



PHOTO: STAR

This passenger bus at Bhotmari point of Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway can't see whether any other vehicle is approaching from the opposite side or not.

LALMONIRHAT-BURIMARI HIGHWAY

84 curves, 9 level crossings create havoc

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The 100-km highway from Lalmonirhat town to Burimari land port remains problematic for vehicular movement as there are as many as 84 turnings and 9 railway level crossings on the commercially important road.

"I am used to driving truck across the country, but I didn't see so many turnings and level crossings anywhere else. We use this route for transporting imported and exported goods from and to Burimari land port," said Delowar Hossain, 45, a truck driver from Bogra.

"Now we need three and a half hours to pass the

route. If there were not so many turnings and level crossings it would take at least one hour less," said truck driver Nazrul Islam, 50, in Lalmonirhat town.

"So many turnings and level crossings makes driving risky on this highway," said Shariful Islam, 42, a night coach driver from Dhaka.

"I cannot drive my motorcycle smoothly due to the turnings and level crossings," said Towhidul Islam Liton, a resident of Sahebdaanga in Patgram town under Lalmonirhat district.

Around 2,000 vehicles including trucks loaded with imported and

exported goods move on the route daily, said sources of Truck and Tank Lorry Workers Union and Bus Workers Union in the district.

Sources of Highway Police at Barakhata of Hatibandha upazila said quite a few lives were lost in several accidents, mostly at turnings and level crossings.

Lalmonirhat-Burimari road was constructed as the Burimari land port was opened in 1988, and this road was declared as part of the national highway in 1989, said sources at Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Lalmonirhat.

But the road got so many turning and level crossings due to unplanned construction work, they said.

Sources of Lalmonirhat Railway Division said RHD did not take permission from the railway authorities during the road construction and the latter is not responsible for many level crossings on the national highway.

Admitting the problem, Executive Engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat Abdul Halim said, "There is a plan for constructing a four-lane road on the route. It would be much straighter in order to avoid turnings and level crossings."



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Sandhya River has made several hundred people of Asoa Amrajhuri village in Kawkhali upazila of Pirojpur homeless, leaving others under serious threat.

Lack of cyclone shelter leaves community anxious

HABIBUR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

"It takes about an hour to reach the nearest cyclone shelter on foot," says Md Abdul Khaleq Khan, 65, a freedom fighter from Jankhali village in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur. "We had planned to go early towards the shelter on the day Cyclone Sidr approached," he recalls, "but due to the tidal surge we could not. The cyclone reached us first."

On 15 November 2007 Cyclone Sidr lashed the Bangladeshi coastline, leaving more than 3,000 dead and extensive property damage in its wake. Jankhali lies two kilometres inland from the Baleshwar River. The nearest cyclone shelter is on the river's embankment.

With no way to reach the shelter in time, Khan along with his family, like many of the villagers in Jankhali, had no choice but to face Sidr at home.

"We stayed in the house," he says of that terrifying night. "We knew our lives were at risk but there was nothing to do but wait and pray."

Being yet close to the Baleshwar, locals are more than aware Jankhali is susceptible to natural calamities including floods and cyclones. While, when Sidr hit, the village was

lucky to avoid fatalities, property damage was extensive.

"Over 90% of village homes were annihilated by Sidr," says another villager, Md Hafizur Rahman. "Our lives were at great risk when river water flooded the village after the Baleshwar embankment was damaged. But we could not reach proper shelter and only by extremely good fortune was nobody killed." Next time the Jankhali villagers know, they might not be so lucky.

In many coastal villages cyclone shelters double as

primary schools, but the Jankhali Government Primary School which was established in 1938 consists of a tin shed building with only four small rooms. "Our school building cannot properly house the 130 students," says Ikbal Hossain, headmaster. Moreover, in times of calamity it can offer no protection.

"If a cyclone shelter was built on the school premises, the benefits would be double," he adds.

"We have made requests at different government offices to set up a cyclone shelter at the school," says

local Md Nasir Uddin Howlader, "but as yet efforts are in vain."

However, Jankhali is not alone among river-affected villages not to have an easily accessible shelter. "There are only six cyclone shelters in the union," says Saifuddin M Ferdaus, chairman of Betmore Razzpara union of which Jankhali is part. "Each shelter can accommodate a maximum of 400 people, but we have a population of 26,000."

"More cyclone shelters are desperately needed to protect lives," he says.



PHOTO: STAR

This primary school in Mathbaria upazila's Jhankhali village in Pirojpur district was established in 1938. Too small to adequately house students, villagers hope a cyclone shelter cum school can be built in its place, as there is no shelter in the cyclone-prone area.

Bangladeshi worker killed in KSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Bangladeshi worker was killed at a house at Taif in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

The deceased is Md Jamir Miah, 36, son of late Yunus Miah of Purbo Bhanubeel village in Kamalganj upazila of the district.

The victim's wife Salma Begum said Jamir had been working at Mazra Garden in Taif for the last 11 years.

Jamir had an altercation with the house owners' nephew, who stabbed him on Wednesday night. Later, he beheaded Jamir, she said.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Iqbal Children Hospital in Kaif, Salma said, adding that Jamir talked with her last Tuesday.

Prisoner dies in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A man, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in three check forgery cases, died of heart attack at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital yesterday.

The dead is Ishaque Ali Sardar, 62, of Paglakanai village in Sadar upazila.

Ishaque fell sick following a chest pain when he was going to take a bath in the district jail in the morning.

He was rushed to the hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead, said Jail Superintendent Golam Hossain.

Intra-party feud behind Dinajpur AL's debacle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Mayoral candidates of ruling Awami League won only one out of five posts in Dinajpur, Birganj, Birampur, Hakimpur and Phulbari municipalities.

The incumbent mayors who contested the polls in Dinajpur, Phulbari and Birampur were re-elected, while rebel AL candidate in Birampur and the ruling party nominated candidate in Hakimpur won the race.

Party insiders said AL candidates would have won if there was no intra-party feud.

Seeking anonymity, a top leader of Dinajpur AL said Anwarul Islam switched to AL and got the blessings of Iqbalur Rahim, a lawmaker of Dinajpur Sadar. But many party leaders and workers dislike Anwar, hence BNP backed candidate got the opportunity to defeat him.

In Birganj, Maulana Hanif contested the election with

jug symbol and defeated the AL candidate due to the intra-party feud of AL in the upazila. Monoranjanshil Gopal is the lawmaker of the constituency.

In Phulbari, Golam Mortuna Sarker Manik, an independent candidate was elected defeating AL nominated Shajahan Ali Sarker Putu. Mostafizur Rahman Minister for Primary and Mass Education, and also president of Dinajpur district AL, failed to resolve the dispute within the party in his area.

Khaza Moinuddin, younger brother of the minister and also president of Phulbari upazila AL, contested the mayoral polls as a rebel AL candidate. He got 299 votes, said locals.

In Birampur upazila, Liakat Ali Sarker got support of local lawmaker Shibli Sadique. Akkas Ali, who contested the election with boat symbol, lost the race. He told this correspondent that he lost due to the internal feud.

Talking with local journal-

ists, the minister said those who contested the election as rebels have no identity.

This correspondent could not reach the minister for his comment after the election as his cellphone was off.

In Hakimpur, Jamil Hossain Chalanta of AL got 8,989 votes while Shakhawat Hossain Shilpi of BNP secured 4,912.

In Birampur, Liakat Ali Sarker, an AL rebel, got 9,763 votes, while AL nominated candidate Akkas Ali got 9,023.

In Birganj, Maulana Hanif of Jamaat, contested as an independent candidate and secured 4,500 votes, while AL nominated candidate Mosaraf Hossain Babul got 3,848.

In Dinajpur, Syed Jahangir Alam of BNP secured 39,587 votes while Anwarul Islam, an AL candidate, got 24,534.

In Phulbari, Golam Mortuza Sarker Manik (independent) got 6,433 votes and Shajahan Ali Sarker Putu of AL secured 4,791 votes.

POLICE ASSAULT CASE

Arrest warrants against 85 BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Moulvibazar court yesterday issued arrest warrants against 85 BNP men, including district unit president M Naser Rahman, in a police assault case.

District BNP Joint Secretary Abdul Quddus and Jubo Dal central assistant organising secretary Md Motin are among the accused.

Bahar Uddin Kazi, additional chief judicial magistrate, issued the arrest war-

rants.

According to the case statement, the BNP men attacked policemen during the countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance in Sadar upazila on January 6 last year.

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Undergraduate Admission

Spring 2016

Top 5% scorers in admission test will get 100% scholarship

Degree Programs Offered

School of Business (BBA, B.Sc.) :

- Accounting • Finance • Marketing • Management • Management Information Systems (MIS) • International Business (IB) • Human Resources Management (HRM) • Investment Management • BSc in Economics

School of Engineering & Computer Science (B.Sc.) :

- Computer Science & Engineering • Computer Science • Computer Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering • B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics

School of Environmental Science & Management (B.Sc.) :

- Environmental Management • Environmental Science • Population Environment

School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (BSS, BA, LLB) :

- Media & Communication • Anthropology • Sociology • English Literature • English Language Teaching (ELT) • Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons.)

School of Life Sciences (B.Sc.) : • Microbiology • Biochemistry

Application Eligibility

- Combined GPA of 8.0 in S.S.C and H.S.C with minimum 3.5 in each
- Minimum GPA 2.5 in five subjects in O-levels and GPA 2.0 in two subjects in A-levels
- International Baccalaureate
- Microbiology & Biochemistry students must have biology in S.S.C or O' level
- Environmental Science students who have taken Chemistry/Physics in S.S.C or O'Level will get preference

Scholarship and Financial Aid

- IUB offers scholarships over Tk. 8 crores per year for meritorious & needy students.
- 20% -100% Financial aid based on performance in IUB and financial need.

New Major! B.Sc. (Hons) in Mathematics

100% scholarship with free board & lodging will be provided to meritorious underprivileged FEMALE students from outside Dhaka provided by Shaheed Khalek & Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust

Admission Test :

Wednesday, 6 January 2016 at 10.30 am

Last date for Applications :

Tuesday, 5 January 2016 till 4.00 pm

Classes Commence :

Sunday, 17 January, 2016

Apply Online :

www.iub.edu.bd/admission

Admissions & Financial Aid Office (Ground Floor), Plot-16, Block-B, Bashundhara R.A, Dhaka-1212. Tel: 8431645 - 53, 8432065 - 76 Ext - 1354, 1355 Fax: 8431991 Cell: 01780 185006 e-mail: admission@iub.edu.bd