

The ghost of a recreation centre

Lone auditorium for Saidpur rail workers in a shambles

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, *Nilphamari*

The life of the working class is not easy, and railway workers are no exception to that norm.

Keeping this in mind, a recreational center named Fida Ali Auditorium was built on three acres land in 1940, for the recreation of third and fourth class workers and staffers of Saidpur rail workshop.

There were arrangements for indoor and outdoor games and places for snacks and chatting inside the facility.

Besides, cultural events were held regularly here, where the railway workers sang and danced.

For them, this place was the only avenue to breathe a sigh of relief amid their hectic schedule.

Workers used to throng this place during breaks and after completing their day's work, and stay there till midnight, laughing and chatting with their mates.

But for sheer apathy of the authorities concerned, the auditorium now looks like a ghostly establishment, with none visiting the place anymore, due to a lack of facilities inside.

Only in special days like Independence Day or Victory Day, a few people gather to hoist national flag, as authorities provide some money for the task.

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Fida Ali Auditorium for Saidpur's railway workers lies in a dilapidated state, depriving workers of recreational facilities. The auditorium used to be abuzz with activities, but now it remains neglected due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

2-day literary fair kicks off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A two day literary fair called "Chinnomela Muktobangla 2022", will begin at Rajshahi University today.

Vice Chancellor Golam Sabbir Sattar announced the inauguration of the fair yesterday afternoon.

Little magazine, Chinno, has organised the event for the fifth time since 2011. Poet Nirmalendu Goon will attend the programme as the chief guest.

The event is likely to award litterateur Hamid Kaiser, and Zulfiqar Matin. It will also award two little magazines -- Tritio Chokh of Chattogram and Nouka of India.

Chinno editor Shahid Iqbal said several hundred writers, editors and readers would congregate at the fair.

Litterateurs Shankha Ghosh, Syed Shamsul Haque, Debesh Roy, Anisuzzaman and Hasan Azizul Haque will be remembered by prominent writers at the event.



'Save us from erosion'

Dhaleswari river erosion victims urge authorities to construct embankments

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*

Houses, croplands and other important establishments have gone into the Dhaleswari river at Sahabatpur union in Tangail's Nagarparupur upazila following recent erosion.

The victims have blamed extraction of sand from the river behind the current status quo. They urged the authorities concerned to tackle the situation immediately, and then construct embankments as a permanent solution.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed that many homes and acres of croplands in one kilometre area had been completely devoured by the river.

Over a 100 homes and remaining arable lands are waiting to share the same fate if erosion isn't stopped immediately, said locals.



Asia Khatun, a resident of Arra village, said the house she built by taking out a loan is now on the verge of going into the river.

"We are passing days in uncertainty. We hope that the authorities will take necessary steps, construct embankments and save us from the erosion," she added.

Echoing the same,

Mohammad Asaduzzaman, from the same village, said he lost his home and 170 decimals of crop lands due to the erosion.

Contacted, Tofayel Ahmed Mollah, Sohobatpur union parishad chairman, said he has already informed the higher authorities in this regard.

Sazzad Hossain, executive engineer at Water Development

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Engineering Department, said the department has already started the construction of embankments in the area.

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