

Five injured as train hits human haulier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least five people were injured as a train hit a human haulier at a level crossing in Gafargaon upazila of the district yesterday.

Critically injured Rubel Mia, 30, Awal Mia, 60, Bazlul Haque, 60, Jikir Mia, 18, and Ashrafur Islam, 23, were first admitted to Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex, from where Rubel, Awal and Bazlul were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, as their condition deteriorated.

The accident took place around 3:00pm when a Dhaka-bound passenger train from Mymensingh rammed into a human haulier when one of its wheels got stuck on the rail tracks at an unmanned level crossing at Charipara Bridge area, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Ahad Khan of Mymensingh Government Railway Police (GRP).



Trawlers wait for ebb flow when water level would decline to pass under an iron bridge at Bagri Bazar in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Where a low bridge is an obstacle

FARHANA BARNA, Munshiganj

A low-height bridge over a tributary of the Meghna River at Jamaldi in Gazaria upazila under the district makes the waterway virtually off-limits to vessels during the rains, thanks to the callousness the authorities who built the bridge in 2005.

With rise of water level in the rainy season, the vertical clearance under the bridge reduces to only around 12 feet, making it impossible even for trawlers to pass there.

The local farmers and owners of around 20 industrial units including a paper mill in the area have to transport their produces through alternative routes as they fail to take the advantage of cheap transportation through the waterway.

AMK Shamim Khan, a London expatriate, said he bought a plot at Bhatar Tor for setting up an industrial unit but he has postponed the plan as the low bridge would hinder transport of products.

"If the bridge was properly made, it would help develop socio-economic scene of the area," Khan said.

"The vessels, including those carrying industrial products, could move easily if the vertical clearance of the bridge was six feet more," said Arjural Haque, Gazaria upazila engineer.

Local lawmaker Mrinal Kanti Das said, "A DO letter has been sent to the authorities concerned recommending raising the height of the bridge. I hope the Local Government Engineering Department would take necessary steps in this regard."

2 get death for killing wives

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two men got death penalty for killing their wives in Mymensingh and Manikganj yesterday.

A Mymensingh court sentenced a man to death for killing his wife for Tk 50,000 as dowry in 2013, reports our correspondent.

The convict is Md Abdur Razzak, 55, son of late Chhamu Miah of Maizbari Panchmille in Sadar upazila.

On March 14 in 2013, Razzak hacked her wife Julekha dead following an altercation over dowry, according to the prosecution. In Manikganj, a court here gave death penalty to a man in a case for killing his wife over dowry in 2005.

The convict is Anwar Hossain of Shivalaya upazila, reports our correspondent.

Navigability crisis

Low bridges, culverts destroy riverine transport traditions in Jhalakathi

M. JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

A riparian district once famed for its on-water and riverside markets, where rivers provided the principle means of cargo transport, Jhalakathi's waterborne traditions look set to fade away, due to the construction of unplanned bridges, culverts and box culverts over rivers and canals that have significantly reduced navigability.

"Until five years ago I transported agricultural produce to several markets by boat," says Babul, a farmer from Sangor in Rajapur upazila. "It's no longer possible since the canal routes were destroyed by the construction of culverts and bridges that don't have enough height above water level to allow boats to pass underneath."

"I always sent sand by trawler," says Nurul Alam, a trader from Nalchity upazila, "but now I have to use trucks because the trawler can't pass under

most of the bridges and culverts."

Hundreds of farmers and dozens of business people face the same issue. Universally they blame the construction of unplanned bridges and low clearance height culverts for undermining the safest and cheapest transport option for goods in Jhalakathi. Business people report transport costs have tripled due to the need to rely on roads.

The local government engineering department, roads and highways department and district administration all require that sufficient height clearance is maintained when constructing any bridge or culvert over a canal or river, says A.Z.M. Shah Nawaz, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority executive engineer in Barisal zone. "None can destroy the navigability of canals and rivers by constructing any structure above it," he says.

Executive engineer of the local government engineering department, Selim Sarkar, agrees. "No bridge or

culvert should destroy navigability; but the construction of many of these bridges and culverts was started decades ago, without considering the consequences for water transport."

"We protect navigability in any bridge or culvert project," he continues, "taking a certificate from the inland water transport authority before any new construction."

A.K.M. Hamidur Rahman, the executive engineer of roads and highways in Jhalakathi agrees says sufficient clearance for continued navigability is a first priority with their department. "We maintain a height of six metres above water level as a rule," he says.

Yet despite the assurances weekly and regular markets situated on canals and riverbanks in many places are suffering. Where once easy navigability in delivering goods was assumed, a part of Jhalakathi's character, nowadays it looks set to become a local feature found only in history books.

Sanctuary for birds

Bogra college students plant trees for creating safe home for around 600 birds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Students of Bogra Government Azizul Haque College planted 66 trees of various kinds on Saturday at Biharhar Dakhil and Southpara Eidgah fields near Vashubihara of historic Mohasthangarh in Bihar union under Shibganj upazila of the district with a view to making a sanctuary for different species of birds.

The students, under the banner of environment-based organisation Team for Energy and Environmental Research (TEER), Biharhat regional branch, organised the tree plantation programme.

TEER sources said members of the organisation have been caring for around 600

Shamukhol birds (Asian Openbill) since 2012.

President of TEER local regional branch Toufique Hasan, general secretary Masud Rana, local adviser Abdur Razzak, Khorshed Alam, Masuma Khanam, Superintendent of local madrasa Shajahan Ali, teachers, students and locals were present during plantation of the trees.

Mizanur Rahman, president of the college unit of TEER, said they have been working for conservation of wildlife and prevention of environmental pollution by building awareness among the people of different classes and ages, and especially the students of the district, so that wildlife cannot be hunted illegally.



A man with a motorcycle crossing a dilapidated iron bridge on Kumirmara canal in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali, risking his life. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Most of iron bridges in a shambles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fifty-seven iron bridges out of 69 in Kalapara upazila of the district have become unfit for use due to lack of renovation, causing suffering to the people.

Locals said Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Patuakhali Zila Parishad built 69 iron bridges in all 12 unions in 1980s to ease communication with the upazila headquarters as well as with Patuakhali district town.

Twenty-one of the damaged bridges are in Nilganj union, nine in Mithaganj, seven in Dhankhali, six in Latachapplee, three each in Mohipur, Baliatali and Lala, two in Champapur and one each in Chakamoiya, Tiakhali and Dhulashar unions, local union parishad (UP) chairmen said.

The slippers of these bridges are badly damaged or displaced, and the structures have become weakened.

Ali Akbar Master of Latifpur village in Mohipur said students of different schools and colleges face problems going to their institutions as the iron bridges on Mulamer canal and Fapnur canal are in bad condition.

We urged the union parishad chairman several times to take steps to repair or renovate these bridges, but in vain, he added.

Md Mahbub Gazi of Kumirmara village in Nilganj said they have to

cross the damaged bridge risking their lives as they have no alternative.

The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to repair these bridges considering the interest of the villagers and the school children, he added.

UP chairman of Mithaganj Md Kazi Hemayet Uddin said communication over a bridge on Sapuria canal near Joybanga Bazar has almost stopped.

At least 50 people were injured in the last six months while crossing the bridge, he added.

UP chairman of Nilganj Md Nasir Mahmud said 12 iron bridges in different areas have become unfit to use due to lack of renovation.

Nasir said he proposed immediate steps to repair the bridges at the upazila development and coordination meetings several times, but in vain.

Md Ariful Islam, assistant engineer of Patuakhali Zila Parishad, said they did not have any information about the damage to these bridges, owned by the zila parishad.

They will send a proposal to the higher authorities to renovate these bridges after collecting information, he added.

Kalapara upazila LGED engineer Abdul Mannan said they would build girder bridges replacing the iron bridges considering the interest of the locals.

Invitation to Bid (ITB)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks quotations from interested Companies to Supply and Installation of Server, Laptop & Desktop Computer, Photocopier and Printer for Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project, Phase-II.

This procurement process will be conducted through online tendering system of UNDP. Bidders who wish to submit an offer must register in the system in order to access the bidding document and submit a quotation. To register please visit the link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration:

Username: event.guest
Password: why2change

The complete user guide and Bidding documents (ITB) can also be downloaded from the UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

The deadline for submission of quotation is **Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 04:30 pm** local time

3 JMB men arrested in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police yesterday arrested three listed JMB members from a Chhatra Shibir-run mess at Munshibari on Bishnudi Madrasa Road in the town.

The arrestees are Mujibur Rahman, 20, Abdullah Al Javed, 22 and Ibrahim Khalil, 21.

Police, in a raid led by Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of Chandpur Sadar, Nazrul Islam, held the three JMB men from the mess.

Application for Commonwealth Scholarship-2017						
Name of examination	Branch/subject	Session of passing	Division/CGPA	Total marks/CGPA of the exam	Obtained total marks/CGPA	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S.S.C						
H.S.C						
Bachelor (Hon's) (please mention the duration of course)						
Masters						
Other relevant examination						
1. IELTS:						
2. Description of publication in recognized journal (if any):						
Name and subject of the article	Name of the journal and its description (Local/International, place of publication etc.)	Number of words of the article	Description of degree/diploma/certificate attained on the basis of the publication			

Signature of the candidate with date

- Application should be typed in the above form. Additional papers can be attached for the description of the publications.
- Candidates for medicine of dentistry must show the year of passing of each part of MBBS/BDS, marks obtained, total and average marks in the application form.
- Incomplete applications will be rejected.
- Only short listed candidates will be invited for the interview in due time.
- Completed application form should be submitted to **The Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207** within 15 September 2016. Name of Scholarship and category of scholarship will have to be mentioned on the envelop. Attested copies of certificates, mark sheets of examinations passed, result sheets of IELTS etc. examination if any and 1 (one) copy of passport-size attested photograph should be enclosed with the application.
- Self addressed envelope (approximate size 9.5"x4.5") with ticket (of Tk 10.00) should be enclosed with the application.
- Other necessary information will be found from the website <http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply>, www.ugc.gov.bd, www.moedu.gov.bd

Secretary

GD-1721

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