

Stalked girl to go to school from today

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A schoolgirl, who had to stop going to school six months ago for fear of a local criminal, will resume attending her classes after the district administration ordered police to arrest the culprits.

The girl aged about 13, a student of Class VII at Lady Protima Mitra Girls' High School, had to stop going to school as a local youth Hanif Gazi, 22, started stalking her after his proposal for love was refused.

Hanif and his accomplices threatened the girl's family to leave the area if they did not agree to his proposal for marriage.

ADC (Revenue) of Chandpur Md Abdul Hye, along with a team of Chandpur Model Police Station, went to the girl's house yesterday and ordered the law enforcers to arrest Hanif and his cohorts.

Police took an undertaking from Hanif's father Abdur Rahim Gazi that he would ensure that his son would not harass the girl and her family in future.

Md Abdul Hye said the girl can go to school from today.



PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: Clockwise from top left, portions of Chargram-Jamsha road in Singair upazila under Manikganj district, Nasratpur-Koroi Bihigram road in Adamdighi upazila under Bogra, Sutibari Bazar-Dalia bus stand road in Nilphamari, and the road leading to Patuakhali General Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR



3 arrested with arms in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested three people suspecting them as arms traders at Rajganj village in Putkhali border area yesterday.

The BGB said they recovered two foreign made pistols and two bullets from their possession.

The arrestees are two siblings Zakir Hossain, 34 and Zahid Hasan, 30, son of Tahajot Hossain, and Abdullah, 42, son of Nausher Ali of the village.

Commanding Officer of BGB-21 Lt Col Arifur Rahman said a team of BGB conducted a drive in the area on a tip-off and arrested the three while they were trying to sell the arms.

The team seized two foreign made pistols and two bullets from their possession.

A case was filed with Benapole Port Police Station.

Farmer dies in elephant attack

UNB, Sherpur

A farmer was killed and two others were injured in an attack by wild elephants in Bakura area under Jhainagati upazila of Sherpur on Monday night.

The deceased was Bachhram Chambugang, 60, son of Kantram Sangmar of the area.

Jahirul Islam, chairman of Kangsha Union Parishad, said a herd of elephants numbering 60-70 went down the hills around 7:30pm and damaged a paddy field in the area.

When locals tried to ward off the elephants, the mammoths attacked them which left Bacchiram dead and two others injured. A cow was also killed during the confrontation.

With the latest incident, death toll due to wild elephant attacks in Kangsha union over the last one month rises to four.

Four dist roads in sorry state

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Several important roads in different districts have remained in awful conditions for long, much to the nuisance of a large number of commuters and traders.

DIMLA-HATIBANDHA ROAD

Travelling through Dimla-Hatibandha road has become a tough task as its five-kilometre portion from Sutibari Bazar to Dalia bus stand remains unfit for vehicular movement due to lack of renovation for long, reports our Nilphamari correspondent.

People of Dimla, Hatibandha, Patgram, Domar and Jaldhaka upazilas use the road to go to Burimari land port, Teesta Barrage, and Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari district headquarters etc.

Over 50 ditches and holes of different sizes and depth poses risk for vehicles while water remains stagnant even after a moderate rain.

On last Friday, a loaded truck turned turtle, causing death of truck helper Kallu, 25, and seriously injuring driver Wahed Ali, said Ataur Rahman, chairman of Khalisha Chapani union parishad.

Over 100 trucks loaded with locally extracted

stone and sand use the road daily to go to different places. Besides six Dhaka-bound night coaches, a BRIC bus and local buses ply the road for different destinations amid risk, said Abdul Khaleq, president of Sutibari Bazar stone and sand traders association.

Contacted, Abu Zafar Md Saleh, Dimla upazila engineer of LGED, said, "Fund for repairing Sutibari-Dalia road has been sanctioned. Process is on to call tender to start the work within a short time."

BOGRA ROAD

Our Bogra Correspondent reports: The 20-km-long Nasratpur-Koroi Bihigram road via Chapapur in Adamdighi upazila under the district remains a nuisance for the people of 30 villages for three years.

Over 50 thousand people of 30 villages including Kanchanpur, Jakair, Bahadurpur, Housepur, Bejar, Boshikora, Motpukuria and Bontoir use the road for communicating with different places including the district town and the capital.

But hundreds of potholes, stagnant water, and mud at places make vehicular movement on the road highly risky and time consuming, locals said.

Huge numbers of trucks, buses, three-wheelers, and vans carrying passengers and goods, especially crops and vegetables regularly use the road, they added.

Abdul Mohit Talukdar, chairman of Adamdighi upazila parishad, said they have sent a proposal to the authorities concerned for the reconstruction of the important road.

MANIKGANJ ROAD

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: The 14 kilometre stretch of Charigram-Jamsha-Bangala road in Singair upazila of the district remains badly damaged.

Thousands of people of 10 unions under Nababganj and Dohar upazilas of Dhaka district and Sadar and Singair upazilas of Manikganj district face serious problem during their travel on the road due to the awful condition of the road.

Visiting the road, this correspondent found carpeting of most of the seven-km road between Charogram and Jamsha and another seven-km road between Boldhara and Bangala has disappeared. Rainwater got stagnant on a number of potholes.

The most damaged areas are Charigram,

Joilla, Noyapara, Golaidanga and Jamsha.

The drivers of buses, trucks, and auto-rickshaws said they face serious problem while passing the badly damaged road as accidents often occur and vehicles go out of order.

Md Abdul Berek Hawladar, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department in Manikganj, said the department will take step for repair of the damaged road after getting allocation for the purpose.

PATUAKHALI ROAD

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: The only road to 250-bed Patuakhali General Hospital is a very bad shape due to lack of renovation.

The 1200-foot-long and 12-foot-wide road is linked with Old Ferryghat Road in the north and BTV Relay Station Road in the south and serves as the only entrance to and exit from the hospital.

Carrying patients, especially serious ones, becomes difficult as accidents often occur on the potholed road.

Md Abul Hasan, sub-assistant engineer of Public Works Department, said they wanted allocation to the ministry concerned for repairing the road but failed.

Woman killed for dowry

UNB, Barisal

A newlywed woman was tortured to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws over dowry at Shhipasha village in Agailjhara upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased was Lima Akter, daughter of Mujam Sardar of Baniashuri village in Gourmadi upazila.

Lima was married to Jasim Hawladar of Shhipasha village six weeks ago.

Lima's family gave dowry to Jasim in cash and gold ornaments but shortly afterwards, Jasim started torturing her to press for more money, Lima's family members alleged.

On Monday afternoon Jasim and his family members brutally tortured Lima, leaving her seriously injured, they said.

Lima was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she died.

2 KILLED IN CLASH OVER RAPE CASE

10 shown arrested in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The 10 people detained on Sunday were shown arrested by police on Monday evening after filing of a case in connection with the killing of two brothers in Sadar upazila of Kishoreganj.

Two brothers were killed and around 25 others, including four women, were injured in a clash on Sunday over filing of a case for alleged rape at Purbo Borati village.

The victims are Abdul Ali, 50, and Abu Siddique, 45, sons of Kasim Ali of Borati village.

The case was filed by the alleged rapist's father Abdul Malek on Monday.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station Mir Mosharraf Hossain said Shafiqul Islam, 25, son of Abdul Malek of the village, raped the nine-year-old daughter of Kanchan Miah, an auto-rickshaw driver, nearly six months ago.

Later, Kanchan lodged a case with the police station, accusing Shafiqul.

Police arrested Shafiqul immediately and produced him before a Kishoreganj court, which sent him to jail.

After Shafiqul's release on bail three days ago, he and his family members put pressure on Kanchan to withdraw the case. As Kanchan refused, the men of the two sides clashed with sharp weapons, leaving 27 people of both groups injured, police said.

They were taken to Kishoreganj General Hospital where Ali and Siddique succumbed to their injuries.

Police detained 10 people, including Kanchan, for their alleged involvement in the killings.

Wild elephants destroy paddy fields

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Some wild elephants have been attacking villages in the new Muroicherra tea garden area under Kulaura Upazila of Moulvibazar and destroying paddy fields.

Villagers said a huge amount of paddy has been damaged by the elephants. Many children and women are moving to safer places, they added.

Villager Mohon Urang said they were guarding the garden and the paddy fields at night, fearing more attacks. The elephants return to the forest after destroying the crops at night, he added.

Paban Rajak, a tea worker of the garden, said the elephants destroyed the paddy and vegetables they were harvesting in the area. He added that they had been living there for generations, but the elephants had never disturbed them.

The tea garden manager Nikhil Chandra Debnath said the tea workers were afraid of the attacks, and many of them were guarding their paddy and vegetable fields.

Chairman of Kormodha Union Parishad MA Rahman Atik told The Daily Star that five elephants had destroyed a large number of paddy fields.



The indigenous people perform their traditional dances yesterday marking the end of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus. The photo was taken at Raisahebbari Durga temple in Dinajpur town. PHOTO: STAR



Children walk on the ridge of a paddy field at Footbillpara in Khagrachhari municipality to go to their school as there is no road in the area. A very narrow strip, inset, on the bank of the Chengri river at Battoli is used as footway due to the same reason. PHOTO: STAR



Three villages without roads in Khagrachhari

People use ridges to go to municipality headquarters

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three villages in Khagrachhari Municipality sees very little development due to absence of roads.

The people of more than 100 families in Footbillpara, Kumob Karbaripara and South Golabari Chakmapara of Ward No 9 have to walk to their work places or educational institutions through hilly farmland along the Chengri river at Battoli. This is risky due to erosion by the river.

The distance from Battoli school area to Footbillpara is more than three kilometres. There is only one old one-kilometre-long earthen road in the area, and the villagers have to cross hills to get to their destinations.

Santi Bikas Chakma, an inhabitant of the village, said there is no

way to take any kind of transport to carry patients in an emergency, so a road should be built immediately in this area.

Bely Chakma, a student of the same village, said they have to go to school on foot every day. It is difficult to walk in the rainy season, as the ridges become slippery.

Mongshi Ang Marma, the headmaster of Battoli Government Primary School said many students of that area attend the school, but their guardians do not send them to school during the rainy season.

Mayor Rafiqul Alam said it was impossible to build a road there due to erosion by the Chengri river, and an alternative route has to be found to build a road in the dry season.

Six women held with Phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested six alleged drug peddlers and seized 220 bottles of Phensidyl from Boroachra Masjid post area under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

The arrestees are Rabeya Khatun, 40, wife of Khalilur Rahman, Dolna Begum, 21, wife of Milton Mia, Bristi Begum, 22, wife of Shahidul Islam, Saharan Bibi, 41, wife of Musa Karim, Ferdous Begum, 30, wife of Kabir Hossain, and Arison Bibi, 33, wife of Mojibar Rahman.

Commanding Officer of BGB-21 Lt Col Arifur Rahman said, being tipped-off, a team of BGB conducted a drive in the area and arrested the six women while they were going to Benapole by a three-wheeler.

The team recovered 220 bottles of Phensidyl from their possession.

A case was filed with Benapole Port Police Station.