



PHOTO: STAR

Burimari land port in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district gives a barren look while day labourers sit idle in absence of any work there for the last one week.

# Import thru' Burimari land port stalled for a week

Row between traders, customs authorities over new rule causes the stalemate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Karim Mia, a labourer involved in loading and unloading imported goods at Burimari Land Port under Patgram upazila, and five of his family members are passing days in severe hardship for the last one week due to suspension of import through the port. Like Karim, around 5,000 labourers working in and around the land port and their families are passing days half-fed or starved while the government is

incurring heavy losses in revenue due to the unwanted situation.

Clearing and Forwarding Agents' Association sources said according to a recent NBR directive the customs authorities have imposed a new law that all the imported goods must be unloaded at the customs yard first in presence of the customs officials instead of their own warehouses.

Protesting the embargo, traders and importers at the port stopped importing

goods through the port from India and Bhutan for the last one week as the new system will increase the loading, unloading and carrying costs of the imported goods.

The customs officials, however, claimed that the traders themselves are trying to create troubles as they won't be able to continue their malpractice of false declaration to evade taxes.

Contacted, Safar Uddin, president of Sangjukta Sramik Federation at the port, said

hundreds of labourers were struggling to manage of food for their families due to the troublesome situation at the port.

Ruhul Amin Babul, convener of Burimari Land Port C & F Agents Association, said due to the new act the importers will have to count additional cost.

Billal Hossain, assistant commissioner of customs at the land port, said they have already informed the authorities concerned for taking initiatives to solve the



PHOTO: STAR

The premises of Patuakhali central bus terminal assume the look of a small water body even during moderate rainfall, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

# Patuakhali bus terminal in awful state

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

With dirty water and stink all around, Patuakhali central bus terminal remains a public nuisance for long.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the bus terminal on two acres of land in the town's Kalikapur area beside Patuakhali-Kuakata road at a cost of Tk 1.65 crore in 2003.

The terminal was later handed over to Patuakhali municipality that leases it

on yearly basis. Passengers, especially women, have to suffer as the sanitary system collapsed within a year and the toilets have become unfit for use, said a passenger.

"Passenger can't go to the ticket counter easily as there is a big hole covered by stagnant water near the entrance," said Abu Zafar Khan, counter-in-charge of Sakura Paribahan in Patuakhali.

Due to lack of drainage system, dirty water comes out, spreading bad smell all around. The situation

worsens during the rains when dirty water floods the compound, said Abul Hossain, a passenger.

"Passengers often decline to enter the terminal due to its bad condition. They want to get on and down from buses on the road and it poses risk of accident," said a bus owner of Patuakhali.

The problem arises as the terminal has been built without any drainage system, said Golam Maula Dulu, secretary of Patuakhali district bus owners association.

Nazrul Islam, a local resident, said parts of the boundary walls are broken, making the area insecure. The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to solve the problems, he added.

Patuakhali municipality Mayor Dr Shafiqul Islam said the problems would be solved immediately to provide necessary facilities for the passengers.

We are very sincere to ensure all possible facilities for the passengers, he added.

# Four held for Facebook scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Four youths were held in Bandarban yesterday for uploading nude photos of a school girl on the social networking site Facebook.

The arrestees are Bappi Mallik, 26, Abu Tayab, 25, Emon Barua, 26, and NA Jakir, 25, of Bandarban town area, while the main accused Arifur Rahman Babu, 27, assistant teacher of Langi Para Government Primary School of the district went into hiding soon after the incident.

Sources said Babu built a relationship with the girl and took her to a local hotel promising to marry her.

Babu confined her to the room, recorded her naked videos and photos on his mobile phone and later uploaded the photos on the internet.

Police said Babu had opened a fake account in the name of the victim on the networking site ten days ago and started posting abusive words and indecent pictures of the girl using the profile.

Getting written complaints from the victim's father, Bahadur, a few days ago, Bandarban Sadar police started tracking the fake account and other accounts of Babu and his friends on the Facebook. The law enforcers found the allegations to be true.

Bahadur filed a case with Bandarban Sadar Police Station accusing Babu, Bappi, Tayab, Emon, and Jakir under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act last Saturday, and under the ICT Act on Monday.

Police arrested the accused from their houses yesterday.

# Uncle kills nephew over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A youth was stabbed to death by his uncle over a land dispute at Parbishnupurin-Dakshinpara village under Badarganj upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Md Ramjan Ali, 22, son of Najar Uddin of the village.

Police and villagers said there had been a longstanding dispute over a piece of land between Najar Uddin and his elder brother Bolay Mian of the same village.

On Monday, both the brothers and their family members locked into an altercation over the issue at around 8:00pm. At one stage Bolay Mian stabbed his nephew Ramjan with a sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, OC of Badarganj Police Station, said, being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Najar Uddin lodged a murder case accusing seven people, including his brother Bolay, with the police station yesterday.

Bolay and his family members went into hiding after the incident.

# Tragic!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man and his two children drowned in Chalan Beel when they went to the large water body for fishing at Nafu Syedpur village in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district on Monday.

The deceased are teacher of Rarimzani Qawmi Madrasa Altaf Hossain, 40, of the village, his son Lapul, 6, and daughter Anita, 8.

Police and family sources said the three had been missing since they went to the beel for fishing around 11:00am on Monday.

Police recovered the bodies from the beel and sent them to a hospital morgue for autopsy.

The three drowned due to strong current in the beel, said OC of Tarash Police Station Ataur Rahman.

# A different day for students, teachers of remote school

Connected online with an England school, they also meet a London-based teacher in person

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

It was a different day for the students of Karim Uddin Public High School in Kaliganj upazila under the district as a London-based teacher shared his experience of teaching Bengali to the students in the English speaking country on Monday.

Badrul Alam, head of Bengali Department of Sir John Cass Red Coat Secondary School in London, visited the Lalmonirhat school as Hydne Evans, head teacher of the London school, sent him there for sharing his teaching experience abroad in person.

The two schools, a few thousands of miles apart,

are connected online through the Connecting Classrooms Online programme of British Council, Bangladesh, and it enables the students to better their knowledge of Bengali and English languages through interactive participations.

Students of this school have continued improving their knowledge of English language through sharing with the London school students through online for the last one year, said students and teachers.

"The educational environment of Karim Uddin Public High School has seen much positive changes after connecting with the

British Council's Connecting Classrooms Online programme. The students of Sir John Cass Red Coat Secondary School have also benefited, developing their knowledge in Bengali language through interaction with the students here," said Badrul Alam.

"Most of the students of this school come from poor families but they have gained fair skill in English language, thanks to online sharing with the students of Sir John Cass Red Coat Secondary School in London," said Khurshiduzzaman Ahmed, headmaster of Karim Uddin Public High School.



PHOTO: STAR

Badrul Alam, head of Bengali Department of Sir John Cass Red Coat Secondary School in London, poses with students and teachers of Karim Uddin Public High School in Kaliganj upazila under Lalmonirhat district on Monday.

# Railway canal under illegal occupation in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A portion of the one-kilometer-long railway Fuleshwari canal has been grabbed in the last few years. "We didn't dare protest against the grabbers as they are local influential people and have link with the ruling party," he said.

The grabbers have constructed shops on the canal, but the railway authorities are not taking any steps against those who blocked the canal.

Moslem Uddin, a resident of Dalpatti Bazar area

in the town, said some parts of the railway Fuleshwari canal have been grabbed in the last few years. "We didn't dare protest against the grabbers as they are local influential people and have link with the ruling party," he said.

Abdul Karim, a local, said it is necessary to free the canal so that the sewerage system can work smoothly. The canal is connected with the Khora River in Lalmonirhat sadar, he

added. Local residents, preferring anonymity, told the Daily Star that at least 10 illegal grabbers had built shops on the canal bribing some unscrupulous railway officials.

Sources in the Railway Divisional Estate Office (DEO) in Lalmonirhat, said the municipality authorities constructed a concrete drain in the middle of the canal six years ago for passage of sewage.

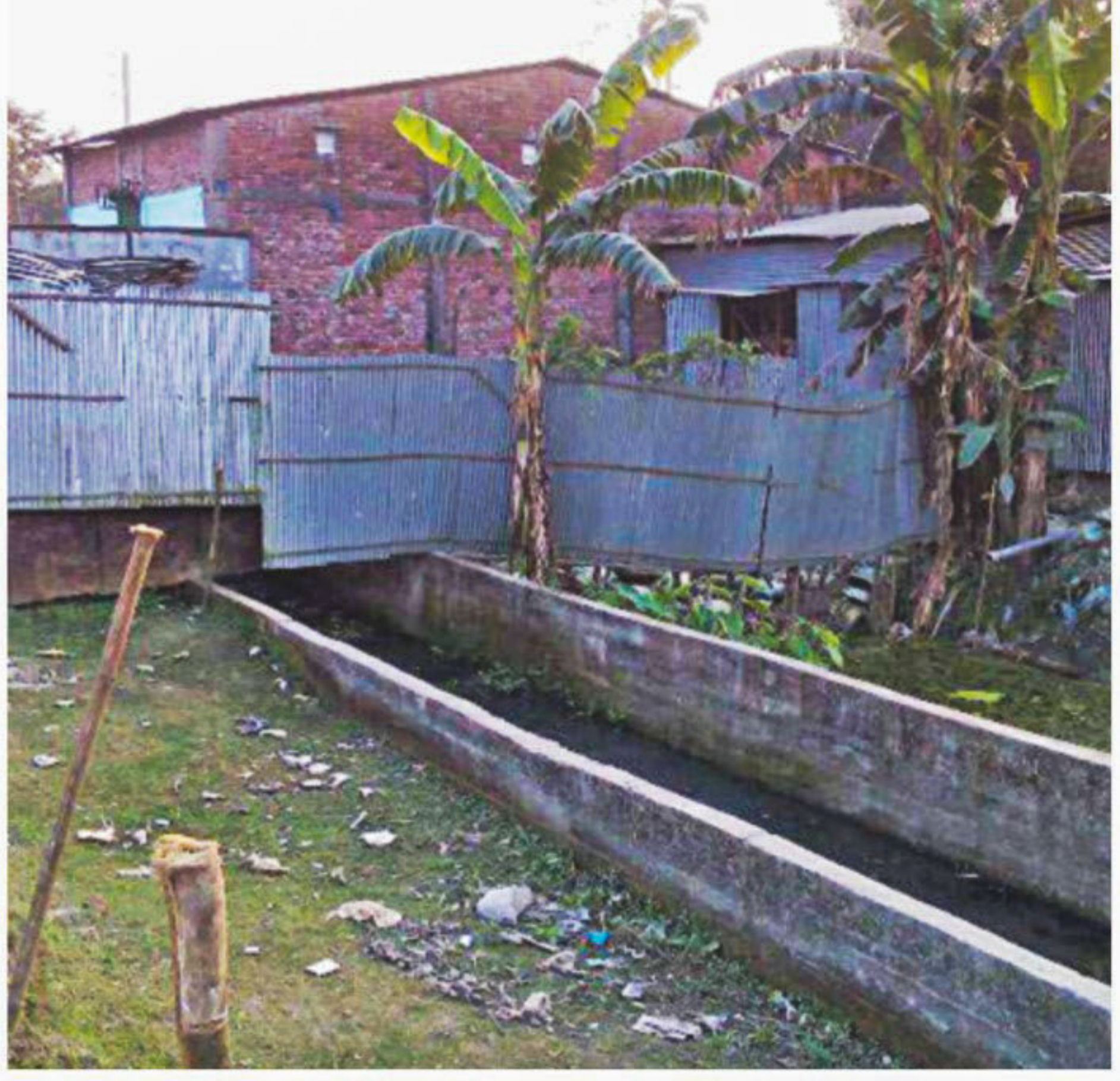


PHOTO: STAR

Illegally built shops occupy one kilometre stretch of Fuleshwari canal at Dalpatti Bazar in Lalmonirhat town.