



PHOTO: STAR

Improvised three-wheelers, many of them carrying cattle on Panchagarh-Dhaka road, often create nuisance for other vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken from Taraganj Bazar in Nilphamari district a couple of days ago.

3-wheeler ban on highway barely implemented

Risk for fast moving vehicles ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Movement of slow-moving three-wheelers, including those carrying cattle, alongside fast moving buses, trucks and cars, poses risk of accidents on Dhaka-Saidpur-Panchagarh highway, especially to home-bound passengers ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

Three-wheelers like battery-run easy bikes and rickshaw vans, shallow pump-run locally made nosimon, korimon, votvoti and Indian

mahindra are regularly seen on the busy road although the government recently banned their movement on highways. "Unequal competition among vehicles with different speed capacities creates a haphazard situation on highways and it is responsible for most of the accidents that rises during several days before and after the Eid," said Abu Hasan, a forefront activist of 'Nirapod Sarak Chai' movement in Nilphamari.

In last three months, at least 20 people were killed and over a hundred others injured in collisions between three-wheelers and trucks and buses on the highway from Rangpur to Panchagarh via Nilphamari, said locals and police. "The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has detected 19 accident prone black spots in the 140-kilometre segment of Dhaka-Saidpur-Panchagarh highway in Rangpur division. But innumerable three-wheelers, many laden with cattle, are moving through the risky

places," said Shahjahan Chowdhury, president of Nilphamari district motor owners group. Abu Taleb, president of district easy bike drivers association, said, "Three wheelers carry passengers from remote places of towns and rural areas and all such roads ultimately connect with highways. It creates employment for thousands of youths." Instead of banning three-wheelers on highways, the government should construct separate lanes for them, he said.

Villagers join hands to build 2-km brick road in Joypurhat

KONGKON KARMAKER WITH ANDREW EAGLE

Dust settles at the start of every long-awaited monsoon, with welcome rejuvenation brought to the soil. Mangoes will soon ripen, everybody knows and the thought is tantalising. Nor will anybody complain when the chance arises to while away an hour or three immersed in that soothing thrumming sound of a downpour on a tin roof. Across Bangladesh, and Joypurhat does not differ in it, there are many reasons to welcome the rain.

But in the six villages of Kadoa, Koli Kadoa, Mirgram, Mirgram Chowmuhani, Dholpara and Chowkpara in Joypurhat sadar upazila, the season comes with a hitch. The villagers here have for many years not been able to enjoy these simple pleasures free from an accompanying sense of dread. They know what the rain will do to their shared, dirt road.

"It's barely possible to walk the road during the monsoon," says local student Md. Milton.

"The road is all mud when the rain comes. It inconveniences everybody," agrees Kadoa village school teacher, Fazlur Rahman. "Students suffer the most," he adds, "and farmers."

In the area there are five educational institutions which rely on that tortuous two-kilometre stretch that begins in Kadoa and ends in Mirgram Chowmuhani. So when it comes to students to be inconvenienced by the mud there are certainly more than a few.

Nobody can say these Joypurhat villagers aren't patient. For not less than a decade, from all six villages residents have requested

and pleaded for their distinguished elected representatives to address the situation. For ten long years all entreaties have fallen upon deaf ears.

"The union parishad has never really listened," says one villager Mazed Mia. "Sometimes they complain of fund shortages."

There's an old adage that says, "If you want something done properly, do it yourself." It's an expression that for the villagers might more accurately begin, "If you want something done at all..."

In early September this year a meeting was called. Accepting that a decade was quite long enough to

politely wait for local government to make its move, the attendees, locals from all six villages determined to chart a more radical course: they would improve the road themselves.

The estimate for the cost of the bricks they planned to use for paving was nearly 2.5 lakhs taka. It was here that a local physician, Dr. Anwar Hossain, thought he could help. "I was impressed with their initiative," he says. He decided to offer the lion's share of the funds to buy the bricks.

On 8 September work began, finishing up six days later. "Nearly 5,000 people worked on improving the road," says Sahidul Islam of

Dholpara. Dr Hossain says the exercise proves that any work is easy when people are united. From now, students will easily reach classes and farmers can without tension deliver produce to markets. "There will be no more suffering precisely caused by a muddy road," says Dr Hossain.

Besides, these days any villager can sit back and relax through any downpour's tin-roof percussion, with no underlying apprehension or ill-ease. There shall be full enjoyment of the monsoon's music in all of Joypurhat from now on.



PHOTO: STAR

Villagers voluntarily contributed their labour and money to make a two-kilometre-long brick road in Joypurhat sadar upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Aggrieved locals gather in front of Shapla Clinic in Bhandaria upazila under Pirojpur district after alleged negligence and delay in delivery operation led to the death of a woman on Wednesday. Inset, Dr Nazrul Islam, arrested on charge of the negligence.

Delivery patient dies after operation at pvt clinic

Locals vandalise clinic as negligence in duty alleged, doctor among two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Police arrested a doctor and a health assistant from Shapla Clinic in Bhandaria upazila in the district as people got agitated after death of a mother following alleged negligence in her delivery operation there on Wednesday.

The deceased is Nasrin Begum, 25, wife of Selim Howlader of Ujirpur upazila of Barisal, and daughter of Shahjahan Howlader, president of handling labour union at Bhandaria upazila.

The arrestees are Dr Nazrul Islam, and Abdul Aziz, health assistant of

Gouripur union health complex, also brother of Shapla Clinic owner Swapan. On Tuesday evening, Nasrin's family members admitted her to Shapla Clinic and her operation for delivery was scheduled at 8:00am on Wednesday, said sources of the deceased's family.

But Dr Nazrul began the operation at 2:00pm that day and although Nazrul is not an anaesthesiologist, he took the risk of anaesthetising the patient. The woman gave birth to a son and he is well now.

But the mother's condition deteriorated and she

began bleeding from the mouth around 6:00pm. Seeing this, the doctor, nurses and the clinic manager went into hiding. Nasrin's relatives took her to Bhandaria Upazila Health Complex where the doctor on duty declared her dead.

As the news spread, locals became angry and began to vandalise the clinic.

Informed, police rushed to the spot and caught Dr Nazrul and Aziz who had been hiding inside the clinic, said Md Kamruzzaman Talukder, officer in charge of Bhandaria Police Station.

Then the upazila admin-

istration sealed up the clinic.

A few years ago, Nazrul was arrested for attempting to rape a patient at a clinic in Pirojpur town and lost his job there, said police and locals.

He was also turned out from another clinic in Pirojpur town as he tried to violate female patients during ultrasonography or operation and tried to blackmail them by capturing the videos in his cell phone.

A video spread in Pirojpur town a few months ago shows Nazrul trying to violate women in the name of ultrasonography.

Criminals sever arm of BADC official

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals severed an arm of a government official in Bheramara upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

The victim, Nripen Kumar Kundu, 46, is a sub-assistant engineer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in the upazila. He hails from Khankhanapur village in Rajbari Sadar upazila.

Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bheramara Police Station, said a gang of 5/6 criminals swooped on Nripen at Baromile on Kushtia-Rajshahi highway at around 8:30pm while he was returning home from office on a motorbike.

The gang severed his right arm from the elbow and left the spot when passers-by rushed to the spot on hearing Nripen's screams.

He was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police recovered Nripen's motorbike from the spot.

Proloy Chisim, superintendent of police (SP), said the attackers might have wanted to snatch his motorbike. Police are trying to arrest the criminals, the SP added.

JMB man arrested

UNB, Mymensingh

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a suspected member of banned militant outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Bottola at Board Bazar of Gazipur district.

The arrestee was identified as Mehedi Habib alias Rafiq, a close associate of Shaikh Abdul Rahman, and Siddiqui Rahman alias Bangla Bhai, two executed leaders of JMB.

16 return from Myanmar jails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Sixteen Bangladeshi nationals returned home yesterday through Cox's Bazar after serving different jail terms in Myanmar.

Myanmar immigration department handed them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) following a battalion level flag meeting at Mongdu town in Myanmar.

Major Md Abdul Hannan Khan, acting commander of BGB-42 Battalion, said the returnees included fishermen and Malaysia-bound people.

They were handed over to the Teknaf Police Station, he added.

The returnees are Ali Ahmed, Nur Kabir, Basat Karim, Ameer Hossain, Ershad Ullah, Mohammad Abdullah, Nurul Islam, Sayed Ullah (1), Sayed Ullah (2), Mohammad Ayaz,

Jagir Hossain (1), Jagir Hossain (2), Hasim Ullah Mian, Md Nurul Alam, Enyet Ullah, Myar Khan alias Mirhan, all of them from Chakoria and Teknaf upazilas of the district.

Hasim Ullah, one of the returnees, said Myanmar's border security force caught him and another fisherman when they were fishing in Bangladesh border area in the Bay. Later, they were given a five year jail sentence.

Another fisherman, Ershad Ullah, said they were fishing in the Bay when Myanmar navy detained them. Later, a Myanmar court sentenced them to three and a half years imprisonment.

Md Azharul Alam, deputy commander of BGB-42 Battalion, led the 16-member Bangladesh delegation while U Myo Mying Aung, Myanmar immigration officer, led the Myanmar delegation.

900 kg of embezzled relief rice seized in Gaibandha

UP chairman goes into hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The chairman of Kamardani union parishad (UP) in Gaibandha Sadar upazila went into hiding on Wednesday as his involvement in black marketing 900 kg of rice allocated as relief for the flood victims came to light.

The government allocated five tonnes of rice as grant for the destitute flood affected people of Kamardani union and Nurunnabi Sarker, chairman of the UP, was to distrib-

ute it among the beneficiaries, police quoted locals as saying.

Some of the rice was distributed among the flood victims on September 14 but the UP chairman misappropriated a portion of it.

On Tuesday he engaged village police members Mirajul and Naya Mia for selling the rice in the market. Seeing the bags inscribed with 'Food directorate' local people challenged them and seized 18 bags of rice, each containing 50 kg.

Meanwhile Mirajul and

Naya Mia fled the scene. Local people informed Gaibandha Sadar UNO of the matter, and as per his instruction, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Ruhul Amin went to the spot and seized the misappropriated rice on Wednesday.

A FIR was filed with Gaibandha Sadar Police Station.

Since than UP chairman Nurunnabi remained absconding. He could not be contacted for comments, as his cell phone remained off.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals on Tuesday night seize 900 kg of rice in 18 sacks, foiling attempt to sell in the black market the food grains meant for distribution as relief among the flood victims in Kamardani union of Gaibandha Sadar upazila.