



PHOTO: STAR

A portion of the 7-km-long road has been devoured by river in Faridpur's Madhukhali upazila, causing immense sufferings to commuters. The photo was taken on Friday.

# Madhumati devours key road

People of 9 villages in Madhukhali upazila use the 7-km road, stretching from Kamarkhali Bazar to Bir Srestho Shaheed Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf Library and Memorial Museum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A 300-metre-long portion of the lone road stretching from Kamarkhali Bazar to Bir Srestho Shaheed Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf Library and Memorial Museum has been devoured by the Madhumati river in the district seven days ago, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

Especially critical patients and students of different educational institutions in Madhukhali upazila are the worst sufferers. Locals said over 5000 people of nine villages in the upazila use the seven-km-long road every day, facing untold

sufferings since 300-metre-long portion of the road was devoured by the river on November 24.

As the road has become almost unfit for vehicular movement, they have to walk a long distance to reach their destination, said the villagers.

They have to suffer a lot when they need to take a critical patient to the upazila or district headquarters, said local people.

During a visit, this correspondent found that Bir Srestho Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf Primary School, Dayarampur High School, Dayarampur Government Primary School, Bir Srestho Shaheed Lance Naik

Munshi Abdur Rouf Library and Memorial Museum and around 50 homesteads are now under threat of erosion by the river.

Md Rajib Sheikh, a student of Bir Srestho Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf Degree College, said students of the area fell in great trouble after the road went into the river.

At present, they have to walk more three kilometers to reach their institutions, he said.

Faruk Hossain, a grower of Salamotpur village, said a large number of farmers are facing difficulties every day while carrying agro-products to local market.

Md Badsha Mia, rickshaw-van puller of

Dayarampur village, said they remained workless since the road was devoured by the river.

There is nobody to see their sufferings, said Badsha.

Jahidur Rahman, chairman of Kamarkhali Union Parishad, said he urged the Water Development Board (WDB) authorities to take immediate steps to save the area from river erosion, considering the sufferings of the commuters.

Faridpur WDB Executive Engineer Sultan Mahmud said they have already informed the ministry concerned about the matter, but to no effect yet.

## KILLING OF 4-YR-OLD AFTER RAPE

# Two accused arrested in Parbatipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested an uncle and grandmother of the youth who has been accused for killing a four-year-old girl after rape in Parbatipur upazila on Saturday.

The arrestees -- Shahinur Rahman, 40, son of Abdul Halim from Raghunathpur (Madhya Dangapara) village in the upazila; and his mother Moina Begum, 55 -- were made accused in a case filed by the girl's father Ariful Islam.

Shahinur was arrested on Saturday night, while Moina was arrested yesterday morning.

Ariful's neighbour Amzad Hossain, 19, son of Aminul Islam alias Amin from the same village, was made prime accused in the case filed with Parbatipur Police Station on the night of the incident.

Mokhlesur Rahman, OC of Parbatipur Police Station, said they were conducting raids to arrest Amzad.

Citing the case statement, he said Abida Sultana Meem, 4, went out after lunch on Saturday to play with her cousin Mozahidul Islam Zahid, 5. She went missing around 3:00pm. Unable to find her, a villager called 999 around 7:30pm.

Police quoting Meem's cousin Zahid and her family members said while the children were playing outside Amzad's house, 300 metres away from Meem's, he lured her into his house with candy.

After police reached Amzad's house, they broke open the door of his room around 8:30pm and found Meem's body in a pool of blood under a table, the OC said.

Yesterday, her body was handed over to her family following an autopsy conducted earlier at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur.

Dr Harun Ur Rashid, a doctor of Parbatipur upazila Health Complex, where the body was taken initially, said she died from profuse bleeding.

# Chased by elephants, youth dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A youth, after being chased by wild elephants, came in contact with a live electric wire and died at bordering Jadurchar village in Jamalpur's Baksiganj upazila on Friday night.

The villagers ran generators and hung electric wires on bamboo poles along the bordering line of the village to light up the area in order to prevent wild elephants from entering the locality from Indian Meghalaya state, said police.

The deceased was identified as Idris Ali, 22, son of Bakul Miah of Battajore Ujanpara village in the upazila.

A herd of 25 to 30 wild elephants entered the village in search of food on Friday evening.

The villagers lighted up the area by running eight generators and started screaming to drive away the animals while Idris was present there as onlookers.

At one stage, when the elephants became violent and started chasing the villagers, Idris started running to escape the attack and came in contact with a live electric wire.

He died on the spot, said Hazrat Ali, police said.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Md Hafizur Rahman of Kumirmara village under Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila prepares his land for growing vegetables, after loss of the earlier planted crops by cyclone Bulbul that hit the country's southern region on the night of November 9.

## IMPACT OF CYCLONE BULBUL IN PATUAKHALI

# Growers prepare land again as vegetables on 1,900 hectares damaged

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A large number of vegetable farmers affected by the recent cyclone Bulbul are now preparing their fields for cultivation of the seasonal crops again in a bid to recoup the loss.

Md Hafizur Rahman of Kumirmara village under Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila cultivated early variety of vegetables like brinjal, gourd, radish, carrot and lal shak on his 50 decimals of land this year but the cyclone damaged the growing crops.

"I had spent Tk around 15,000 for the cultivation but now I am preparing the field again to grow vegetables," he said.

Abdul Bareq of nearby Amirabad village is also in the same boat.

"I cultivated seasonal vegetables on my three acres of land at a cost of Tk 20,000 but I have to restart the work as all the plants were damaged due to flooding by heavy rainfall during the cyclone," said Bareq.

Abdur Razzak Hawlader of the same village said he cultivated vegetables on four bighas of land at a cost of Tk around 50,000 and hoped to earn over Tk 2 lakh this year by selling the produces.

"But the cyclone dashed my hopes and

I am preparing two bighas of land to grow vegetables again," he said.

Farmers of several villages including Alempur, Gamoirata, Kumirmara, Pakhimara and Amirabad of Nilganj union are busy to grow vegetables again on their affected fields.

Most of the farmers in Nilganj union are involved in seasonal vegetable cultivation as it is more profitable than paddy, said Forkan, a farmer of Pakhimara.

"We supply seasonal vegetables to local bazaars including those in Kalapara upazila town," he said.

Thousands of farmers have been affected by cyclone Bulbul and we have already sent their list to the higher authorities for steps to rehabilitate them, said Abdul Mannan, Kalapara upazila agriculture officer.

In Patuakhali, 2400 hectares of land has been brought under seasonal vegetable cultivation this year and of it, crops on 1908 hectares were destroyed by the cyclone and accompanying rain and tidal surges, said Redoyeswar Dutta, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in the district.

The damage to vegetables and Aman paddy in the district has been estimated at Tk 72.01 crore, he said.

# 4 to die, 7 get life term for double murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A court here yesterday sentenced four people to death and seven others to life term imprisonment for killing two siblings in 2016.

The death penalty awardees are Kamol Hossain Malitha of Golapnagar, Kamrul Pramanik, his brother Sumon Pramanik, and Nayan Sheikh of Fakirabad in Bheramara upazila.

Of the convicts, Nayan, Ziarul Ali Malitha and Ashrafur Islam Malitha were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, Ariful Islam Malitha of Golapnagar village in Bheramara upazila, often stalked a female student on her way to school.

As grandfather of the victim Mojibur Rahman protested the incident, the stalker and his family members stabbed Mojibur and his younger brother Mizanur Rahman on April 25 in 2016.

Mojibur died on the spot. The following day, critically injured Mizanur died at a hospital.

# Farmer family loses home in 'arson attack'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A family of 15 has been living in the open for over nine days after their house in Patgram upazila was burned down in an alleged arson attack by their neighbour.

The incident took place in Sohagpur village around midnight on November 22 when all inhabitants of the house were asleep.

Farmer Nabi Uddin, the homeowner, said all his belongings and crops, worth about Tk 15 lakh, were destroyed after the fire engulfed the five-room house, a kitchen shed and a cowshed.

He has a long-running dispute with his neighbour Tofi Uddin over a piece of land, about 10 decimals, and life threats had been made on him and his family members over the dispute in the past, Nabi claimed.

The day the house was set alight, Tofi Uddin's son Rafiqul Islam, 35, threatened to throw



Grandsons of Nabi Uddin sift through charred items in an attempt to salvage their schoolbooks from what was left of their house after the November 22 fire. PHOTO: STAR

them out of the village, claimed one of Nabi's sons, Mominul Islam, 36.

After Patgram police refused to record any case following the house fire, he filed the case with a court in Lalmonirhat on November

28, added Mominul.

The same day, the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate in Lalmonirhat

Afaz Uddin ordered officer-in-charge (OC) of Patgram Police Station to record the case and arrest the accused

-- nine named and 5 to 6 unnamed individuals.

Sumon Kumar Mahanta, the OC of the police station, said they visited the scene and process was underway for taking necessary action as per the court order.



Onlookers gather beside this fuel tank that fell from a fighter aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) at Bottola near Gayespur Bazar in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh yesterday afternoon. Another fuel tank from the aircraft also fell at the same time, some 300 metres away. Informed by local police, a team from BAF's Sakhipur base went to the spot and took the damaged tanks to Dhaka in the evening. PHOTO: COLLECTED