

Kids attend classes in 230 risky school bldgs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students of 230 dilapidated primary school buildings in eight upazilas of Habiganj are attending classes amid risk of accident for long, thanks to the authorities' negligence to the matter.

Not only this, classes were also suspended during the heavy rain and storm, hampering academic activities at the institutions.

Two hundred and thirty school buildings out of 1,052 government primary schools in the district have been declared risky at different times as cracks developed on the walls and roofs, said District Primary Education Officer Abdur Razzak.

The institutions include Mohishaura, Sribaur, Alapur Lalchand-5 and Ruposhpur government primary schools in Chunarughat upazila and Khagaura-2, Doniar Khali and Purbo Bhadeshar government primary schools in Bahubal upazila.

Md Habibur Rahman, headmaster of 99 no Purbo Bhadeshar Government Primary School in Bahubal upazila, said four teachers are teaching at least 155 students amid fear as several cracks have developed in the building of the institution. The

school building was declared risky in 2016.

The tin-roofed schoolhouse saw no renovation since it was built in 1994, said the headmaster.

Meanwhile, two buildings of Etbarpur Government Primary School in Habiganj Sadar upazila was declared abandoned five years ago as several cracks have developed on the walls and ceilings, posing serious risk to students and teachers, said Saranjit Bid, assistant teacher of the school.

Classes were suspended due to bad weather during monsoon, he said.

Rubel Mia, a student of the school, said "Our classes are often suspended due to bad weather."

Rahima Akhter, a guardian, said "I live in fear after sending my kid to the risky school building."

Ayesha Khanam, headmaster of Etbarpur Government Primary School, said as two among three buildings of the institution have been declared abandoned, they cannot accommodate 300 students in one building. The teachers are also taking classes at high risk.

The education officer said the ministry concerned has been informed about reconstruction of the risky buildings.



The dilapidated building of Purbo Bhadeshar Government Primary School in Habiganj's Bahubal upazila. Inset, children attend class amid risk of accident in the risky building of Rayerpara Government Primary School in Baniachang upazila of the district.

PHOTO: STAR



A woman prepares chal bhaja while her husband, a day labourer, looks on at their home in Char Kalmati area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Chal bhaja, only item for poor char people

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Like many others, chhola boot (fried and spiced chickpeas), puffed rice, beguni (a popular item prepared with aubergine), piyaju (made with finely chopped onion with lentil paste) and seasonal fruits should be their usual iftar items but farm labourer Abu Taleb, his wife and two daughters used to break their fast with chal bhaja (fried rice) daily.

The 53-year-old day labourer hails from the Teesta river's Kalmati char area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Although my family members don't want to take fried rice as the lone iftar item every day, we have to break our fast with it as I can't afford the traditional iftar items," said Taleb, who lost his 12 bighas of land

to erosion by the river in the last 10 years.

Taleb's wife Naheda Begum said due to their poverty, they have to take fried rice and lentil, potato mashed and vegetables during iftar and sehri every day.

Another farm labourer Sobhan Miah, 55, of the same char area, said "We earn Tk 250 to Tk 300 every day by selling our labour and it's not possible to arrange various iftar items with the little income."

Finding no other alternative, they have to take fried rice during iftar, he said.

Sobhan's wife Fatema Begum said, "Usually we take fried rice during iftar. We want to take different iftar items but can't afford those due to our poverty."

Elderly villager Mahir Uddin, 75, of Char Gobordhan in Aditmari upazila, said they are habituated to fried rice as they cannot afford other traditional items during iftar.

Shafiqul Islam, an NGO representative working for the welfare of char people in Lalmonirhat, said at least 70 percent people of Teesta shoal used to take fried rice during iftar while the rest take chira, puffed rice and molasses.

Over 80,000 people of five upazilas in the district live in Teesta shoal areas, he said.

Mofazzal Hossain, chairman of Rajpur Union Parishad in Sadar upazila, said he visits different char areas during the holy Ramadan and tries to provide various iftar items according to his ability.

20 injured in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 20 people were injured and 13 houses damaged as two factions of Awami League (AL) locked in a clash over establishing supremacy in Chondibela village of Boalmari upazila yesterday.

Out of the injured, one was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, 10 to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and nine others were admitted to Boalmari Upazila Health Complex.

Around 6:30am, supporters of the two groups clashed with lethal weapons over lease of a sand extraction site in the Madhumati river of the union, which led to the violence, said locals.

Abducted schoolgirl rescued, 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Tuesday rescued an abducted schoolgirl from Sherpur upazila and arrested four men in this connection.

The arrestees are Md Lizu Mia, 17, Md Bisal, 18, Md Mintu Mia, 27, and Md Bakul Mia, 30. They were later handed over to Sonatola police.

The ninth grader was abducted from her house in Sonatola upazila on April 22, said Major SM Morshed Hasan, company commander of Rab-12.

Woman, 2-year-old son murdered in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A young woman and her two-year-old mentally challenged son were found murdered in Naldanga upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Sharmin Akter, 21, wife of Mahmudul Hasan Munna of Bashila village in the upazila, and their minor son Mohammad Abdullah.

Munna works at a readymade garment factory in the capital.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Naldanga Police Station Shafiqur Rahman said though they found Sharmin's body in her bedroom, Abdullah's body was found floating in a ditch adjacent to the house.

Primarily they suspect that criminals

might have strangled the woman and her minor kid to death early yesterday, the OC said, adding that police, however, detained Sharmin's brother-in-law Mohammad Mukta, 24, and his wife Tania Begum, 19, for interrogation.

Deceased's father Omar Faruk, a resident of Haridakhalsi village in the upazila, said, "I learned from the villagers about the deaths but my daughter's in-laws' did not inform me anything about it."

Demanding punishment of the culprits behind the murders, Sharmin's brother Mohammad Hanjala alleged that his sister's in-laws might have committed the murders over family feud.



Locals join a human chain organized by NGO Nijera Kori and local Bhumihin Samity in Dhanbari upazila town of Tangail yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who raped a Class VII student, a housewife and a child in the upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR



Locals form a human chain in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh yesterday demanding speedy trial of the killers of freedom fighter Abdul Matin aka Matin Master. Inset, family members of the victim arrange a press conference demanding their safety from the accused who are allegedly threatening them.

PHOTO: STAR

Three tonnes of VGD rice seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three metric tons of government VGD rice was seized from a pick-up in Kalenga area under Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on Monday evening.

On information, Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Moin Uddin Iqbal rushed to the spot along with other officers. Asked by him, BGB seized the rice.

However, none was arrested in connection with the incident.

The UNO said a three-member inquiry committee headed by Upazila Women Affairs Officer Fahmida Akhter has been formed to investigate the incident.

Cop closed for beating rickshaw puller

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A police constable has been closed to the district Police Lines for beating a rickshaw puller over a trifling matter.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjit Kumar Roy took the action against constable Abul Khayer, diver of a police van, for tarnishing image of the police department.

The SP also called injured rickshaw puller Selim Miah, 30, of Rasulpur village in Sadar upazila, at his office on Tuesday morning, and gave him Tk 10,000 for his

treatment purpose.

On Monday morning, Khayer beat up Selim with a stick mercilessly after the latter's battery-run rickshaw collided with the police van in Akur Takur Para area of the town.

It created anger among the people after a video clip of the incident went viral in the social media.

Being informed, the SP directed to close the police van driver and formed an inquiry committee, led by Additional SP Masudur Rahman Monir, to investigate the matter and asked to submit report within three days.

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Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was electrocuted in Habily Gopalpur area under Faridpur Municipality on Tuesday night.

The deceased was Sheikh Sekendar Hossain, 42, son of Hasem Sheikh of Habily Gopalpur area. He was a driver.

"Sekendar came in contact with the live electric wire while he was going to switch on for watching television at his house. He died on the spot," said Sheikh Nafizul Haque, a councillor of Faridpur Municipality.

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