

THAKURGAON, PANCHAGARH

Crowded cattle markets add to Covid-19 risk

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Cattle markets of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts pose high risks during the ongoing community transmission of Covid-19 as social distancing and hygiene issues are hardly maintained.

In Thakurgaon, the first patient with the highly contagious disease was detected on April 11. The number of infected people reached 50 after 41 days, 109 in eight more days and it was 130 as of Friday.

In Panchagarh, the first Covid-19 patient was detected on April 17. After 37 days the number of patients reached 50 and it stood at 86 on June 4.

There are 11 and 14 cattle markets in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, said the livestock officials concerned.

After the detection of Covid-19 patient in the respective district, the local administration put lockdown. Accordingly, the cattle markets were closed too.

As per a government decision, the district administrations recently gave permission to open markets including those selling cattle.

During recent visits to different cattle markets in the two districts, this correspondent saw that people hardly bothered to maintain social or physical distancing and personal hygiene.

Most of the people did not wear face masks while many of those wore masks kept their noses uncovered.

Md Shakil Ahmed of Thakurgaon municipality came to Khochabari Haat

(cattle market) in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Saturday to buy a goat but he did not enter the spot fearing infection of Covid-19 as there was huge gathering of people and they did not bother to maintain social distancing or hygiene.

Khashiur Rahman, 47, a teacher of local high school, who came to Lahiri Haat in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila, said, "I came to buy a calf for rearing. But seeing the huge crowd and their careless movement in the area, I returning home, fearing infection."

Zamal Mia, a cattle trader from Narayanganj, said he came to Lahiri Haat to buy some cattle after about two months.

Like many others, he was without any face mask.

Gonesh Ghosh, lessee of Khochabari Haat, said, "We are trying to maintain social distancing but people do not bother."

Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon KM Kamruzzaman Selilm said the cattle markets were opened after about two months for the sake of keeping rural economy active.

The district's Civil Surgeon Dr Mahfuzar Rahman Sarker said, "As Covid-19 sees community transmission at an alarming rate, utmost priority should be given to public health issues while running the economic activities."

Abdul Mazid, district livestock officer of Panchagarh, said, "We will discuss with the administration how to maintain social distancing in the cattle markets to check the spread Covid-19 and action will be taken accordingly."



Ignoring the high risk of Covid-19 pandemic, buyers and sellers crowd and move carelessly at Khochabari cattle market in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

DOUBLE MURDER

Main accused arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police on Saturday night arrested a man in connection with a case for killing his wife and mother-in-law in Srimangal upazila early Friday.

The law enforcers arrested Asgar Ali, 30, from Taltola area under Sindurkhan union on Saturday night, a day after the murder, and produced him before a court yesterday.

After recording Asgar's confessional statement the court sent him to jail. Officer in Charge (OC) of Srimangal Police Station Abdus Salek said.

During primary interrogation, Asgar confessed that he entered his in-laws' house on Thursday night when other family members were not present and killed his wife Yesmin Akther, 25, and mother-in-law Jayeda Begum, 55, over previous enmity. Inspector of Srimangal Police Station Nayan Karkun said.

Being informed by the neighbours, they recovered the bodies and sent it to the hospital for autopsy, he added.

DHAKA-TANGAIL HIGHWAY

Paddy farmers endangering traffic in Mirzapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The growing practice of drying paddy and straw, occupying parts of Dhaka-Tangail highway in Mirzapur upazila, is turning the vital roadway into a nightmare for vehicular traffic, especially at night.

Local Boro paddy farmers are resorting to using the highway and regional roads to dry wet paddy, harvested from submerged paddy fields, as the area lacks elevated paved grounds that would be suitable for drying the produce more conveniently, said locals.

Moslem Uddin, a farmer from Charpara in Mirzapur upazila, said, "What can I do? Where can I dry my paddies and straws? I've got no place to dry those at home."

"It is quite difficult to carry water-soaked paddies too far after harvesting those from paddy fields inundated with rainwater. So, I am drying my paddies beside the road, not on the road," said another farmer,



Members of Highway Police remove paddy from Dhaka-Tangail highway in Mirzapur upazila to ensure safe movement of traffic. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Moslem Uddin, a farmer from Charpara in Mirzapur upazila, said, "What can I do? Where can I dry my paddies and straws? I've got no place to dry those at home."

Abdul Kader, from Dhalla area in the same upazila.

The practice did not cause much problem to road users over the last few months, when traffic on the roads remained at a bare minimum due to the countrywide shutdown. But now, with traffic movement on the rise after the recent relaxation of travel restrictions by the authorities, it is

becoming a cause for concern.

As public transport vehicles are plying the roads in a larger number now, the risk of fatal accidents due to the hazardous practice is also growing, locals feared.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw paddies and straws being dried on various locations of Dhaka-Tangail highway as well as the service road

running alongside it in Mirzapur upazila. The locations include Pakulla, Kodim Dhalla, Chhoydana, Kurni, Dulla Mansur, Postkamuri, Dherua, Deohata and Sohagpur.

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, Saiful Islam, said smaller vehicles, such as the ones he drives, can lose traction and flip over easily while driving on a road covered with straws or grains.

Bus driver Mohammad Ali, who drives on Dhaka-Tangail route, said driving the route has become relatively more hazardous lately as people have been drying paddies and straws on the highway, especially in Mirzapur area. "They should remove those from the highway urgently as those can cause fatal accidents any moment."

Contacted, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Gorai Highway Police Station, told this correspondent that they were making farmers in Mirzapur and other upazilas aware that paddies and straws cannot be dried occupying the Dhaka-Tangail highway.

"We already removed many of the items from different places and also issued warnings to many of them. We will not allow drying of paddy or straw on the highway."

He also urged local volunteers and organisations to come forward and create awareness among farmers about how their occupying of the highway or the roads, with their produce, can cause fatalities.

Couple found dead in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A couple was found dead at their house in Netrakona Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Uzal Mia, 40, a farmer and resident of Darijagi village in the upazila, and his wife Suraiya Akter, 32.

Quoting the deceased's family members and neighbours, Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Tajul Islam said the couple went for sleep on Saturday night.

But finding no response from them yesterday morning, at one stage, neighbours entered their room by breaking open the door and found Uzal hanging from the ceiling of the room and Suraiya lying dead on the bed, the OC said.

The OC said they primarily suspect that Uzal might have strangled his wife first over family feud and then hanged himself.

32 cops infected with Covid-19 in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A total of 32 policemen in Sirajganj have been infected with Covid-19 till Saturday. Their family members also tested positive for the novel coronavirus during the time.

Of the policemen, 24 were infected with the disease in the last seven days, said Md Humayun Kabir, statistics officer of Sirajganj district civil surgeon office.

Of them, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Solonga Police Station, his two daughters and two sub-inspectors, two constables and husband of a female constable of the same police station tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday, said Kabir.

Earlier on Wednesday and Thursday, nine policemen, including the OC of Enayetpur Police Station, nine policemen of Belkuchi Police Station and one policeman of Shahzadpur Police Station were infected with Covid-19, he said.

Some 108 people have been infected with Covid-19 in the district till date, said Kabir, adding that of them, 32 policemen tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Most of the policemen have been infected in the last one week, he said.

Most of the police personnel in Sirajganj used to perform duty on the highways while many policemen joined the rescue operation of a recent boat capsized in the Jamuna

river of Sirajganj's Enayetpur, which made the police personnel vulnerable for getting infected with Covid-19, said Md Abu Eusuf, additional superintendent of police.

"As of Saturday, they tested around 580 policemen. Of them, 32 have been infected with the disease," he said.


Superintendent of Police (SP) Hasibul Alam said the number of infected police personnel is increasing day by day in Sirajganj.

The SP further said the infected policemen have been put in home quarantine and they are getting treatment under the supervision of the district police administration.



Some police personnel are on duty in Bazar-station road area of Sirajganj Sadar upazila recently. A total of 32 policemen in Sirajganj have been infected with Covid-19 till Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Pabna University of Science & Technology

Office of the Project Director, PUST, Pabna

Memo No. PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/16

Date: 07/06/2020

e-Tender Notice (FY/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works of "Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project" PUST, Pabna.

Serial No.	Tender ID	APP ID	Package No. & Invitation Ref. Number	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
01	464529	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/16	Construction of 3-Storeyed Teachers, Officers Club Partial-2 Floor with 03-Storeyed Foundation in/c, Civil, Sanitary, Electrification and Ancillary works under Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project FY-2019-2020.	07 June 2020 8.00pm	01 July 2020 4.00pm	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engineer Lt Colonel G M Azizur Rahman

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Project Director

GD-958

Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project