

Farm labourers migrate as their bad time returns

KM REZAUL HOQUE,
Gaibandha

A large number of jobless farm labourers from the district go to other districts in search of work, especially during the crisis period of November.

Many of them go to Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Comilla districts to work in crop fields or as labourers in construction sites on yearly contract while others go for harvesting early variety of aman in relatively

'flood free' districts like Rajshahi, Noagaon, Natore, Joypurhat, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Panchagarh.

Flood-prone areas of Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Fulchhari and Saghata upazilas under Gaibandha district often see loss of crops, especially aman. After flooding for more than once, farmers virtually plant late variety of paddy and that requires more time to harvest.

The situation forces local farm labourers to move to other districts in search of work.

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While visiting Gaibandha bus terminal a few days ago, this correspondent witnessed a large number of farm labourers jam-packed on roofs of buses bound for distant districts. 'Team leaders' were seen bargaining with bus conductors for low cost fare.

"Bus conductors claimed 60 percent of usual fare for each person travelling on the rooftop, but we are trying to reduce it below 40 per-

cent. Sometimes exchange of hot words occurs over the fare," said Alimuddin, a 'leader' of labourers from Santiram village in Sundarganj upazila.

"It will take around one month to start harvest of aman paddy in flood-prone areas of Gaibandha district. Meantime, we want to earn some money by working in other districts where wage rates are higher," said Keramat Ali, a farm labourer of Kanchipara in Fulchhari upazila.

"Bus conductors claimed 60 percent of usual fare for each person travelling on the rooftop, but we are trying to reduce it below 40 per-



PHOTO: STAR

Jobless farm labourers in Gaibandha crowd a bus station and a large number of them ride atop buses in the district town to migrate to neighbouring districts in search of work. The photo was taken a few days ago.

ABDUCTION, MURDER OF SCHOOLBOY

Punish killers of Anik, demand protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

Teachers and students of Brombhapur High School here formed a human chain yesterday, demanding punishment to the killers of a student of the school.

Criminals killed Anik Hossain, 11, a class seven student and dumped his body near Jagodishpur Beel (water body) under Puthia upazila in Rajshahi on Sunday afternoon.

Anik Hossain, son Rezaul Karim of Brombhapur village in Sadar upazila, was abducted for ransom on November 12.

Victim's mother Joly Begum filed a case with Naldanga police station on Saturday night.

By mobile tracking, police arrested Farhad Rana, 22, Saiful Islam, 25 and Tipu Sultan, 25, on charge of their involvement in the killing on the night of November 15.

On the basis of their confessional statement, police later recovered Anik's body from a sugarcane field near Jagodishpur Beel in Rajshahi.

Saiful, Tipu and Farhad killed Anik simply for failing to realise ransom, said Harun-or-Rashid, officer in-charge of Naldanga police station.

"A gang called Anik over mobile phone on November 12 and abducted him as he went out of home. The next day, the gang demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom and threatened to kill Anik if I informed

the police or media about the abduction," Joly Begum, mother of the victim, said.

As Joly refuted to pay the ransom and informed Natore police on Friday, the kidnappers killed Anik on Saturday, said Apel Mahmud, assistant superintendent of police, Natore circle.

At the human chain, held in front of Naldanga police station, locals including Chairman of the Brombhapur union parishad and headmaster of Anik's school, among others, spoke.

"We want exemplary punishment to the criminals so that nobody dares to commit such crime again, they said.

ASSAULT ON BUS STAFFS

Transport workers on indefinite strike in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Transport workers here yesterday went on an indefinite strike halting services on the internal routes in the district.

The strike followed assault on a bus driver and three other staffs on the previous day.

The sudden bus strike caused untold suffering to the commuters.

General secretary of Thakurgaon District Transport Workers' Union Abdul Jabbar told this correspondent that motorcyclist Robiul Islam and his men beat up a driver and supervisor Mithu, helper Sujan and Kalu of Mukta

Enterprise in Dharmagarh Council area under Ranishankoil upazila on Sunday afternoon, following an altercation over giving side to the bike.

They also confined the bus staffs to a room till midnight, he said adding, Robiul is a resident of Dharmagarh village under the upazila.

Protesting the incident and demanding arrest and punishment of the offenders, Thakurgaon Transport Workers' Union began an indefinite strike on Thakurgaon-Ranishankoil, Thakurgaon-Baliadangi and Thakurgaon-Ruhia roads yesterday morning.

Contacted, president of Thakurgaon Transport Owners Association Ram Babu told this correspondent over cell phone that they were trying to arrange a meeting at the association office in the evening to settle the matter.

Tiger kills fisherman

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A fisherman was killed and four others were injured by a tiger in Angtihara area of Sunderbans in Koiria upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Nazrul Sheikh, 47, son of Rahim Sheikh of village Angtihara while the injured were Tajmul, Robiul, Shamsu and Fauqur of the area.

Khairul Kabir, officer in-charge at Koyra police station, said a tiger attacked the four when they were fishing in Khashitana River.

Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot and recovered the body of Nazrul. The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex, said the OC.



PHOTO: STAR

Textbooks for secondary schools for the academic year 2013 have started arriving in Chapainawabganj. This photo was taken from in front of Harimohan Government High School in the district town yesterday.

Little Naim's body was burnt at brick kiln DNA test reveals

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

DNA test has confirmed that the body of schoolboy Naimul Islam Naim was burnt at the fire chamber of a brick kiln in Kahaloo upazila of the district.

Police said bone ashes, collected from brick kiln, were sent to Dhaka about four months ago. After conducting a test, the experts sent the report to Kahaloo Police Station on November 16.

Contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police Sayeed Abu Sayem said the charge sheet in the murder case will be given within a week. The submission of charge sheet was delayed as police had to wait for DNA report, he further said.

Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossen, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he will consult the issue with senior police officials soon and submit the charge sheet against the accused.

Son of Rafiqul Islam of Rostom Chapor village, Naim, 13, a class seven stu-

Follow-up



Naimul Islam Naim

Hossen, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he will consult the issue with senior police officials soon and submit the charge sheet against the accused.

Son of Rafiqul Islam of Rostom Chapor village, Naim, 13, a class seven stu-

dent of Kahaloo High School, was picked up by a gang on his way to a coaching centre on April 5 this year. Later, the gang demanded Tk five lakh as ransom from his parents.

The kidnappers took the ransom but killed Naim. They also burnt the body to ashes by throwing it into the fire chamber of a brick kiln in the upazila.

Naim's father filed a case against 10 people, including Zakaria, Dalim and Zaman of the area, with Kahaloo Police Station on April 10. Police arrested seven of the accused while Zakaria, Dalim and Zaman are still at large.

Brick kiln owner Abdul Mannan, who was arrested after the incident, is now on bail.

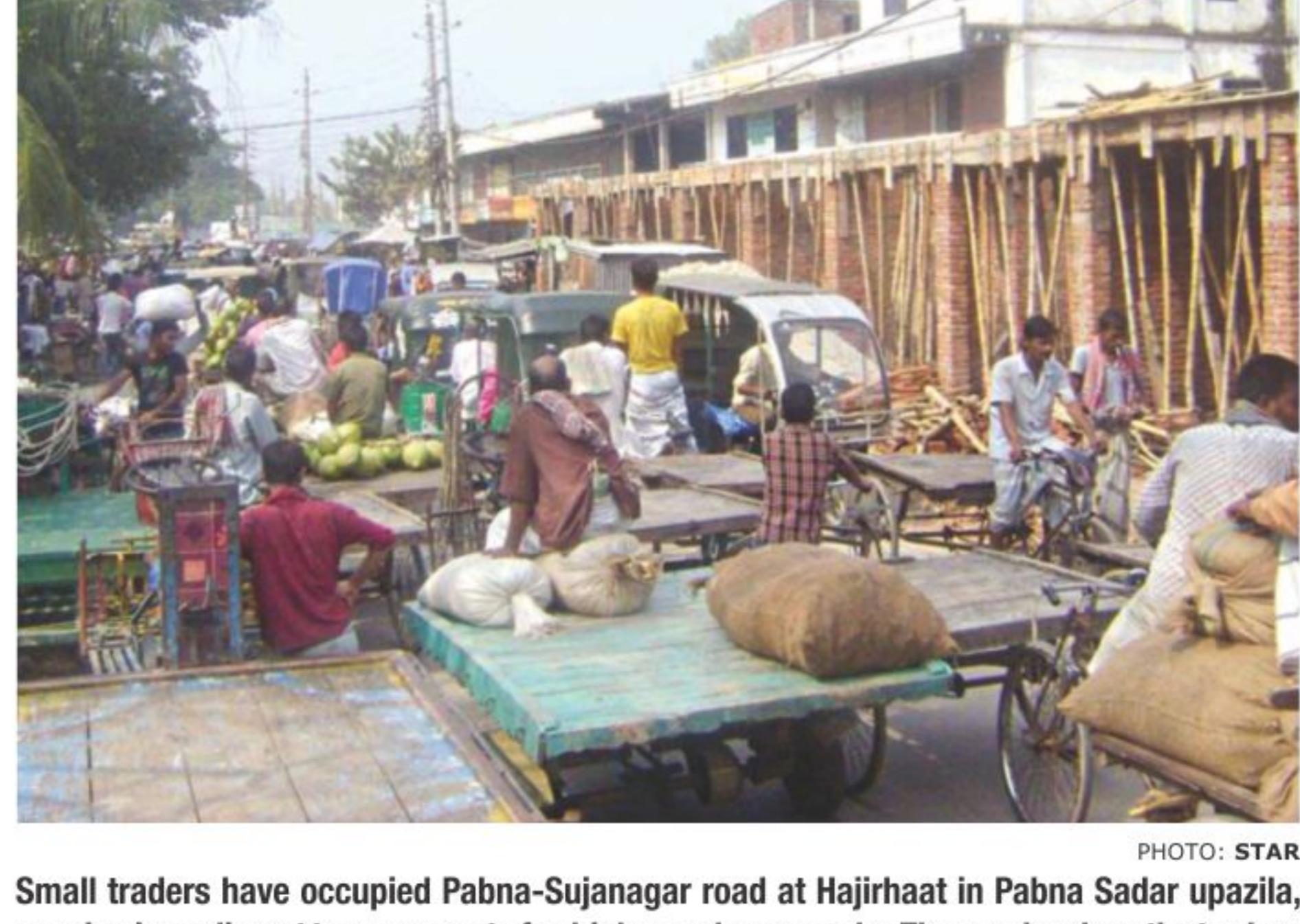


PHOTO: STAR

Small traders have occupied Pabna-Sujanagar road at Hahirhaat in Pabna Sadar upazila, causing impediment to movement of vehicles and passers-by. The nearby place the traders used earlier has gone to a lessee who has started construction of a concrete building.

Pucca structures on leased land violating agreement

Locals, small traders protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

An influential man, who has taken out a lease on a land of Pabna Zila Parishad at Hahirhaat in Sadar upazila recently, is building a pucca market on the land, violating the agreement.

Rana Biswas has laid the foundation of a three-storey structure to grab the land, local people and small traders said.

They also took out a lease on an annual renewal basis, there is no scope to build any permanent structure on the zila parishad land. We will go for legal action if Biswas does not remove the concrete structure within the next seven days," Rahman told this correspondent on Saturday.

Pabna Zila Parishad Administrator Md Saidul Haque Chunnu said he will take necessary steps after investigating the matter.

structure, violating the rules. When asked, Biswas claimed that he has started constructing a building on the land as per lease agreement. "I pay tax on the land to the government regularly," he said.

Rejecting Biswas' claim, the chief executive officer said the zila parishad has already issued a notice to the lessee to remove the concrete structure.

"As the lease goes on an annual renewal basis, there is no scope to build any permanent structure on the zila parishad land. We will go for legal action if Biswas does not remove the concrete structure within the next seven days," Rahman told this correspondent on Saturday.

Pabna Zila Parishad Administrator Md Saidul Haque Chunnu said he will take necessary steps after investigating the matter.



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