



The risky thatched house of Satgaon Cha Bagan Chankhala Government Primary School in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar.

PHOTO:STAR

Classes hampered as school runs in old thatched house

The govt primary school in Moulvibazar tea garden is meant for indigenous kids

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Education of indigenous children enrolled with 106 No Satgaon Cha Bagan Chankhala Government Primary School in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar is hampered as their classes are held in an awfully dilapidated bamboo and straw made house.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that rainwater had leaked into the office and the classrooms, and students were engaged in cleaning the floors.

The schoolhouse shakes when wind blows.

“Students of Chankhala Government Primary School become afraid when there is black cloud and gusty wind,” said Mona Ghatual, a local resident.

“The school was established on January 1 in 2009. Following the instructions from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2013, this school was selected for nationalisation and it was implemented through an official order later,” said Rafiqul Islam, president of the school managing committee.

“But teachers of the school are yet to get salary from the government coffers due to

some mistakes in official documents. The thatched schoolhouse has become risky. We sent a letter to the upazila parishad chairman in this regard,” he said.

There are four teachers to teach the school’s 123 students from pre-primary to fifth grade in two shifts.

Moni Goala, a Class III student, said they skip classes in fear of roof collapse when there is rain or storm.

“We become busy to protect books when it rains,” said Sujon Bauri, a student of Class II.

Amita Dev, headmaster of the school, said, “We have sent letters to district education office and upazila education office for building a permanent schoolhouse. The upazila engineer has visited the school recently, but there is no specific step has been taken for building the schoolhouse.”

“During the last two years, our school saw 100% pass in the primary education completion examinations,” she added.

Srimangal Upazila Primary Education Officer Saiful Islam said the school’s infrastructure problem will be solved through a project soon.

Highways, roads clogging up without truck terminal

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

There are nearly 4,000 various types of trucks and mini-trucks in Tangail, but the district lacks a terminal where the heavy vehicles can park and their drivers and workers, around 20,000 in total, can rest between trips.

Finding no area authorised for parking, the vehicles have been causing traffic congestion by parking or loading and unloading on vital highways that connect all northern and a large number of southern districts with the rest of the country through the Bangabandhu Bridge. During or after delivery of goods in Tangail town, many of those are clogging up roads in and around the town.

As a result, despite the efforts by the traffic department, quite a good number of areas in the town -- including stadium, old bus stand, Godown Bridge, Rabna bypass, Nagar Jalpai, Chhoy Ani Pukur, Dhaka Road and Baby Stand -- have now taken the shape of mini truck stands.

Trucker Bala Miah, also president of Truck Workers Union in Tangail, said they have no alternative but to park their vehicles by the roads or highways since there is no designated parking area or any

truck terminal in the district.

Truck owners and workers do not benefit from parking in unauthorised or unprotected areas as fuel and valuable parts including batteries often get stolen from those areas, he said, adding that trying to keep an eye on possible theft, the transport workers cannot get much-needed rest after a trip. Despite the fact, law enforcers often file cases against them and harass transport workers.

The urgency of a truck terminal in the district was discussed several times at district law and order as well as development coordination meetings held every month. Transport leaders on several occasions also raised the issue to local administration and politicians, but nothing has been done to this effect, the transport leader also said.

Truck owner Jahurul Islam said many truck owners have been paying Zila Krira Sangstha authorities to park their trucks near a primary school in stadium area of the town.

The truck owners have been making such excess payments even though there is no security for the vehicles there, he added.

Although the absence of a truck

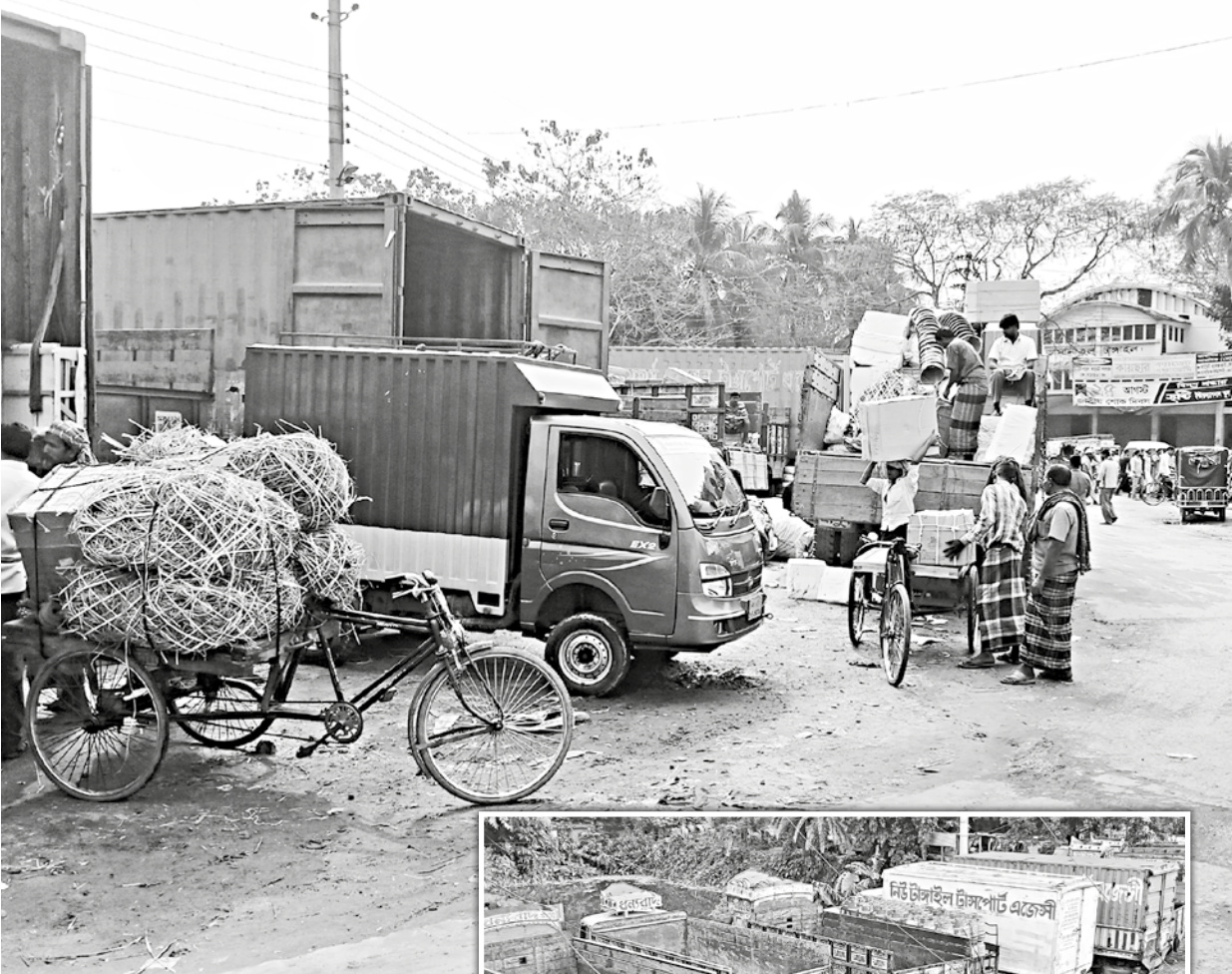
terminal and designated parking areas are equally causing sufferings to general public as well as the transport workers and owners, the administration and the politicians have so far been negligent over the issue, alleged many transport workers.

Rafiqul Islam, an inspector of traffic (administration) in Tangail, also said parking of trucks by the roads, due to the absence of a terminal, has been causing congestion on the roads.

In order to keep smooth flow of traffic on highways and roads, “traffic sergeants have to file cases against trucks that load and unload goods by parking on busy roads and highways,” he added.

Speaking with this correspondent, Jamilur Rahman Miron, mayor of Tangail municipality and also president of Tangail Truck Owners’ Association, also stressed the need for a truck terminal in the district.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Shahidul Islam said, the administration has a plan to construct a truck terminal in Rabna bypass area of the town. “Necessary steps will be taken in this regard as early as possible.”



Goods being unloaded from a truck, parked right beside a road in stadium area of Tangail town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO:STAR



The Bagerhat district administration in cooperation with the departments of social forestation and agricultural extension brings out a procession in the town yesterday marking week-long Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2019. Begum Habibun Nahar, deputy minister for environment, forests and climate change, inaugurated the programme at Swadhinata Udyan in the town.

PHOTO:STAR

7 killed in lightning strikes in 3 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Seven people, including a couple, were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes in different upazilas of Faridpur, Patuakhali and Bogura yesterday.

Our Faridpur correspondent reported that: Three people, including a woman, were killed in lightning strikes in Saltha and Nagarkanda upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hasi Begum, 45, wife of late Idris Ali of Kagdi village, and Bilal Matabbar, 47, son of Ismail Matabbar of Bata village in Saltha upazila, and Imran Bepary, 22, son of Pachu Bepary of Beel Nalia village in Nagarkanda upazila.

Yaad Ali, a member of Mazardia Union Parishad (UP), said a thunderbolt struck housewife Hashi while she was cooking at her kitchen around 1:00pm.

Family members rescued her and took her to Saltha Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared her dead.

Meanwhile, a thunderbolt hit Bilal while he was working in a farmland near his house around 1:15pm. He died instantly on the spot.

On the other hand, Tayabur Rahman, a neighbour of Imran, said a thunderbolt struck farmer Imran while he was rotting jute fibre in the Kumar river around 1:30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

In Patuakhali, farmer Moshir Rahman, 65, son of late Dholu Farajee, was killed when a thunderbolt struck him while he was planting Aman saplings in a cropland at Charhoridebpur village in Galachipa upazila around 8:00am, reports our correspondent.

Our Bogura correspondent adds: three people, including a couple, were

killed when thunderbolts struck them in Sariakandi upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Amirul Islam, 45, of Dakatmari Char, his wife Felani Khatun, 38, and Sumon Mia, 32, of Charbatia village in the upazila.

Quoting locals, police said a streak of thunderbolt struck Aminul and his wife Felani when they went to the Jamuna river for bathing their five cattle around 2:00pm.

Villagers rescued them and took them to Sariakandi Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared them dead.

Meanwhile, a thunderbolt hit farmer Sumon Mia of Char Batika village while he was rotting jute was salvaging jute fibre in the Jamuna River yesterday noon, leaving him dead on the spot. Officer in Charge of Sariakandi Police Station Al Amin said.

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