

CITY

Highway bends turn fatal in Amtali upazila

At least 12 killed, 500 hurt in last 6 months

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At least 17 hazardous bends along a 37-kilometre stretch of the Patuakhali-Kuakata highway -- between Shakaria and Bandra in Barguna's Amtali upazila -- have become death traps for commuters, with dozens killed and hundreds injured in recent months.

From January to July 19 this year, at least 12 people were killed and nearly 500 others injured in road crashes at these spots. Over a hundred of the injured have been left with permanent disabilities, according to local sources and hospital records.

Data from the emergency department of Amtali Upazila Health Complex shows that more than 100 accidents occurred along these bends in the first half of 2025, killing at least 10 and injuring 450 others. In just the first 19 days of July, two more deaths and around 40 injuries were reported in 12 accidents.

Locals blame the recurring crashes



An open manhole without any protective barrier lies exposed in the middle of a busy road, posing a serious risk to approaching vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken in the Raisaheb Bazar area of Old Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Water crisis hampers jute harvest in Rangpur

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Thousands of farmers across the Rangpur region are unable to harvest their mature jute crops due to a severe water crisis, as a prolonged dry spell and scant rainfall have left local water bodies nearly dry.

With no water available for retting, fully grown jute plants are lying idle in the fields, raising serious concerns among growers and jeopardising the timely transplantation of aman paddy during the peak season.

Jute is one of the major crops in five districts of the region -- Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari. Traditionally, by early July, rivers, canals, ponds, and other water bodies fill up, providing suitable conditions for retting. But this year's scenario is starkly different.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), jute has been cultivated on 48,457 hectares in the Rangpur region this year -- about 7,000 hectares less than last year. The production target is set at 1,09,000 tonnes of jute fibre.

Subal Chandra Roy, in-charge of the Rajarhat Agricultural Weather Observatory, said rainfall in June this year was only 354 millimetres, compared to 750 millimetres during the same month



last year. From July 1 to July 20, the recorded rainfall was just 65 millimetres -- a sharp drop from 825 millimetres during the same period last year.

"It costs around Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500 to produce one maund of jute fibre. Any profit comes mainly from the jute sticks. Earlier, we used to ret jute in local ponds and ditches. But this year, there's no water anywhere, so I haven't even started cutting the jute," said Ranjit Chandra Das, 65, a farmer from Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

Mansur Ali, 60, a farmer from Rajibpur upazila, cultivated jute on 12 bighas of land but has only been able to harvest from two bighas so far. "If I

can't ret the jute within this July, Aman transplantation will be significantly delayed, leading to huge losses," he said.

Agricultural officials say farmers are reluctant to adopt modern retting methods.

"Although the ribbon retting method can be used with less water, most farmers are not interested in it. They rely heavily on the traditional method. Due to insufficient rainfall, water bodies have not filled up this year, and that's why farmers are struggling to ret jute," said Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy director of DAE in Kurigram.

He said, "Because of changing climate and market instability, farmers are gradually losing interest in jute cultivation."

MADHABPUR IN HABIGANJ

Students struggle as school remains waterlogged

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The echoes of children playing have long fallen silent at Suaboi Government Primary School in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj, where stagnant water has gripped the premises for nearly six months.

Once a thriving institution that brought home divisional-level football glory, the school now stands marooned in murky water, with students struggling both physically and academically.

The persistent waterlogging has severely disrupted daily activities, including sports and regular movement within the compound. Access to washrooms has become difficult, and slippery conditions have led to several accidents,



this for many years. It feels like we are studying on an island."

"It has been a long time since we could play outside. We are facing many problems," said fourth-grader Somaiya Akther.

Despite its challenges, the school earned district-level honours by winning the Habiganj inter-primary school football championship in 2024 and later became runner-up at the Sylhet divisional level.

Mifta Mia, a guardian, said students and teachers have been facing immense hardship for the past six months due to the waterlogging in front of the school premises.

Locals alleged that Nazrul Mia, a resident of Suaboi village and son of Moider Ali, deliberately blocked the natural drainage system by dumping soil near the school.

Contacted, Madhabpur UNO Zahid Bin Kashem said necessary action will be taken following a proper investigation.

Headteacher Aktar Uddin said Suaboi Government Primary School, established in 1988, was once surrounded by open land with no nearby residential structures. Over time, people began filling in the area with soil to build homes, causing rainwater to accumulate on the school grounds.

"This has been a problem for the past four to five years. Even brief rain leads to flooding. A portion of government land on one side of the school has also been filled in by locals, blocking natural drainage. If that land is cleared and a proper drainage route is built, the problem can be solved," he said.

He said the matter has been formally reported to the UNO of Madhabpur.

Contacted, Madhabpur UNO Zahid Bin Kashem said necessary action will be taken following a proper investigation.

Dengue death toll reaches 70

UNB, Dhaka

One more death was reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 70 this year.

The death has been reported in the Chattogram division, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

During the period, 280 more patients were hospitalised with viral fever, raising the number of confirmed cases to 18,625 this year.

Besides, Barishal division alone reported 66 new cases, Chattogram division (outside city corporations) recorded 45 cases, Dhaka division (outside city corporations) reported 44, while 30

cases were detected in Dhaka South City Corporation, 24 in Dhaka North City Corporation, 39 in Rajshahi division, 25 in Khulna division, 4 in Rangpur division and three in Mymensingh division.

Currently, 1,308 dengue patients are receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

Last year, dengue claimed the lives of 575 people.

According to the DGHS, there were 1,01,214 dengue cases and 1,00,040 recoveries in the same year.



3 killed in clash over land dispute in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three people were killed and at least 20 others injured in a clash between two rival groups over land dispute at Bhundor Char in Rowmari upazila, Kurigram yesterday.

Nurul Amin, 40, Bulu Mia, 55, and Fulbabu Mia, 50, who reportedly belong to the same faction, died on the spot.

Around 12:30pm, a group led by one Shahjahan Mia tried to irrigate the land. Another group, led by Razu Mia, resisted the attempt, triggering the clash, said police and locals.

They used sticks and local weapons in the skirmish.

Ten injured were taken to Mymensingh Medical

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LANDSLIDES

Over 500 tourists stranded in Sajek for nine hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Traffic resumed on the Baghaichhari-Sajek road after over nine hours of disruption that had stranded over 500 tourists in Sajek early yesterday.

Baghaichhari Upazila UNO Shirin Akhtar said the road communication was restored around 1:30pm.

Heavy rainfall triggered the landslides around 4:00am at Nandaram in Sajek, halting all vehicular movement until the road was cleared by a joint effort of locals, the army, and fire service personnel.

More than 500 tourists remained stranded in

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TK 705CR LOAN DEFAULT

Travel ban on ex-NRBC Bank chair, 3 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has imposed a travel ban and share transfer restrictions on Mohammad Adnan Imam, former chairman of the executive committee of NRBC Bank, in connection with a Tk 705 crore loan default case involving United Commercial Bank (UCB).

In addition, the court imposed a travel ban on the three Kazi brothers of Gemcon Group in connection with a default loan worth Tk 238 crore from Bank Asia.

The brothers are Kazi Anis Ahmed, Kazi Inam Ahmed, and Kazi Nabil Ahmed, sons of founder

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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Re e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Following tenders are invited in the national e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of

Tender ID No	Package No	Name of Works	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
I132706	CED/Construction/2024-25/06	The Construction of 3 (three) Storied Control Building with 5 (five) Storied Foundation, Guard room, CP room, Pump House, Boundary wall, Internal road, Compound drain including Other Civil Works at Japanese Economic Zone CGS Area, Araihazar, Narayanganj.	07/08/2025 12:00	07/08/2025 13:00	07/08/2025 13:00

- This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Further information and guidelines are available in national e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd>).

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-২০/২০২৫-২৬

সাইজ: ৫" x ৩"

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