NATIONAL

'Risky bridge' since 2003 but no step yet for repair

Life of Swarnamoti bridge, the lone link to Burimari land port, expired 13 years ago

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The worn-out bridge over the Swarnamoti river in Aditmari upazila on the Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway has become import-export through several moves to fully renovate risky for people and vehicles as it may collapse any Patgram upazila will also Everyday, over 3,000 vehi-

cles including loaded trucks and passenger buses cross Swarnamoti bridge amid fear country. of accident.

Lalmonirhat district head-

quarters with four other due to lack of required funds. upazilas. In case the bridge collapses, communication of built in 1998. Lalmonirhat the RHD repaired one of four Lalmonirhat with those upazilas will be snapped. The Burimari land port under come to a halt as Lalmonirhat- Burimari highway is the lone road to connect the land hat RHD hung signboards port with other parts of the warning --- "Risky bridge, go

The bridge connects bridge expired 13 years ago recently replaced for third there was no renovation work time as the bridge still remains

Swarnamoti bridge was Roads and Highways Department (RHD) made current fiscal year they made a the bridge but their bids failed due to fund constraint, RHD sources said.

In 2003 last, the Lalmonirslow"on both sides of the Although the life of the bridge. The signboards were

in a vulnerable state. In the 1998-'99 fiscal year, spans of the bridge and in the

partial renovation just to

ensure movement of vehicles.

A deputy assistant engineer of Lalmonirhat RHD said they recently sent a proposal with an estimated cost of Tk 5 crore to build a 93.02-metre long and 7.50-metre wide new bridge replacing the vulnerable one to the authorities

Truck diver Mansur Ali from Dhaka told this correspondent that he comes to Burimari land port regularly. He said he prays to Almighty for safety every time he crosses the Swarnamoti bridge.

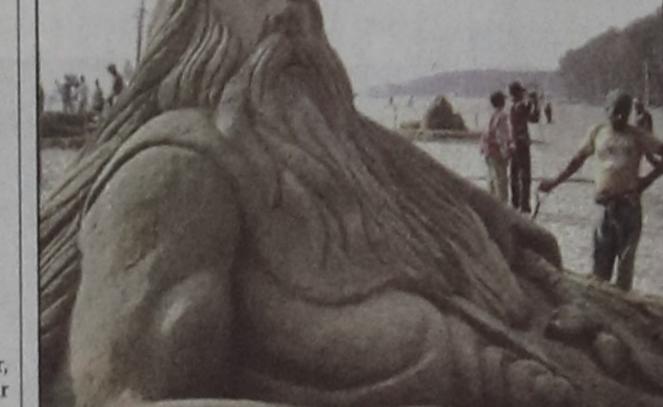
concerned but yet to get any

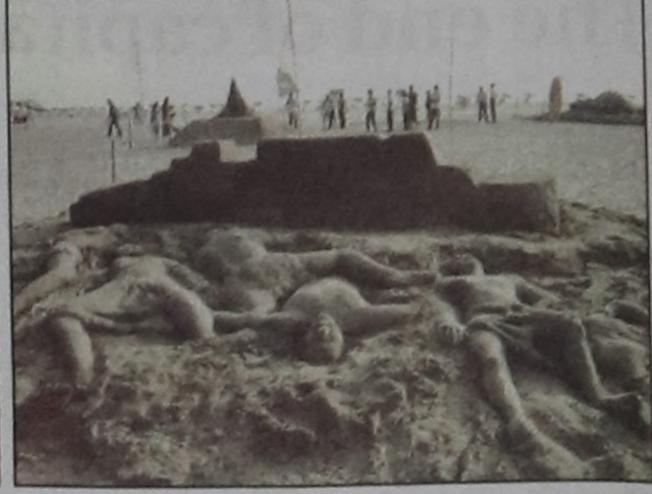
Locals alleged they demanded construction of a new bridge replacing the risky bridge four years ago but their demand went unheeded.

The people of four other upazilas will undergo untold sufferings and the govern ment development work is likely to be suspended if the bridge collapses anytime, they pointed out.

The executive engineer of Lalmonirhat RHD Chandon Kumar Bosak told this correspondent that his office had sent a project profile for the fourth time to the ministry, but to no effect. He also observed that the bridge may collapse anytime as the life of the 53-year-old bridge expired

13 years ago.





Sand-made sculptures of a sanyasi, left, and a '71 killing ground, are among the 12 artistic accomplishments of the fine arts students of Dhaka University, erected marking 'Sand Sculpture Festival 2009' that was inaugurated in Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

13 sued for '71 killing in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A case was filed with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, Mymensingh, on Monday accusing 13 'rajakars' of killing a man in Gofargaon upazila during Liberation War in 1971.

Afaz Uddin Khan, son of slain Taru Khan of Sadua village under Gafargoan upazila, filed the case.

The accused are Abul Falah Mohammad Faizullah, 62, Md Alim Uddin Khan, 78, Abdus Salam, 58, Tajuddin Mir, 53, Abdul Khaleq, 57, Abdullah, 60, Abdur Razzaq, 60, Hasem Ali Mondol, 62, Tuta Mondol, 57, Akkel Ali Mondol, 60, Abdul Latif, 52, Sirajuddin, 62 and Jalal Uddin, 60. They all hail from Aalali village of Gafargoan upazila.

In the case, Afaz stated that the accused, led by Abul Falah Mohammad Faizullah, picked up his father Taru Khan from their house on August 7, 1971 as he was working for country's independence.

"They took my father to a rajakar camp at Trimohoni Bazar in Niguari Union of Gafargoan and tortured him. On the night of August 14, they shot dead my father and then threw the body into the

Accepting the case, Magistrate Farhana Ferdous asked police to take necessary legal actions after proper investigation.

Govt-run computer academy chief, aides sued for cheating

Hundreds of job seekers 'trapped' by an NGO run by the accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Director of National Academy for Computer Training and Research (NACTAR) and his associates have allegedly embezzled huge amount of money promising jobs to a number of people.

Abdul Mannan Sarker, director of the Bogra-based government organisation under the Ministry of Education, also runs NGO Science and Information Technology Foundation (SIT Foundation).

Police recently arrested Noor Alam, regional director of SIT Foundation, following a case filed for cheating jobseekers of Tk about 3.75 lakh.

Police in its primary investigation found that Abdul Mannan Sarker and his associates collected Tk 10,000 to Tk 1 lakh from each of about 1800 job seekers.

Following allegations of illegal transaction of money three months ago, a Bangladesh Bank (BB) investigation showed that NACTAR director Abdul Mannan Sarker, his associate Hafizur Rahman Jahangir and some others collected money of different amount from common people assuring them to give jobs in different foreignaided projects, said a high

official of BB Bogra branch.

Several people said they informed Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir and Superintendent of Police Akram Hossain of the matter of taking money in the name of providing jobs.

Talking to journalists over cell phone, Abdul Mannan Sarker and Md Hafizur Rahman Jahangir said the allegations against them were

Abdul Mannan Sarker, who lost his job during the four-

Shrimp farmer murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A shrimp cultivator was killed by unidentified assailants at Khankar Char in Debhata upazila yesterday night, police

The victim is Wahiduzzaman,28, son of Haji Ansar Ali of village Shimulia in the same upazila.

Assailants chopped Wahid to death while he was sleeping at his tiny house at the shrimp enclosure, police said.

Locals found the body the next morning and informed it to police who rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

party alliance government on charges of corruption and other irregularities, later got back his job with presidential

Hafizur Rahman Jahangir was sacked from his forest department job.

On August 7 last year, Abdul Mannan Sarker organised a seminar with government fund at NACTAR, apparently to draw attention of the job seekers.

The initiative was an immediate success, as people approached SIT Foundation in larger numbers and entrusted its officials with money for getting jobs, sources said.

Earlier on January 25 Shah Mohammad Lenin filed a case against the chairman of SIT Foundation, his son Roushan Kamal and regional director Noor Alam. Shah Mohammad Lenin said he has money receipt worth Tk 67 lakh that was collected from the job seekers.

About two weeks ago, a GD was filed with Sherpur Police Station against the NGO for cheating people in the name of providing jobs.

Recently 'cheated people' demonstrated at Shukhanpukur in Gabtali upazila demanding return of their money deposited with the



Roads and Highways Department displays a sign asking heavy vehicles not to cross 'damaged and

VIOLENCE AT RU, RMC

Rajshahi Shibir files 3 more cases against 248 BCL men

risky' Swarnamoti Bridge as two beams and two girders of the date-expired bridge collapsed earlier.

RU CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir men filed three more cases in connection with their bloody clashes with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Rajshahi University on March 13 and Rajshahi Medical College on March 10.

After filing of the cases accusing a total of 248 BCL men with Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Monday, the court asked the police station concerned to take necessary steps.

Shibir leader Saifudin Yahia filed a case against over 160 BCL men including BCL RU

Robber killed

in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A robber was killed in a mob

beating at Vallukshi village

under Agoiljhara upazila early

Manju Sardar, 30, son of Altaf

Hossain Sardar of village

Magura under Gouranadi

robbers entered the house of

Kazi Abdul Hakim Haji by

breaking open the door at

around 1:00am and started

Locals said a gang of armed

upazila of the district.

lootingvaluables.

beat him up severely.

injuries on way to hospital.

The dead was identified as

yesterday.

Hossain Moon, Cultural Affairs Secretary Awal Kabir Joy, BCL activists Shanto and Roni for March 13 clashes,

sources said. RU Shah Makhdum Hall Shibir leader Tarek Monwar Hossain filed another case against five local Awami League leaders and activists including Towhidul Islam Kalu for the same clashes. Meanwhile, Zahedul Islam,

a Shibir activist of RMC unit, filed a case against over 83 BCL RMC unit leaders and activists for March 10 clash. Shibir activist Zahedul

RU Sher-e-Bangla Hall mentioned that a group of BCL cadres led by

Asok Kumar attacked Shibir unit President Ibrahim leader Mehedi Hassan at yesterday, police said.

Shaheed Shah Mainul Ahsan Pinku Hostel and stabbed him. Advocate Abu Muhammad Salim on Monday filed the three cases on behalf of

March 13 clashes between BCL and ICS men on RU campus left ICS general secretary Sharifuzzaman Nomani killed and at least 100 people injured and it led to indefinite closure of eight higher educational institutions in the city, including RU.

Some 25 students were injured in BCL-Shibir clash on RMC campus on March 10. Earlier as many as 304

people were made accused in cases filed by the two rival no one was arrested as of BCL FACTIONAL CLASH

BCL RMC unit President groups against each other but

Rajshahi Polytech closed indefinitely

RU CORRESPONDED

The authorities of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI) have suspended all classes and examinations for an indefinite period following clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) over establishing supremacy on the campus on Monday and the day before.

The decision was taken at a As the family members meeting of the academic cried for help, neighbours council on Monday night with rushed to the spot and chased Principal Dr Joynal Abedin in the robbers. They caught one the chair.

of them named Manju and activists, led by Hatem, He later succumbed to his entered the examination hall of the institute where from the campus.

Nizamuddin, president of BCL RPI unit, was sitting for exam. They beat up Nizam and hit on the head with hockey stick. The seriously injured BCL president is undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital. Campus sources said the attack on Nizam was a sequel to Sunday's clash between Hatem and Nizam groups. At least five BCL men belonging to Hatem group were injured during the clash.

Receiving the news of attack on Nizam, his supporters, On Monday, a group of BCL equipped with hockey sticks and sharp weapons, swooped on their rivals and ousted them

10 get life in 2 murder cases

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ten people have been sentenced to life imprisonment in two separate murder cases in Faridpur and Panchagarh districts.

District and sessions Judge's Court, Faridpur, yesterday sentenced eight people to life imprisonment in a murder case, according to a correspondent.

The convicts are Momin Khan, Shahid Khan, Zahid Khan, Ohid Khan, Sahid Khan, Tushar Khan, Montu Mollah and Quddus Sheikh. According to the prosecu-

tion, the convicts called Siraj Molla of Bhallavdi village under Saltha upazila out of his house and chopped him with lethal weapons on July 6, 2006. Siraj was shifted to Boalmari Health Complex the next day where he succumbed to his injuries.

The same day, victim's wife Juali Begum filed a murder case with Saltha Police Station accusing the eight.

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent reports: Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Panchagarh, yesterday sentenced two people to life imprisonment for killing a man in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh district in 2000.

- The convicts are Fazlul Haque and Abdul Majid of Ramganj Billashi village under Debiganj upazila of the district. The court also acquitted

four other accused, as charges brought against them were not proved.

According to prosecution, Fazlu and Majid picked up Sona Miah, son of Nuru Chakdar, from his house at the same village on the night on February 1, 2000. Later, they took him to the bank of the Karatoa and killed him.

Victim's brother Mokhteruddin filed a muder case with Debiganj Police Station the following day.

