

# 100 'risky' buildings still being used in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

More than 100 private and public buildings in the district declared 'risky' by Public Works Department (PWD) years ago are still in use.

The buildings constructed during British period may collapse any time, PWD sources said.

Some of the buildings are housing important government offices, where people in large numbers visit every day.

There are at least 30 buildings on the PWD list which are 'too risky'. These include District Jail, Saidpur and Domar railway stations, Nilphamari Government Boys High School, Saidpur Bangla High School, Saidpur municipality building, Saidpur Railway workshop, Kazi Narul Islam Hall (formerly basic democracy hall), a 'nil kuthi' now

used as officers' mess, office of Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and District Cooperative Office.

Saidpur railway workshop was built in 1885. Several thousand people including officials work there.

The entire district jail complex was constructed over 150 years ago. PWD declared it risky about a decade ago, District Jailer Ismail Hossain told newsmen recently. The 95-capacity jail now accommodates over 400 prisoners.

Construction of a half-done new jail complex on the outskirts of the town is stopped for four years.

Assistant Station Master at Nilphamari railway station Mossadek Ali told this correspondent that tenders were floated four years ago for demolition of station buildings and construction of a new

one. But nothing has been done. Rain water trickles down the roof even during drizzle, he said.

Talking to this correspondent, a PWD engineer said some newly constructed buildings are also risky. The Shilpakala Academy Auditorium constructed only three years back has been declared risky as low quality building materials were used and the design was not fully followed in its construction, he said.

Two years ago, the slaughterhouse of Nilphamari municipality collapsed, killing five people.

The risky buildings can not be demolished due to lack of funds and alternative arrangements needed to accommodate their offices, the PWD engineer said.

# Bangla Bhai aide held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rab men yesterday arrested a JMB cadre, believed to be an aide to Bangla Bhai and an Ehsar member of outlawed Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB), led by militant kingpin Sheekh Abdur Rahman.

The elite force launched an operation in Sylhet city's Mendibag, Shahjalal Upashahar, Teroratan and suburban Tultikor and Sirampur areas at about 9 pm Sunday.

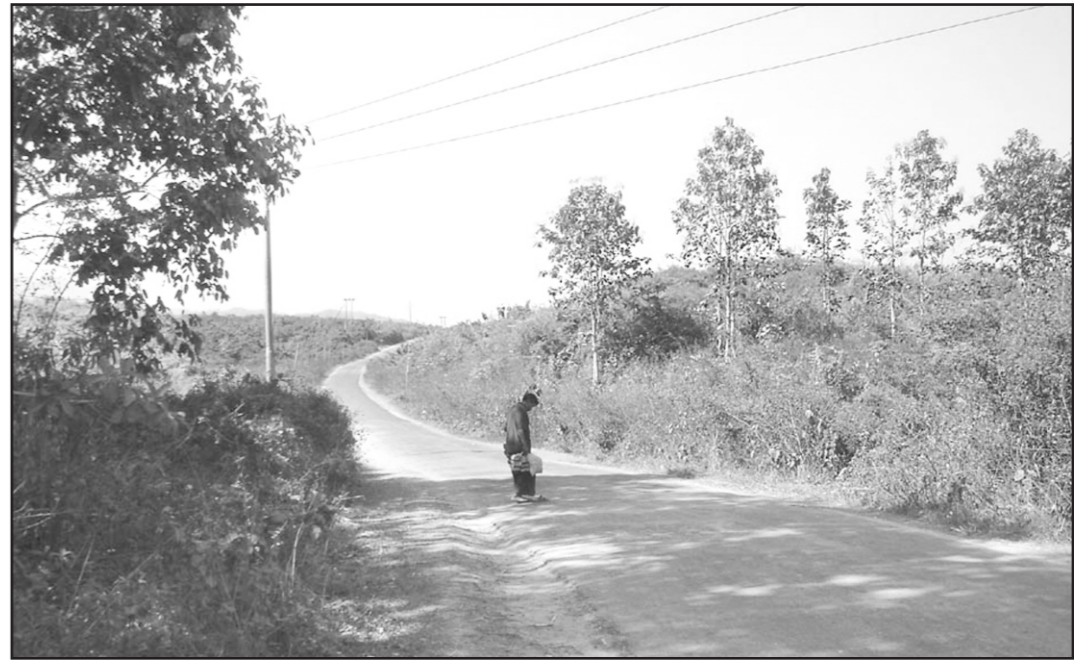
They cordoned the entire area and conducted a house to house search till early morning yesterday. At about 3-30 am, Rab men caught JMB cadre Amanullah Rimon, 19, from the house of one Abdul Haque Kinu Miah, a businessman from Sirampur village in Sylhet Sadar upazila. Amanullah

hailed from Khaghati village in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh district.

Abdul Haque told Rab men that he had extended lodging facilities to Amanullah a fortnight ago, knowing him to be a student. Amanullah appeared at the written test for admission to first year Honours class in Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) last week, Abdul Haque said.

Haider Ali Khan, Additional Police Super, Rab-9, Sylhet told The Daily Star that Amanullah admitted to interrogators that once he had links with Bangla Bhai.

Rab men suspected Amanullah to be an aide to Bangla Bhai after they got the address of his wife at RK Mission Road in Mymensingh town, a Rab official said.



A road without vehicle in Khagrachhari during a barricade programme enforced yesterday by Nagorik Committee, an organisation of indigenous people in the district.

# Road barricade begins in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Nagorik Committee, an organisation of indigenous people, began an indefinite road barricade in Khagrachhari yesterday demanding withdrawal of Bangalee settlers from Gamaridala and Kamalchhari areas.

No vehicle plied the Khagrachhari-Mohalchhari, Khagrachhari-Dighnala and Khagrachhari-Panchhari roads as those were barricaded at many points.

However vehicles were seen on Khagrachhari-Chittagong and Khagrachhari-Feni-Dhaka routes under special security arrangements.

The Nagorik Committee said Bangalee settlers have occupied lands of indigenous people.

But some Bangalee settlers, when contacted, refuted Nagorik Committee's claim, saying 30 Bangalee families constructed houses years ago on lands given by the government.

The land ownership issue created tension between Bangalees and indigenous people in the hills. On Sunday, over 200 Bangalees staged a token hunger strike in Khagrachhari town demanding immediate steps by the government to settle the issue.

The road barricades has paralysed

life in the district. Parents and guardians of SSC (Secondary Certificate Examination) are worried that the indefinite road barricade could put their wards in great trouble during the examination, which will begin across the country soon.

The district administration has taken security to avoid any untoward incident during the road barricade programme. Army and police teams have been deployed at strategic points in the town and elsewhere in the district.



PHOTO: STAR

The century old Nilphamari railway station building, declared risky by the Public Works Department, is being used by hundreds of people every day.

# 150 hurt as BNP rivals clash in Magura

23 bullet-hit, 10 shops ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Over 150 people including five policemen were injured, 23 of them by bullet, in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at Sreepur upazila headquarters Sunday afternoon.

Ten shops were also ransacked during the clash which continued for about four hours, police and witnesses said.

Police lobbed at least 36 rounds of tear gas shells and fired 26 blank shots to disperse the feuding groups.

Party sources said, district BNP leaders, in connivance with former minister and BNP central committee member Advocate Nitai Roy Chowdhury, dissolved the full-fledged committee of Sreepur thana BNP on March 4, much before its expiry. Afterwards, a convening committee was formed which annoyed several leaders and activists.

Kamal Uddin Master, president of the dissolved committee held a meeting at his office to protest dissolution of the committee Sunday afternoon. In the meeting, they declared Nitai Roy Chowdhury persona non-grata in Sreepur upazila and burnt his effigy. At one stage the supporters of Nitai

Roy led by new convener Ashraful Islam equipped with sharp weapons, iron rods and sticks attacked the meeting resulting in a violent clash.

Supporters of both the groups chased and counter-chased each other and clashed for about four hours.

When police intervened, they hurled bricks on police leaving Sub-Inspector Wahidur Rahman and five constables injured.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control at about 8-30 pm.

Bullet-injured Hridoy, Mohidul, Monirul, Shaheb Ali, Rafiqul, Tiron, Sohag, Mehed, Sohan, Daud, Bakar, Akin, Tukur Ali, Shahdat, Nayeb, Liton, Majed, Sabuj, Risul, Mantu, Rashed, Babar and Delwar were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital. Other injured are taking treatment at Sreepur Upazila Health Complex and different clinics.

No case was lodged till filing of the report at 2-30 pm yesterday.

# Eight Mongla port officials suspended

Tk 1.1 cr misappropriated from golden handshake funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Eight officials working with Mongla Dock workers' Management Board (MDWMB) have been suspended on charge of misappropriating Tk one crore 10 lakh from funds for golden handshake of workers.

The officials who got suspension orders on Thursday following a high level probe by shipping ministry are former vice-chairman of MDWMB Delwar Hossain Patwary, Acting Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Senior Health Officer Shaikh Enamul Kabir, Welfare Officer TM Rawshan Ali, Accounts Officer Bishnupada Sarder, assistant welfare officers Abu Taher and Panna Lal Dey and Assistant

Cashier Shahidul Hossain, sources said.

Mongla Port Authority (MPA) Chairman said government allocated Tk 22 crore in 2002 and 2003 for implementation of a golden handshake programme of 1300 dock workers. The accused officials misappropriated Tk one crore 10 lakh by forgery. Suspension orders were given after allegations against them were proved, the MPA chairman said.

Preparation is on to file a criminal case against them. A departmental case has already been filed, the MPA chairman said.

# PM's rally in Dinajpur today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Gora-e-Shaheed Maidan in Dinajpur town today.

She will fly to Dinajpur in a helicopter at 2 pm, district administration sources said.

The Prime Minister's visit takes place 11 days after the opposition's 'grand rally' in the same venue, addressed by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Before addressing the public meeting, the Prime Minister will open the newly constructed Dinajpur Technical Institute and lay foundation of Dinajpur Shishu Academy. She will return to the capital on the same day.

# Patient kidnapped in Khulna rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A patient was kidnapped by some miscreants Saturday night from surgery ward at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The victim—Shahinor Morol, 28—of Gouramva union under Rampal upazila in Bagerhat district, was rescued by police from an abandoned house at TB Cross Road under Khulna thana Sunday early morning.

Fish trader Shahinor Morol was admitted to Khulna Medical college Hospital on February 2 for treatment of injuries he suffered in an attack by rivals in a shrimp enclosure at Gouramva.

10x3

6x3

12x2