

# Post office staff work in a death trap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Officials and employees at Patuakhali Post Office work amid risk as the 40-year-old building remains in an awfully dilapidated condition due to lack of renovation.

Activities of the post office are hampered while over 50 staff as well as people who come here for different purposes get scared as plaster often falls off the roofs and

walls. During a visit to the building on Thursday, this correspondent saw chunks of plaster at several places on the floor. Rods of the roof is visible at places.

Electric cables are hanging at several places of the building, making the staff and visitors highly vulnerable.

"We are working here amid risk as pieces of plaster often fall off the roofs and walls of the two-storied

ramshackle building. Rainwater enters the building, causing us a lot of suffering and wetting valuable documents," said Postmaster Shakhawat Hossain.

"After the building was constructed in 1970, renovation work was done only once in 2000. Since then no major renovation work has been done here due to lack of fund," he said.

"We sent several letters to the higher authorities concerned demanding immedi-

ate steps for renovation of the building but to no effect. They asked us to shift the office to a hired house but it is not an easy task as there are many important documents here," he said.

"I got scared during my five-minute stay inside the post office as plaster fell off the roof. The office should be shifted as soon as possible to avert serious accident anytime," said Iqbal Hossain, who came to the office to post a letter.



PHOTO: STAR

Left without any repair for the last ten years, this ramshackle building still houses Patuakhali Post Office, much to the risk of the staff as well as visitors.

# Expat industrialist murdered

## Gamblers kill trader

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An industrialist and a trader were murdered in Munshiganj and Narsingdi on Tuesday and Sunday.

An expatriate industrialist was shot dead by criminals in broad day light at DTL bus counter in Munshiganj town on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Mosharrar Hossain, 40, who returned from Greece on Sunday. He was a resident of Jatrabari area in Dhaka. He had a garments

factory in Greece. Witnesses said a gang of four opened fire on Mosharrar when he came to the bus counter to return to Dhaka from his father-in-law's house at Panchghariaikandi in the town, leaving him critically injured at around 6:15pm.

The gang left the place hurriedly on two motorbikes soon after the incident. The victim, who received bullets in his chest and abdomen, was rushed to Munshiganj General Hospital.

As his condition deteriorated he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead at around 8:30pm.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately. A case was filed in this connection. In Narsingdi, gamblers killed a trader at Bonnar Bazar under Shibpur upazila of the district on Sunday night, reports a correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Mostafa Mia, 45, of Harihardi village. Officer-in-charge Mojibor

Rahman of Shibpur model police station said, following an altercation at about 8:15pm the gamblers strangled him and dumped his body in a nearby banana field.

The culprits at first beat him up as he raised an objection against gambling at the marketplace, sources said.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Shibpur model police station but none was arrested in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

This seven-feet-long python, caught by forest officials from a tree near the PDB project office at Champak Nagar in Rangamati hill town yesterday, was later kept at the mini zoo run by Rangamati Hill District Council.

# Schoolboy, 2 others electrocuted

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A schoolboy, an electrician and a garment factory worker have been electrocuted in three districts.

Aschoolboy was electrocuted at his house at Datterhat in Noakhali town Tuesday morning, reports a correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Ashraf Alam Sourav, 13, son of Dulal Mia, and a class seven student of Harinarayanpur High School under Noakhali municipal area.

Dulal Mia, father of the deceased said, Sourav was repairing an electric wire at the time of load shedding. But he died on the spot as the power supply was restored suddenly.

On information, Sudharam police rushed to the spot and sent his body to Noakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Satkhira, an electric mechanic was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire while working at a

newly constructed building at Uttar Palashpole in the town on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Ramzan Ali, 45, son of Alamgir Hossain of village Kaikhali in Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

Quoting locals police said Ramzan, while drilling at the building owned by Monoranjan Mondal of Uttar Palashpole in the town, met with the fatal accident.

He was working to set up a window, they said.

In Narayanganj, a garment worker died from electrocution in Muslimnagar area under Fatulla Ps on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Shahabuddin, 30, son of Abul Hossain, of the area.

Family sources said Shahabuddin came in contact with a snapped electric wire in front of his house at about 9pm.

Later, he was rushed to Khanpur 200-bed hospital in the town where he died at about 10pm.

HIGH TIDE

# 21 villages flooded in Teknaf

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Around one lakh people were marooned as 21 villages under Teknaf upazila of the district inundated due to development of breach in the embankment at 30 points during high tide for the last two days.

At least 50 homesteads and 11 shrimp enclosures also washed away in the flooding, officials said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazim Uddin feared that further delay in repair of the embankment will affect other villages of the upazila within a short time.

Twenty villages in Teknaf upazila went under water as tidal water entered through the breaches of the 45-km coastal embankment, locals said.

The most affected villages are Jaliapara, Sidepara, Khankardail, Nayapara, Mogpara, Asarbania.

# 12 convicted mutineers freed after jail term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Twelve convicted mutineers of 20 Rifles Battalion were released from Thakurgaon prison yesterday after serving four months' rigorous imprisonment.

Special Court-2 of Bangladesh Rifles on April 12 sentenced 50 BDR men to different terms of rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in mutiny at the battalion headquarters in Thakurgaon in February 25-26 in 2009.

Thirteen out of 50 jawans were awarded four months' rigorous imprisonment. Of them, havilder Rezaul Karim was not freed as he faces another case relating to the mutiny, Jail Superintendent Ismail Hossain said.

The released BDR men are havilder Rezaul Karim, sepoy Md Ekabbar Ali, sepoy Abdullah Al Mamun, sepoy Mohammad Zillur Rahaman, sepoy Md Hanif Uddin, sepoy Md Rabiul Islam, sepoy Md Moksedul Haque, sepoy Md Babul Akhter, sepoy Shahin Mahmud, sepoy Mahmud Ilyas, Sepoy Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, sepoy Md Mir Hossain and sepoy Wasim Akram.

THAKURGAON

# Trial of 104 on war crime charges demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A list of 104 alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces has been submitted to the deputy commissioner of Thakurgaon demanding their trial.

Dr Sheikh Farid, one of the organisers of Liberation War in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh and also the president of Thakurgaon Nagorik Committee, submitted the list Tuesday afternoon.

In absence of the deputy commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner Enayetullah Khan Yusuf Zee received the list.

Contacted, the complainant said the listed people with the help of Pakistani occupation forces were involved in war crimes in different areas under 10 police stations, including Panchagarh, under the then Thakurgaon sub-division.

He said the collaborators killed over 14,000 innocent people in different areas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts during the Liberation War. They also raped women and set many house afire during the period, he added.

ADC Enayetullah Khan Yusuf Zee told this correspondent yesterday that the deputy commissioner asked him to verify the list and make a list of war criminals.



PHOTO: STAR

Half of Bhagyakul Bazar and over 50 nearby houses in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj district gone into the bed of Padma during the last couple of days as the turbulent river continues devouring lands in the area.

# Dearth of coins makes a dent in buyers' pockets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dearth of coins and two-taka notes in the markets of northern districts is making a dent in the buyers' pockets as shopkeepers are allegedly forcing them to buy toffees instead of returning small exchanges.

Sometimes shopkeepers ask the buyers to take the remaining money during the next purchase.

"Such a practice, now common among the sellers of various items including groceries, has become a source of extra income for the traders. Even in buses, you have to accept toffees from the conductor instead

of change to be returned," said Md Morshedur Rahman of Baluadanga village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Several customers said every shopkeeper in the area keeps toffee containers to earn extra money under the pretext of coin shortage.

During visits to different northern districts including Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Joypurhat and Rangpur, it was found that even traders who do not usually sell toffees now store it in big containers.

They are doing it apparently to make additional business taking the advantage of coin crisis, said locals.

"I purchased an item

worth Tk 8 and gave the shopkeeper a ten-taka note. The shopkeeper forced me to buy toffees for the rest of the amount, although he had coins," said Md Khalilur Rahman, a resident of Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

Several shopkeepers in Dinajpur, however, said they are in no way responsible for the situation as there is dearth of coins in the local market.

The government must come up with a practical solution to deal with the problem as every single unit of money is dear to common people, said Md Abdul Jalil, a shopkeeper at Malhdapatty in Dinajpur.

# 3 suicides in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two teenage girls and a housewife committed suicide while police recovered the body of a man in two upazilas of Khagrachhari district in the last two days.

Police said Rabeya Akhter, 18, daughter of Mohammad Abul Kashem of Pilot Farm area, and Selina Akhter, 13, daughter of Abul Hossain of Mollapara area under Panchhari upazila, committed suicide by taking poison over family quarrels yesterday morning.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Ayesha Begum, 23, a housewife, committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling at her in-laws' house at Sobhanpur under Dighinala upazila on Tuesday. Police recovered the body and sent it to the sadar hospital for autopsy.

Mohammad Abdul Malek, elder brother of Ayesha, alleged that she committed

suicide following torture by her husband Ashraf Ali for dowry.

Malek told this correspondent that he would file a murder case against Ashraf, but no case was filed in this connection with Dighinala Police Station as of 6:00pm yesterday.

The body of one Kalon Mia, 65, of pilot Farm area under Panchhari upazila was found in Chenghi Cannel on Tuesday night. Police recovered the body and sent it to the same hospital for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Drivers of CNG-run autorickshaws yesterday lay a siege to Pabna deputy commissioner's office by keeping the three wheelers on the office premises demanding a permanent auto-rickshaw stand in the town. They also demand a ban on shallow machine-driven vehicles (tempo) that ply the roads in the district without permission of the authorities concerned.