

People suffer as bridge lies broken for two years

Kurigram municipality authorities built the bridge in 2014-2015 fiscal year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Around 20 thousand people of Kurigram municipality and Panchgachhi union under Kurigram Sadar upazila are suffering as Hanagar Bridge at Ward No 6 of the municipality broke two years ago.

The municipality authorities built the 20-metre-long bridge over a canal linking the Dharla river in 2014-2015 fiscal year but its deck along with the link road at the east side collapsed during the floods in August, 2017.

Locals made bamboo-made structures for crossing the bridge on foot but it was risky.

Two months ago, a wooden platform was constructed to facilitate movement of pedestrians and light vehicles like bicycles, rickshaws and motorcycles with the financial help of one Abu Sufian Pavel of the municipality, locals said.

"Earlier we appealed to the municipality mayor for reconstructing the broken bridge but there is no positive response," said Mosarraf Hossain, a local resident.

Jamshed Ali, the ward commissioner concerned, said, "A proposal for reconstructing the Hanagar Bridge will be placed in the upcoming development committee meeting of the municipality. I hope special allocation will be made for the work and it will be completed this year."



The present condition of Hanagar Bridge over a canal linking the Dharla river at Ward No 6 of Kurigram municipality.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED



Erosion by the Kacha river in Nadmula village of Pirojpur's Bhandaria upazila destroyed four homesteads early yesterday. The affected families said they barely saved themselves but did not get any chance to save any of their belongings from the sudden destruction.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Disability support centre robbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A gang of robbers looted valuables worth Tk 5 lakh from a government disability support centre in Sheikhati area of Jashore town early yesterday.

Jashore District Disability Officer Munna Afrin said a group of masked robbers entered the premises, located in High Court Mor area, and tied down staff member Abu Raihan, 20.

They made off with a motorcycle, a computer and other items 50 minutes later, he added.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this regard, said police.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they were conducting raids to arrest the robbers.

Over 100 illegal shops demolished

Owner of one such shop dies of cardiac arrest at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court yesterday tore down over a hundred illegal structures in the town's Sheikh Hasina Medical College area.

During the drive, owner of a medicine shop, set up illegally in the area, said to have fallen ill. He was declared dead after he was taken to a hospital.

Various types of illegal structures -- medicine shops, restaurants, fruit stores -- were built near the hospital on land belonging to Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

The mobile court, led by Executive Magistrates Mohammad Rokonzaman and Mohammad Al Mamun of Tangail District Administration, started the drive around 11:30am with a contingent of law enforcers.

Prior to the drive, on Wednesday, announcements were made

using loud speakers, directing the encroachers to remove their illegal structures from the RHD land.

Magistrate Mohammad Al Mamun told The Daily Star that they started the drive to remove the illegal structures on RHD land and all other illegal structures built in the town will be removed eventually.

Muktar Hossain, a relative of Habibur Rahman Habil, 41, the medicine shop owner who died following during the drive, said Habibur started feeling sick when the court started dismantling his shop.

He was pronounced dead around noon after he was taken to the hospital, he said, adding, "Even though the authorities were demolishing illegal shops on one side of the road, they did not touch other shops built illegally on RHD land on the other side of the road."

Regarding Muktar's claim,

Magistrate Al Mamun said they were removing illegal structures identified in a map provided by the RHD.

Contacted, Amimul Ehsan, executive engineer of RHD in Tangail, told The Daily Star that they asked the administration to remove all illegal structures on RHD land.

"In a meeting held at the hospital before, a decision was made to remove all illegal structures on RHD land on both sides of the road. The local lawmaker also directed to remove all the illegal structures... What can I do if the magistrates don't remove illegal structures of other grabbers?" he also said.

Tangail General Hospital Superintendent Narayan Chandra Saha said they also wanted removal of all illegal structures in the hospital area and if some of the illegal structures escaped the drive, he would raise the matter in the next meeting.

Burnt by in-law, woman hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Badly burnt with hot water poured by sister-in-law, a woman is groaning in pain at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

The victim is Gital Rani, 30, wife of Haripada Roy of Palashbari village in Birganj upazila of Thakurgaon.

Talking with this correspondent at the hospital yesterday afternoon, Haripada Roy said his wife and his elder brother's wife Parboti Rani, 38, engaged in an altercation over a trivial matter on Monday night.

"On Tuesday afternoon, Parboti poured hot water on my wife when she was preparing cattle feed. She sustained burn injuries in the neck, right arm, chest and back," he said.

Later Gita was brought to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where she is undergoing treatment.

Six jailed for murders in B'baria, Patuakhali

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Six people have been jailed for killing two men in Brahmanbaria and Patuakhali, report our correspondents.

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday sentenced a woman to three years in prison for killing her Saudi expatriate husband and her stepbrother to life term imprisonment in the same case.

The convicts are Mariam Begum, 30, daughter of Lal Miah of Sahebznagar village and her stepbrother Jasim Uddin, 32, son of Idris Mollah of Ibrahimpur village in Nabinagar upazila. Of them, Jasim was tried in absentia.

Mariam was present at the court when Brahmanbaria District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shafiqul Azam delivered the verdict.

According to the prosecution, Shafiqul Islam, husband of Mariam, caught the sister and stepbrother red handed when they were having an intimate affair on the night of October 3 in 2012. At the time, the duo strangled Shafiqul.

Later, Rajon, maternal cousin of the deceased, filed a case with local police station in connection with the incident.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Deen Islam expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

Meanwhile, a Patuakhali court yesterday

noon sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a young man.

The lifers are Roni, 24, Amran, 23, Liton Hawlader, 22, and Kamal Gazi, 24, of different areas in Patuakhali town.

The court also fined them Tk 30,000 each, in default, they are to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, the four called Shamim Gazi out of the house at old hospital road in the town around 3:30pm on May 9 in 2009. They took Shamim to the hospital's field and beat him up mercilessly, leaving him seriously injured.

Later, the victim's mother rescued him from the spot. Shamim was then sent to Patuakhali General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 9:30pm.

Farida Begum, mother of the victim, then filed a murder case with Patuakhali Sadar Police Station.

After investigation, police submitted charge sheet before the court against the four on July 24 the same year.

After examining witnesses and evidences, AKM Anamul Kabir, special district judge, found the four guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Advocate Md Eusuf Hawlader, additional public prosecutor, conducted the case as state lawyer.



Many such illegal structures, including medicine shops, restaurants and fruit stores, in Tangail town were demolished during a mobile court drive yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Abdus Selim, first from left, at his organic malta orchard at Pathra village in Keshobpur upazila of Jashore.

PHOTO: STAR

Malta farming sees success in Jashore

The organic fruit is grown with vermicompost and bio-pesticide instead of chemical fertilizers

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Delicious fruit malta sees successful cultivation in Keshobpur upazila of Jashore.

Four years ago, Abdus Selim of Pathra village under Keshobpur upazila decided to grow organic malta on his land after learning that fruits grown with chemical fertilizers pose threat to human health.

"I planted 200 plants of Bari-1 variety of malta on my two acres of land investing Tk 80,000 in November 2015. Fruiting started this year and now the trees bear 300 to 400 pieces of malta each," said Selim, who has been involved in nursery business for 25 years, growing plants on his own land.

"I use natural fertilizer in my malta orchard and take care of the trees regularly. If the weather remains favourable, there is a possibility of bumper yield. I expect to sell the popular fruit for Tk 100 to Tk 150 per kg.

"There are 3,000 saplings of different varieties, including Bari-1 malta, China malta, Veracata malta in my nursery. Now I hope to plant 300 more trees on additional three acres of land," he said.

Following Selim, several others including Abu Huraira and Mizanur Rahman of Sanyasgachha village, Abdul Aziz and Ardan Kundu of Verachi village and Akhter Hossain Mithur of Satyashkati village in the upazila have started malta cultivation.

Mahbub Hossain, a fruit trader,

said he will collect malta from the local orchards this year as the quality of the fruit is good.

"The organic fruit, grown with vermicompost and bio-pesticide instead of chemical fertilizers and insecticides, weighs over 200 grams each and is tastier than the imported ones. The fruit is very popular in local market," he added.

Farmers as well as unemployed youths will be encouraged to grow malta if the government extends help for its commercial cultivation, said locals.

"Farmers are being encouraged to cultivate Bari-1 variety of malta as the soil and climate of this country is suitable for its growth," said Mahadev Chandra Saha, Keshobpur upazila agriculture officer.