



PHOTO: STAR

ONE GETS CALLOUS, THOUSANDS SUFFER: Boroil-Bonkali road in Dinajpur Sadar upazila poses difficulty to passing of vehicles and passers-by as the contractor of the road construction work there left the scene just after digging the earth from the place.

PEOPLE OF 15 VILLAGES IN DINAJPUR SADAR UZ SUFFER

Road work stalled after digging earth

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

People of 15 villages of Dinajpur Sadar upazila are suffering a lot as the contractor of an under construction road left the scene after digging the earth, said locals.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) took an initiative to turn into a metalled road a 750-metre portion of earthen way in Boroil-Bonkali area under Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

The road connects 15 villages with Dinajpur-Rangpur highway at Bottoli

point in the upazila.

Md Mozaffar Hossain received the work order on March 10 and labourers hired by him started digging the road the next day.

But after digging the 750-metre area within a week, the contractor and his labourers disappeared, locals said.

"Huge mud has remained piled on both sides of the road due to the digging. The villagers cannot use the road as it is left in such a bad condition," said Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Nayabazar village.

The situation turned

awful after an overnight rain on Thursday, said Rubina Begum of Boroil village.

During a visit to the spot on Friday, this correspondent found that mud and stagnant water made the condition of the dug road horrible.

Passers-by were facing difficulties while roadside shopkeepers found it difficult to open the shops as the piled up earth has turned into mud.

Locals installed a pump machine to remove the stagnant water from the road.

"We thought the road

would ease our life, but now things have got worse," said Moniram Roy of Bonkali village.

The locals have demanded early steps to complete the road work.

Faruk Hossain, engineer of local LGED, said, "The Tk 50 lakh work order was awarded to Md Mozaffar Hossain. The LGED authority several times reminded him to complete the work early but got no response."

This correspondent tried to contact contractor Mozaffar Hossain through phone several times but he did not receive the calls.

10 houses of Ashrayan project gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 houses of Balaikathi Ashrayan Project under Patuakhali Sadar upazila of the district were gutted in a fire on Friday evening.

Patuakhali fire service and locals said the fire originated from the kitchen of one Ibrahim Howlader's house and quickly spread to the adjacent houses.

Houses belonging to Helana Begum, Rani Begum, Khadija Begum, Rahim Howlader, Milon Fakir, Nuruzza Man Howlader, Kader Fakir, Nur Hossain, Faruq Biswas and Ibrahim Howlader were totally burnt.

On receiving information, a unit of firefighters from Patuakhali district town rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in an hour, said Kamrul Hasan, a fireman.

Md Humayun Kabir, assistant commissioner (land) of Patuakhali Sadar upazila visited the area.

Man's body found in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of a man from a pond at Panchbaria village in Sadar upazila of Jessore district on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sahidul Rahman, 48, son of Abdul Gani Mollah of the village.

Locals found the body floating on the pond and informed the police, said Biplob Hossain, sub-inspector of Jessore Kotwali Police Station.

The law enforcers rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Criminals might have killed the victim and dumped the body in the pond, said the SI.

A case was filed in connection with the incident, he said.

Medical student commits 'suicide'

UNB, Rajshahi

A student of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) allegedly committed suicide at Shaheed Pinku Hostel of the college yesterday.

The deceased, Hasan Habib Milton, son of Humayun Kabir of Sabuj Noyapara village in Chilmari upazila, was a student of 27th batch of the RMC.

Hasan hanged himself with the ceiling fan in his room of the dormitory at noon. He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition, where he died.

His classmates said he had a love affair with a girl but the girl got married a few days ago.

Housewife found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was found dead in her house at Parbatipur upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The deceased was Jahanara Begum, 40, wife of Ansar Ali of Mostafapur village under the upazila. She was a mother of two children.

According to family members, she went to her room on Friday night for sleeping, but they found her dead in the kitchen next morning.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said Mahmudul Alam, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Upazila Police Station.

Police are yet to find out the cause of the death.

Storms damage 1,000 houses in Bagerhat, Patuakhali

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Hailstorms accompanied by hails and rain damaged over 1,000 tin-roofed structures, including dwelling houses, shops and mosques, in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district and Dhulia launch terminal area in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district early yesterday and Friday night.

Our Bagerhat correspondent reported that the storm swept through eight villages under Gazalia union of Kacha upazila early yesterday, damaging at least 1,000 houses, over 100 shops and a few mosques.

The affected villages are Sonakundo, Jhobair, Bisherkhola, Mothertala, Battala, Sahashipur and Gazalia.

The storm also damaged boro and maize plants on around 200 hectares of land at the affected villages. Mehedi Hasan, a shop

owner at Gazalia Bazar said the storm accompanied by hails and rain hit the bazaar at around 3:00am and damaged over 100 tin-roofed shops.

Ilias Hossain of Bisherkhali village and Jamuna Rani of Gazalia village said the storm lashed the villages while the residents were asleep. Most tin-roofed houses were badly damaged by hails.

According to Gazalia Union Parishad Chairman Nasiruddin, the storm badly damaged three fourth of the tin-roofed houses at eight villages in his union and low-income people are the most sufferers.

The UP chairman urged the upazila administration to prepare a list of the affected people as soon as possible and provide financial assistance for their rehabilitation.

Kachua Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahubur

Rahman visited the storm-hit villages yesterday. He assured the locals that the upazila administration would take all necessary steps to help the affected people.

In Patuakhali, at least 50 houses were damaged as a nor'wester lashed Dhulia launch terminal area under Baufal upazila on Friday night.

Of them, 10 were damaged totally while the rest partially, said locals.

Housewife Jahanara Begum of Natunbazar near the terminal said the storm hit the area at midnight, leaving at least 50 houses damaged.

A number of people in the area became homeless, she said.

Local UP Chairman Md Anisur Rahman Rob said they informed the higher authorities, seeking financial help for the victims.



PHOTO: STAR

People of a storm-ravaged house keep whatever belongings they could save in the yard after a hailstorm lashed Dhulia launch terminal area of Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district on Friday night.

Missing Pabna madrasa student found dead

Habiganj kid traceless for 7 days

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The body of a missing madrasa student was recovered from Pabna district while seven-year-old boy of Habiganj remains missing for seven days.

Police recovered the body of a madrasa boy, who went missing six days ago, from Kamargram village in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

They also arrested a madrasa girl in connection with the incident, said Md Abdullah Al Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

The deceased is Moniruzzaman Monir, 25, a student of Pabna Alia Madrasa, and son of Moulana Abdul Mazid of Tarabaria village in the

upazila.

On March 27, Monir went missing from Pabna town when he was going to Banglabazar area of the district headquarters, said police.

Later, the victim's family filed a complaint with the police station in this connection.

After tracking phone calls, the law enforcers arrested Rabeya Khatun, daughter of Abul Hossain of Kamargram village, and a student of the same madrasa, at noon.

Following her confessional statement, police recovered the body from the spot.

Monir and Rabeya loved each other but recently they broke up their relationship.

Rabeya might have killed

Monir for taking revenge, said the OC.

Away in Habiganj, a minor boy, who went missing seven days ago, is still traceless, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The victim is Mohidul Miah, 7, son of Faisal Ahmed of Jatrapasha village in Baniachong upazila, and a student of grade one of Kalikapara Al Modina Shishu Academy in the area.

He went missing on March 26, said Officer-in-Charge of Baniarchang Police Station Amulya Kumar Chowdhury.

The victim's father filed a general diary with the police station in this connection.

They are raiding different areas to rescue the boy, said the OC.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Students form a human chain in Gopalganj town yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who brutally killed Sohagi Jahan Tonu, a student of Comilla Victoria College and a theatre artiste, on March 20.

Land dispute leaves one dead, 12 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed and 12 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over land dispute in Khansama upazila of the district on Friday night.

The dead is Md Shafiqul Islam, 44, son of late Habil Uddin of Daspara village in the upazila.

The injured are Md Rabiul Islam, 36, Aynul Haque, 34, Tahidul Islam, 32, Aminul Islam, 35, Osman Goni 32, Anju Ara Begum, 32, Rezia Begum, 45, Shahidul Islam, 30, Abdur Razzak, 35, Shawkat Ali, 48, Nazmul 17 and Md Golam Rabbani 18. They all are from the village and are undergoing treatment at Khansama Upazila Health Complex.

Krishna Chandra Sarker, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khansama Police Station

said there was a longstanding dispute between Shawkat Ali and Shafiqul Islam of the village over the ownership of around two acres of land.

Following an altercation between Shiwakat and Shafiq over the issue, the supporters of the two, equipped with sticks and sharp weapons, attacked each other. Shafiq died on the spot and 10 others from both sides sustained injuries during the clash that continued for half an hour.

Being informed, law enforcers from Khansama Police Station went to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups.

Shafiq's family filed a murder case with the police station concerned yesterday, accusing 12 people, including Shawkat. Police arrested Shawkat, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul and Golam Rabbani from the hospital.

Bank robbery bid foiled, night guard stabbed

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A security guard was stabbed by robbers as he attempted to resist a robbery bid at Shashibhushan branch of Krishi Bank in Charfashion upazila of Bhola early yesterday.

A gang of robbers entered the bank branch, breaking the window grill around 4:00am, said Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge of Shashibhushan Police Station, reports UNB.

Billal Hossain Jhantu, 35, a security guard of the bank, tried to prevent the bandits from committing a robbery. At one stage, they stabbed Billal indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

As Billal raised a hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot. Sensing the pres-

ence of the local people, the robbers fled the scene.

Injured guard Billal was admitted to a local hospital and then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Away in Moulvibazar, police arrested seven members of a robbers' gang from Moulvibazar-Kulaura road under Kulaura upazila early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Police also seized grills cutters, knives and a CNG-run autorikshaw from their possession.

The arrestees are Islam Uddin, 38, Suleman Ahmed, 36, Mustafa, 39, Seful Ahmed, 21, Shakil Ahmed, 23, Shaheed, 36, and Anwara Begum, 35.

Police, quoting the arrestees, said they were preparing to commit a robbery in Kulaura town.



PHOTO: STAR

Poultry farm owners form a human chain in front of Asaduzzaman Market on DB Road in Gaibandha town yesterday demanding government steps to save the industry.