



The Kacha River devoured areas in Telekhali Bazar, including 11 shops, a dwelling house and portions of a metalled road in Bhandaria upazila under Pirojpur district on Tuesday night.

PHOTO: STAR

## PASSENGERS' SUFFERINGS MOUNT Transport strike on in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khagrachhari

The indefinite transport strike, called by Khagrachhari Parbatya Zila Paribahan Owners-Workers Samannoy Parishad, continued for the second day yesterday.

The Samannoy Parishad enforced the strike from 6:00am on Wednesday to realise their five-point demand.

The demands include compensation for the ten vehicles that were torched and vandalised by Democratic Youth Forum during its road blockade programme on Sunday, an end to illegal toll collection

from buses and other vehicles by regional political parties, ban on plying of unregistered three wheelers on roads, repair of the damaged roads in the districts and steps to ensure security of transport workers.

The hill district was virtually cut off from the rest of the country due to the strike. Buses, trucks and passenger-carrying jeeps went off the roads, causing immense suffering to the commuters. Only motorcycles, rickshaws and battery-run three wheelers were seen plying the roads.

The district administration held at meeting with the leaders of the parishad at

the deputy commissioner's office yesterday, but the meeting ended inconclusively.

KM Ismail Hossion, member secretary of the samannoy parishad, told this correspondent that the transport strike in the district passed off peacefully yesterday. He said the strike will continue until the demands are met.

No long-route buses, except the newspapers carrying vehicles, entered or left the district yesterday, convener of the parishad SM Shafi said, adding that no untoward incident was occurred on the second day of the strike.

## BSF shoots one in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

A Bangladeshi national was shot and injured by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along a border in Phulbari upazila early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Farhad, 35, son of Ajar Uddin of Gorok Mandal village.

Locals said a gang of smugglers of both India and Bangladesh were trying to exchange contraband items through Gorok frontier in the early hours when BSF members from Kharida Haridaspur camp opened fire on them, leaving Farhad injured.

A bullet pierced an eye of Farhad. He was undergoing treatment at an undisclosed location.

BGB sources said they were trying to hold a meeting with BSF over the incident.

## Poor farmers in hills denied fair prices of produce

Often trapped in high interest loans, they turn poorer

UNB, Rangamati

Landless farmers in the district often run up massive debts due to failure in getting expected yield from cultivation.

Locals said there are 25 percent landless people in the areas under 10 upazilas of the district.

And many more poor farmers are also about to lose their last pieces of land due to frequent crop loss.

Under the circumstances, the poor farmers, including the landless ones, have become frustrated due to excessive burden of loan.

They are borrowing money from different micro-credit lending NGOs

and local usurers for cultivation. But they cannot repay the money as they often count heavy losses in cultivation.

The farmers said they are facing losses due to manifold problems including crop loss for lack of good seeds, decrease in production for want of proper fertiliser, complexity and unavailability of bank loan, high rate of loan interests, price hike of fuel, agricultural inputs and adulterated pesticides.

The farmers also said they cannot sell their crops at fair prices due to poor communication system and lack of proper preservation facilities in the area.

Meanwhile, the farmers of the district incurred irrecoverable losses as Irri-Boro paddy on over 1.5-2 lakh acres of land were damaged due to drought and heavy rainfall in the hill district in the last few years.

The farmers were affected by liabilities of huge debt. They also lost their land and last amount to recoup losses.

The farmers urged the authorities to take immediate steps to exempt them from the debts and demanded that interest free loan be arranged for the landless farmers under the government initiative.

## College girl commits 'suicide' in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A college girl allegedly committed suicide following a family feud at Datierkhil village in Chouddagram upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Farzana Akhter, 18, daughter of Ohidur Rahman of the village.

Farzana killed herself by taking poison at their house at 5:00am, said Ismail Mia, officer in-charge of Chouddagram Police Station.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy, said the OC.

An unnatural death case was filed in this connection, he said.

## 26 old schoolhouses in Dumuria upazila declared abandoned

Study hampered as suitable alternative yet to be made

UNB, Khulna

The authorities have declared 26 old and vulnerable school buildings in Dumuria upazila abandoned.

But classes at these institutions are badly disturbed as there is hardly any alternative arrangement.

After the Rana Plaza tragedy in Savar, the authorities concerned issued instructions to avoid using the old and dilapidated government and semi-government build-

ings and declare them abandoned.

Consequently, Dumuria Upazila Parishad prepared a list of the old buildings that houses educational institutions, land offices, union parishads and upazila staff quarters in the upazila and declared those abandoned.

As the list includes 26 schools, the teachers and managing committee members have fallen into a problem about where to conduct the classes and examinations.

Some of the schools have arranged classes under the open sky on the playground

while others are still taking classes in the risky buildings.

These institutions now see less attendance of students.

"Twenty-six dilapidated school buildings were identified at the government's instruction after the Savar incident. I informed the higher authorities of the matter," said Upazila Assistant Education Officer Ruhul Quddus Talukdar.

Upazila Parishad Chairman Gazi Abdul Hadi said the school buildings that have been declared abandoned will be rebuilt on priority basis.

## Schoolboy electrocuted in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A schoolboy died from electrocution at Sholok village in Wazirpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Munna, 8, son of Jamal Howladar and a Class-II student of Sholok Government Primary School.

Family sources said Munna came in contact with a live electric wire while roaming in a garden adjacent to their house around 2:00pm.

He was rushed to nearby Gournadi upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead.

The body was handed over to the family members after lodging an unnatural death case, police said.

## 9 Jamaat men arrested in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhenidah

Nine Jamaat men were arrested in Kotchandpur upazila on Wednesday on charge of attacking police and creating mayhem in the area in May this year.

Of them, Tajul Islam is ameer of the upazila unit Jamaat, said Shahidul Islam Shahin, officer in-charge of Kotchandpur Police Station.

### Major General Muzammel Hussain, psc, (rtd)



July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1936 – July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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