

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN DISTRICTS



Students perform at programmes in 1) Nagarpur in Tangail, 2) Munshiganj town, 3) Abdul Hamid Stadium in Gaibandha, 4) Authorities of Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University in Tangail arrange a photo exhibition, and 5) Bangladesh Banyapraani Seba Foundation releases birds and 6) other creatures at Lawacherra Reserve Forest in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar as the nation celebrated the Independence and National Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Brick chips used in highway!

Damage occurs days after finishing work on Barishal-Khulna, Barishal-Pathorghata highways

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Although the use of stone chips is mandatory for carpeting of important roads, the designated contractor of Rajapur part of the under-construction Barishal-Pathorghata highway has been using brick chips with low quality chips, locals claimed.

"I have noticed brick chips being exposed on the surface of the road at different places and those are often got crushed under the wheels of moving vehicles. I think the contractor has mixed brick chips with low quality stones and that's why the road is getting damaged within days after the final carpeting," said Oheduzzaman, a businessman of Baipasmore, on Wednesday.

He also feared that the thickness of the carpeting was much below the standard 70 millimetre. "I have never seen brick chips being used for carpeting in highways," said Md Kamrul Islam, another trader of the area.

Abdus Sattar, another businessman of the area, said, "Not only the surface but also the inner portion is being constructed with substandard materials."

Nursart Builders is constructing the 18 Km road from Baroibari to Battala in Rajapur upazila at a cost of around Tk 50 crore. The construction work, which started in December 2017, is now at its final stage and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

"A small portion of the road construction materials was substandard as low quality stone chips were used for carpeting there," said subdivisional engineer of Jhalakathi Nabil Hossain.

Locals claimed that about 1.5 kilometre of the road had faulty carpeting.

"It would be reconstructed. I don't find any reason for raising a hue and cry about it," added Nabil, who is overseeing the construction work.

Nabil also refused to entertain the locals' claim that brick chips have been used for carpeting.

When asked, contractor Nayem Hossain

admitted that some amount brick chips might have got mixed with stones.

"It was not intentional. It might have been mixed as the stones chips and brickbats were kept at the same landing station," added Nayem, one of the two owners of Nusrat Builders.

Contacted, Golam Mostafa, the executive engineer of Barishal, also working for Jhalakathi as additional charge) of Roads and Highways Department, said, "Only good quality stones should be used for carpeting work of the highway. There is no scope to use brick chips and the thickness of the carpeting must be 70-millimetre."

"If brick chips are used for carpeting, I will take stern action immediately," said the executive engineer.

This 18km road is part of two national highways -- Barishal-Khulna and Barishal-Pathorghata.



Brickbats, used in road construction, get exposed days after completion of carpeting at Rajapur Baipasmore in Jhalakathi, bearing testimony to the poor quality work.

PHOTO: JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Multiple murder accused hacked dead in Rajapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A youth, accused in two murder cases, died on way to hospital after he was found severely injured in a field in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila yesterday morning.

Jahid Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station, said the deceased -- Mehedi Hasan Shuvo, 22, son of Abdulla Al Mahub of Baria village in the upazila -- was a fugitive, accused in two murder cases filed with the police station last year.

Mehedi was a 12th grade student at Baria Degree College, the OC said, adding that he was prime accused in two cases filed last year -- one for murder of college student Sohel Rana of the same village and the second for murder of madrasa student Abdus Shukur of Angaria village.

Mehedi's mother Naima Begum said, her son went out of the house to join a "picnic on Monday night" after being invited over cellphone by his friends.

Next morning, the family came to learn that Mehedi was hacked severely with sharp weapons and was left out in the open in a field, she added.

He died on way to Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal. The body was sent to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Mehedi's adversaries might have committed a premeditated murder and a process was underway to file a case in this regard, said police.

Jhalakathi Superintendent of Police Jubayer Ahmed said police were conducting raids at different places to arrest the ones Mehedi had mentioned before his death.

Faridpur youth takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A youth allegedly killed himself at Kanaipur Shahpara village under Sadar upazila in Faridpur on Monday.

The deceased was Parizat Biswas alias Shuvo, 22, son of late Ashit Biswas of Kanaipur Shahpara village. He studied at a private university in Dhaka.

"Family members found Parizat hanging from the ceiling fan with a sari tied to the neck in his room around 1:00pm on Monday, said Omi Biswas, a neighbour of Parizat.

He was rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police recovered the body and sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said AFM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

20 students injured during Independence Day programme

The scuffle occurred at sports event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A scuffle involving students of three schools left at least 20 of them injured during a cultural and sports competition, organised yesterday marking Independence Day at Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium, for school students in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj.

The injured students -- from Sunshine Pre-cadet and High School and The Hope International School -- were taken for treatment at various local medical facilities including Bahubal Health Complex.

The scuffle broke out around 11:30am when a student from Dinanath Government High School confronted students of Sunshine Pre-cadet over a longstanding allegation that most first and second position prizes of the competition were taken away each year by Sunshine and The Hope schools.

At one stage a group of students from Dinanath school attacked the students of the other two schools, leading to the injuries, said witnesses present at the stadium.

Bahubal Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Masuk Ali said the situation was under control and they detained a student of Dinanath school in this connection.

Bahubal Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jasim Uddin confirmed the incident and said a process was underway to file a case in this regard.