



Numerous sharp turns on Porabari-Garobazar road in Tangail's Ghatail upazila cause accidents.

PHOTO: STAR

GAROBAZAR-PORABARI ROAD

Sharp turns causing accidents

Ninety five curves on 20-kilometre-long important road in Tangail's Ghatail upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A total of 95 sharp turns on 20-km-long Porabari-Garobazar road in Tangail's Ghatail upazila have been causing accidents for long. The sharp and unexpected turns have become a death trap for the commuters and most of the turns have no cautionary signboards. Under the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-2),

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the road at a cost of Tk 24 crore, said upazila LGED engineer Mohammad Ashraf Ali, adding, that World Bank and International Development Association (IDA) jointly funded the project. The road construction work was started in July 2015 and it was opened for public at the end of 2016. Police and locals said Jamal

Uddin, a vegetable trader, was killed and two others were injured in a head-on collision between two three-wheelers at Manikpur intersection on September 29 last year. Earlier on August 5, one Kamal Miah, 25, was killed and five others were injured when a truck ran over a rickshaw van in Garobazar area. One Ashraf Ali, 35, was killed and two others were injured in a motorcycle accident in Chhankhole area on August 13.

Accidents mainly happen on the road due to the unexpected turns, said locals. The most dangerous turns are in Angarkhola, Khagarata, Chichatta, Rasulpur, Mominpur, Chhankhola and Manikpur areas. Sazzadur Rahman, a local schoolteacher, said the authorities did not give any attention to the risk of the small and big curves during construction of the road.

Nazrul Islam Khan, former upazila parishad chairman in Ghatail, said they had taken steps to construct the road straight but failed as a section of local people opposed it. The upazila engineer said the road was constructed with the curves as there was no allocation for the project in acquiring lands. They are now putting cautionary signboards at some points on the road, he said.

Woman, daughter burnt alive

7 shops gutted in Charbhadrasan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A housewife and her five-year-old daughter were burnt alive when a fire broke out at their house in Beelmamudpur area of Faridpur Sadar upazila on Saturday night. The deceased are Aleya Begum, 39, wife of grocer Azad Mollah of Beelmamudpur village, and their daughter Aduri. Azad's brother Altaf Mollah said the fire broke out at his brother's house around 11:00pm when Aleya was sleeping along with her minor daughter and soon engulfed the entire house. Hearing cry for help, neighbours rushed to the spot, doused the blaze and found Aleya dead inside the house. They also rescued Aduri with critical burn injuries and took her to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, from where she was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said, adding that the girl died on way to hospital around 11:30pm. Nurul Islam, station officer at Faridpur Fire Station, said they primarily suspect that the fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit. Away in Charbhadrasan upazila, at least seven shops were gutted when a fire broke out at Charbhadrasan Bazar on Saturday night. Mosharaf Hossain, a night guard of the bazar, said the fire originated from the shop of Monirul Islam around 11:45pm and soon engulfed six adjacent shops. Being informed, three firefighting units from Sadarpur and Faridpur fire stations rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control, Assistant Director at Faridpur Fire Station Md Najimuddin said. Hearing the news, Charbhadrasan Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jesmin Sultana visited the spot.



Built without approach road 15 years ago, this bridge over a canal at Dilbar Nagar in Sadar union under Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar is getting ruined, thanks to the callousness of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: MINTUDESHWARA

GANG RAPE OF PRE-TEEN GIRL Family being 'threatened by accused'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Father of a pre-teen rape victim in Sadar upazila alleged that he was being pressurised by the rapists and their family members to withdraw the case and reach a settlement out of the court. The day labourer man's 12-year-old daughter was raped by a neighbour and two others on January 15 when she was on way to a relative's house. Villagers rescued her from a bamboo grove, only several hundred feet away from her house, and took her to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital where she is still undergoing treatment. On January 16, her father filed a case with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station, accusing his neighbour Alamgir Hossain, 23, son of Abdul Karim; and his two accomplices -- Alamgir Islam and Ohidul Islam. Police arrested the prime accused, Alamgir Hossain, the same day. The other two are still on the run. Dr Manjur Morshed Dolan, resident

medical officer of the hospital, confirmed that the girl was raped by multiple assailants. She is now out of danger, he also said. Speaking with this correspondent, the girl's father claimed that the rapists, through their relatives and acquaintances, have been asking him to withdraw the case and if he does not comply to their demands and agree to settle the matter, they would drive him out of the village. Asked about whether the police were doing anything about the threats being issued to a victim's family, the police station's Officer-in-Charge Mahfuz Alam said Abida Sultana, superintendent of police in Lalmonirhat, visited the girl at the hospital on last Friday and assured her family that justice would be served. Police would take necessary action once a formal complaint is received from the victim's family, he said adding that they were conducting raids to arrest the other two accused.

Farming with compost pays off

Atul Chandra's commercial vegetable cultivation with natural fertiliser shows way to others

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Atul Chandra Roy of Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has earned the reputation of an 'ideal vegetable farmer' in the area, thanks to his use of organic method for cultivation. "I started commercial cultivation of bottle gourd on three bighas of land eight years ago. I also grow other vegetables on seven bighas round the year and get good yield as I know the technique," said the 38-year-old farmer. Bottle gourd is planted in early August and farmers get yield for five months from mid-October to mid-March. During the first time cultivation of bottle gourd, a farmer needs to spend around Tk 25 thousand for one bigha of land to buy bamboo poles, screws, ropes, iron sheets and other

accessories. As the items can be used for the next five to seven years, the production cost decreases the next time. Depending on the time of harvest and size, a bottle gourd is sold for Tk 10 to Tk 100. "Usually 3,000 to 4,000 bottle gourds are produced on a bigha of land and the profit from the sale ranges from Tk 30,000 to Tk 70,000. My yearly earning from cultivating the vegetable on three bighas stands around Tk 2 lakh as I use better methods," said Atul. "I always use compost fertilisers in my bottle gourd field as it helps to keep the trees productive for longer period," he said adding that he uses chemical pesticides only on rare occasions. Ganesh Chandra Roy, a farmer at the same village, said he has started commercial farming of bottle gourd, following suggestions and help

from Atul Chandra. Quite a few other farmers in the area are also getting benefits by following Atul's methods. "Use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides virtually decreases the productivity of bottle gourd trees. This year I observed Atul's farming technique and hope to apply it in my field the next season," said Nur Islam, a farmer of the same village. Compost fertiliser is much better than chemical ones for commercial farming of bottle gourd, said Bidhubhushon Roy, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Lalmonirhat. "Many farmers are getting benefit from farming bottle gourd through using the method. Our officials are visiting Atul Chandra's field to observe his method and share it with other farmers," he said.



Atul Chandra Roy at his bottle gourd field at Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY