

Jute market on road leaves little space for commuters

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A seasonal jute market occupies much of the road at Balijuri Bazar, one kilometre away from Madarganj upazila headquarters, much to the sufferings of thousands of commuters including students, office goers and traders.

The temporary market on Jamalpur-Madarganj upazila road runs during 7:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays and Wednesdays from July to September every year.

During the period, the commuters have to struggle to find any space to cross the road amid huge rush of jute sellers and

buyers at the market spreading around half a kilometre area, locals said.

Vehicular movement is disturbed as human haulers and carriages used to carry the item remain stranded on the road for hours.

There are several educational institutions and government and non-

government offices in and around Balijuri Bazar area.

"Often one hour or so is wasted due to the tailback caused by standing haulers and horse-drawn carriages by which farmers and buyers carry jute. As a result, students cannot attend their classes on time," said Nazrul Islam, vice principal of

Nurunnahar Mirza Kashem Women's Degree College in the area.

Serious patients going to the hospitals become the worst sufferers during the market hours.

Jute farmers pile up their produce beside the road for sale but due to heavy rush there, farmers are often in a hurry to sell their produce and taking the opportunity, buyers try to deprive them of fair prices, said Lutfar Rahman, a farmer of Bhelamari village.

Several others including Bablu of Sukhnagari village echoed the same.

Besides, business of different permanent shop owners on both sides of the road is disturbed as customers can hardly go to the shops when the jute market is run, several shop owners alleged.

Locals have urged the administration to immediately shift the jute market to a suitable place for ensuring smooth communication on the road and also for the benefit of jute farmers.

When contacted, Madarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Jahangir Hossain said, "None has complained to me about the matter. If sufferers submit allegations, I will try my best to solve the problem."



PHOTO: STAR

Students attend a classroom of dilapidated Kotchandpur Pilot High School amid risk of accident as cracks have developed in the roof and walls of the two-storey school building and plaster falls off the ceilings regularly.

Kids attend classes amid risk in 'abandoned' rooms

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Kotchandpur Pilot High School has become dilapidated and students attend their classes amid risk of accident.

Cracks have developed in the roof and walls and plaster falls off the ceilings regularly. The two-storey run-down building is now on the verge of collapse.

Around 850 students, 25 teachers and seven employees stay at the school for five to six hours every day, taking risk of their lives.

The school authorities have already declared 24 classrooms on the first floor of the building abandoned, fearing collapse of

the roof. Plaster of ceilings of these classrooms has fallen at places, exposing the iron rods.

SM Sultan, headmaster of the school, said studies of the students are being hampered due to shortage of classrooms. "I wrote to the authorities concerned several times, seeking fund for renovation of the school, but to no effect," the headmaster said.

Local lawmaker Shafiqul Azam Khan Chanchal, also chairman of the managing committee, said the school needs extensive renovation. "I am trying to collect fund for repair of the building," he added.

Kotchandpur upazila

LGED Engineer Khairul Islam said preliminary inspection reveals that the school building is in very bad condition as steel rods are covered with rust and most of them have already lost their strength. The building needs immediate renovation to avert any possible disaster, he added.

A school was built on 11.7 acres of land in Kotchandpur in 1899 by three Scottish businessmen. At the time of their departure, they handed over the plot to one Rawshan Ali of the area. Later, the plot was donated to Kotchandpur secondary school.



PHOTO: STAR

JUTE MARKET ON BUSY ROAD! A seasonal jute market, arranged at Balijuri Bazar on Jamalpur-Madarganj road in Madarganj upazila under Jamalpur district, hampers vehicular movement during the market hours on Saturdays and Wednesdays, much to the distress of commuters, including students, office goers and traders.

AL factions clash over capture of party office

20 injured in Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 20 people, including the leaders of Awami League Tentulia upazila unit and its front organisations, were injured during a clash between two AL factions over capture of the party office at the upazila headquarters in Panchagarh district yesterday.

Police and locals said the trouble began when the supporters of a faction led by general secretary of AL Tentulia upazila unit Kazi Mahmudur Rahman took control of office at around 10:00am.

Hearing the news, AL men belonging to upazila unit convener Md Nayeul Islam came to office and asked their rivals to leave

the office.

At one stage, the two groups locked in a clash, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, President of Bangladesh Krishak League Tentulia upazila unit Md Nazrul Islam, President of upazila Sramik League Md Abdul Hafez, General Secretary of Jubo League upazila unit Mozaffar Hossain, and BCL activists Ataur Rahman, Mintu and Sohel were admitted to Tentulia Upzila Health Complex while the rest given first aid at the hospital.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and took control of the area.

Contacted, Nayeul

Islam alleged that Kazi Mahmud and his hired goons attacked his men at the party office. Mahmud denied the allegation, saying that Nayeul and his supporters swooped on them while they were discussing organisational matters at the office.

Leaders and activists of a faction of the upazila Awami League formed the convening committee at a meeting held at Tentulia Bazar and on August 28.

They also declared lawmaker of Panchagarh-1 constituency Mozaharul Haque Prodhan, upazila AL President Yasin Ali and General Secretary

Kazi Mahmudur Rahman unwanted at the local party office.

22 Shibir activists held for attack on policemen

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police arrested 22 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami early yesterday on charge of attacking the law enforcers on Monday evening.

The arrestees are Aktar Hossain, 25, Jitu Mia, 22, Abdul Momin, 24, Fakrul Islam, 26, Alauddin, 18, Mizanur Rahman, 25, Foyez Ahmed, 26, Billal Hossain, 23, Shahidul Islam, 23, Faruk Ahmed, 23, Sabbir Ahmed, 24, Billal Hossain, 19, Jasim Uddin, 21, Jishan Ahmed, 22, Abdullah-al-Mamun, 19, Sarwar Hossain, 23, Saiful Islam, 22, Nesar Ahmed, 20,

Abdul Bari, 27, Shamsuddin, 21, Sumon Mia, 22, and Shah-Alam, 22.

All of them but Abdul Bari hail from different upazilas of Chandpur. Bari comes from Feni district, police said.

Mahbub Morshed, officer in-charge of Chandpur Model police station, said that the Shibir activists attacked the law enforcers from a procession in front of the government college on Monday evening, leaving three policemen including a sub-inspector of the police station injured.

Two separate cases were lodged with the police station at night, added the OC.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Protesters want stern action against two school committee men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Local people guardians, and students of Chatmohar RCN and BSN High School brought out a procession at Chatmohar upazila headquarters yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment of two members of the school managing committee for their alleged involvement in sexual harassment of a few girls of the school.

On receiving complainants from guardians, the school authorities formed a five-member investigation committee headed by Headmaster Md Abdul Jobbar, also member-secretary of the managing committee.

The committee found the allegations against the two members—Moharram Hossain and Zahidul Islam

Babu—to be true and submitted its report to the managing committee.

On the basis of the report, the managing committee recently passed a resolution, suspending the two members and sent a copy of the resolution to the education board, seeking expulsion of the two members.

After parading the streets at the upazila headquarters, the students and locals yesterday held a rally at Chatmohar Bazar, demanding immediate expulsion of the two members from the managing committee. Otherwise, they threatened to launch an agitation programme.

They also blamed the president of the school managing committee and the headmaster for not taking legal action against the accused members.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Wildlife activists led by Jahangirnagar University Professor Mofizul Kabir and Dr Monirul Hossain Khan release a slow loris, a brown monkey, a python, two geckos and two squirrels to Lawachhara Wildlife Sanctuary after their treatment at the privately run centre of Bangladesh Banyapran Seba Foundation in Srimongal upazila of Sylhet district yesterday.

AL, BNP clash in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

At least four people were injured as Jubo League and BNP activists locked in a clash at Navaran Bazar in Sharsha upazila on Sunday night.

Locals said, an Awami League activist hurled abusive words at BNP men at the bazaar at about 9pm.

Later, the BNP activists beat up the AL activist, leaving him injured. As the news spread, the supporters of upazila unit Jubo League general secretary Sohrab and upazila BNP general secretary Hasan locked in a fierce clash.

A chase and counter chase took place during the melee that left Zakir Hossain, Lutfar, Tipu and Tagar injured from both sides.

2 commit 'suicide' in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A woman and a girl allegedly committed suicide at two villages in Shibganj and Gomostapur upazilas on Monday evening and yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as, Khukumoni Das, 45, wife of Rabi Chandra Das of Karamza village under Gomostapur upazila and Fatema Khatun, 15, daughter of Saidur Rahman of par Dhumihatpur village under Shibganj upazila of the district.

Quoting locals, SI Dipak Kumar of Shibganj police station said, Fatema alleg-

edly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room at around 10:00 am yesterday. On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Police and locals said, Khukumoni, a mother of three children took poison due to a family feud on Monday at around 7:00pm. Later, she died at Gomostapur upazila health complex.

Two unnatural death cases were filed with Shibganj and Gomostapur police stations.



PHOTO: STAR

Police chase two feuding groups of Awami League Tentulia upazila unit at the upazila headquarters yesterday. The rival AL men clashed over control of the party office.