



Two local leaders belonging to Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami have allegedly joined hands grabbing 35 decimals of government canal in Kartimari area of Jadurchar union of Kurigram's Roumari upazila. The photo has been taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

ROUMARI UPAZILA OF KURIGRAM

AL, Jamaat men join hands to grab government canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two local leaders belonging to Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami have allegedly joined hands grabbing 35 decimals of government canal in Roumari upazila of Kurigram.

The duo— Suruzzamal Miah, religious affairs secretary of Roumari Upazila AL and Roumari Jamaat's former member Nurul Islam Master—have been building infrastructures on the govt canal after filling it with the earth.

Nurul Islam Master is the younger brother of late Sirajul Islam, former Ameer (president) of Roumari Upazila Jamaat.

This waterbody, the lone source of drainage at Kartimari market area, has been occupied and filled with earth, causing waterlogging there, locals said.

Although the locals have staged protest against the duo but with no effect as no administrative actions have been taken against them.

According to the locals, 35 decimals of the

land under 3632 Dag is govt khas land. The locals have been using it as a reservoir for decades.

The water of Kartimari market area is drained in this reservoir. Suddenly the two claimed ownership of this govt khas land.

Suruzzamal Miah took 20 decimals and Nurul Islam Master, took possession of 15 decimals of the waterbody.

The locals claimed that they have occupied the waterbody by filling it with the earth and constructing infrastructures by showing fake documents.

Asked about the matter Suruzzamal Miah, religious affairs secretary of Roumari Upazila AL, said that he became the owner of 20 decimals of land of the water body through purchase. He claimed to have received a verdict in the case against the government.

Another alleged Nurul Islam Master claimed that he too has become the owner of 15 decimals of land of the waterbody according to purchase.

He has taken possession of the land as per the rules and filled it with earth.

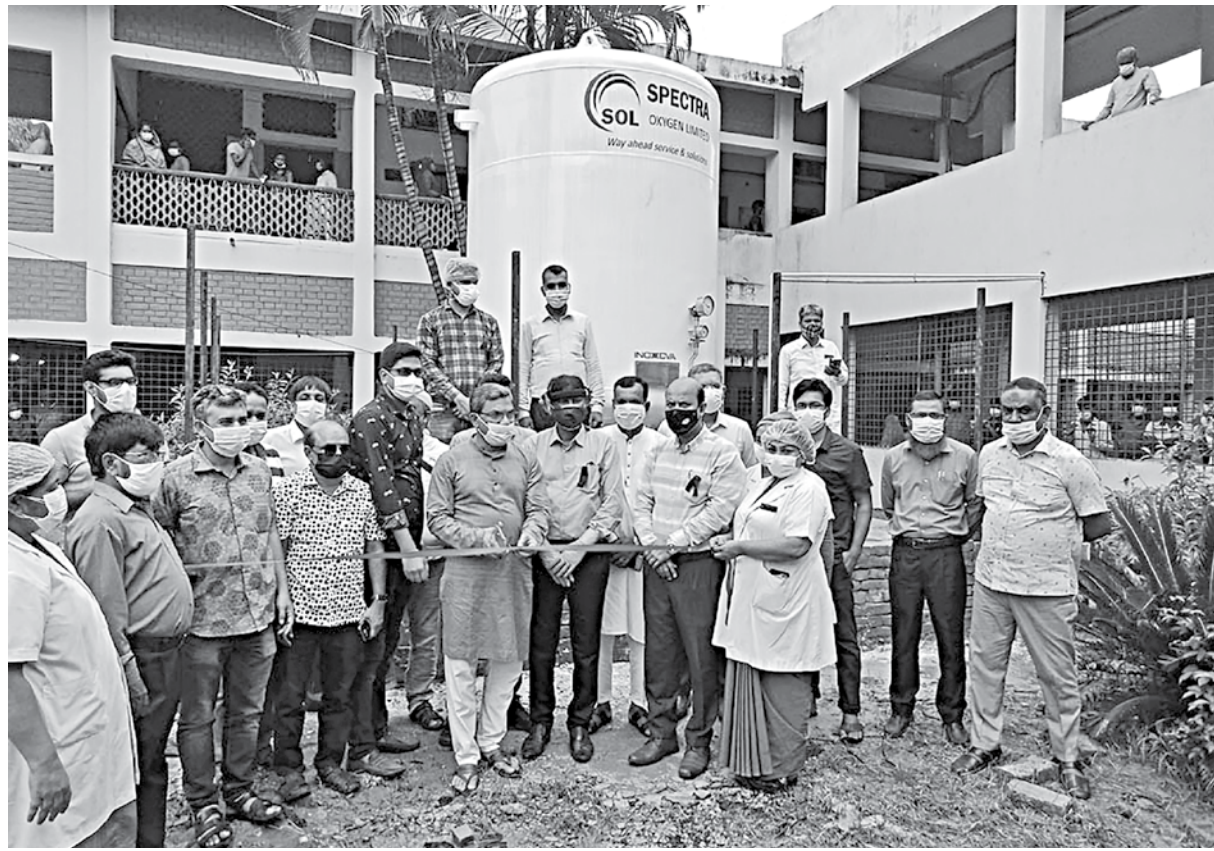
He has been constructing the infrastructures on his own land, he said.

Golam Mortuza, union land officer of Jadurchar Union in Roumari Upazila said that the waterbody is government khas land. Suruzzamal Miah and Nurul Islam Master are constructing infrastructures by taking possession of the water body with a unilateral verdict from the court.

Land office was not aware of this. Preparation has been taken for lodging an appeal against the unilateral verdict, he said adding, 'As a rule they cannot build infrastructures by filling the water body. I have reported the matter to the higher authorities.'

Roumari Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star that he was not aware of the matter.

He would take necessary steps on an urgent basis after proper investigation, he assured.



A central oxygen supply plant was inaugurated at 250-bed Pabna General Hospital on August 7. Pabna-5 constituency lawmaker Golam Faruk Khandakar Prince formally launched the service on the hospital premises.

PHOTO: STAR

Firearms recovered in Satchhari forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered huge quantity of firearms during a drive at Satchhari forest in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila.

BGB members recovered the firearms, wrapped in a polythene bag, from within half a kilometre of the main gate of Satchhari National Park on Friday night, Lt Col SMN Samiunnabi Chowdhury of BGB 55 Battalion said.

He said he seized firearms includes nine single-barrel guns, three pistols and 19 rounds of bullets.

The BGB official said after receiving secret information, BGB members have been monitoring the Satchhari forest area since August 1.

PATURIA GHAT 500 vehicles stranded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Over 500 vehicles, most of them goods-laden trucks, were waiting at the Paturia ferry terminal till yesterday evening to cross the Padma, as ferry movement was slowed down due to strong currents.

Vehicles have been queuing up for the last three days as the authorities concerned are allowing the vehicles carrying passengers and emergency goods to board ferries on a priority basis.

Currently, 17 ferries are in operation on the Paturia-Daulatdia route and one is under repair, BIWTC officials said.

Housewife killed in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A housewife was killed allegedly over a family feud with one of her relatives in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The deceased, Rokeya Begum, 40, was wife of Abdul Latif of Goichpara village.

Victim's elder son Shariful Islam said they all had an altercation with one of their relatives over a family feud on Wednesday, and an arbitration was scheduled to be held next week to settle the matter.

But, before the meeting is held, some unidentified criminals stabbed his mother from behind when she went to collect water from a tube-well at their house yard on Friday night, he alleged.

Family members rescued injured Rokeya with severe injuries on the head and rushed her to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital first, from where she was transferred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where the doctors declared her dead.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Panchagarh Sadar Police Station Abdul Latif Mia said the housewife might have been killed over internal family feud, adding that they already visited the spot and started investigation in this regard.

Visually impaired singer Nurunnabi struggling for a living amid lockdown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Nurunnabi Sarkar, a visually impaired Lalmonirhat resident, used to make a living by singing in markets.

Because of the lockdown, which has seen the rural markets where he used to perform become practically deserted, his earnings have come to a halt.

This entertainer, the sole earning member of a family of nine, is finding it increasingly difficult to feed his family.

Nurunnabi, who is visually impaired by birth, lives at a bordering village of Dighaltari Sangkar Chawra of Durgapur union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

In the family, Nurunnabi's father Entazul Haque and his three younger siblings— Nur Alam, Limon Mia and Rasheda Khatun— are also visually impaired. They are all born blind. Only his mother Nurjahan Begum and one younger brother Sumon Islam have vision in the family.

The visually impaired family owns only 20 decimals of land as property. The family is solely dependent on Nurunnabi's earning.

The singer, who is in his mid-twenties now, studied upto class five at a rehabilitation centre for the visually impaired run by a non-govt organisation

Bengali musical instruments including drums, tabla, harmonium, flute and others. He can sing all kinds of folk songs including Bhawaiya.

Nurunnabi Sarkar said that before the lockdown, he used to earn Tk 400-500 a day by playing dotara and singing songs in the local haats and bazaars for leading the family.

Now he can't go out because of the lockdown. And even if he goes out, he can't earn money because most of the haats and bazaars are desolated now due to the restrictions imposed by the government to curb the spread of coronavirus.

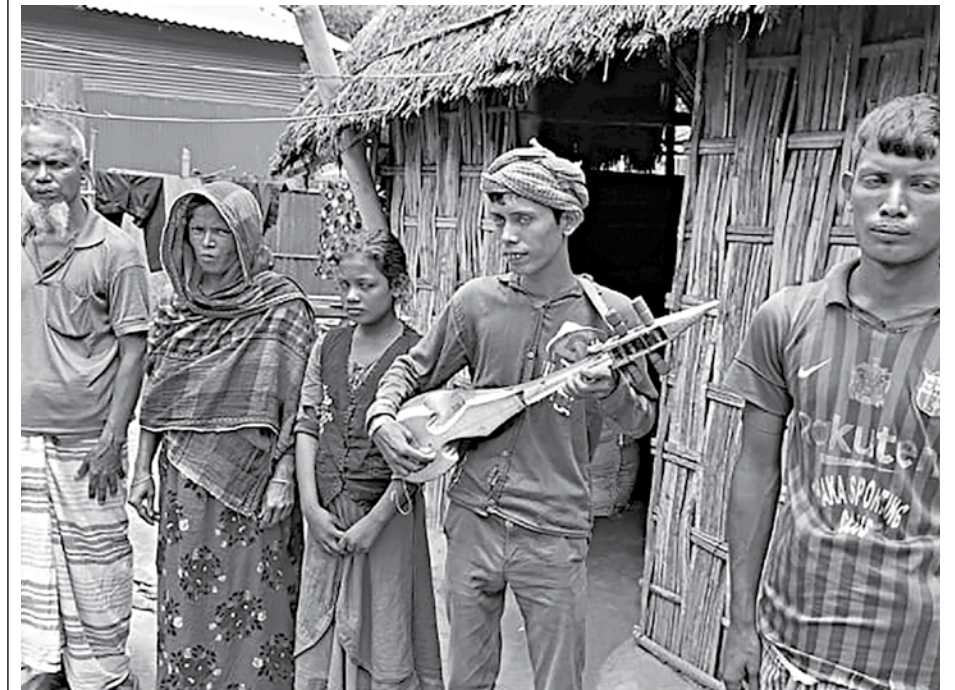
"I am in a lot of trouble and I am helpless now. There is nothing to do," he said.

Nurunnabi's father Entazul Haque said that Nurunnabi is their eldest son and the family lives on his income.

He cannot do much work because he is also visually impaired.

The family is feeding on the rice given by the government amid lockdown. But they cannot afford to manage anything else due to lack of money.

Nurunnabi's mother Nurjahan Begum if Nurunnabi did not earn money by singing, they would have to die of starvation. All



Nurunnabi Sarkar along with his family members at their home in Dighaltari Sangkar Chawra of Durgapur union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

(NGO). That's where the practice of music he received.

Now he has taken charge of the poor family. But his earnings have come to a standstill due to the lockdown.

The visually impaired Nurunnabi has a unique talent. He can play an array of

the expenses of the family depend on his income.

She and her younger son Sumon earn a scanty amount of money.

"My husband is born blind. Our three sons and a daughter are also born blind. Only my younger son Sumon and I can see," she said.

Nurunnabi's neighbour Aminul Islam said Nurunnabi's songs fascinate the villagers. Due to the lockdown, their economic condition is also in bad shape, so they are also not able to help Nurunnabi even if they want to.

He is dear to the people of the village as he entertains them, he said.

Even after so much trouble, the smile on Nurunnabi's face has not worn out. He wants to continue his musical journey defying all odds.

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Md. Nurunnabi Bhuiyan
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