

SAIDPUR RAILWAY STATION

# Goods get damaged for want of shed or warehouse

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The importers and exporters are facing trouble in loading and unloading of imported goods at Saidpur railway station as there is no shed or warehouse.

Imported goods often get damaged under the open sky. Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) urged the government to construct a warehouse, a shed, and a high platform immediately to save the imported goods from being damaged.

In the district, there are about 50 exporters and importers who usually import food grains, pulses, spices and other commodities from India through rail route.

Saidpur railway station has direct rail communication with India via Darshana in Chudanga district. Indian freight trains carry goods to Saidpur almost everyday.

The former president of NCCI, Md Sohel Parvez said carrying cost of imported goods in rail route is 20 percent less than that in road.

But the businessmen are losing interest in carrying goods through rail route due to lack of adequate infrastructure and other facilities, he said.

The site for loading and unloading goods has no shed and there is no warehouse at the station for keeping the goods until they are transported. Even there is no high



PHOTO: STAR

Goods imported from India being loaded onto a truck at Saidpur Railway Station. Imported goods often get damaged under the open sky as there is no shed or warehouse at the station.

platform at the site, he added.

Importers said they have to carry the goods instantly through trucks after unloading from the Indian rail wagons as there is no shed or warehouse.

Sometimes they have to keep the goods under the open sky if they do not get any truck in time or if there is any transport strike or for other reasons, they added.

Idris Ali, president of Saidpur Merchants

Association, said the railway could earn handsome revenue if the infrastructure and other facilities are improved at the railway station.

Railway sources said the terminal of the station was constructed in 1870, which is now too risky to use and fatal accident may occur at any moment.

President of NCCI Abdul Wahed Sarkar said importers and businessmen of the district recently submitted a

petition to the chief engineer of Western Zone, Bangladesh Railway (BR) demanding improvement of infrastructure and other facilities at the railway station but the authorities are yet to respond.

The stationmaster of Saidpur railway station Mozammel said they sent several letters to the commercial officer of Western Zone of BR in this regard.

## Housewife commits 'suicide'

Bodies of 2 women recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A housewife allegedly committed suicide on Saturday night at Madabpur village under Sadar upazila in Thakurgaon.

The deceased was Surma Rani, 22, wife of Ashru Roy of the same village.

Police and family sources said at about 8:00pm on the day Surma committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree beside her house.

On information police went to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately, police said.

In Manikganj, police recovered bodies of two unidentified women from Sadar and Shibaloya upazilas on Sunday and Saturday.

Police said pedestrians saw the decomposed body of a young girl, aged about 18, floating in a canal under Khalpar bridge in Sadar upazila at about 11am on Sunday.

Sadar police station OC Azizul Haque suspected that miscreants killed the girl elsewhere and threw the body into the canal from the bridge 2-3 days back.

In another incident, locals found an unidentified body of a woman, aged about 60, at Paturia ferry ghat in Shibaloya upazila on Saturday evening.

Police recovered the body at about 6pm and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

# Engineer held, another beaten up for bribery

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A sub-assistant engineer of Bogra Zila Parishad office was caught red-handed while taking bribe from a contractor yesterday and a LGED engineer in Magura town was beaten up by the contractors as he refused to sign a bill without bribe on Sunday.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) officials arrested sub-assistant engineer Md Imamul Islam while he was taking bribe from a contractor on Bogra Zila Parishad office premises yesterday. The ACC officials also recovered Tk 2,500 from his possession, according to our staff correspondent.

ACC Rajshahi Divisional Director Shafiqul Islam said a contractor named Rais Uddin submitted an application to the engineer to refund the security money that he had earlier deposited with the zila parishad office against a work.

As the engineer demanded bribe from Rais Uddin, he informed the officials of ACC Bogra office of the matter.

Yesterday, an ACC team led by Assistant Director Rabindra Nath Chaki caught the engineer while he was taking bribe from the contractor.

In Magura, some contractors on Sunday beat up LGED engineer Mushtaque Hossain Joarder at his office for refusing to sign a bill without bribe.

Sadar upazila LGED office sources said contractor Khurshid Haider had earlier submitted a bill for Tk 50 lakh after completion of a road repairing work in the upazila.

He repeatedly requested engineer Mushtaque to clear the bill as he is to pay poor workers before Eid, reports UNB. But the engineer allegedly demanded bribe for signing the bill.

Later, Khurshid and other contractors, who were also forced to give bribe to the engineer, entered his office room and beat him up.

Mushtaq is undergoing treatment at private clinic in the town. No case was filed with Sadar Police Station as of yesterday in connection with Sunday's incident.

# Traders protest extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Hundreds of traders of Pabna Hosiery Market in Chartala area yesterday brought out a procession protesting extortion.

Two extortionists demanded Tk. 10 thousand from a trader on the day and beat him as he refused to pay the money.

Traders said two extortionists came to the shop of Md. Abdul Gaffar, a hosiery trader,

about 2pm yesterday and started beating him mercilessly. Other traders of the market rushed to the spot and chased the criminals.

Protesting the incident, traders of the market brought out a procession in the afternoon. They also shut their shops demanding punishment of the extortionists.

Md. Saiful Islam Fuad, president of Pabna district unit hosiery association said criminals often demand illegal

toll from the traders. The incidents increased with the nearing of Eid, he said.

The traders often do not dare to protest the extortionists for the sake of their business, he added.

Contacted, officer-in-charge of Pabna police station Md. Motiur Rahman said the traders often do not inform police about extortion.

"We will certainly take step against the criminals if we get any complain, he said.

COP MURDER

## One more arrested in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police on Sunday night arrested one more suspected killer of three unarmed policemen in a remote char area of Rajbari district.

The arrestee is Md Yunus Mollah, 40, son of late Abdul Jalil of Char Nagarpur in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district.

On intelligence report, law enforcers from Bera Police Station with the help of Rajbari police raided Nagarpur and arrested Yunus Mollah.

Police will produce him in Pabna Judicial Magistrate's Court with a remand prayer today.

Law enforcers have so far arrested 12 people in connection with the killing of three policemen at Daspara village of Dhalarchar under Bera upazila on July 20 this year.

Officer-in-charge of Bera Police Station Sheikh Zillur Rahman said operation is going on to nab the real culprits involved in the killing of the three policemen of Dhalarchar police camp.

## Truck driver stabbed to death

UNB, B'baria

A truck driver was stabbed to death inside his vehicle by unknown assailants at Biswa Road crossing on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar upazila early Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Mobiuallah, 50, son of Abid Ali of Kadra village in Senbagh upazila of Noakhali.

Police, quoting the helper of the truck, said Mobiuallah stopped his stone chip-loaded Chittagong-bound lorry at Biswa Road crossing as helper Kalam went to a nearby roadside hotel to have Sehri at 2am.

On return, Kalam saw the driver lying over the steering in a pool of blood. He informed police who recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body bore several stab injury marks. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

Police detained Kalam suspecting his involvement in the murder. A case was filed.



PHOTO: STAR

As the water level in the Padma marks a further rise, farmers cut their unripe paddy from Maddyachar, a newly emerged landmass. Photo shows some farmers are engaged in thrashing paddy in T-groyne area of Rajshahi.

## Eid nears, but Eidgah still under water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Barapukuria Eidgah Math, the traditional Eid congregation ground for decades, has remained under three to four feet water since January this year, much to the worry of people of seven land subsidence affected villages around Barapukuria Coal Mine.

The situation has arisen as a consequence of underground mining, said people of Barapukuria, Kalupara, Balorampur, Jigagari, Badyanathpur, Moupukur and Islampur villages.

The Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) authority granted Tk 2.16 lakh for land filling of the Eidgah, but the work sees very slow progress, sources said.

The land filling works that started in late August has remained suspended for a few days as the contractor is facing various problems due to huge surge of water in the area.

If authority fails to complete earthwork of the place, the residents of seven affected villages will have to face problems to offer their Eid prayers this year, said Md Aminul Islam Bachchu, general secretary of Eidgah committee.

However, Md Belal Hossain, general secretary of Barapukuria Jibon O Sampad Rakkha Committee, said that they have an option to arrange Eid congregation at Barapukuria School and College complex if the authority fails to complete

earthwork of the Eidgah.

When contacted, BCMCL Managing Director Md Quamruzzaman said, "Tk 2.16 lakh has been allocated for land filling of the Eidgah. We have also allocated Tk 2.32 for erecting a bamboo-made bridge on about one kilometre long road that went underwater."

The road subsided due to underground mining, villagers said.

Md Abul Kashem, contractor of the bamboo bridge, said that 400 metres of 850 metre road has been done so far and the remaining portion will be completed before the Eid.

Several locals, have, however, expressed doubt about completion of the huge work in a few days before the Eid.

The BCMCL authority first detected the land subsidence in the area in May 2006.

Villagers said that the frequent land subsidence that affected the arable land badly affected several villages including Kalupara, Bolorampur, Gigagari, Bashudevpur, Moupukur, Patigram, Kashidanga and Palpara villages.

However, BCMCL officials said about 201.07 acres of arable land around BCMCL area including the Eidgah subsided since May 2006 and Tk 3 crore have been distributed among the affected farmers.

Sources, on the other hand, said that the land subsidence of BCMCL area affected at least 2600 families with 646 acres of arable and habitable lands.

# Road to Kuakata awfully bad

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Twenty-five kilometre stretch of Patuakhali-Kuakata road connecting Kuakata with the rest of the country has become awfully dilapidated, causing a serious blow to tourism at one of the countries' most attractive scenic spots.

Vehicles ply with high risk on the 15 km road between Amtali to Kalapara and 10 km between Kalapara to Hajipur as large potholes have appeared on the road.

The situation causes impediments to the development of tourism industry in the area, which was beginning to recover from the ruins left behind by the cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007.

Bad condition of the 25-kilometre road poses a serious problem for thousands of tourists who visit the area every year, said workers in local hotels, restaurants and other tourism dependent businesses in Kuakata.

They blamed the government for ignoring the urgent needs of the highly prospective tourist spot for years.

Kuakata was declared Exclusive Tourist Zone in 1996 but no infrastructural development has taken place here. Roads and Highways Department (RHD) built the only paved road covering less than 200 metres to facilitate access to the department's two guesthouses in Kuakata. The remaining road network in the area is earthen and it becomes inaccessible during the rainy season.

Expressing his dismay at the prevailing condition of roads, Golam Sarwar, owner of Sky Palace, a hotel in Kuakata, said, "Tourists are not encouraged to visit the area at all. The beauty of Kuakata reaches its peak during the rainy season but the area becomes almost inaccessible that time."

Wahiduzzaman Sohel, owner of Kuakata International, said, "There is hardly bookings of seat in Kuakata hotels although Eid is

knocking at the door. Every Eid season good numbers of tourists visit the area to enjoy natural beauty with sunrise and sunset."

In last years tourists suffered a lot, as the only road connecting the tourist spot became ramshackle, he said.

The bad shape of the roads is also affecting the hilsa and hatchery industries. Loaded trucks often get stuck into the potholes on the road.

Hundreds of people requir-

ing urgent medical help also suffer due to lack of good road.

Shawkat Ali, executive engineer for RHD said, "Heavy rains damaged nearly 100 kilometres of road network in the region. We already issued work order to rebuild 22 km from Kalapara to Kuakata and contractor will start work just after the ongoing rainy season. Tender is under process for 15 km road from Amtali to Kalapara."



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali-Kuakata road remains awfully dilapidated for long, making immense trouble for the tourists as well as the locals. The photo was taken from Pakhmaria area a few days ago.

## One killed, 20 injured in Thakurgaon clash, feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was killed in a family feud while 10 others were injured in a clash over a piece of land yesterday.

The incidents took place at Dakkhin Banshbari village under Ranishankoil upazila and Bokua village under Haripur upazila.

In the first incident, 10 people including three women were injured in a fierce clash yesterday morning at Dakkhin Banshbari village under Ranishankoil upazila over a piece of disputed land.

Sub-Inspector of Ranishankoil Police Station Ruhul Amin quoting locals told this correspondent that Abdullah and Musa of the same village had a longstanding feud over the land.

On the day at about 5:00am, all of a sudden, Abdullah along with 40/50 hired musclemen attacked the house of Musa.

Musa beat family members of Musa mercilessly leaving ten people including three women injured seriously.

The musclemen also set fire to four houses and badly damaged another four houses after looting valuables from those.

While the gang was fleeing the villagers chased and detained four and handed them over to Ranishankoil police.

In the second incident, a man was stabbed to death by his younger brother's wife yesterday at Bokua village under Haripur upazila following a family feud.

The deceased was Sattien Chandra, 30, son of Choitu Chandra of the same village.

Officer-in-charge of Haripur police station told this correspondent over cellphone that Choitu had two sons Sattien and Raj Kumer. They were living at the same place but taking food separately. The two sons used to feed their father sharing days of a month.

On the fateful day, when Sattien wanted to know from his brother's wife Bashonti as to why they didn't give food to Choitu on time, it led to an altercation among them.

At one stage, Bashonti brought a sharp weapon from her room and stabbed her husband's brother in the chest leaving him seriously injured.

Other members of the family rushed Sattien to Haripur health complex where he succumbed to his injuries at about 11:30pm.

Police arrested Bashonti. She was later sent to Thakurgaon jail.