



PHOTO: STAR

Ravaged during the onslaught of super cyclone Aila on May 25 in 2009, the iron bridge near Chapli Bazar in Dhulashar union under Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district has remained without repair or replacement, much to the distress of the locals.

## Bridges damaged by Sidr, Aila in Kalapara yet to be repaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Thousands of people are suffering as 10 bridges in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district have remained useless after they were damaged by super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007 and Aila on May 25 in 2009.

The bridges include Madhukhali bridge, Nishanbaria bridge, Gazibari bridge, Banatipara bridge, Majhergram bridge, Anantapara bridge, the bridge in front of Dhankhali College, Pakkhipara bridge and Londa bridge.

Maulana Abdullah,

superintendent of Purbo Madhukhali Dakhil Madrasa, said, students of the institution are suffering a lot as the bridge on Madhukhali canal near the madrasa was damaged during Sidr.

"Students' attendance has reduced as they have to cover a few kilometres in addition. Several times I personally requested the staff at LGED office in Kalapara to take step to repair the bridge but to no effect," he said.

People of seven villages in the upazila are greatly suffering as Pakkhipara bridge on the alternative road between Kalapara and

Kuakata was damaged in Aila and plying of public transport stopped on the road. People crossing the road on motorcycles and on foot have to cross the river by boat. A few passengers were injured in several boat capsize in the river.

Locals and school going students are suffering a lot as the bridge over Chapli canal has remained useless since it was damaged during Aila, said Anwar Hossain, headmaster of Chapli Islamia High School in the upazila.

Locals made a sako (bamboo bridge) on Londa canal as the damaged bridge is yet to be repaired.

Local communication is badly disturbed as many bridges that were damaged during Sidr and Aila are yet to be repaired, said Abdul Maleq, chairman of Khaprabhanga union parishad in Kalapara upazila.

When contacted, LGED engineer Moniruzzaman said, "We sent a proposal urging immediate step to repair the five damaged bridges and build two culverts two years ago but higher authorities are yet to approve it. However, work has started to construct a girder bridge on Pakkhipara canal."

## Storm kills one, damages 700 houses in 3 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

One person was killed and at least 700 houses were damaged as nor'wester lashed Moulvibazar, Rangpur and Nilphamari districts on Monday night and early yesterday.

In Moulvibazar, a day labourer was killed and over 100 houses were damaged as nor'wester swept over Dolubari, Bhunobir, Shasan, Boulashir and Mirjapur villages in Srimongal upazila on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Musabbir Miah, 65, of Dolubari village. He died as his thatched house collapsed on him during the storm. Electric poles and a large number of trees were also uprooted at the storm-hit villages.

Our Rangpur correspondent reported that about 500 houses were damaged during a storm that hit four villages under Gangachara and Rangpur Sadar upazilas early yesterday.

The affected villages are Utoom Hajirhat, Khalea, West Birabari, and Debipur.

Rangpur Sadar upazila nirbahi officer said the storm blew away roofs of Uttom Hazirhat Fazil Madrasa and Zafarganj High School. He said the local administration is distributing relief materials among the affected people.

In Nilphamari, at least 100 houses were collapsed

and ten people injured as nor'wester lashed Uttar Suti Para village under Kundopukur Union of Sadar upazila at around 3:00am yesterday. A large number of trees were uprooted during the storm, according to our correspondent.

Power supply lines passing through the affected Uttar Suti Para village were snapped at several places

while a number of electricity poles broken.

Power supply to the affected village and its surrounding villages remained snapped as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday. Rural Electrification Board (REB) sources said it will take three to four days to restore normal power supply to the villages.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan and Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kausar Nasreen visited the area.

District Relief Department allocated 20 kg of rice and Tk 1000 for each of the affected families. Some well off people also distributed dry foods among the and storm-hit people.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of an affected family staying on the open space beside their ravaged house at Uttam Hajirhat village in Rangpur Sadar upazila after a nor'wester lashed the area yesterday.

## SCHOOLBOY MIZAN MURDER

### Fellows demand punishment to killers, arrestee sent to jail

Follow-up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Several hundred students of Bera High School brought out a procession in the upazila headquarters yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Md Mizanur Rahman, a class IX student of the school.

"The school authority will organise a human chain and hold a condolence meeting on the school premises on Thursday protesting the killing of Mizan. Teachers, students and guardians will participate there," said Md Ali Asraf, the headmaster of the school.

The court yesterday sent to jail Sumi Khatun, arrested in connection with Mizan murder.

"Sumi has given some important information about her relation with Mizan and related incidents. We have also found some clues to the murder," said Sub Inspector Md Tarek of Bera police station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

The arrestee gave her confessional statement to the court, the IO said.

He, however, declined to reveal further 'for the sake of investigation'.

Criminals hacked to death Md Mizanur Rahman, 16, son of late Abdul Bari of



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Bera High School in Pabna district bring out a procession in Bera upazila headquarters yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Mizanur Rahman, a class IX student of the school. Inset, Mizan.

village Hatigara in Bera upazila, on Saturday night. Police recovered the body from Hurasagar embankment in Bera upazila under Pabna district on Sunday morning and sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Earlier Mizan went out

from his home on Saturday afternoon after receiving a cell phone call from Sumi Khatun, daughter of Abdul Based Bachhu, family sources said.

The victim's brother Md Munnaf filed a case with Bera police station on Monday and the police

arrested Sumi from a house of Haturia village in Bera upazila in this connection.

"We are trying to track down the mobile conversation for investigation," the IO said, adding that drive is on to nab the other accused in the murder case.



## One to die for murder

UNB, Bagerhat

A court here on Monday sentenced a man to death for killing a farmer in 2003.

The convict is Abdul Karim alias Badsha, 45, son of Nawab Ali Sheikh of Teligati village in Morelganj upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Rajaul Karim pronounced the verdict. According to the prosecution, following an altercation between Badsha and his neighbour Al Amin over a trivial matter on July 3, 2003, Badsha hit Al Amin with a sharp weapon, resulting in his death on the spot.

A murder case was filed with Morelganj Police Station accusing Badsha.

## Shop owner shot by extortionists

UNB, Keraniganj

Extortionists raided an Electronics shop at Chunkutia square last night and shot at the shop owner for refusing to pay them tolls.

The victim, Mohammad Karim, 30, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital with bullet injuries.

His elder brother told reporters that listed criminal Naim of the area demanded Tk 5 lakh from Karim, owner of Proton Electronics in Selina Market at Chunkutia square.

On refusal, Naim along with his accomplices entered the shop at 8:00pm and fired at shop owner Karim.

## Clash over land, 10 hurt

UNB, B'baria

Ten people were injured in a clash between two groups over land at Dewanpara in Sarail upazila yesterday.

Locals said the clash ensued between the two groups—one led by Khorshed Alam Khandakar and the other by Morshed Alam—over capture of the land.

Five of the injured were admitted to Sarail Upazila Health Complex.

## 'Give constitutional recognition to plain land adivasis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indigenous leaders at a rally held here yesterday demanded immediate implementation of their seven-point demand including constitutional recognition of indigenous people of plain land.

Jatiyo Adibashi Parishad (JAP) organised the rally around 11:00am at Alupatty in the city at with its president Anil Marandi in the chair. Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha also attended the rally and expressed his solidarity with the demands of indigenous people.

Other demands included inclusion of indigenous communities in the census, their reserved seats in parliament and local government units, establishment of separate ministry and land commission for indigenous people of plain land.

Speakers said the government has taken an initiative for constitutional recognition of indigenous people living in hill areas. They pointed out that the members of indigenous communities living in plain land had played a brave and bold role during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

They lamented saying, still they are termed as 'small ethnic groups,' not as specific communities.

They said, some 30 lakh indigenous people of over 45 indigenous communities like Santal and Orao live across the country. Of them, 15 lakh indigenous people of 38 communities now reside in 16 districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions.

They lamented saying, the government is reluctant to acknowledge the true identities of indigenous communities living in plain

land.

Alongside the rally, the indigenous leaders formed a big human chain stretching from Alupatty to Moni Chatter that lasted for one hour. Later, they submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the divisional commissioner of Rajshahi.

Among others, JAP general secretary Rabinranath Saren, Broti executive director Sharmin Murshid, Manusher Jonno Foundation representative Rezwanul Karim, Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad general secretary Jamat Khan, JAP district unit president Bimol Rajoar, Naogaon unit president Amin Kujur, Natore unit president Ramanath Mahato, Rajkumar Sao, Ganesh Majhi, Khristian Biswas, freedom fighter Shahjahan Ali Borjahan and Mohila Parishad leader Kalpona Roy addressed.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiyo Adivasi Parishad forms a human chain at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point in Rajshahi city yesterday demanding formation of a separate land commission for the indigenous people living in plain lands and recognition to their identities according to traditional names.

## One jailed, three fined for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mobile court in Gournadi upazila on Monday sentenced a stalker to jail for a year and fined three of his accomplices.

The convict is Bachchu Bepari, 18, while his accomplices are Sohel Bepari, 19, Rajib Bepari, 17, and Rohen Bepari, 18. The court fined the

three Tk 2,000 each.

Following a complaint lodged by a schoolgirl named Sanjida Islam Sumi, 13, police conducted a raid at different places under Dumuria union and arrested Bachchu's three accomplices early Monday. They could not arrest the main culprit as he fled away.

Later, the arrestees were produced

before the mobile court led by Gournadi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Jahangir Hossain, also a magistrate. After examining the witnesses, the court punished them.

Earlier in her complaint, Sumi said Bachchu and his three accomplices used to stalk her regularly on her way to school.