourhoods, communities and cities. And that more than ever, our actions are also being felt across borders and oceans."

Taking part in the webinar, cancer survivor Hashmat Rehana Chowdhury said she was nervous after being diagnosed, but the best thing was that the doctor allayed the fear and suggested the precautions necessary.

"I found the doctor and nurses very supportive and caring. As I regularly went to the oncology centre in Dhaka, the nurses and doctor became like my relatives," she said. Besides, her family, friends and colleagues all supported her.

A teacher by profession, Rehana Chowdhury said she had to continue her job, though work hours were reduced. Her colleagues at the school too were caring.

"I had confidence in caregivers, doctors, and above all Allah," she said.

She said people in general are very afraid of cancer and think they need to go abroad for treatment. That perception has proved to be wrong in her case, she said.

"I have full confidence in the treatment and care provided at home," said Rehana.

Another survivor Habiba Monsur said she was also very afraid when



Guests at the webinar shared their experience of the battle with cancer.

she was diagnosed with cancer. However, there were some issues with the diagnosis that prompted her family and relatives to decide to take her to India.

"However, the doctor in India suggested that the medical protocol that was prescribed in Bangladesh was fine. Eventually, I returned home and continued the treatment and survived the cancer," she said.

While undergoing treatment, she had body pain. The doctor then suggested yoga, which eventually relieved her pain, she said.

"My husband was also very supportive. The doctor had shared possible reactions to medication and so I was prepared to face those," Habiba said.

"The doctor clearly suggested that I should not worry, but remain mentally strong. I tried hard to be so. This is very important," she added.

Her husband Monsur happily shared how mutual understanding, love and affection during the critical days of the disease can help a patient.

He said they had a social pressure to go to India, but then realised that the treatment was same at home. "Actually, my employer provided financial assistance for the treatment. So, I had no major problem. But, quality treatment of cancer is very much possible within the country."

Dr Zafar Md Masud, professor and head at the Department of Oncology at Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital, said there is

no guarantee that cancer treatment would be the best abroad.

Bangladesh has high quality medicine and a healthcare system available now. Mutual understanding between doctors, nurses, family and the patient is very important. Also, lifestyle plays an important role. Social awareness among all on cancer is the key, said Dr Masud, who moderated the discussion.

Dr Shahriar Islam, portfolio manager of Eskayef Oncology, said Eskayef Oncology has state-of-the-art manufacturing facility equipped with many pioneering technologies like ISOLATOR, processes and skilled professionals.

Recently, Eskayef Oncology has touched another milestone with anti-cancer medicine, as it has become one of the few Asian companies to achieve approval from the prestigious global regulatory body -- European Union Good Manufacturing Practice (EU GMP) -- for anti-cancer drugs, he said.

The EU GMP, recognised by the 27 nations of the EU, is considered a passport for entry to the global market. Eskayef can now produce both oral and injectable anti-cancer medicines, maintaining the standard of the EU regulator.

"With all the latest technologies, facilities and our earnest commitment, Eskayef Oncology is determined to serve humanity in Bangladesh and across the world with its affordable, global-standard anti-cancer products," said Dr Shahriar.

## Hundreds in 2 villages water logged for months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Several hundred families in Bagdanga and Manoharnagar villages in Jashore's Keshabpur upazila have been living in inhumane conditions, as their houses remain under water for nearly two months.

A number of residents of the villages said that the Manoharnagar-Bagdanga canal, which runs alongside their villages, overflowed and flooded their villages.

Pumping of an enormous volume of water into the canal from Shrifala and Bayar Khola beels, under neighbouring Manirampur upazila, caused the canal to overflow, they also alleged.

Inhabitants of the two villages built a few makeshift footbridges with bamboo to communicate with other areas. Many of them are trying to elevate their houses with earth purchased from distant locations.

With their cattle sheds and toilets flooded and no place to take shelter to, many are living in unsanitary conditions. The prolonged water logging, mixed with sewer, is posing health hazards to all inhabitants, especially to the children and the elderly.

Day-to-day activities such as cooking and bathing have become the biggest challenge for the villagers, as they have to wade across murky floodwaters to fetch fresh water from surrounding areas.

Bagdanga resident Mukul Roy said having a cooked meal at home has been one of the most difficult tasks when there

Pumping of an enormous volume of water into the canal from Shrifala and Bayar Khola beels, under neighbouring Manirampur upazila, caused the canal to overflow, villagers alleged.

is dirty water all around.

Sujan Roy, from the same village, said the flooding has washed up sewage from the toilets, posing severe health risks to everyone in the two villages.

Lives of the villagers are in despair and many of them, including children, are suffering from various waterborne diseases, said Tanni Roy Tuki, a higher secondary student.

Vaidyanath Sarkar, a union parishad member, said the water logging has been continuing in the area for about two months and the higher authorities concerned have been made aware of the situation.

Contacted, Panjia Union Parishad Chairman Shafiqul Islam Mukul said pumping out of water from the two villages has started already and the situation in the area will see an improvement in a few days.



Hospitals see a sharp rise in number of child patients, infected with different cold-related diseases, due to the ongoing cold spell across the country. This photo taken on Tuesday shows parents huddle on the floor as the children's ward of Pabna General Hospital is too inadequate to cope with the situation.

PHOTO: STAR

## Man to die, father gets life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced a man to death and his father to life term imprisonment for killing a madrasa principal in Hossainpur upazila in 2009.

The convicts are Manik Mia, 37, of Jirani village, and his father Nurul Karim, 62.

Kishoreganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abdur Rahim also fined them each Tk 2 lakh.

According to the case statement, a quarrel took place between Manik and Roksi, 16, son of Aminul Haque, 55, principal of a local madrasa, over playing cricket.

Later, Manik and his father forcibly took the boy to their house on December 14 in 2009.

When Aminul rushed to the spot to release his son, Manik stabbed Aminul on the chest. Injured Aminul died at a hospital in Dhaka on December 17.



A woman crosses a flooded area, using a makeshift bamboo footbridge made by villagers. Two villages -- Bagdanga and Manoharnagar -- in Jashore's Keshabpur upazila, have been under water for around two months, causing immense sufferings to inhabitants of the villages.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Gowainghat, District: Sylhet  
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### e-Tender Notice

e-GP Tender Notice Number : 04/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal(<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works

SL No	Tender ID No	Description of work	Tender/Proposal Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	Tender/Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
01	540392.	eTender/PEDP4/SLT/GOW/2020-21/W2.03056 Construction of additional class room of Shangram Punjee GPS under PEDP4 , Gowainghat, Sylhet.	24-Feb-2021 17:00	25-Feb-2021 14:00	25-Feb-2021 15:00	OTM
02	540393	eTender/PEDP4/SLT/GOW/2020-21/W2.02418 Construction of additional class room of Chattar Gram GPS under PEDP4 , Gowainghat, Sylhet	24-Feb-2021 17:00	25-Feb-2021 14:00	25-Feb-2021 15:00	OTM
03	540394	eTender/PEDP4/SLT/GOW/2020-21/W2.02577 Construction of additional class room of Gulni GPS under PEDP4, Gowainghat, Sylhet	24-Feb-2021 17:00	25-Feb-2021 14:00	25-Feb-2021 15:00	OTM
04	540395	e-Tender/PEDP4/SLT/GOW/2020-21/W2.03111 Construction of additional class room of Siting Bari GPS under PEDP4 , Gowainghat, Sylhet.	24-Feb-2021 17:00	25-Feb-2021 14:00	25-Feb-2021 15:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, please registration in the National e-GP system (<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 on line through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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