

# FLOOD IN FRESH AREAS, PEOPLE'S WOES RISE



PHOTO: STAR  
From top, the spur at Baniajan in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district is on the verge of total collapse, a flooded area of Boro Kutubpur in Sariakandi upazila under Bogra district, a banana grower of Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila carries hastily reaped fruits from his flooded orchard to sell it for whatever price he gets, and a flooded homestead at Singail village in Chinaduli union of Islampur upazila under Jamalpur district.

# BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ON PATUAKHALI-DASHMINA ROAD People of 3 upazilas suffer as bypass under water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Thousands of people of three upazilas are suffering as a bypass road of an under-construction bridge has gone under water. All kinds of vehicles, including buses, are crossing the bypass at great risk.

An official of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Patuakhali said LGED is constructing a 26-metre-long girder bridge on Chankhar canal at Lohalia village on Patuakhali-Dashmina road via Bauful upazila at a

cost of Tk 1.35 crore. The new bridge will replace the old RCC bridge.

LGED issued work order on February 17 this year. M/s Akhtaruzzaman, a construction firm, is constructing the bridge. LGED has asked the firm to complete the work of the bridge within a year, a source said.

LGED also allocated Tk 9 lakh to build a bypass road to resume vehicular movement on the road as thousands of people of three upazilas -- Patuakhali Sadar, Dashmina, Bauful -- use the road to communicate with district and upazila towns.

Samsul Islam, an autorickshaw driver, said, "We have to cross the bypass taking risk. Passengers have to get down from the autorickshaw on the bypass road." Pedestrians face trouble in crossing the bypass road, he added.

Akhtaruzzaman, contractor of the firm, said, "We will take steps to remove the problems."

Abu Saleh Md Hanif, executive engineer of LGED, said, "We are taking immediate steps to repair the bypass road to restore communication over it."



PHOTO: STAR  
The bypass, made to ease communication during bridge construction on Chankhar canal in Lohalia union of Patuakhali, has become synonymous with sufferings as inadequate work was done for the arrangement.

# Kushtia hospital struggles with diarrhoea patients

Contaminated water blamed for sudden outbreak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Diarrhoea situation has taken an alarming turn in the district as at least 786 people have been admitted to Kushtia General Hospital in five days since Tuesday.

The hospital authorities said prevailing outbreak of the disease has become a matter of concern as the situation continues to deteriorate.

Sources at the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital said 170 patients took admission on Tuesday, 135 on Wednesday, 140 on Thursday, 185 on Friday and 156 yesterday.

Most of the patients were from Almapara, Milpara, Purbo Mazampur, Talipara and some parts of Courtpara and other areas of Kushtia town.

Hospital authorities were struggling to cope with the situation as they had no capacity to treat such a big number of patients at a time.

Doctors suspect that consumption of contaminated water is the main reason behind the sudden outbreak of the disease.

Meanwhile, sources at the Department of Public

Health Engineering (DPHE) in Kushtia primarily suspected that contaminated surface water supplied by the municipality authorities caused the outbreak.

Many patients of Milpara area told this correspondent that they were affected by the water-borne disease after drinking contaminated water supplied by the municipality authorities.

One Tara Khatun, 37, her son Ilias Ali, 12, and sister Asma Khatun were attacked all on a sudden and had been receiving treatment at the hospital for the last two days. However, their condition was yet to improve much.

Several other patients said they had been getting dirty water with a bad odour for last week.

The district health authorities meantime brought doctors and nurses from three upazila health complexes to the general hospital to cope with the situation.

Meanwhile, holidays of all officers and staff of the health department in the district have been cancelled, said Dr Tapor Kumar Karmaker, resident medical officer (RMO) of Kushtia General Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR  
A good number of diarrhoea patients stay on the corridor of Kushtia General Hospital for treatment yesterday as the hospital wards cannot accommodate the rising number of people affected by the water-borne disease.

"Municipality supplied water should be tested immediately," he said.

Contacted, Mayor of Kushtia municipality Anwar Ali said they have already collected water samples

from diarrhoea affected areas and sent to Dhaka for laboratory test.

They are also distributing oral saline and water purifying tablets to control the diarrhoea outbreak, he said.

# 3 people murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people including two women were murdered in Naogaon, Rangpur and Thakurgaon districts in the last two days.

Two housewives were found dead in Naogaon and Rangpur, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The deceased were Maria Akhter, 30, wife of Afruzul Islam of Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon, and Lata Begum, 22, wife of Aminul Islam of Kaunia upazila in Rangpur.

On information, police recovered the body of Maria from a nearby pond at Shibpur village in Mohadevpur yesterday morning. She went missing on Friday and did not return since then.

Criminals might have killed her, said police. They detained the victim's

relatives for interrogation.

In Rangpur, the law enforcers recovered the body of Lata from her house in Kaunia upazila of the district on Friday.

She might have been strangled, said Hafizur Rahman, sub-inspector of Kaunia Police Station.

Her husband went into hiding soon after the incident, said the SI.

Meanwhile, a youth was found murdered at a paddy field at Rajagaon village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Criminals also gouged out the eyes of victim Farukh Hossain, 30, son of Khorshed Alam of Kochubari Bhatapara village. He went out of home on Friday afternoon and did not return since then.

# 10 cops honoured for performance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ten policemen were honoured at a function yesterday for their professional performance in Mymensingh Division.

The ceremony was held at the office of the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police (Mymensingh Range).

DIG Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun was the chief guest. The policemen were honoured with certificates and Tk 5,000 each.

Among others, Additional DIG Dr Akkas Uddin Bhuiyan and Superintendent of Police Mymensingh were present.

Those honoured are Abu Mohammad Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gouripur Police Station; Imarat Hossain Gazi, OC of Detective Branch (DB)

Mymensingh; Abdul Kader, sub-inspector (SI) of Kendua Police Station; Asadur Rahman SI of Sadar Police Station in Jamalpur; Abdul Mannan, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Aatpara Police Station in Netrakona; Alamgir Hossain, ASI of Bakshiganj Police Station; Fazle Elahi and Faruq Khan of Sherpur DB; Nurul Haque Khan, traffic sub-inspector (TSI) of Mymensingh Traffic Police; and Abdur Rahman, police constable of Nalitabari Police Station in Sherpur.

Besides, Khoka Miah, Abul Hashem and Razib Chandra Cooch were also honoured at the function for their performance as chowkider and dafader of village police, sources said.

# AL leader missing for six days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Projpur

Md Moniruzzaman Monir, general secretary of Zianagar upazila unit of Awami League, has remained missing for six days.

Two general diaries have been filed with different police stations in this regard.

Family sources said Monir went to Dhaka on

July 15. The following day, he talked to his family members and since then, his cellphone remained switched off.

On Friday, the victim's daughter Hasi Akter filed two general diaries with Gulshan PS in Dhaka and Indurkani PS in Zianagar, said AKM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Indurkani Police Station.

# Newly-wed girl 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A newly-wed girl 'committed suicide' at Raghurampur area under Mymensingh Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Tania Ahmed, 18, a second year student at Mominunnesa Government Mohila College.

Quoting her family members and locals, Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station, said Tania, daughter of Liton Ahmed of the town's Charpara area, got married with Ridoy, 22, a second year student of a private textile institute in the town, six days ago following a love affair.

Ridoy, son of Farhadur Rahman hails from Madhupur upazila of Tangail district, police said.

Since their marriage, Tania and Ridoy were stay-

ing at Tania's maternal aunt's house at Raghurampur, police said.

But soon after the marriage, Tania learnt that Ridoy had married before. This created a feud between the couple, the OC said.

Following the feud, Tania allegedly committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling of her aunt's house when she was alone in the house, the OC added.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police detained Ridoy from the spot for interrogation.

Whether it is suicide or murder will be confirmed after getting the autopsy report, the OC said.

No case was lodged till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

## SNIPPETS

### 'Criminal' hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged criminal was hacked to death near Haludgar bridge in Santhia upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased was Md Nur Islam, 40, son of Abdul Hakim of Bondiramar village. Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the area in the morning and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A gang might have killed Nur Islam and dumped the body in the area, said Md Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station. He was accused in several cases including those for extortion and robbery, said the OC.

### Bullets recovered, one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police seized 14 bullets and 14-kg of Indian hemp from an abandoned house at Dhairkhat village in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday. They arrested the owner of the house on suspicion of storing the bullets and drugs in the abandoned house, police said. The arrestee is Nurnabi Islam, 34, son of Nurul Islam of the village.

### Two arrested with gunpowder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two youths with five bombs and one kilogram of gunpowder in Hakimpur upazila town of the district yesterday. The arrestees are Sohag Khayer, 25, son of Abul Khayer, and Kalu Mia, 25, son of late Shahid Hossain Bhola of Churipotti area. Acting on a tip-off, the elite force raided Churipotti area around 10:00am and arrested the duo with the bombs and gunpowder, said Md Afzal Hossain, assistant superintendent of police of Rab-13.

### 12 bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a youth with 12 bombs from Habiganj Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The arrestee is Gaziur Rahman, 22, son of Abidur Rahman of Dhuliakhal area in the upazila. On secret information, the law enforcers raided a mess in the area and arrested Gaziur with the bombs, said police.