

# Tidal surges in Patuakhali badly damage road links

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Frequent tidal surges have badly affected internal communication system in the district, much to the sufferings of people, especially school and college goers.

People of at least 100 villages in four upazilas of the district are passing their days amid serious problem as huge tidal surges during the full moon and the new moon regularly inundate their houses.

Over 500 km village roads, including around 100 km of paved roads, got

destroyed under the impact of tidal surges during the last four months, said sources of Water Development Board.

Presence in educational institutions decreased due to the situation.

Md Jahirul Islam, headmaster of Charipara Government Primary School in Kalapara upazila, said at least one-third of about 200 students cannot come to school as village roads collapsed due to tidal surges.

"I couldn't cook food for my family of six for last five

days as my house including the hearth is flooded by the tidal surge that entered through the collapsed embankment," said Monoara Begum, 45, of Balaikathi village near the Shehakathi River in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

Hanif Howlader of the same village said over 500 metres of the lone road connecting the upazila headquarters also collapsed into the river in mid-August this year.

Immediate help including food support from the government is needed to

mitigate sufferings of the affected people, said Altaf Hossain Shah Alam, chairman of the local union parishad.

Early steps should also be taken to repair the damaged roads to resume communication, he said.

Md Shafi Uddin, acting executive engineer for Patuakhali Water Development Board, said they have already informed the higher authorities of the matter, seeking emergency allocation for repairing village roads and flood control embankments.



PHOTO: STAR

Frequent tidal surges damaged internal roads in different areas of Patuakhali. Photos show people of Charipara village in Kalapara upazila using the badly damaged roads. Top, schoolgirls crossing the collapsed portion of a road through a bamboo bridge, bottom left, a dead palm tree being used to link a damaged road and a makeshift bamboo bridge on another road.

## Toy factory workers at Uttara EPZ agitate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About 2000 workers of a Hong Kong based high-tech toy factory at Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Sangalshi village in Sadar upazila agitated on Sunday to realise their nine-point demand.

During the agitation, the workers held a rally and later vandalised roadside trees and detained a jeep carrying factory officials.

The workers alleged that the authorities compel them to work for 12 hours seven days a week. But they do not get any overtime and if anyone protests it he loses job, they said.

They also alleged that pregnant female workers do not get maternal leave while workers are fined over trivial matters and the fine money is realised from monthly wage.

As the agitators became unruly, the EPZ authorities called police and a team led by an ASP drove them out of factory premises.

Later mayor of Nilphamari municipality, also district Awami League president, Dewan Kamal Ahmed and two local union parishad chairmen Abdul Mazid and Abdul Mannan requested the workers to join work but it got poor response. Only 52 workers out of about 2000 returned to their workplaces.

Contacted, manager of Sonic (Bangladesh) Ltd Mostafiz, refuting all the allegations, said that the authorities met all demands of the agitating workers and the situation was improving.

General Manager of Uttara EPZ SM Akhtar Alam Mostafiz said that the agitators withdrew their programme and joined work.

However, several workers told this correspondent that they would continue their agitation until their demands were met.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Satkhira Medical College stage a sit-in in front of the administrative building yesterday to press their four-point demand, including opening of a 250-bed hospital.

## SECOND DAY OF AGITATION

# Satkhira medical students stage sit-in on highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Students of Satkhira Medical College continued their agitation yesterday to realise their four-point demand, including introduction of a 250-bed hospital.

The agitating students boycotted their examination in the morning and staged a sit-in on the Satkhira-Kaliganj highway, blocking road link.

Later they went to the campus and held a sit-in there followed by a rally.

The students began their

indefinite agitation on Sunday.

The speakers at the rally said that construction of the 250-bed hospital was supposed to be complete by Sept 4ember, 2013.

However it failed to meet the deadline adding to the woes of the students who now walk to the Sadar Hospital, which is about five miles away, to do practical classes of medicine, gynae and surgery.

"We do not have any transport to go there. Besides, the college lacks necessary equipment for studies," said a student adding that they also were

suffering due to acute shortage of teachers and poor management.

The students urged the authorities concerned to meet their demands within a week, otherwise they said they would go on fast-unto-death programme.

Sources said, the medical college was now taking classes on 7-8 disciplines in place of 27.

There are only 28 teachers in different departments in place of at least 65, they said.

There is also no facility for practical classes at the college, they added.



PHOTO: STAR

Coast Guards in a drive on Sunday night seized two deer skins from Kalir Khal area of Sundarbans under Koyra upazila in Khulna. However, the poachers fled the scene sensing presence of the law enforcers.

## SNIPPETS

### 2 get life for killing FF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A court here yesterday sentenced two people to life imprisonment for killing a freedom fighter (FF) in 2003. The court also acquitted one Khairul Baser, Julhas and Jahangir Kabir of Mendipur village in Khaliajuri upazila of murder charges. The lifers are Ruhul Amin alias Milon, son of Abdul Jalil Shah Fakir of Mendipur and Rafiqul Islam, son of Abdul Gani of Garaund village in Mohonganj upazila of the district. According to the prosecution, Ruhul and Rafiqul killed FF Siddikur Rahaman of Garaund village in Mohonganj upazila over previous enmity on October 9 in 2003. Brother of the deceased Saiful Islam filed a murder case with Mohonganj police station accusing five people.

### BSF picks up 2 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up two Bangladeshi nationals from near Dabri border in Haripur upazila of the district on Sunday night. The two were identified as Enamul Haque, 25, son of Nur Islam, and Md Hasan, 18, son of Ismail Hossain, of Dangi Munnatuli village in the upazila. Major Touhid-bin-Ishaq, acting commanding officer (CO) of BGB 30 Battalion, told this correspondent over cell-phone that a BSF patrol team of Phulbari camp picked up the two from a place near Dabri border around 7:30pm, while they were returning to the country through the border without valid documents. Later at a flag-meeting, BSF told their counterparts that the arrestees were handed over to Goalpukur Police Station under Uttar Dinajpur district of Paschim Banga, on charge of intrusion.

### Man killed in land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An elderly man was killed and six other members of the family were injured in an attack by his rival neighbours allegedly over the ownership of a disputed land in Parbatipur upazila on Sunday. The deceased, Jahir Uddin Mondal, 65, was a resident of Palashbari village in the upazila. Sources said there had been a longstanding dispute between Jahir Uddin and his neighbour Sajedur Rahman, since the latter allegedly grabbed Jahir's three decimals of land a few weeks ago. On Sunday evening, both the neighbours locked in an altercation over the issue. At one stage of altercation, Sajur along with Based Mia, Asrafal Islam and Asadul Islam beat Jahir's family members mercilessly, leaving seven of them injured. Critically injured Jahir died on his way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital around 8:00pm. Injured Jarina Begum, Alam Mondal, Anisur Rahman, Anwarul Islam, Monowarul Islam and Liton Mia were admitted to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex.

# Three policemen die in Gaibandha, Madaripur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A police personnel drowned in the River Jamuna at Kamarpara village in Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha yesterday afternoon.

Locals said, Chayon Kumar Ghosh, 23, working at Bogra highway police outpost, went to his village home to meet parents and other relatives on October 14, reports our correspondent.

Yesterday, he went to the river for fishing with a net. But all of a sudden he was drifted away by strong current and drowned.

Local people recovered the body of the cop at 4:00 in the evening after searching for three hours.

In Madaripur district, two policemen died in Rajoir and Shibchar upazilas on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

Police and family sources said, Parvez Molla, 25, son of Kanchan Mollah of Purbo Shakhar Par village in Rajoir upazila, came to see his family taking 15 days' leave from his workplace in Munshiganj.

On Sunday morning, his body was recovered from the house of his uncle Kashem Mollah.

Kashem said, Parvez might have committed suicide as he was 'mentally ill'.

In another incident, constable Salam Matubbar, 48, died in his sleep in Shibchar upazila on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning, when his colleagues at Nilkhi police outpost tried to wake him up, they got no response.

Later the incharge of the outpost came to the spot and found him dead in the bed.

Police suspect, Salam, son of Majid Matubbar of Goshairhat in Shariatpur district, might have died of cardiac arrest in his sleep.



PHOTO: STAR

Bagerhat district administration in a drive yesterday demolished at least 70 illegal structures on the bank of Bhairab River in the town. Earlier, the authorities asked the owners to remove their goods and assets by Thursday.

## PROFOUND GRATITUDE

Hamid Fabrics Limited announces with great pleasure that the Public Issue of Shares of the Company which was closed on October 02, 2014, received tremendous public support and has been over subscribed for more than Tk. 929.00 Crore against Tk. 105.00 Crore. The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to express their profound gratitude to the investors for their overwhelming support and confidence reposed on the Company. The Board of Directors also acknowledges with gratitude the co-operation extended to the Company by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited, Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited, CDBL, Manager to the issue-ICB Capital Management Limited, Post Issue Manager, Underwriters and Bankers to the issue.



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