

RANGABALI, KALAPARA UPAZILAS OF PATUAKHALI

Sidr-hit bridge without repair for 8 years

Another remains unusable due to lack of repair



SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The super cyclone Sidr-hit iron bridge on Kachari canal at Mudubi in Rangabali upazila under the district

has not been repaired in last eight years while another bridge at Mithaganj in Kalapara upazila remains unusable due to lack of repair.

As the iron bridge on Kachari

canal was badly damaged during the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007, locals built a bamboo bridge there.

Over 10,000 people of eight villages

including a good number of students of at least five educational institutions in nearby areas have to cross the canal amid risk, said Md Jasim Uddin, chairman of Mudubi Bazar committee.

"Last year the upazila parishad called a tender to rebuild the bridge at a cost of Tk 20 lakh but the contractor did not do the work showing, cause of loss. I am trying to rebuild the bridge with the help of the upazila parishad," Abu Abdullah, chairman of local union parishad.

Another iron-bridge on Sapuria canal in Mithaganj union under Kalapara upazila needs immediate repair as most of its slippers are broken.

Over 30,000 people of at least 15 villages of Mithaganj, Dabluganj and Baliatali unions have to cross the bridge daily amid risk to maintain internal communication and also with upazila headquarters.

Abdul Mannan, Kalapara upazila engineer of Local Government Engineering Department, said, "We have already sent a project proposal to the higher authorities for building a girder bridge at the spot and waiting for budget allocation to build the bridge there."



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of people badly suffer as a bridge over Kachari canal, above, in Rangabali upazila and another over Sapuria canal in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district lie virtually unusable for years.



PHOTO: STAR

A house at Chhotgarh village in Jamalpur Sadar upazila got badly damaged as people from Palashgarh village in Jamalpur municipality went into an orgy of destruction there yesterday, as a sequel to a dispute over an accident on Friday.

Villagers attacked over assault on easy-bike driver in Jamalpur

20 injured, 30 houses vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

At least 20 people were injured in an attack by rivals over assaulting an easy-bike driver in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Over 30 houses and 10 shops were also vandalised during the incident, said police.

Among the injured, Shila, Khokon, Imran, Rana, Mithun, Faruk, Sumon Anwar, Rabbi, Nurul and Musa were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

Locals said a five-year-old girl of Chhotgarh village was injured when an Easy Bike hit her in the area on Friday morning.

Later, the villagers caught driver of the vehicle Tamim, 14, son of Jalil Miah of Palashgarh village, and slapped him.

As a sequel to the incident, a group of people, allegedly led by Azim Uddin and Ebarat, incumbent and former presidents of ward No 11 union of Awami League under Jamalpur municipality, attacked the villagers of Chhotgarh at around 10:30am yesterday, leaving at least 20 people injured.

The attackers also vandalised houses and shops during the incident.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Mujibur Rahman Majumder, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Policemen have been deployed in the area to avert any further trouble, said the OC.

No case was filed in this connection as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

40 rescued while being trafficked to India

Six teenage boys return from Indian jail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel detained 40 Bangladeshi nationals from Gazipur border in Sadar upazila of Satkhira district while they were being trafficked to Indian on Saturday night, reports a correspondent.

The arrestees include 20 women and eight children.

Major Nazir Ahmed Bakshi, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 38 Battalion, said acting on a tip-off, border guards conducted a drive in the area around 8:30pm and rescued them.

BGB sources quoted some of the victims as saying that a gang of traffickers brought them at the border from different areas of Bagerhat, Barisal and Khulna district.

BGB men later handed them over to Satkhira Sadar Police Station. Police yesterday produced the arrestees before a court that sent them to jail.

Meanwhile, BGB members on Friday night arrested eight people while they were going to India without valid documents through Putkhali border under Benapole Port Police Station.

The arrestees are Mashiur Rahman, 35,

Kuddus Sardar, 18, Monirul Molla, 32, Arjina Sheikh, 20, Rabiul Islam, 20, Mohan Das, 19, Bhulu Adhikari, 30, and Nani Gopal Halder, 30.

They all are from different areas of Jessore, Narayanganj and Barisal districts.

Away in Dinajpur, six Bangladeshi teenage boys returned home through Hili border in Hakimpur upazila on Wednesday night, on expiry of their jail terms in India, reports our correspondent.

SK Sarker, officer-in-charge of Indian immigration police at Hili Land Port handed them over to his Bangladesh counterpart Md Rafiquzzaman around 1:00pm.

The returnees, aged between 15 to 17 years, are Sohul Rana, Shamim Sheikh, Bashir Ahmed, Kamrul Islam and Sadiqul Islam of Baliadanga upazila in Thakurgaon, and Sujon Pal of Ujirpur upazila in Barisal.

Rafiquzzaman, OC of Hili check post immigration police, said a gang of human traffickers took them to India through different borders in Thakurgaon in 2009 and 2010.

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) arrested them and sent them to jail through a court. The returnees were later handed over to their family members.



PHOTO: STAR

A cross section of people join a human chain organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon on the bank of the Karatoa River in Bogra town yesterday demanding early steps to save the once fast flowing watercourse from encroachment and pollution.

Drug addict kills parents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man and his wife were killed in an attack allegedly by their drug addict son in Puratan Camp area of Panchagarh district town yesterday.

Three people, including Sub-Inspector Arif Hossain and ASI Enamul Haque of Panchagarh Police Station, were also injured in the attack.

The deceased were identified as freedom fighter Mizanur Rahman, 65, and his wife Rina Pervin, 60, of the area.

Police and locals said Manjurul Hasan Shanto, 30, an employee of Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd, attacked his parents with a sharp weapon, leaving them dead on the spot as they refused to give him money for buying drugs at around 2:30pm.

Hearing screams, neighbours Arif, Enamul and police constable Mahbubur Rahman's wife Nasima Begum rushed to the spot and came under the attack as they tried to resist Shanto, who also sustained injuries during the incident.

Later, the law enforcers arrested Shanto and sent him to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Mominul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Muggers shoot NGO employee, take away Tk 1.5 lakh in Jessore

Robbers loot 2 jewellery shops in Munshiganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Muggers shot an NGO employee and took away Tk 1.5 lakh from him at Baliadanga on Jessore-Narail Road in Jessore Sadar upazila yesterday, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The victim, Bishwajit Mondol, 30, is an employee of Jagorani Chakra Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Jessore.

Nahidul Islam, in-charge of the Jhumhumpur branch of the NGO, said muggers shot Bishwajit around 1:30pm while he was returning to office after collecting Tk 1.5 lakh from the villagers, who borrowed the money from the NGO.

Critically injured Bishwajit was rushed to Jessore Medical College Hospital. He was taken to Dhaka by a helicopter around

5:00pm as his condition deteriorated, said Nahidul.

Away in Munshiganj, robbers looted gold and silver ornaments from two jewellery shops after injuring five people at Betka Bazar in Tongibari upazila of the district early yesterday.

Of the injured, Deepak Das, 25, and Ratan Mondal, 30, employees of the two jewellery shops, received treatment at Tongibari Upazila Health Complex.

ABM Masud Hossain, additional superintendent of police in Munshiganj, said a gang of 30/35 armed robbers entered the market around 1:30am. They beat up four night guards and tied their hands and legs with ropes.

Later, they broke into the two shops owned by Sumon Das and Montu Poddar and took away 80 tolas of gold and 140 tolas of silver ornaments.



PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers detained 24 fishermen for catching fish, in defiance of a government ban, in the Meghna River in Haimchar upazila under Chandpur district on Saturday night. Later a mobile court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Saiful Islam awarded one and a half month's jail term and a fine of Tk 1,000 to 22 of them and fined two others Tk 5,000 each yesterday.