# Where struggle for a seat now order of the day

Hundreds of train passengers on a Kurigram route suffer for want of coaches

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Train passengers on Ramna-Parbatipur route in the district are badly suffering due to shortage of coaches.

"Each of two trains on the route runs with two or three coaches, each having 62 seats officially. Two compartments in one coach of these are used by train guards and postal department. And so, each train virtually has one or two coaches for passengers. As it is too insufficient for several hundred passengers per trip, many people travel amid risk on the train roof," said Shafiq Rahman, a railway staff.

Some people are earning money by arranging ladders for roof passengers, said Nur Islam, a local.

Two trains running twice daily on the route from April 1 this year cross the main stations including Ramna (Chilmari), Ulipur, Kurigram, Rajarhat, Teesta junction, Kaunia junction, Rangpur, Badarganj, Parbatipur (Dinajpur), said sources at Kurigram railway station and locals.

"At least four hundred passengers daily come to Kurigram railway station for going to Rangpur and Dinajpur. But many of them fail to get seat," said Majibur Rahman, a commuter.



PHOTO: STAR

Passengers jostle to get into a packed train at Kurigram Railway Station as each of the two trains runs daily on Ramna-Parbatipur route via Kurigram with two or three compartments.

During a recent visit to Kurigram station, this correspondent saw a few hundred passengers waiting at the platform for Ramna-Parbatipur train. When the train (No 421) came, passengers struggled to enter the compartments while others were trying to get on the roof.

"Sometimes unwanted incidents take place between railway staffs and passengers. A few days ago, the station authorities called police from Kurigram Sadar to control the situation," said Nuruzzaman Sarker, a resident of the area.

"Several times we requested the divisional railway manager of Lalmonirhat railway division to add more compartments on the route but to no effect," he added.

Stationmaster of Kurigram Railway Station Md Kabil Uddin said that the authorities sanctioned four coaches and two wagons for each train on the route.

"But only two or three coaches are set with each of the trains. It is too insufficient

for passengers from nine upazilas of the district. Sometime we have to face agitation from passengers. We have already urged the authorities to arrange more coaches on the route", he said.

"We could add coaches to Ramna-Parbatipur route if the higher authorities arrange it," Md Mostafizar Rahman, divisional traffic superintendent of Lalmonirhat railway division, told this correspondent over cellphone.

### Holding of office by Bera UZ chairman illegal

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A Pabna court yesterday declared holding of office by Bera Upazila Parishad Chairman Khandaker Azizul Haque Arzu illegal and asked the authorities concerned to arrange re-polling at No 50 Char Bhabanipur Government Primary School centre under the upazila.

Joint Districts Judge Md Abul Monsur Miah of Pabna pronounced the verdict in a case filed by Md Afzal Hossain, a defeated candidate, in February 2009.

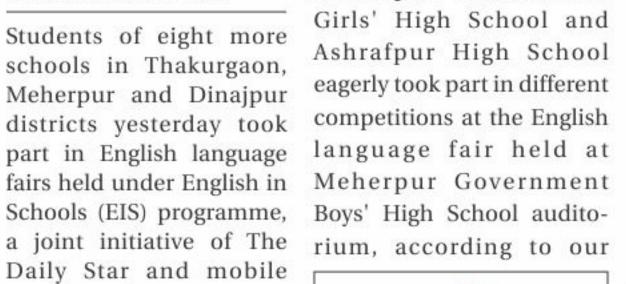
In the case, the complainant stated that Azizul Haque Arzu won the election held on January 2009 by a margin of 500 votes, manipulating results of the centre.

He alleged that Arzu and his men captured the centre and forced the presiding officer to stop casting of votes for two to three hours.

After examining evidence placed before the court by the complainant, the judge gave the order.

Advocate Aminul Haque, counsel for the complainant, said the court also ordered a second count of the total votes cast in the election after re-polling at Char Bhabanipur centre.

Contacted, Azizul Haque Arzu said he will go to the High Court against the verdict.



Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs. Our Thakurgaon corre-

Thakurgaon district yesterday.

STAR NATIONAL DESK

operator Robi.

spondent reported that students of Nekmarad Alimuddin Government High School and Ranishankoil Pilot High School in Ranishankoil upazila and Pirganj Banik Government Girls' High School in Pirganj upazila participated in the English language fair held at Alimuddin Government High School auditorium.

Md Shah Jamal, headmaster of Nekmarad Alimuddin Government High School, inaugurated the fair at around 11:00am. Following screening of The Lion King, a globally renowned movie, over 200 students of the three schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test and situation based question answer-all based on movie

Headmaster Shah Jamal distributed prizes among the winners.

In Meherpur, kids from Meherpur Government

Boys' High School,

The Daily Star - ata ENGLISH FAIR

Prize-winning students pose for photograph at the end of the English language fair

held at Nekmarad Alimuddin Government High School in Ranishankoil upazila of

Kids of 8 more schools

Meherpur Government

in 3 dists participate



Kushtia correspondent. Mozammel Haq, acting

headmaster of the boys' high school, opened the fair at around 11:00am. After watching the movie, The Lion King, the students of the three schools took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test and situation

Birampur Government Girls' High School auditorium in the afternoon. Rezaul Alam Ujjal,

based question answer-all

different competitions.

spondent adds: At least

200 students of Birampur

Government Girls' High

School and Bangla Hili

Government Girls' school

joined the fair held at

Six students won

Our Dinajpur corre-

based on movie

headmaster of Birampur Government Girls' High School, inaugurated the programme at around 5:00pm. Students participated

in spot quiz, vocabulary test, situation based question answer, extempore speech on different topics and role play.

They entertained the audience in reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.



সানা সাঞ্চিলাভ

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Two students of Birampur Girls' High School in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur take part in a role play at the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.

## 15 hurt as BCL, JCD clash in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Chhatra League (BCL) and Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Hazrat Shahjalal (R) Degree College in Jaintapur upazila on a clash. Tuesday noon.

Witnesses said, the BCL and JCD men brought out separate processions on the college campus to welcome the freshers after the orientation class.

An altercation ensued between JCD man Shahin and some BCL activists while they were coming out of the campus at about 2 pm.

At one stage, the activists of the student wings of the ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP, equipped with iron rods, sticks and bricks locked in

A chase and counter chase took place during the melee that left 15 injured from both the sides.

On information, police rushed in and brought the situation under control.

Two of the injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

People of Ullah village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah join hands to repair a local

### Who is to Blame?



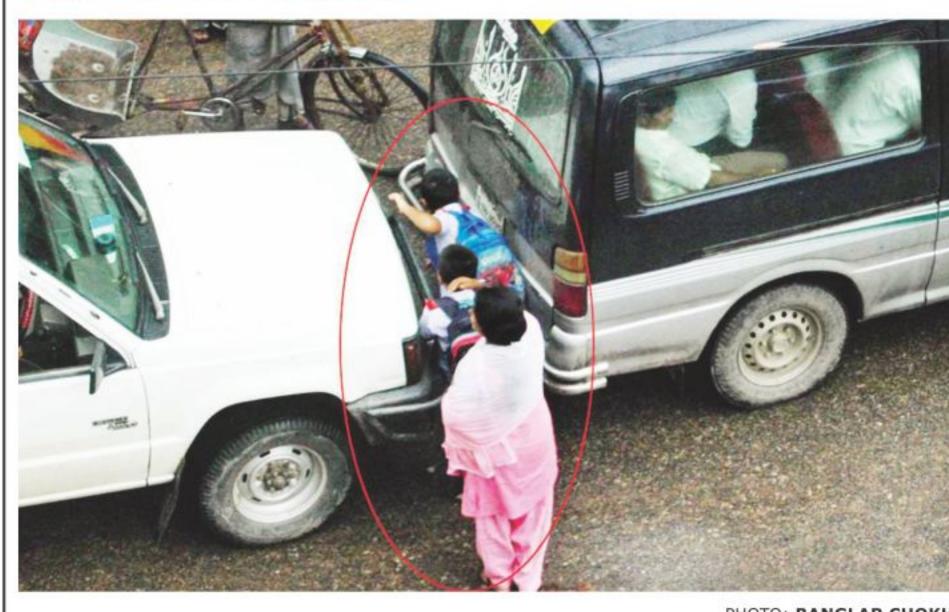


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

A woman crossing road risking life of her two school kids in Jessore. The photo was taken from the busiest Sheikh Mujib Road of the district town yesterday.

## 4 strangled in a day in Kushtia Bus strike in Comilla

Self-help still the best help

ket for sale.

Joarder said.

Jhenidah villagers raise fund and repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

job," the villagers said.

Four people were strangled in two upazilas

road themselves and at their own cost.

their road themselves

People of Ullah village under Kaliganj

upazila of the district have started repair-

ing a dilapidated road at the village on a

Failing to get money from the govern-

ment, the villagers raised a fund and pur-

chased bricks, sand and other materials to

While visiting the area yesterday, this

correspondent saw several hundred

villagers kept themselves engaged in

repairing nearly a one kilometer road

administration to allocate fund for this

road, but to no effect. As the road needs

urgent repair before full-scale onset of the

monsoon, we have joined hands to do the

"We repeatedly appealed to the upazila

from Dighirpar to Ullah Madrasa.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

voluntary basis.

rebuild the road.

of the district on Tuesday. Of the deceased, two hail from Mirpur

upazila while the rest from Daulatpur upazila. Shikdar Mosihur Rahman, officer incharge of Mirpur police station, said Bristi Khatun, 25, daughter of Amin Uddin Biswas of Bot Tola area, went out of residence to visit one of her friends at Kuripol village on

Monday and did not return home. Locals found her body in a jute field at about 3.30pm and informed the police. Criminals might have strangled her after rape,

the OC added. In another incident, police recovered the rivals, said OC Lutfar.

body of a one-year-old boy from GK Canal in Wapda area of the upazila at about 4.30pm. Identity of the boy, who was strangled,

When it rains, the road gets muddy and

dangerous for the school kids and the

villagers. It develops big holes and

becomes tough for the villagers to carry

vegetables and paddy to the upazila mar-

Manik Joarder of Ullah village said

farmers face great trouble in carrying

goods to market as shallow engine-driven

tractors and rickshaw vans cannot ply the

allocation of fund, we have started

rebuilding the road on self-help basis,"

Local UP chairman Shahidul Islam

said the people of Ullah village have taken

a novel initiative without depending on

the government. He thanked the villagers

and assured them of all-out cooperation.

"Since we cannot wait for long for

road during the rainy season.

could not be known immediately. In Daulatpur, police recovered the body of a man from a jute field in the afternoon.

The victim was identified as Toeyz Uddin, 52, of Munshiganj area. Seikh Lutfar Rahman, OC of Daulatpur PS

said Toeyz remained missing since Monday after he went out of home. Toeyz might have been strangled by criminals, the OC said. Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a

youth from a field in the upazila at about 6:00 pm. Zohurl Islam, 30, son of Asif uddin of Boalia village, might have been stangled by

# continues

UNB, Comilla

Road communications on at least 20 routes from Comilla district with other parts of the country remained suspended for the second day yesterday as the non-stop strike enforced by the transport owners, workers continued.

Buses, minibuses stayed off the roads yesterday as on Tuesday, causing immense sufferings to the passengers. Bus owners and workers

on Tuesday enforced the indefinite strike in all the routes including Chittagong, Chandpur, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts to realise their fivepoint demand. The demands include

repairing of central bus terminal at Jangalia, ensuring electricity and water supply, drainage system and security at the terminal, and arrangement of adequate sitting rooms for the passengers.

GD - 2679



মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়