

## Young domestic help confined to room, tortured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Sathkira

Victim of brutalities by employer in the town, a 20-year-old domestic help is groaning in pain at Sathkira Sadar Hospital.

The victim, Nazma Khatun, daughter of Sobhan Gazi of village Waria in Sadar upazila, worked at the house of Lipi Khatun, wife of Hiru Ahmed at Sultanpur in the town for the last two months, police quoted locals and the victim's parents as saying.

Lying at the hospital bed, Nazma told this correspondent, "On November 18, my mistress confined me to a room over a trivial matter and started torturing me mercilessly."

Lipi beat Nazma with iron rods, bruised her breasts and split her back, thigh and other areas of the body with blade, leaving her seriously injured.

"My mistress tortured me off and on for even a few seconds delay in work," Nazma said.

When Lipi Khatun with

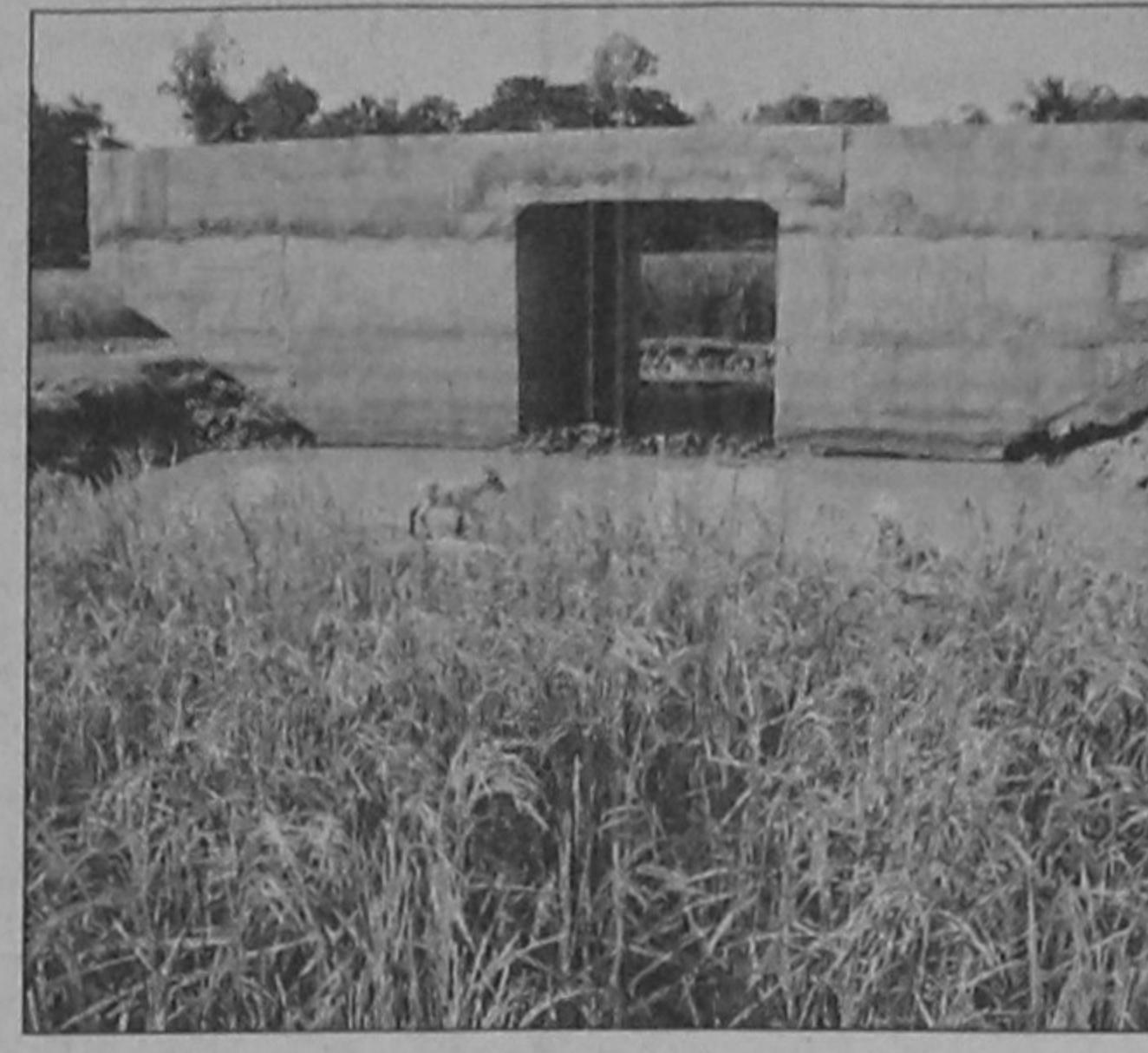
the help of her relative Tanzira Khatun was preparing to shift the victim to her parents' house at village Waria in a private car on Monday evening, neighbours informed police who rushed to the spot and rescued the victim in a critical condition.

Several torture marks were found in her body, said police who admitted Nazma to Sathkira Sadar Hospital.

Police also brought Lipi and her relative to the police station but later the two were released.

Contacted on Tuesday afternoon, Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamruzzaman said, "As the victim's father Sobhan Gazi did not file any case till November 23 [Monday] night, we released Lipi Khatun on condition that she will surrender to the police station whenever asked."

Later the victim's father filed a case with Sadar Police Station on Tuesday evening but the accused was not arrested as of yesterday afternoon.



Two of the several incomplete bridges in Bogra stand idle for lack of approach roads.

## Kushtia outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

An underground operative was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and the law enforcers at Habaspur village under Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia district on Tuesday night.

The dead is Tajmul alias Taju, 38, a regional leader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBPC).

Acting on a tip-off, police raided an area near Mir Mosharraf Hossain Bridge over Gorai river at the village where some NBPC men, led by Taju, were holding a meeting

at around 10:30pm. Sensing the presence of policemen, the outlaws opened fire on them prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Taju received bullet injuries during the gunfight and died on way to Kushtia General Hospital at around 11:00pm, police said. His accomplices, however, managed to flee, they added. One foreign made revolver and four bullets were recovered from the spot.

According to police, Taju was wanted in seven cases, two for murder, filed with Kumarkhali Police Station.

## Awaiting funds for long to bridge the gaps

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,  
Bogra

A large number of bridges and culverts in several upazilas of Bogra district are lying unused for years as they could not be completed due mainly to fund crisis.

Of a total of 93 bridges and culverts in 12 upazilas of the district, about 75 were constructed by the Roads and

Highways Department (RHD) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) during six years from 2001 but they are yet to be ready for use as approach roads have not been constructed, official sources said.

The bridges and culverts, costing over Tk 100 crore, were constructed to develop road communication with national and regional highways.

Sources, however, said a few of them, like Dhawakola culvert in Sadar upazila, were built under the guidance of BNP leaders who mainly considered their personal interest during the BNPL-led four-party alliance government.

Many bridges and culverts in Shahajahanpur, Shibganj and Nandigram upazilas are lying unused due to lack of approach roads while several others are yet to see completion of construction due to fund crisis.

"At least eight bridges and culverts in several areas under Dhunat and Gabtoli upazilas of Bogra district are lying unused due to lack of approach road, but now most of them are being utilised.

Many bridges and culverts in Shahajahanpur, Shibganj and Nandigram upazilas are lying unused due to lack of approach roads while several others are yet to see completion of construction due to fund crisis.

"To utilise the bridges and culverts we have submitted a Tk 15 crore proposal to the ministry concerned but it is yet to be approved," he added.

Md Monir Hossain, sub-assistant engineer of Bogra LGED, said the department earlier identified 41 bridges and culverts in the district, which could not be used for lack of approach road, but now most of them are being utilised.

Many bridges and culverts in Shahajahanpur, Shibganj and Nandigram upazilas are lying unused due to lack of approach roads while several others are yet to see completion of construction due to fund crisis.

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