



PHOTO: STAR

Turned into mere rubble due to lack of repair for long, this portion of Rangamati-Khagrachhari road gives a painful experience to passengers of vehicles plying the area.

## Khagrachhari-Rangamati road turns nuisance for commuters

*8-km run-down stretch needs urgent repair*

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

People continue to suffer as the 'worst' eight kilometers of Khagrachhari-Rangamati road remain unrepaired for lack of necessary funds.

Most portions of the stretch have turned totally unfit for vehicular movement due to large and frequent severe potholes. If no repair work is done before the next rainy season, sufferings of the people would mount, said locals.

According to local Roads and Highways department officials, they repaired some points, but the eight km from Manikchhari Mukh to Agriculture College and Bogachhari to Atharomile area, which is badly dam-

aged, could not be repaired due to fund crisis.

"Condition of the road will worsen during the next rainy season if no renovation work is done on urgent basis," said Md Ismail Hossain Miah, executive engineer of Rangamati RHD.

"We cannot reach the district town in time with agricultural products or patients from our village because of worst road condition", said Sukhendu Chakma, a villager of Bogachhari.

"Travelling to Rangamati from Khagrachhari to study at Rangamati Government College has become really difficult," said Mousumi Chakma, a resident of Khabangparia in Khagrachhari who is a sec-

ond year student of the college.

It takes one and half hours more to reach the destinations to and from both district towns of Rangamati and Khagrachhari, said Md Yousuf, a bus driver adding that it required only two and half hours earlier.

Moreover, tyres and other parts of vehicles very often become damaged because of the bad road condition, Yousuf added.

Earlier, the Tk 9819.58 lakh Denmark-GoB funded 'Khagrachhari-Rangamati Road Rehabilitation Project (KRRRP)' to renovate the road was postponed as the Danida authorities refused to continue the project following abduction of three

foreign consultants in 2001 from Kalapahar area in Naiachar upazila, said the Rangamati RHD authorities.

From the fiscal year 2001-2002 to 2006-2007, the government allotted Tk 3117.97 lakh against the project and two-thirds of the project have so far been implemented, according to the authorities.

But in 2008-2009, although the government again provided a 'token' fund to repair the road, it was not allocated for the purpose for reasons unknown.

"As it is an important road for the locals and tourists, government should allocate necessary fund," said engineer Md Ismail Hossain.

## Teacher arrested on charge of sexual harassment

*Students clash with police in bid to get him released*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A police sub-inspector (SI) and a student were injured in a clash between law enforcers and students when the latter tried to have a teacher accused of sexual harassment released from Sadar Model Police Station yesterday.

Police on Wednesday arrested a teacher of Bohoria Nurul Islam High School in Sakhua union in Chandpur Sadar upazila, upon receiving a complaint of sexual harassment from a female SSC candidate of the same school, police said.

Hearing the news at around 11:00am yesterday, over 300 students of the school gathered on the police station premises and demanded immediate release of the accused teacher, police added.

Following altercations over the matter, police charged batons on the students who retaliated by throwing brick chips, eye-witnesses said.

The injured SI Mohammad Mohiuddin was given treatment at Chandpur Sadar Hospital while the injured student Sadam Hossain is under police custody.

The complainant female student told the reporters that about six months ago the teacher persuaded her to get free private tuition from

him and later developed physical relation with her, saying that he would marry her.

"I told my mother about the incident and later other teachers of the school were informed of the matter. Angered at this, the accused teacher started spreading bad comments against me in the area. Finding no other way, I and my mother on Tuesday lodged a complaint against him on charge of rape and sexual harassment to the deputy commissioner," she said.

"After receiving complaint from the girl, police on Wednesday night arrested the teacher," SI Mohammad Mohiuddin said.

Later, on the same night the girl's mother filed a case against the teacher under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Chandpur Model Police Station.

Chandpur model Police Station Officer in Charge (Investigation) Alamgir Hossain Mojumdar said the accused confessed to his crime to police and he was

sent to the court yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the accused teacher claimed to journalists that the allegation against him was not true and he was a victim of conspiracy.

"Police yesterday arrested the accused teacher's sister in this connection. Sub-inspector Mohiuddin also filed a case with Sadar Model Police Station accusing more than one hundred unidentified people," said SI Biplob.



PHOTO: STAR

Police beat students of Bohoria Nurul Islam High School in Chandpur Sadar upazila as the latter agitated on the premises of Chandpur Sadar Model Police Station yesterday demanding release of their teacher who was arrested Wednesday night on charge of sexual harassment of a female student of the school.

## Polls in 126 unions largely peaceful on third day

*Voting suspended at a Bhola centre, 43 held for violating election rules*

STAR REPORT

Union Parishad elections were held in 126 unions of eight districts yesterday, the third day of ongoing polls in the lowest tier of local government structure, largely peacefully except a few stray incidents.

The 126 unions include 88 UPs under 11 upazilas of Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola and Jhalakathi districts in Barisal division, 24 UPs in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazilas of Satkhira and 14 UPs in Mollarhat and Fakirhat upazilas of Bagerhat district.

Polls in six unions of Moheshkhali upazila in Cox's Bazar, earlier scheduled for today, was postponed due to court ruling.

Our Barisal correspondent reports that UP elections were held peacefully in Barisal division except sus-

pension of vote casting in a Bhola centre and sporadic clashes among groups of rival candidates in another centre.

At least 43 people were detained for trial by mobile court on charge of violence and breaking election rule.

Report from Bhola says vote casting was suspended at Uttar-Purba Batamara Government Primary School centre in Baro Manikka union under Borhanuddin upazila in the district at 12 noon.

"Higher authority ordered suspending election at this centre after miscreants entered the centre and snatched some ballot papers," said Kamal Hossain, presiding officer of the centre.

Law enforcers brought the situation under control.

Local people later brought out procession demanding punishment to

them miscreants.

Seventeen people were detained for violence and breaking election rule, said the OC of Borhanuddin police station.

Supporters of two UP member candidates engaged in a fierce clash at Purba Ramnaganj Primary School centre in Ramaganj union of Lalmohan upazila at 2:30pm.

"Rab and police charged baton and fired four rounds of blank shots to control the situation. At least 13 people including police constable Khokan were injured in the incident. Twenty people were detained for breaking election code of conduct in Lalmohan upazila," said Babul Akter, officer in charge of Lalmohan police station.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: Election was held peacefully in nine UPs under Dumki and Mirzaganj

upazilas in Patuakhali district yesterday.

In Mirzaganj upazila Hijazul Islam, 19, of Jhatibunia village was awarded six months' jail as he was campaigning inside a polling centre in favour of a chairman candidate in Amragachia UP. A judicial magistrate delivered the judgment after a short trial when a police official arrested him from the spot.

Heavy rainfall for about two hours from 12:30pm to 2:30pm hampered vote casting in all three UPs under Dumki upazila.

Election to all nine UPs under Kalapara upazila will be held on Friday, the fourth day of the UP election in the country.

Correspondents from Satkhira and Bagerhat have reported holding of peaceful polls in the UPs under the districts.

## Two stalkers jailed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two youths were sentenced to jail for stalking schoolgirls in Sylhet and Jhenidah yesterday.

The upazila nirbahi officer of Habiganj Sadar sentenced a young man to two months' RI for stalking a schoolgirl. The convict is Sanjit Devnath, 28, reports our correspondent.

In Jhenidah, Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anjumanara Begum sentenced a youth to nine

months imprisonment on charge of stalking a schoolgirl on her way to school, according to our correspondent.

The convict is Ali Hossain, son of Nur Ali of Alaipur village under the upazila.

Officer in Charge (OC) Faruk Hossain of Kaliganj police Station said they arrested the youth on a complaint filed by the father of the girl. Police produced him before the UNO, also an executive magistrate. After hearing the charges, the UNO punished the stalker.

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Bereaved family members

D-223

Today 1st April 2011, is the First Death Anniversary of Late M.A. Matin (Former Commercial Director, Unilever). We are still deeply bereaved by his sad departure. We pray to Great ALLAH for the salvation of his departed soul and request the same from all of his relatives, friends and well-wishers.

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