



PHOTO: STAR

PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: A scene of Bailor-Phulbaria road in Dhanikhola Charkumaria area of Bailor union in Trishal upazila under Mymensingh.

# Awful condition of Trishal road

## Bailor-Phulbaria road in Mymensingh needs repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The awful condition of the five-kilometre-long Bailor-Phulbaria road in Trishal upazila of the district has been causing great suffering to the users for the last three years.

Thousands of people, including students of Trishal and Phulbaria upazilas, use the road every day facing serious problems, locals said. The suffering is beyond description when they need to take a critical patient to upazila or district headquarters, they said.

The road could be used as a by-pass road, saving both time and money, to connect Trishal and Mymensingh town, but its dilapidated condition does not allow that, lamented Ujjal Master of Bawaliapara village in Boilor.

Now they have to travel around 25-kilometres more to reach Mymensingh town, he said.

College teacher Mosharrif Hossain Manik said hundreds of students have been facing many difficulties getting to their

institutions for years.

Trader Mir Kashbin Ahmed of Dhanikhola village said movement of goods along the road, especially in the rainy season, has been disrupted due to the dilapidated condition of the road.

They all demanded immediate repair of the road.

Boilor Union Parishad Chairman Mohammad Asadullah Asad said he requested the higher authorities several times to take initiative for repairing the road immediately, but the appeals went in vain.

The road was built over 20 years ago and started to break up in the last one decade as poor quality materials were used in its construction, Asad said, adding that no repair work was carried out in the last three years.

Trishal upazila LGED engineer Md Saber Ali said an estimate of Tk 10.24 crore for development work on the road was submitted to the department concerned two months ago and they are waiting for allocation of the fund.

## Two kids raped in Rangpur, one held

### Two more girls violated in Faridpur, Gazipur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police on Tuesday arrested one of the accused in connection with a case for raping two minor girls in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur, while two minor girls were raped in Faridpur and Gazipur on Tuesday and the day before.

Two minor girls were raped allegedly by two youths in Pirganj upazila on Friday.

Following a case filed by a victim's mother, police arrested Mamun, 27, and produced him before a court yesterday that sent him to jail.

The victims were admitted at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Police said the girls went to nearby Akhira river for taking bath on Friday when Mamun and Jamrul took them to a maize field and raped them.

Away in Faridpur, a six-year-old girl was raped in Sadar upazila on Monday.

Victim's aunt Rasheda Khatun said Babu Sheikh, 15, of Charbalujum village, took her niece to a jute field and raped her there. "The boy committed the same offence about a year ago but we did not disclose the matter fearing social humiliation", Rasheda said.

In Gazipur, locals yesterday caught Sumon Mia, 26, and handed him over to police for allegedly raping his eight-year-old sister-in-law (wife's sister) at Tapirbari village in Sreepur upazila on Tuesday night, said SI Ekhlash Uddin of Sreepur PS.

## 2 JMB men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two active members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Dinajpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestees are Badal Mia, 32, of Ramchandrapur village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, and Belal Hossain, 25, of Choraban village in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

Lt Col ATM Atiqullah, commander of Rab-13, said acting on a tip-off they raided Chehelgazi Mazar area and arrested the duo around 1:00am.

In primary interrogation, they confessed that they joined JMB about eight years ago and spent most of the time in Narayanganj, Atiqullah said.

Badal, who was an Imam of a mosque in Gaibandha, is an accused in several cases filed with Gaibandha Police Station.

## Illegal sand lifting from Chengi river

SAIKAT DEWAN, Khagrachhari

An influential person has continued illegal sand lifting from the Chengi river in Panchhari upazila under the district for about two weeks.

On Tuesday, this correspondent visited the spot, situated near Chhoto Panchhari Dakkhin Government Primary School at Nalindra Para under Ultachari union of in the upazila.

Seeing a newsman, the workers left the spot. A huge quantity of sand was seen piled up there.

The sand lifting has continued with the help of a dredger for more than two weeks, villagers of Nalindra Para said, adding that Awami League's district level leader Monkyaching Chowdhury, also member of Khagrachhari district council, is involved with it.

Bijoy Chakma, chairman of Ultachari union parishad, said, "I have heard of the illegal sand lifting. A few weeks ago, the same Awami League leader lifted sand from another place and I prevented him. Now he is lifting sand from this place."

"I have directed the ward member of the area to stop the perpetrator from lifting sand," he added.

Abul Hashem, upazila nirbahi officer of Panchhari, said, "I don't know about the matter. I will inquire into it and if necessary, conduct a drive by a mobile court."

This correspondent tried several times to communicate with Monkyaching Chowdhury over cell phone, but it was found switched off.

## Under the rebel poet's shadow

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become a place where the university students and teachers gather for different purposes. It is a spot mainly for cultural activities and also serves as an open gallery for fine arts students, said Nagarbashi Barman, head of the Department of Fine Arts. "We feel inspired when we use the shade of the banyan tree as a gallery." The spot is currently being highlighted as students and teachers of the university celebrate three days of festivities to mark the 118th birth anniversary of the national poet.

Mamunul Islam, who completed his master's from the university's music department, said the impression of the banyan tree would be ever memorable for the students. "When we used to perform under its shade, the feelings evoked were always boundless," he added.

The tree is a living memory of Nazrul, said Urmila Bhowmick, an honours final year student of the music department. Echoing similar feelings, Syed Mamun Reza, an assistant professor of theatre and performance studies suggested that the surrounding area of the banyan tree should be decorated well to make the spot more attractive and become the perfect gathering place for poets, writers and artists.

From "Nazrul Jiboner Trishal Oddhya", a book written by Rashedul Anam, it is learnt that Nazrul, born in 1899, stayed at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur in Trishal for a year in his boyhood years and studied at Darirampur High School, now known as Nazrul Academy. People of this area thus share a special bond with the rebel poet.

Interestingly, it was Kazi Rafizullah, a police sub-inspector then working at Bardwan in West Bengal, who took Nazrul to his Kazir Shimla village in 1913 and admitted him in class VI at the school, said Anam.

Nazrul later shifted his lodging to Bechutia Bepari's house of Trihsal Namapara to ease his troublesome six-mile journey from Kazir Shimla.

Reports abound that Nazrul passed his free time in his formative years at Namapara, playing a flute under the banyan tree on the way to his school.

Nazrul left Trishal for West Bengal in the same year. Initiated by PA Nazir, the then deputy commissioner of Mymensingh who also hailed from Bardwan in West Bengal,

celebrations for Nazrul in Trishal began with much fanfare in 1965, Anam added.

Earlier, locals also used to organise Nazrul celebrations on their own, he said. To preserve the bard's legacy, JKKNIU, was established at Trishal Namapara in 2005.

The university current has 5000 students in its 19 departments under four faculties consisting of arts, business administration, science and engineering and social science. In 2015, the university introduced four scholarships to honour four members of Nazrul's family—Promila Devi, Kazi Aniruddha, Kazi Sabbyasachi and Bulbul.

Two open stages—"Gahi Sammoyer Gaan" and "Churulia" and two spots—"Chhabishala Bottala" and "Charuswip", have further added a shine to the university.

## Rab detains

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Rab had conducted a similar drive in Narsingdi, which saw release of three of five detainees. Their family members and relatives claimed they were innocent.

The Rab released the three youths hours after they were picked up during the drive on May 21. Officials said they had not found the trio's involvement in militancy but claimed to have found militancy links with the other two.

Lt Col Mahub Alam, commanding officer of Rab-5, told a briefing in front of a raided house that yesterday's three detainees were members of Sarwar-Tamim group of militant outfit Neo JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh).

They used to hold meetings at a mango orchard, while Sakur used to provide them training, added the Rab official.

Sakur's father Mofizuddin alleged that Rab men drove him and his wife out of the house and searched it. He also alleged that two men had picked up his son around 15 days ago when he returned home after harvesting paddy.

Asked, Rab CO Mahub said he was unaware of that incident.

He said Sakur was an accused in a murder case filed in 2012. At least 50 suspected militants are active in the district at present, he said, adding, law enforcers had recently arrested some of them.

He further said the detainees were planning to carry out subversive activities.

## Victim of 'incurable' paralysis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Like any other child of her age, nine-year-old Johura was healthy enough and could move normally only a couple of months ago.

But the life of the minor girl suddenly changed when her poor parents noticed that muscles of her hands, legs and neck were becoming floppy and lifeless and no longer functioning properly.

"After examining her for long, doctors at Domar Upazila Health Complex opined that my daughter might have been attacked by incurable paralysis which seems to be polio at first glance", said Johura's father Idris Ali, a resident of Purbo Chikonmati village in Nilphamari's Domar upazila.

Officials at the District Health Department suspect that the girl might have been attacked by Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP).

To combat the situation, the department took prompt initiative about a week ago and formed a medical team to ensure safety of the other children of the village.

Dr Raihan Bari, resident medical officer (RMO) of Domar 50-bed Hospital, said children under 15



Nine-year-old Johura Begum, affected by Acute Flaccid Paralysis, in front of her Chikonmati village in Domar upazila of Nilphamari. PHOTO: STAR

years of age become victims of AFP.

AFP is more like an extensive paralysis that destroys nerve cells which activate muscles and the affected muscles no longer function, the RMO said.

"It is an infectious disease and there is no remedy to cure it permanently so far," added the RMO.

"In most cases the disease is mistakenly treated as polio. AFP,

mainly caused by the harmful bacteria that exist in stool, is more fatal than polio," said Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Minazuddin Mia.

Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Dr Abdur Rashid said they have collected stool sample of the girl and sent it to Public Health Laboratory in Dhaka for confirmation.

## Two girls saved from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two schoolgirls were saved from early marriage by the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Sujanager under the district on Tuesday.

Toma Khatun, 12, daughter of Tubai Sheikh, and Ripa Khatun, 14, daughter of Abul Kalam Sheikh, both from Vaina village in the upazila, are students of Sujanager Shaheed Dulal Pilot School.

Toma is a Class VI student and Ripa is a Class VIII student, said UNO Md Arifuzzaman.

"The girls' family members were secretly preparing to get them married on Monday night. Informed, our officials rushed to the houses and stopped the marriages," the UNO said.

The expectant bridegrooms returned home without getting married, and members of both the families were cautioned not to arrange early marriage, the UNO added.

## Tailor murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A tailor was hacked to death at Rajabari Bazar area in Muktagachha upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Hafizur Rahman, 28, son of Lokman Hossain of Purabari village in the upazila.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Muktagachha Police Station Akhter Morshed said there had been a feud between Hafiz and his brother-in-law Mofazzal Hossain, a van driver, as Mofazzal tortured his wife Mastura Begum, a cousin of Hafiz.

An arbitration meeting was held at Mofazzal's house on Tuesday and Mastura was asked to go to her parents' house for a few days.

As Mofazzal, son of Sultan Mia of adjacent Baliapara village, suspected that Hafiz might be behind the arbitration, and he locked in an altercation with Hafiz at Rajabari Bazar around 12:00 noon.

At one stage, Mofazzal allegedly started hacking Hafiz indiscriminately with a sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot, the OC said.

Locals caught Mofazzal and handed him over to police. Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. No case was lodged as of filing of this report.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (SDF)

House No. 6/6, Block-F, Lalmatia, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Ref: SDF/Proc./livelihood training material/G 2.0/NJLIP/2017/1126; Date: 21/05/2017

Social Development Foundation (SDF) invites sealed bid from the manufacturers / suppliers (firms having press declaration certificates) for Printing, Production & Supply of Training Modules, Flip Charts, Brochures and Posters under "Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP)" of SDF.

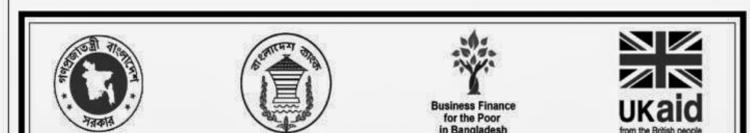
The bid document is to be submitted in the prescribed "The Tender Schedule" obtainable from the head office of SDF during office hours from 25/05/2017 to 21/06/2017 on payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT 1,000/- (One thousand) for this package by written application on respective supplier's letter head pad. Tender security to be deposited in the form of bank draft/pay order in favor of Social Development Foundation (SDF) from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh and pre-bid meeting will be held on 12/06/2017 at 1.30pm.

Bid Document should be dropped in the Tender box at the office of SDF by 2.30 pm on or before 22/06/2017. Bid document will be opened at 3.00 pm on 22/06/2017 in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if any).

Please visit 'www.sdfbd.org' for detailed information on the IFT.

SDF reserves the right to accept or reject any or the entire bid documents without assigning any reason whatsoever.

A.Z.M. Sakhawat Hossain  
Managing Director, SDF



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (For Consulting/ Research Firms Selection)

Business Finance for the Poor in Bangladesh (BFP-B) is a five-year programme funded by UKaid from the UK government. Bangladesh Bank (BB) is the implementing agency, and the Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance, the executing agency. Nathan Associates London Ltd has been contracted as the management agency for the programme.

**Assignment Title:** Feasibility Study on Transformation of MFIs into Regulated Microfinance Banks/Finance Companies: Bangladesh Perspective.

**Brief Description of Assignment:** The overall objectives of this study are to (a) understand the positions of the MFIs and other stakeholders with respect to MFIs' transformation into Microfinance Banks/Finance Companies, (b) assess the capacity of the MFIs that could be candidates for transformation, (c) analyse the regulations governing microfinance banks in different countries, as well as the history and relative success or failure of such transformations, and (d) provide policy recommendations and guidelines on the transformation process.

**Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Requirement:** The BFP-B Project now invites eligible Applicants (Consulting Firms or Research Organisations) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consulting Firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified and capable of performing the Services (areas of expertise, description of similar assignments, annual turnover for the last 3 years, a list of proposed personnel with qualifications, experience and association with the firm, brochures, etc.)

**Procurement Method:** The Applicant shall be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method by following the procurement guidelines of UKaid/DFID.

**EOI Closing Date and Time:** EOI must be delivered through email to rhasan@nathaninc.com by 15 June, 2017 by 5.00 pm (Bangladesh Standard Time).

Interested Applicants may obtain further information or EOI Application Form through email (rhasan@nathaninc.com).

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. BFP-B Project reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.

**Contact:** Rashed Al Hasan, Policy Manager, BFP-B Project, 5th Floor, House 13, Road 34, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Email: rhasan@nathaninc.com, Website: www.bfp-b.org.