

## Speeding bus kills 2 brothers in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Two brothers were killed in a road crash in Patuakhali around 7:00pm yesterday.

The incident happened at Kewabunya area on Patuakhali-Kuaka highway.

The deceased -- Noor Alam Akon (30) and his younger brother Abdullah Akon (25) -- are from West Chunakhali village of Barguna's Amtali upazila.

Confirming the information, AKM Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Amtali police station, said bodies of the brothers were recovered and taken to the police station.

Law enforcers seized the bus, but its the driver and helper are currently absconding. Efforts are underway to arrest them, he said.

According to police, Noor and Abdullah had been running a scrap-metal business for a long time. Yesterday afternoon, when they were returning home in their van, a bus of Romer Paribahan (Dhaka Metro 0-14-9066), coming from the opposite direction, rammed the vehicle on the highway. The brothers died on the spot.

Visiting the family, this correspondent saw Nurjahan Begum, the mother of the deceased, wailing. "I feel empty. How will I live now?" she said.

Their father Yisrael Akon was also in the same state. "All my dreams are nothing now. How will I survive?" he said.

## Jewellers attack journos during raid by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Jewellers and their staffers attacked journalists and vandalised their equipment in Sylhet city yesterday, when the journalists were covering a police raid at a jewellery shop.

The incident took place around 12:00pm, minutes after police entered the store at Haque Super Market of Zindabazar area.

No journalist was critically injured, but a camera of NTV was vandalised, said Maruf Ahmed, general secretary of Electronic Media Journalist Association (EMJA) in Sylhet.

On the night of October 26, around 28 bhoi of gold jewellery were stolen from the house of journalist Ashrafur Kabir at the city's Laladighir Par area.

He later filed a theft case with Kotwali Police Station.

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Due to lack of upstream flow, unplanned dams, and construction of sluice gates, the once mighty Shoilmari river in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila is in death throes. The once 150-metre-wide river has now turned into a 3 to 4-metre narrow channel. Boats cannot sail there in low tide and people can cross its stretch by walking.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# River dead, livelihoods endangered

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The once mighty Shoilmari river in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila can now only be called a river on paper. In just three years, it has been filled with silt.

The once 150-metre-wide river has now turned into a 3 to 4 metre narrow channel. Boats cannot sail there in low tide and people can cross its stretch by walking.

Experts say the lack of upstream flow, unplanned dams, and construction of sluice gates are responsible for the river's death. Besides, after piling pillars for Rupsha Rail Bridge, the connecting river Shoilmari was silted within a short period.

BWDB officials say a huge amount of silt deposited on the river bed that comes through tide is a common trend in the southwestern region. Khulna's Batiaghata is no exception.

The water supply from at least 100 villages, including Dakatiya beel, Gutudia and Panchu, has been cut off as Shoilmari river's water disappeared. Besides, these areas also run the risk of waterlogging in near future due to the river's disappearance.

This correspondent visited Dhani Bunia, Soilmari, Uttar Shilmari, Hogolbunia, Hatbati, Choighoria, Jolma, Batiaghata, Khalashibunia, Baguladanga, Par Batiaghata, Maimara along the river basin.

At Dakshinpara area of Uttar Shoilmari, some villagers have already occupied the river beds and filled the areas with sand. A

similar situation was noticed in Hogolbunia Khayaghat area.

Brick kilns have also been built by encroaching the river.

At Ramdia sluice gate area of Jalma union, eight out of nine gates were seen closed due to the siltation of the river.

"Shoilmari was over 800 to 900 feet wide. Just 10 years ago, three launch routes from this river used to carry passengers to Koyra, Paikgacha in Khulna and Burigoalini in



Satkhira district. Shoilmari began to fill up in 2015-16 and within a few years, the water flow stopped," said Nimai Chandra Roy (72), a former primary school teacher of Khalashi Bunia village, who used to cross the river to attend classes in the '90s and 2000s at Dumuria upazila.

Motiar Rahman, a resident of Uttar Soilmari village who retired from BWDB in 2008, said he was engaged in the construction

of the embankment and polder 28/2 in the 70s.

"Due to excessive silt coming from the river's two heads, some brick kilns that occupied the river bed contributed to the river's dying state. If the river is not excavated, people will not be able to live in this area," he said.

Panchanon Golder, a mobile fish trader of Chalksoilmari village, said, "Earlier, I used to cross the river to go to Khulna by boat or trawler every morning. But in the last two years, boats don't run during low tide."

"Very often I crossed the river by walking in knee-deep mud. Locals used to catch fish, including Hilsa, Loitta and shrimp, from here. However, very few fish can be found in the river now," he said.

ABM Shafiqul Islam, president of Pani Committee, a civil society platform which works on rivers and water in the Khulna region, said, "The coastal rivers are naturally under the influence of tides. Upstream water used to balance these rivers. But in the name of river management, unplanned dams and construction of sluice gates are killing the river. Soilmari is a victim of it."

Ashutosh Barman, executive engineer of BWDB, Khulna Division-1 said, "We issued a notice for evicting the illegal structures, including brick kilns. We also plan to dredge the river."

However, he mentioned nothing about the tentative period required for excavation.

## Water transport strike withdrawn

Transport workers announce after meeting with govt, owners

STAR REPORT

Water transport workers' work abstention -- which caused immense suffering to passengers for two consecutive days -- has finally been withdrawn last evening.

The announcement came following a tripartite meeting among the government, workers and owners at the Department of Labour in Dhaka.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian chaired the meeting that decided to form a new wage structure for workers immediately.

Md Shah Alam, president of Bangladesh Water Transport Workers Federation who attended the meeting, said the meeting decided that a 29-member committee -- which was earlier formed by the labour department -- would formulate proposals for a new wage structure within a month.

The meeting also decided that the owners will pay Tk 1,200 to 1,500 to workers in addition to their existing wage as an interim solution till the formation of the new wage structure, said Shah Alam.

"They (government and owners) have assured us that our other demands will be addressed in phases," he said.

Following the withdrawal of the work abstention, the unloading of imported bulk cargoes from bigger vessels at the outer anchorage of the Chattogram port and transportation of these goods across the country resumed.

Md Nabi Alam, vice president of Bangladesh Lighterage Workers Union, said the lighter vessel workers immediately resumed work around 6:00pm.

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## Locals unite to save 100-year-old playground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Hundreds of villagers from all walks of life formed a human chain in Thakurgaon's Gareya village yesterday to save a century-old playground.

The protestors said the 1.84 acres of land has been a playground for decades. Last June, money lenders Fakhrul Islam Juwel and Sajal Kumar Chowdhury claimed they purchased the land from the ancestors of the late land owner.

Failing to grab the land using muscle power, they filed four false cases against over hundred locals including businessmen, teachers and activists, they claimed.



Atul Chandra Roy (60) of Gareya Chongakhata village said he grew up playing football in the land. The place has a rich history of organising football tournaments and different sporting events round the year, he added.

Echoing the same, Bilashi Rani (65) said the Hindu community observes their religious occasion 'Harishava' every year in the field.

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**The coastal rivers are naturally under the influence of tides. Upstream water used to balance these rivers. But in the name of river management, unplanned dams and the construction of sluice gates are killing the river. Soilmari is a victim of it.**

ABM SHAFIQU L ISLAM

President of Pani Committee, a civil-society platform

## Primary teacher recruitment result Dec 14

UNB, Dhaka

The result of examination for the recruitment of 45,000 assistant teachers in government primary schools will be published on December 14, according to a press release of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

The first phase of the examination was held on April 22, second phase on May 20, and third phase on June 3.

The number of candidates in this year's recruitment test for assistant teachers was 13,09,461.

At present, there are 65,566 govt primary schools in the country with 4,28,701 vacant teachers' post.

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ICT Operation Department

No. BKB/HO/ICT(OP)/2(74)/2022-2023/622 Dated: 24/11/2022

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package No. and Reference No.	Name of tender	Tender documents last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time	Tender method
01	Tender ID: <b>756056</b> Tender Package No: <b>08/2022-23</b> , Reference No. <b>BKB/HO/ICT(OP)/2(74)/2022-2023/621</b>	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Virtual Servers with VMware, Servers, SAN Storage, Switch, MDC (Micro Data Center) etc. for BACH, RTGS, SWIFT, Remittance and IDTP of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.	Date: 21-12-2022 Time: 15:00	Date: 22-12-2022 Time: 15:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

MD-2208

**Md. Farid Hasan**  
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[www.dpe.sylhet.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.sylhet.gov.bd)

Memo No. 38.01.9100.000.08.010.19- Date: 28.11.2022

**e-Tender Notice No: 01**

e-Tenders are hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the Goods stated as below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID No.	Method of Tender	Closing date & time
1	NBIDNNGP SP-1/SYL/2021-22 G1.-01	Supplying of Furniture at 56 Nos. Class Room and 12 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 14 Nos. NNGPS of Sylhet District (Jaintapur-4 Nos, Kanaighat-1 Nos, Beanibazar-1 Nos, Goainghat-3 Nos, Zakiganj-3 Nos, Sylhet Sadar-2 Nos) under NBIDNNGPS-1 Project.	683827	OTM	13.12.2022 14:00
2	NBIDNNGP SP-1/SYL/2021-22 G1.-02	Supplying of Furniture at 52 Nos. Class Room and 13 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 13 Nos. NNGPS of Sylhet District (Beanibazar-2 Nos, Biswanath-3 Nos, Companiganj-1 Nos, Goainghat-1 Nos, Zakiganj-2 Nos, Jaintapur-2 Nos, Sylhet Sadar-2 Nos) under NBIDNNGPS-1 Project.	683855	OTM	13.12.2022 14:00

This is an online Tender Notice, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender(s), registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online at any branch of registered banks.

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The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.dpe.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.gov.bd), [www.dpe.sylhet.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.sylhet.gov.bd)

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