



'Water too dirty, smelly'

Residents accuse Chandpur municipality of supplying foul, contaminated water

ALAM PALASH, Chandpur

Chandpur town dwellers have long been enduring foul-smelling and adulterated water supplied by the municipality.

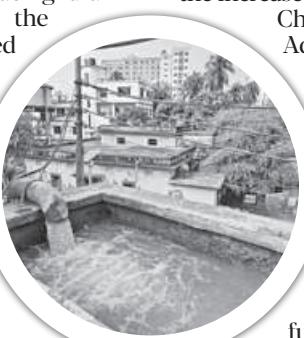
A visit to the surface-water treatment plant in the New Market area showed that water is pumped directly from the nearby Dakatia river into the facility. Drain water from municipal drains also mixes with the river before entering the plant.

After minimal filtration using alum and bleaching powder, the contaminated water is supplied to thousands of households.

Pump operator Mintu Bepari said, "We treat the water with alum and bleaching before supplying it. There is no major issue in that part. However, households with reserve tanks may face dirt accumulation, which worsens water quality."

Resident Jahanara Jerin said people have been drinking polluted water for a long time without any action from the authorities. "We don't get a proper water supply, yet the bills keep increasing. This feels like harassment," she said.

Nasima Akhter, a homemaker from Taltola, said, "We often have to use alum at home to filter impurities before drinking water."



Chandpur Municipal Administrator Md Golam Zakaria said the municipality has four water treatment plants.

"Three of these functioning surface-water plants are located in New Market and Old Market areas, while one underground plant in Biponibag is currently non-functional," he said.

He acknowledged complaints regarding the New Market plant, where dirty drain water has reportedly been mixing with the supply line. "We have assigned engineers and will attempt to fix the issue within 15 days," he said.

Established on October 1, 1896, across 26.82 square kilometres along the Dakatia river, Chandpur municipality is one of the oldest in the region.

4 more die of dengue, 745 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died while 745 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the reported deaths, two were from Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas and one each from Chattogram and Mymensingh divisions.

With the newly reported deaths and cases, this year's death toll rose to 353 and total cases to 88,457.

Currently, 2,838 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

Contacted, HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said most deaths occur among patients who arrive at hospitals in extremely critical condition -- often too late to be saved.

Public health expert Mushtuq Hussain also stressed that early detection and decentralised healthcare are key to reducing dengue deaths.

'He left home for a better life'

Gopalganj youth dies in Mediterranean boat capsize

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A man from Nanikhir union in Gopalganj has died after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean while travelling to Italy from Libya illegally. The deceased is Enamul Sheikh, 27, said Abul Sheikh Dholha, a survivor who was aboard the vessel during the accident.

Families said six more youths from the same union remain missing after the boat capsized. They are Anis

Sheikh, Ibrahim Sheikh, Habibullah Molla Sohel, Ahsiq Mina, Dulal Mina, and Niyaz Mina.

In October, eight youths from Nanikhir union travelled to Libya through local brokers, paying around Tk 21-22 lakh each. They later attempted to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy.

Seven of them were from Paschim Lakhanda village and one from Gunbar village, said Md Alamgir Molla, UP member of ward 3 in Paschim Lakhanda.

On November 14, Enamul last spoke to his father, Yakub Ali Sheikh, from Libya.

Two days later, survivor Abul, 30, of Paschim Lakhanda, who is

also the first cousin of the victim, informed the family via video call that Enamul had died.

"Enamul's body was recovered by the Libyan Coast Guard. The Coast Guard vessel ran over the middle of our boat. Those who were in the middle died instantly. Those with life jackets floated; those without sank. At the last moment, when a rescuer's flashlight hit my face, they pulled me out," said Abul.

Yakub Ali, said, "Last Friday I spoke to my son on a video call. On Sunday I learned he had died and that his body was in a Libyan hospital. He left home one and a half months ago for a better life."

Mukundpur UNO

(acting) Mohammad Golam Mostafa, said, "After receiving information that several youths from Nanikhir union were victims of an accident on their way to Italy, we tried to gather details through local representatives. However, none of the affected families have contacted us yet. A letter has been sent to the Gopalganj

deputy commissioner's office to take necessary action."



Enamul Sheikh

'A lifelong fighter for women's rights and dignity'

Speakers honour Sufia Kamal's legacy on her 26th death anniversary



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent poet Sufia Kamal played a pioneering role in building a non-communal and discrimination-free society by overcoming countless challenges in establishing women's rights, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The event was jointly organised by Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) and Sanjher Maya Trust on the latter's premises in the city's Dhamondi, marking the 26th death anniversary of the founding president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Sultana Kamal, founder of MSF and daughter of the poet, said Sufia Kamal reflected deeply on society, worked for social movements, and devoted herself to creating a culture of collective participation.

"Her principle was to build life through one's own merit, maintaining moral strength in personal, familial, social and state spheres, and never bowing to greed," said Sultana Kamal, also president of Sanjher Maya Trust.

"She valued people, and the depth of her love for people was unparalleled. Her compassion set her apart from everyone else. Her vision was to build a meaningful, humane society through collective strength," she added.

Fauzia Moslem, president of Mahila Parishad, attended the event as the keynote speaker, while MSF's Chief Executive Md Saidur Rahman welcomed the guests.

The event was conducted by Zinat Ara Haque, executive member of Sanjher Maya Trust, said a press release.

Among others, Khushi Kabir, chairperson of Association for Land Reform and Development and coordinator of Nijera Kori, and Aroma Dutta, executive director of PRIP Trust, shared memories of the poet.

The poet's poems were recited by Ashraful Alam.



Without any safety gear on, two workers paint the outer railing of the Dapdapia Bridge over the Kirtankhola river in Barishal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

DoE team attacked during drive against illegal kilns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A team of Department of Environment officials and law enforcers came under attack yesterday while conducting an operation against illegal brick kilns in the hilly areas of Paglir Aga, Yangcha and Chakaria under Faftong union in Lama upazila, Bandarban.

The attack took place around 1:00pm in the Pahartali area along the Chakaria-Manikpur road.

Md Nuruddin, inspector of the DoE, said the team was carrying out regular drives against illegal brick kilns when they were suddenly attacked.

"Seven BGB and police members were injured, and six of our vehicles, including those of the executive magistrate, police, BGB and the DoE, were vandalised," he said.

The special drive was led by Executive Magistrate Rezuan Ul Islam from the DoE's central office and included Major Hafiz, deputy commander of Alikadam Army Zone; Rubayet Ahmed, Lama Assistant Commissioner (Land); Tofazzal Hossain, OC of Lama Police Station; along with personnel from the army, police, BGB, fire service, and DoE.

Rubayet Ahmed said such drives will continue in line with the High Court's directives.

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