



A recent photo shows a truck stuck in the muddy potholes of Signboard Bazar-Kachua regional highway in Bagerhat's Kachua upazila.

Kachua regional highway needs urgent repair

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Signboard Bazar to Kachua road, a 7.5-kilometre-long regional highway that connects Kachua upazila with the Bagerhat district headquarters, is one of the busiest in the district. But it has been in a deplorable state for the past one year.

Inhabitants of Chitalmari upazila also uses this vital road for their communications with the district town.

"Vehicular movement on the road is extremely hazardous and time consuming as it is riddled with hundreds of potholes that remain covered with water and mud," said Niaz Iqbal, a resident of Kachua upazila and president of Kachua Press Club.

A large number of trucks, buses and other vehicles ply the road daily and people, especially from Kachua, have been suffering immensely because they have to use this dilapidated road every day to transport various goods including agricultural products, he added.

Samir Baran Paik, a retired teacher from the same upazila, said, "It's the only regional highway to reach the district headquarters from Kachua. Trucks loaded with goods for food warehouses or stores in Kachua Sadar often get stuck in the mud."

Moreover, the general public, especially patients and students have been suffering due to the road's poor condition, he also said.

College student Jannatul Ferdous said the situation turns for the worse in the rainy season when rickshaws and other three-wheelers tip over after hitting hidden potholes filled with rainwater. Such accidents are now frequent on the road.

Besides, vehicles speeding over the submerged potholes often splash pedestrians with dirty muddy water and ruin their clothes, she added.

Bayezid Sheikh, from Narendrapur area, said "It's difficult even to walk on the sides of the road and the pedestrians always have to wary of accidents on the road that becomes muddy during the monsoon."

Contacted, Nazrul Islam, sub divisional engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Bagerhat, said they have already undertaken a project to widen the road and replace its bailey bridges with new concrete bridges at a cost of Tk 30 crore.

The work order for the project was issued on January 21, with an estimated completion date set for June 30, 2020.

The contractor has already been filling up the potholes with brick chips and sand, he added.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Four kids drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four children drowned in separate drowning incidents in Haluaghat and Muktagachha upazilas of the district yesterday and on Friday.

The deceased are Tanjin Ahmed, 9, a Class IV student and son of Hazrat Ali and Jihad Hossain, 7, a student of Class I and son of Ayub Ali of Chakerkanda village in Haluaghat upazila, and Jannat Akter, 4, daughter of Sajjad Hossain, and Ujjal Hossain, 4, son of Nazim Uddin of Chandi Mondop village in Muktagachha upazila.

Quoting deceased's family members, Officer in Charge (OC) of Haluaghat Police Station Biplob Kumar Biswas said Tanjin and Jihad went for a haircut at local Bahir Shimul Bazar yesterday morning and did not return home.

Around 11:00am local people found their bodies floating in a waterbody at Chakerkanda and recovered those.

Meanwhile, two minor kids—Jannat and Ujjal drowned in a pond while they were playing near it around 10:00am on Friday, OC (Investigation) of Muktagachha Police Station Mohammad Bondey Ali said.

Man kills cousin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man allegedly beat his cousin to death following a feud over setting up an electric wire in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Friday.

The deceased, Ziaul Haq, 45, son of late Zaimuddin of Shekta village in the upazila, succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Saturday, police said.

Officer in Charge of Panchbibi Police Station Monsur Rahman said Ziaul and his cousin Azizul Islam locked in altercation over setting up an electric wire which passed over Ziaul's house.

At one stage of altercation, Azizul hit Ziaul with a bamboo stick and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured.

Family members took injured Ziaul to RMCH where he died on Saturday morning, the OC said, adding that a murder was filed with the police station.

Bus-Minibus owners threaten strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Leaders of Brahmanbaria Bus-Minibus Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad yesterday threatened to go on an indefinite strike in the district if their seven-point demands, including withdrawal of unauthorised vehicles and CNG-run auto-rickshaws from the highways, are not met by July 25.

Mohammad Hanif, general secretary of Brahmanbaria Bus-Minibus Owners Association, and Anisur Rahman, general secretary of Brahmanbaria Sramik Union, issued the ultimatum to the authorities concerned at a press conference at Brahmanbaria Press Club in the town in the morning.

Hanif also demanded to shift the illegally erected CNG-run auto-rickshaw stands beside different crossing points of Dhaka-Sylhet and Cumilla-Sylhet highways to elsewhere and eviction of illegally built roadside shops.

Hanif said the transport business has now turned into a non-profitable venture due to plying of the unauthorised vehicles on the highways.

Life chained to nature's wrath

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

It's Friday afternoon. She lost everything to the river before her eyes. It was not the first time. The flood victim's life has been chained to the wrath of nature for years.

Twenty-year-old Shahida Begum along with her three children and husband again went back to the dyke of Water Development Board (WDB) on Friday as her house was devoured by the Teesta river in Aditmari upazila.

With recession of floodwater, the five went back to their house at Teesta shoal Kutirpar village on Thursday afternoon but within 24 hours they had to go back to the government dyke with movable property again as the homestead went under water due to erosion by the river.

Shahida along with her day labourer husband Azizul Islam and sons— Saidul Islam, 5, Saiful Islam, 3, and six-month-old Shariful Islam—is now passing a miserable life without food.

Like Shahida many villagers have taken shelter on the government road and dyke after losing their everything to the river.

"Our house went under floodwater when Teesta was swelling above the danger level and we took shelter on the dyke. We spent 10 days half-starved at the dyke or had to go hungry. We received 10 kg of rice as relief from the government during the time," said Shahida.

"We again took shelter on the dyke since the house was devoured by the river on Friday afternoon. Now I can't feed my baby properly as I'm hungry," she said in tears.

Shahida's husband Azizul said they got married



Shahida Begum, who took shelter on the government dyke after losing everything to the Teesta river in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, feeds her baby.

PHOTO: STAR

seven years ago and their homestead was devoured three times during this period. Besides, three bigas of arable land went into the river.

"My wife cultivated a variety of vegetables

on the premises of our house on six decimals of land and the family's need was fulfilled by cultivating the items," Azizul said, adding that those are now dream only.

HSC examinee's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Body of an examinee of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations was found in his house in Barguna town on Friday night.

The 16-year-old student, Rasel, son of Abdul Maleq in municipality area, appeared in the exams from Barguna Government College.

Results of the HSC examinations were published on July 17 and Rasel was unhappy as he could not pass, Abir Mohammad Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Barguna Police Station, said quoting the boy's family members.

Police sent the body to Barguna General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he also said.



Many roadside areas in Rangamati town have virtually turned into a garbage dump since the municipality staffers went on an indefinite work abstention from July 14, demanding salary from government fund.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA



Bhairab Upazila Nirbahi Officer Israt Sadmin hands over a crest and certificate to Shah Alam, principal of Z Rahman Premier Bank School and College, jointly established by Premier Bank and Premier Group Foundation, for achieving the award as the best college in Kishoreganj and best school in Bhairab upazila at a programme on July 15.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka-Sylhet Route Train service resumes after 1 hour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Train communications on Dhaka-Sylhet route was restored after one hour of suspension following derailment of a compartment in Kulaura upazila on Saturday.

Muhib Uddin, station master at Kulaura Railway Station, said a compartment of intercity-train Kalni Express from Sylhet veered off the tracks while entering Kulaura Station around 9:00am, halting train communication with Dhaka for an hour.

However, the train communication restored after the compartment was removed around 10:00am.

Madrasa girl rescued 5 days after abduction

Police detained alleged abductor Yasin Ali and produced him before Panchagarh court that sent him to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A teenage madrasa girl was rescued from Jhitkikhura village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on Friday night after five days of her abduction.

Police also detained the alleged abductor Yasin Ali, 22, son of Ashrafal Islam of Golehapara village in the upazila, and produced him before a court yesterday that sent him to jail.

Sub Inspector of Panchagarh Sadar Police Station Din Mohammad said police detained Yasin after victim's elder brother filed an abduction case with the police station on Friday afternoon naming four people, including Yasin, his father Ashrafal and Hakiqul Islam, a member of Satmera

union parishad (UP), and three to four unidentified others.

According to the case statement, Yasin frequently used to harass the girl, also a Class IX student at a local madrasa, on her way to and from madrasa for long.

On Sunday night, Yasin picked up the girl from the village, took her to his grandfather's house at Jhitkikhura village and confined her there.

After filing of the case, police raided different areas and finally rescued her from Jhitkikhura village on Friday night and arrested Yasin.

Meanwhile, the girl's medical test was conducted at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital yesterday afternoon.