PATUAKHALI-KUAKATA HIGHWAY **Tourists suffer** due to damaged roads

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Patuakhali-Kuakata highway, which is a common route for tourists to visit Kuakata beach, has become unusable in recent times due to numerous potholes. Passenger, tourist buses and other vehicles are plying this road daily with the risk of accidents ever lurking.

Due to the high volume of tourists on this road, local businesses and tourists have asked for its immediate repair.

The 22-kilometre portion of the road from Kalapara to Kuakata is in bad condition. However, the 11 km stretch from Pakhimara Bazar to Sheikh Russell Bridge is even worse. Numerous potholes and trenches have formed in this section of the highway due to accumulation of rain water. The road is now full of mud and water, making it risky for vehicles to navigate.

Himel, a passenger bus driver for 'Mayer Doa' who travels on the Barisal-Kuakata route, said the condition of the road from Pakhimara Bazar to the toll booth of Sheikh Russell Bridge is extremely bad due following heavy rains this monsoon, making is quite risky for vehicles.

Similarly, Abdullah, the driver for Sakura Paribahan – a passenger bus plying the Dhaka-Kuakata route -- said there



were numerous potholes on the road. Water accumulation in these potholes has worsened its condition. It is hard for them to drive properly and they demand speedy repair of the road.

Fahim, a student of the history department of Jagannath University of Dhaka, who is visiting the area, said, Kuakata is much closer to Dhaka than Cox's Bazar. After the launch of Padma Bridge, one can visit this beach after a comparatively short journey. However, due to the condition of the road, his body was completely sore after the bus ride.

Abdul Halim, another tourist from Faridpur, said the road's condition was not this bad when he visited Kuakata last winter. "Now the road is almost impassable during the monsoon. It needs to be fixed urgently.

Abdul Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owners Association, said the number of tourists in Kuakata increased after Padma Bridge was launched. Earlier, tourists would visit in winter, but now more tourists come here all year round. However, due to the condition of the road, it is causing problems for tourists. The road needs immediate renovation to continue attracting tourists.

Contacted, Patuakhali Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer AM Atiq Ullah said a case was pending regarding the repair of 11 km road from Pakhimara Bazar to Sheikh Russell Bridge on Kalapara-Kuakata road. As a result, we could do routine repairs on that part of the road, but could not fully repair it for eight years. Recently, the court ban was withdrawn and



Farmer Matiar Rahman carries his two grandsons to a safer place as the swelling Teesta inundates his house in Gobordhan village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

FLOOD IN NORTH Thousands marooned as five districts still under water

STAR REPORT

Rising water levels in the northern rivers have flooded vast tract of low-lying areas in five northern districts, causing thousands to suffer.

districts The affected are Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Bogura and Gaibandha.

The onrush of water from the upstream since Friday night mainly contributed to the sudden flood, according to Water Development Board officials and

locals. However, water has already started to recede in some of the affected regions, said WDB sources.

Meanwhile, the rivers Teesta, Jamuna and Someswari were flowing above danger level yesterday morning,

said a bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. The Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers

are in rising trend, which may continue in the next 24 hours. The water level is also rising steadily in Ganges-Padma inundated as water entered the area rivers and the trend may continue for the next 72 hours. The flood situation in the

lowlands of Lalmonirhat and Rangpur districts of the Teesta basin may remain steady for the next 24 hours, said the (4(4

bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday. In Lalmonirhat, around 9,000

families of low-lying areas have remained marooned since Friday, according to locals and peoples' representatives. However, flood situation is improving

in the district as water has started to recede, said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of

WDB in Lalmonirhat. "We are facing sufferings immense with our cattle as the grazing fields have gone water," said under Sirajul Islam, 55, a farmer from Khuniagach area under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, a 100-metre section of a 300-metre earthen flood control dam collapsed yesterday morning due to heavy flow of Teesta at Gobordhan village of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

"Our entire village have been after the embankment collapsed," said

GATCO CASE

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30, 2023 BHADRA 15, 1430 BS The Daily Star

Contempt of court petition filed against 7 pro-BNP lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a contempt of court petition with the Appellate Division of the SC against seven pro-BNP lawyers for making "slanderous, derogatory and contemptuous" comments about two apex court judges.

Md Nazmul Huda submitted the petition through his lawyer Nahid Sultana Juthi to the apex court praving to it to draw contempt of court proceedings against the seven lawyers and to punish them for their comments about the two SC judges at a press conference held on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises on August 27.

The seven pro-BNP lawyers -- Md Kayser Kamal Abdul Jamil Mohammad Ali, Fahima Nasrin, Md Abdul Jabbar Bhuiyan, Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Khan and Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal -- at the press conference demanded that the two SC judges are kept away from discharging judicial functions, and said otherwise they will enforce new programme demanding resignation of the judges after 48 hours, according to the contempt of court petition. An Appellate Division bench is scheduled to hold hearing of the contempt of court petition today.

Boats have become the only mode of communication as roads are still under water. We are now jobless as all the croplands are inundated.

Afsar Bhuiyan, resident of Bonnir Char in Sirajganj Sadar

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh C Ministry of Education मुहिन् Bhola Govt. College শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ Bhola Sadar, Bhola শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ www.bholagovtcollege.edu.bd Memo No. CEDP/BGCDP/2020-21/G-21/214 Date: 30 Aug, 2023 e-Tender Notice 01/2023-2024 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the proc SI. No. Name of supply Last date and time of ender closing date & ID No. tender security Procurement of Furniture & Fixtures for Smar 13-Sep-2023 867485 Class Rooms of Bhola Govt. College, Bhola 01. 02.00pm offline/hard copy will be This accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 13-Sep-2023. Further information and guidelines are available (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Principal Bhola Govt. College, Bhola Phone: 0491-61822 GD-1315 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources IEB Bhaban (11th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000

www.eprc.gov.bd Call for Proposals on Energy and Power Related Applied Research Projects

renovation work will start soon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

(15th Program Solicitation)

The Program Solicitations mainly focus to fund applied research based projects that would unfold technologies, tools, and strategies for upgrading, repowering and revolutionizing the overall energy and power sector of Bangladesh.

	UAICO CASE		and power sector of Bangladesh.				
A DINA	Charge framing		Research Focus Areas:				
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	hearing	on charge 5. Transmission and Distribution Integration and Infrastructure					
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ioi, aloraiori		adjourned the hearing and set the new date. Evaluation process will start on the first working day of each month for proposals received du					
		following petitions For details of the abovementioned research areas and online submission as well as necessary					
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র (সিটি সেন্টার)	said court sources. For any queries, please contact: Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Director (Innovation), মি Khaleda Zia, who is Email: director.inno@eprc.gov.bd						
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	undergoing treatment		Director (Admin & Finance)				
ার্যালয়,	at Evercare Hospital.		Bangladesh Energy & Power Research Council (BEPRC)				
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	Establishment and Engineering Division						
	Engineering Department						
	Head Office, Dhaka						
	Phone: 02-41051440						
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1	Re-Tender Notice (OTM)						
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	This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To						
		submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>) is required. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/HelpDesk.jsp</u>).					
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উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র শর্খ হাসিনার মূলম ৫ ২৯/০৮/২০২৩ য় মন্ত্রণালয়।			
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য় মন্ত্রণালয়।			
রাজবাড়ী পৌরসভা, রাজবাড়ী। এএইচএস মোঃ আলী খাঁন, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, রাজবাড়ী পৌরসভা, রাজবাড়ী			
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