

Man beaten up by kin of girlfriend, two arrested

BENGALURU: A 20-year-old youth was beaten up by his girlfriend's father and brother, when he went to meet her near her house at Chamundeshwari Nagar in Hebbal on Sunday night.

The police said that the victim Kumar, 20, a resident of Papanna Block, was working as a promoter with Airtel company.

He is currently undergoing treatment in Baptist Hospital and is said to be out of danger. The girl's father and brother Vinod have been arrested.

Kumar was in a relationship with a PU student for the past six years. Recently, Vinod, who checked her mobile phone, discovered this. Vinod warned her and Kumar was told that he should not talk to her or see her, police said.

On Sunday, around 11 pm, the girl called up Kumar on his mobile phone and asked him to come near her house, as she wanted to discuss about their marriage. Kumar obliged.

The girl's father, who could not find her in the house, went looking for her and found his daughter talking to Kumar. He dragged both of them to his house and locked up Kumar in a room.

The girl's father and Vinod thrashed Kumar black and blue and threatened to kill him if he tries to talk to her again, before letting him go, police said.

A bleeding Kumar was rushed to a hospital and the police were informed.

Kumar's mother lodged a complaint against the girl's father and Vinod.

A case has been registered and investigation is on.

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Another
plaint against
Alliance

Fouling it up: IISc experts, KSPCB, residents say sewage is the culprit

Fish found dead in Ulsoor lake, stench fills the air

BENGALURU: Strong stench welcomed morning walkers at the Ulsoor lake on Monday. The malodour was of the fish that died in the lake since Sunday night and up to Monday morning.

The foul smell of the dead fish floating in the water body soon spread throughout Ulsoor area, much to the discomfort of the residents. The development did not come as a surprise though. The people say this was bound to happen, given the fact that sewage was entering the lake unchecked and that the civic agencies cared two hoots for it. Experts attributed the death of fish to the shortage of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water body, due to its contamination.

The sudden death of fish on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday is a setback for efforts by some of the departments that projected the lake as a prime tourist destination of the future, especially with the proposal to create a floating restaurant there.

Conservationists point a finger at the officials concerned for not taking enough steps for the protection of the lake, spread over an area of 50 hectares.

"The water colour was changing and the stench was overpowering. It was brought to the notice of officials of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). But they did not care. The stench is so unbearable that it will take months for it to subside," Maheshwar, a resident of Ulsoor, said.

However, the departments concerned have launched the clean-up act in the lake on a war-footing, so that there is no threat of outbreak of an epidemic.

Dr C S Ananth, assistant director (south) of the Fisheries



ROTTING DISCOVERY: Dead fish found floating in Ulsoor lake in the heart of Bengaluru. (Right) A closer look shows the extent of pollution in the water body. DH PHOTOS

department, said sewage was entering the lake from upstream channels. Local fish breed Punitus Ticto, besides Katla and Common Carp were among those found dead in the lake.

Officials of the BBMP, BWSSB and the KSPCB took stock of the situation in the afternoon.

KSPCB chairman Lakshman said there could be many causes for the death of fish in the lake. Water samples have been collected and a report on the exact cause will be re-

leased in 72 hours, Lakshman said.

Legal action will be taken against offenders. The pH level was checked on Monday morning and it was normal, at 7, he said.

"We have asked for copies of the agreement between the fisheries department and the contractors in charge of maintaining the lake. This is to know at what intervals the lake is cleaned and identify deviations, if any. It seems that the level of DO is less in the lake. Excessive fish breeding

could be another reason," Lakshman said.

Over a year ago, civic agencies were instructed to construct sewage treatment plants (STPs) at Ulsoor lake and other lakes in the City. They were told to keep a check on them regularly, but that does not seem to have happened, the KSPCB chairman said.

A meeting with heads of all the departments will be held and their explanations will be recorded. No stone will be left unturned to resolve the crisis,

Centre orders probe, seeks report

The Central government has ordered an enquiry into the incident, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

"I have ordered an enquiry and sought a report," Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

"Bengaluru has a fantastic eco-system of lakes, which was destroyed in the last 30 years. Colonies around the water bodies directly discharge their effluents into them, in the absence of drains in many places. This is bad," he said. "This is the environment condition that we inherited. We are improving that," he said.

Trivia table

- Normal DO level: **Five mg/litre or more**
- At Ulsoor lake, it is **1.5- 2 mg/litre**
- pH level on Monday morning was **7 (which is normal)**
- KSPCB promises report in **72 hours**
- Incident hits tourism project, especially lake restaurant plan

he added.

Lakshman has issued directions to officers to check the water quality levels in all the lakes on a war-footing and prepare a report, in the wake of summer.

The High Court has taken note of the contaminated lakes and asked the KSPCB to submit a detailed report in this regard.

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Palike says no sewage entering lake, but IISc study refutes claim

BENGALURU: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) collected water samples from Ulsoor lake which showed that the level of dissolved oxygen (DO) was less. The samples also show high amount of chemicals and sewage contaminants.

"Normally, the DO level should be five mg/litre or more. But at Ulsoor lake, it is 1.5- 2 mg/litre. Fish mortality highlights asphyxiation (absence of oxygen) due to enhanced biological activities. This happens when there are other organic contents in the lake because of sewage entering it," said Prof T V Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

Due to high organic input coupled with unfavourable environment (high temperature of around 34 degrees Celsius), fish kill occurs. Absence of oxygen highlights the organic load (due to untreated sewage, effluents and organic inputs with fish culture). Thus, there is a need for decentralised treatment of sewage in the City, no diversion of sewage from one region to another, enhanced aeration either through introduction of ducks or aerators/fountains, scientific management of the lake keeping in mind ecological aspects and avoiding further structural changes in lakes like creating

floating restaurant.

Officials are blaming one another for the pollution in the lake and fish kill. A KSPCB official said high levels of chlorine was found in the lake (may have been put by BBMP and BWSSB to purify water).

BBMP officials maintained that no sewage was entering the lake. "Sewage has been diverted to the underground drain. Fish kill happened because of increase in temperature and drop in DO level. The algae have increased. We have no details of fish harvesting or anything as that is taken care of by the Fisheries department," Ravindra, executive engineer of BBMP, said.

'All agencies responsible'

BWSSB engineer-in-chief Krishnappa S said all agencies - BWSSB, KSPCB and BBMP - were at fault. While the water board should establish STPs, the KSPCB should periodically inform about the DO and other parameters. BBMP should also ensure proper waste management. There is a pipeline carrying sewage to Kommaghatta-Challaghatta valley. There is no source of water to the lake, except rain, he said. All departments and officials should be booked. Presently, there is no STP in the lake, Krishnappa added.

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