

# 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 Mostafizur Rahman, divisional traffic superintendent of Lalmonirhat railway division, told this correspondent over cellphone.

# Holding of office by Bera UZ chairman illegal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

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.

# The Daily Star - ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

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 Thakurgaon district yesterday.

# Kids of 8 more schools in 3 dists participate

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of eight more schools in Thakurgaon, Meherpur and Dinajpur districts yesterday took part in English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent 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,

based question answer-all based on movie. Six students won different competitions. Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: At least 200 students of Birampur Government Girls' High School and Bangla Hili Government Girls' school joined the fair held at Birampur Government Girls' High School auditorium in the afternoon.

Rezaul Alam Ujjal, 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Ullah village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah join hands to repair a local road themselves and at their own cost.

# Self-help still the best help

## Jhenidah villagers raise fund and repair their road themselves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

People of Ullah village under Kaliganj upazila of the district have started repairing a dilapidated road at the village on a voluntary basis.

Failing to get money from the government, the villagers raised a fund and purchased bricks, sand and other materials to rebuild the road.

While visiting the area yesterday, this correspondent saw several hundred villagers kept themselves engaged in repairing nearly a one kilometer road from Dighirpar to Ullah Madrasa.

"We repeatedly appealed to the upazila 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 job," the villagers said.

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 market for sale.

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 road during the rainy season.

"Since we cannot wait for long for allocation of fund, we have started rebuilding the road on self-help basis," Joarder said.

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.

# 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 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 clash.

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.

# 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.

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ক্রিসেন্ট  
অসিনা খোকা  
এইচ.এল. তরাই  
ডিউ মিশ  
অনিকা, মিলান  
এবং আরো  
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বিজয় এবং প্রদর্শনী  
**Portia**  
পর্শিয়া

৬ হইতে ১০ জুলাই ২০১২  
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# 4 strangled in a day in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four people were strangled in two upazilas of the district on Tuesday.

Of the deceased, two hail from Mirpur upazila while the rest from Daulatpur upazila. Shikhar Moshir Rahman, officer in-charge 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.

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, 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 6:00pm. Zohurul Islam, 30, son of Asif uddin of Boalia village, might have been strangled by rivals, said OC Lutfar.

# Bus strike in Comilla 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 five-point 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.

নির্যাতনের শিকার নারী ও শিশুর সহায়তার জন্য  
যে কোন মোবাইল থেকে  
নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধে ন্যাশনাল হেল্পলাইন সেন্টার এর  
১০৯২১ নম্বরে ফোন করুন

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

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