

PABNA MUNICIPALITY Locals take it upon themselves to fix road

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Due to the negligence of the authorities concerned, residents of Ataikula Road (Terminal Road) in Pabna municipality have taken it upon themselves to repair a one-kilometre stretch of the road to prevent continuous accidents.

Raising funds and collecting materials locally, the residents began filling potholes by pouring brick chips and sand on the concrete surface.

"At least one kilometre of Ataikula Road, from Muzahid Club area to Chapa Mosque, has become dangerous to travel due to dozens of large potholes. The stagnant rainwater in the potholes has made movement even more difficult," said Akhinur Islam Remon, a social worker in the area.

Several accidents have recently occurred on the damaged road. While many vehicles avoid the route, residents are forced to use it to reach their homes.



Once a lifeline for trade and travel, the Subarnakhal River now lies choked with waste and silence -- a forgotten waterway sacrificed to neglect, encroachment, and pollution. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

SUBARNAKHALLI IN JAMALPUR Once a lifeline, now a dying river

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

There was a time when the Subarnakhal River flowed all year round. Boats carrying raw jute moved up and down the waterway, connecting distant char areas with the jute mills of Sarishabari. Locals even held a floating jute market on boats twice a week.

The river, a branch of the Jamuna, played a vital role in the region's economy.

But those days are gone.

After the jute mills shut down, the river slowly lost its importance. Local influential groups began occupying its banks, building embankments at the river's mouth that cut off its natural flow. Over time, the river became narrower, shallower, and filled with silt.



In 2021, a second embankment was built at Shimla Bazar. That was the final blow. Now the river is dry, lifeless, and almost forgotten.

Today, Subarnakhal resembles a polluted canal. Its water has turned dark due to waste from nearby clinics, diagnostic centres, and businesses. Garbage is regularly dumped into it, worsening the situation.

"The river was once full of sailboats. People used it for trade and travel," said Anwar Hossain, a local resident. "Now it's just a dead channel filled with dirt and plastic."

He said locals had filed complaints with various government offices, including the UNO and the then upazila chairman, but nothing changed.

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'71 WAR CRIMES SC verdict on Mobarak's appeal on July 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed July 30 for delivering verdict on the appeal filed by Mobarak Hossain challenging the International Crimes Tribunal verdict that sentenced him to death penalty for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed set the date after concluding hearing on the matter.

Advocate SM Shahjahan and Barrister Imran A Siddiqi placed arguments on behalf of Mobarak Hossain, while prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim represented the state during the hearing.

On November 24, 2014, the International Crimes Tribunal I sentenced Mobarak, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader from Brahmanbaria who later joined the Awami League after 1971, to death for abducting and killing 33 people of Tanmandal village in

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Dengue cases reach 18,000 this year Experts warn situation may worsen in August

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 444 new dengue cases reported in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, the total number of cases this year rose to 18,000. Meanwhile, three more deaths were recorded, bringing the total number of dengue-related deaths to 65.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), all three of the latest deaths occurred in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation.

Currently, 1,332 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at hospitals across the country, with 952 of them outside Dhaka.

Experts have warned that the situation may worsen in August due to recent rainfall patterns, which create ideal conditions for Aedes mosquitoes, the carriers of the dengue virus.

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'Why was training jet flying over a crowded city?'

Says BNP's Gayeshwar Roy

STAR REPORT

BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday asked why a training aircraft exercise was carried out over a crowded city area.

He said, "My question is -- how can a fighter jet training exercise be carried out over such a densely populated city? We all know these types of trainings are usually done in remote areas where people don't live. But why did this training take place right over one of Dhaka's most crowded areas?"

He said this while speaking at a gathering organised for special prayers on the ground floor of the party's central office in Dhaka's Nayapaltan.

"Naturally, people have questions. The Air Force should have prior experience regarding this. But who will answer for it?"

Will you give the answer? Even if we don't have wars every year in our country, we do know that military drills take place and those are held in remote areas, not in densely populated ones."

The BNP leader further said, "There's something important to note, every combat aircraft must go through a technical check by an aeronautical or flight engineer. It has to be examined to ensure the aircraft is fit to fly and can be operated properly. Naturally, questions now arise about whether those conducting or overseeing the training ensured that the aircraft was in proper mechanical condition. Was that check actually done? These are the questions that people are now asking."

"That's why, on behalf of the people, I am urging the relevant authorities to find answers to these questions and make them known. I am not blaming anyone. But the nation deserves to know, so that such a tragic incident does not happen again."

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Nat'l Univ postpones July 23, 24 exams

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

The National University yesterday postponed all exams scheduled to be held on July 23 and 24.

According to an NU press release, the decision was made in light of the aircraft crash at the Milestone School and College in Uttara on Monday, causing extensive loss.

The revised schedule of the postponed exams will be announced later, while the dates and times of other exams will remain unchanged.

Mostafizur Rahman, acting director of the NU Public Relations Department, confirmed the information to The Daily Star last night.

Global support pours in

FROM PAGE 3
Affairs yesterday.

assurances of support and assistance.

They will assess the condition of patients and recommend further treatment and specialised care in India as necessary, it said.

Additional medical teams may also follow depending on their preliminary assessment and treatment, the statement said.

Earlier, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday formally wrote to the Bangladesh government, requesting details on any critical medical support needed.

The Indian High Commission will extend all necessary facilitation, it said in a statement.

On Monday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences for the lives lost and sympathy for the injured and the bereaved families. He also conveyed

Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi wrote a similar letter to the foreign adviser, expressing deep shock and heartfelt condolences.

UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific Catherine West said she was "deeply saddened" by the crash and expressed sympathy for the victims and their families.

The embassy of Kuwait in Dhaka also expressed its sympathy to the people of Bangladesh following the jet crash.

The government of the State of Kuwait and the people of Kuwait extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the friendly Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh and the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery," the embassy said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Pope Leo also expressed sorrow over the loss of lives in the jet

crash.

In a telegram signed by Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and sent yesterday, Pope Leo said he "entrusts the deceased to the merciful love of the Almighty," according to the Vatican Embassy in Dhaka.

The message said the Pope is praying that their families and friends may be consoled in their grief and for the healing and comfort of the injured.

He also invoked blessings of peace and strength upon the school community and all affected by the tragedy.

The Vatican Ambassador to Bangladesh, Archbishop Kevin Randall, also sent a condolence letter to the chief adviser, expressing solidarity with the people of Bangladesh during this time of national mourning.

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