

Children drowning doubles in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Child deaths due to drowning have doubled in Patuakhali in one year.

A total of 29 children died by drowning in 2020 but the number rose to 56 in 2021.

At that time, 168 children survived even though they were about to drown.

And in January this year, seven children drowned in the district.

Among the 29 deaths in eight upazilas of the district in 2020, nine were in Dashmina, eight in Kalapara, four in Baufal, three each in Dumki and Mirzaganj and two in Galachipa upazila.

Most of the incidents occurred between morning and afternoon in water bodies near their homes.

The average age of the victims was below six years.

In 2021, the death rate almost doubled.

At that time 17 out of 56 children

A total of 29 kids drowned in 2020, but the number rose to 56 last year.

drowned in Dashmina upazila, 10 children drowned in Kalapara, nine in Baufal, eight each in Dumki and Galachipa and three in Mirzaganj.

A two-year-old boy Niloy Majhi drowned in Pashchim Laxmipur village in Dashmina upazila on January 15 this year.

The child's father Bimal Majhi said Niloy was playing with other children near to yard of the house around 10:00am.

Suddenly, he could not be found anywhere. About an hour later, his floating body was recovered from a pond near the yard.

"The pond was unfenced," he said.

"If the pond had been netted, my child would not have drowned," he added.

Nahid Akhter, communications manager at the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research (CIPRB), a non-government organisation working to prevent infant mortality, said 60 per cent of deaths by drowning in the country occur between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

Therefore, if the children are kept in a safe shelter at this time, it is possible to prevent infant mortality, said the manager.

Patuakhali Civil Surgeon SM Kabir Hossain said a campaign is being launched to raise awareness to prevent child deaths by drowning.

Ponds will be fenced with net and unnecessary ponds next to the homesteads will be filled up with soil.

Besides, teaching children swimming after a certain age should be turned into a social movement, he added.

Saidpur admin grabbing martyred FF's land: Family

Houses under Ashrayan-2 project being built occupying 1.22 acres of land belonging to the FF's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Saidpur upazila administration has been building new houses under Ashrayan-2 project allegedly occupying land belonging to martyred freedom fighter Solaiman Kha's family at Laxmanpur Charakpara village.

Following the development, Lutfar Rahman Kha, the eldest son of the martyr, moved a petition to the court seeking an injunction on the work and held a press conference at his residence recently to draw the attention of the prime minister.

Talking to this correspondent, Lutfar Rahman said 1.22 acres of land belong to their family and showed the valid documents including the latest Bangladesh survey (BS) in favour of his claim.

He also said that they would regularly pay land revenue but in 2013, when they went to pay the tax, the then assistant land officer of the concerned Bangalipur union land office refused to receive the taxes claiming that the land was abandoned property.

Lutfar Rahman then applied to the deputy commissioner (DC)

urging to exclude the land from the abandoned property list as it was a mistake of the field level land officials.

Accordingly, the then DC directed Saidpur upazila administration to investigate and file a report.

The then UNO Md Shafiqul Islam in his investigation report mentioned that the particular land was neither abandoned nor vested or khas, but belonged to the martyr's family.

The then UNO Md Shafiqul Islam in his investigation report filed on May 16 in 2013 mentioned that the particular land was neither abandoned nor vested or khas property but belonged to the martyr's family which was also under their possession.

Ignoring the report, the authority did not exclude the land from the list and Lutfar Rahman



Saidpur upazila administration has been constructing houses under Ashrayan-2 project occupying 1.22 acres of land belonging to a martyred freedom fighter's family. Although as per the rule such houses are to be built on khas land.

PHOTO: STAR

GOGALICHHRA RIVER BANKS

Delay in repair work irks locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The delay in repairing the banks of the Gogalichhra River, which originated from the hilly area of Kulaura in Moulvibazar, affected by three landslides last year has irked the villagers.

Although seven months have passed since the work order was given, the emergency repair works have yet to commence much to the resentment of the locals.

The engineering department of the municipality blamed the contractor for the delays.

On July 26, the executive engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB), accompanied by the mayor of the Kulaura municipality, inspected



Water Development Board (WDB) authorities and Kulaura municipality mayor visited the affected area in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

the affected area and ordered emergency repair works. Rahad Construction, a Dhaka based firm, was given the work order for repairing the three places at a cost of Tk 6 lakh 15 thousand.

According to the Engineering Department of Kulaura municipality, a total area of 70 metres of the bank was affected by the flood.

The WDB directed the damage assessment committee to complete the work as per the instructions.

A work order signed by Prakash Kanti Sarkar, supervising engineer of WDB in Moulvibazar, was issued on July 29 last year.

Although seven months have already passed, the contractor has not started the work. The matter has been informed to the WDB more than once by the mayor of the municipality, Principal Sipar Uddin Ahmed.

Rabiza Begum, wife of late Altaf Hossain of Joypasha village, said "I live in a shack near the river with my two children. I am very scared. If the flood starts again, the water will enter and destroy my house. That is why I am demanding to expedite the work."

Rina Begum, owner of the construction firm, said the reason behind the delay was mainly the pandemic situation.

She said that the work will start in a few days.

Kulaura Municipality Assistant Engineer Kamrul Islam said the work has not started yet and after a month when the monsoon sets in it will be difficult to finish the work. The negligence of the contractor is responsible for this.

How to manage PMS Bowlers pull together in T20I win

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cutting caffeine may prevent the symptoms from getting worse.

Reducing stress is also helpful in managing the symptoms while increasing physical exercise helps fight off severe symptoms.

However, depending on the severity of symptoms, doctors may prescribe medication for premenstrual syndrome.

Commonly prescribed medications for premenstrual syndrome include antidepressants,

nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), diuretics, and hormonal contraceptives.

Calcium and vitamin D supplements may be useful in some cases.

Mostly, maintaining a healthy lifestyle may help in managing the symptoms of PMS. Exercising and eating healthy is important. However, if the symptoms are extreme and unmanageable, one should see a doctor for accurate diagnosis.

Seals help Japanese

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interview with Reuters on Friday.

"However, even in such a situation, many animals such as seals are living in the area of Antarctica, so I thought we should have them collect the data," Kokubun added.

The data successfully gathered from seven seals showed one of them had travelled as far as 633km (393 miles) from the coast of Japan's Showa Station in Antarctica, while another had descended to a depth of 700m (2,297 ft).

Kokubun said the

scientists also learned from the data that warm seawater from the upper layer in the open sea reached Antarctica from March through winter that year. The water flowed below the ice, bringing in sea creatures like Antarctic krill, a major food source for seals.

Aiming to examine further the impact of global warming on Antarctic coastal areas, Kokubun next hopes to make the device small enough to fit on other animals at the South Pole such as penguins.

Momen asks

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been at the forefront of combating terrorism, violent extremism, drug and human trafficking, and other transnational crimes.

Momen invited the lawmakers to visit Bangladesh, along with congressional delegations,

to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

He thanked the US for its strong humanitarian and political support to Bangladesh in dealing with the Rohingya crisis and for sending Covid-19 vaccines.

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Test-Playing nation. Overall, it was their third-largest T20I win.

But the fact that Nasum bowled so well should not take focus away from what was an average batting display, with only Liton Das having any real impact in the innings. Bangladesh packed their line-up with eight batters, but that only displayed the lack of clarity they have in the format.

Opener Mohammad Naim's struggles at the top continued while Munim Shahriar showed some merit on his debut. He at least attempted to hit boundaries, but the rest of the batting line-up did not merit the kind of batting

depth that the Tigers had.

In Mushfiqur's absence, the roles were jumbled. Each batter tried to go after deliveries according to the match scenario, but a governing idea was missing. While Liton played breezily during a brilliant 44-ball 60, the rest did not support his effort.

The Tigers' governing philosophy in building their innings in the format had so far revolved around having a top-order batter play the anchor role. Here, Liton's start handed him the role of anchor but without clarity about a batting plan, it was Liton himself who also had to try and accelerate.

If the in-form batter

in the top-order cannot play freely, the concept of roles in the batting order become insignificant. No one got in enough except Afif Hossain, who struck 25. A middling score may be good enough at Mirpur, but in terms of the overall motto of T20 cricket around the world, Bangladesh's batting philosophy left a lot to be desired.

While it would have been prudent to let loose a Yasir Ali or Mahedi Hasan to put further pressure on Afghanistan after Liton's classy innings was paying dividends, other who came before them such as Shakib or Mahmudullah neither carried the innings forward nor provided the necessary

impetus.

The lower-middle order did not find enough deliveries to get momentum late on and, as Liton perished in the 17th over, there was no power-hitter who could produce carnage in such a short time at the crease.

Mahmudullah said on the eve of the game that they would look at scores of 150 to 160. That sort of total will not be fit for the format going forward, especially with a World Cup to come this year.

Packing the line-up provides insurance, but it also delivers the message of playing it safe and that cannot be the modus operandi in a smash and grab format.

The son

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Amena Begum is a homemaker.

Hadisur was the second of four siblings.

His elder sister, a nurse at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital, is married and his two brothers are college students.

The family now lives in an old tin-shed house.

"My son promised he would come back. He said he would build a new house and get married. I want him back..." Amena wailed while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

"I spoke to him just five days ago. He told me they were trapped in the war and are all panicking. I was also worried for him ... But...he is now dead."

Hadisur's father Abdur Rahman said, "I feel like I have lost everything. I now wish to at least see my son's body for one last time."

Maksudur Rahman Forkan, Hadisur's uncle and chairman of Betagi Upazila Parishad, said, "Hadisur had gotten out of his cabin for good network reception to be able to

speak to his family. At that very moment, the ship came under the missile attack.

"We want the government to take necessary measures and bring his body back home as soon as possible."

Contacted, Shahabuddin Ahmed, assistant director of Barguna district employment and manpower office, said he already spoke to senior officials about bringing Hadisur's body back.

The MV Banglar Samridhhi ship, owned by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), reached the outer anchorage of the Ukrainian port on February 23, with 28 crew members on board, to load ball clay.

With the Russia-Ukraine conflict escalating, the BSC then cancelled the cargo load plan and directed the ship's master to shift to international waters.

However, due to delay in getting port clearance, the ship failed to leave the port immediately. It got stranded after operations at the port were halted due to Russia's invasion.

Australia orders 200,000 to flee floods

AFP, Windsor

Australia's emergency services yesterday ordered 200,000 people to flee from the path of a wild storm that has killed 13 people in a week of record-setting east coast floods, but the city of Sydney escaped the worst of the deluge.

Authorities issued severe rain and wind warnings for a 400-kilometre (250-mile) stretch of the coast as water levels rose rapidly -- including in suburbs around Sydney, Australia's largest city and home to five million people.