



PHOTO: STAR

Construction work of the bridge across Surma River flowing through Sylhet city came to a halt on the halfway due to fund shortage and complexities over acquisition of land.

LAND ACQUISITION PROBLEM

Construction of Surma bridge stops halfway

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Construction work of the bridge across Surma River at Kazirbazar in Sylhet city has remained suspended for over a year due to complexities over acquisition of land on the two ends of the bridge and fund shortage. Admitting the delay, the Roads and Highways Department (RDH) officials said they are taking initiative to resume the work soon. RHD officials claimed that about 60 percent of the total work has already been done while sources in the construction company said 50 percent work of the bridge has remained incomplete even two and a half years after the scheduled time. The work of the 366-metre bridge began in 2006 at Kazirbazar, about one kilometre from the age-old Keane Bridge. The then finance minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the construction work in February 2006 and it was supposed to be completed by June

2007 at a cost of Tk 36 crore. The cost of the project would be at least double even if the work starts in a month or two, sources said. The work has remained suspended as the authorities failed to acquire some land -- both private and government -- on northern and southern banks of the river, sources said. Although major work had already been done on the southern bank, several pieces of land owned by different ministries are yet to be acquired there, said an official requesting not to be quoted. "We are now unsure about the fate of the project. We cannot continue sitting jobless for an indefinite period as the RHD is yet to hand over the site to us," said engineer Abid Habib, director of construction company Abdul Monem Limited. "Changing the bridge's alignment on the northern bank has remained hanging for long. Besides, the previous consultant did not get their payment. We will have to incur huge losses if the situation contin-

ues," he added. Meanwhile, a number of locals have expressed their concern about getting fair price for their valuable land, which is being acquired for the bridge. A total of six hectares of land would be acquired for the purpose, RHD Executive Engineer Shah Mohammad Musa said. "Proposal for acquiring land belonging to the ministries of defence, education, communication and food has already been approved from the Prime Minister's Office. The deputy commissioner has also started sending notices to the locals for land acquisition. The process would be completed soon," he said. A revised design is awaiting approval from the higher authority and a package worth Tk 126 crore has been taken up, he added. The package includes construction of the bridge and its approaches, Ambarkhana bypass and widening of road on the northern bank.

TENDER, FERTILISER DEALER ISSUES Ruling party men assault contractor, agri official

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A local Jubo League leader and his men beat up a contractor and snatched tender schedule from him in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia yesterday while Awami League and JSD activists beat up Rangpur Sadar upazila agriculture officer the day before. In Kushtia, Mirpur municipality invited tenders 15 days ago for building roads under the municipality and yesterday was the last date for dropping tender schedules, reports our correspondent. As contractor Ashraf was preparing to bid for a contract, former president of Jubo League Mirpur Municipality unit Ferdous Wahid Joarder and his men entered his office at upazila Parishad market at around 10:00am and asked him to give them the tender schedule. Being refused, the Jubo League leader and his accomplices became furious and beat up Ashraf. They also snatched the tender schedule and a pay order of Tk 1.38 lakh from him. Ashraf was admitted to Mirpur Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Kushtia General Hospital. A

case was filed with Mirpur Police Station against Ferdous and 10 others. None of the accused was arrested as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday. Contacted, duty officer of the police station said they were trying to nab the accused. On Wednesday, Awami League and JSD activists beat up Rangpur Sadar upazila agriculture officer Ali Azam alleging that he did not appoint their chosen people as fertiliser retailers, according to our correspondent. Ali Azam is the secretary of Upazila Seeds and Fertiliser Monitoring Committee, which appointed the fertiliser retailers in the upazila on Wednesday. Azam alleged that a number of people, led by Upazila Parishad Vice-Chairman and Organising Secretary of JSD Rangpur district unit Masud Karim Munna and Secretary of Awami League Rangpur Kotwali unit Atauzzaman Babu, beat him up. When asked, upazila parishad chairman Mostafizur Rahman denied the allegation. He said the agriculture officer appointed those as fertiliser retailers who are accused in different cases.

DINAJPUR GOVT COLLEGE INCIDENT Principal sues two BCL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

President and joint secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Dinajpur unit were sued on Wednesday night on charge of kidnapping the principal of Dinajpur Government College and ransacking his office room. The accused are Imran Latif Shetu and Itrat Latif Iran. Kidnapping charges were also brought against the two leaders. Meanwhile, police arrested a former student of the college, identified as Pervez Alam Khan Galib on charge of rampage on the campus. Dr Alauddin Miah, principal of the college himself filed

the case after holding a meeting of the academic council, sources said. In the case, he alleged that a group of outsiders numbering 25 to 30 under the leadership of Imran Latif Shetu stormed into his office at 1:10pm on Wednesday and ransacked the room. Alleging assault on him, the principal stated that the accused along with others dragged him out of his room. They forcibly took him onto a motorbike and left the college campus for an undisclosed place and confined him to a room for 15 minutes, he said. The college was closed sine die on Wednesday following the incident.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Youth stabbed to death

UNB, Mymensingh A young man was stabbed to death by criminals at Golokonda on the outskirts of the district town on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 25. Police said a local gang snatched money from a relative of Shafiqul. When Shafiqul came to know the matter he went to the criminals along with his friend Imtiaz Atter he back to the snatched money. At one stage of brawl, the criminals stabbed Shafiqul with a sharp weapon, leaving him dead and injuring Imtiaz.

3 get Modhusudan Award

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore Three persons were honoured yesterday with Poet Modhusudan Award 2010 for their contribution to Bangla literature. The winners are Reza Uddin Stalin, a researcher at Nazrul Institute, Dr Gazi Mohammad Saifuzzaman, secretary of Mymensingh Zila Parishad and Shyamol Sarker, Special Correspondent of Daily Prothom Alo. The presents handed over at a function at Modhu Mela at Sagardari under Keshabpur included crest and cash Tk 25 thousand.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals join a human chain in front of Jessore Press Club yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the rapist of a physically challenged girl.

Golden Jubilee functions

A RU CORRESPONDENT The golden jubilee of Rajshahi University (RU) economics and english departments will be celebrated on the campus today. The departments have taken a two-day programme which include colourful rallies, lecture by renowned teachers, photo session, exhibition, discussion and cultural evening. Rajshahi University vice chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan will inaugurate both the programmes while university pro-vice chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah will be present as special guest. Department sources said the programmes of economics department will be held at the university stadium while english department will organise its event at the university auditorium.

Farmer stabbed to death

UNB, Mymensingh One person was killed and two others were injured in an attack by a criminal at Biska Bathuadi village in Phulpur upazila on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Kashem Ali, 55, a farmer. Locals said Marzan Ali attacked and stabbed Sakhina with a knife at noon near her house. The attacker also stabbed to death Kashem as he tried to save his niece Sakhina. Helal, brother of Kashem, also came under attack when he was rushed to the spot. Locals later caught Marzan and handed him over to police after a good beating.

Ex-minister Milon gets bail

UNB, Chandpur Former state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and his wife Nazmun Nahar Baby secured bail from a court here in two cases. The court of Judicial Magistrate Judge Asaduzzaman Nur granted the bail as they submitted prayers appearing before the court at noon. Defence lawyer Kamrul Islam said local Awami League leader Kalimullah filed the cases against 34 people, including Milon and his wife, with the Judicial Magistrate's court on May 6, 2009 for vandalising the vehicle of AL leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at Sachar in Kachua upazila on October 16, 2003, six years after the incident.

Journo held at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT Police yesterday detained Rajshahi bureau chief of the Daily Khabarpatra for criticising the prime minister. University sources said Md Humayun Kabir used abusive language against the prime minister after going through the newspaper reports on execution of killers of Bangabandhu. He also locked in an altercation at the Rajshahi University Public Relations Office with public relations assistant Shafiqul Islam Shahzada and employee Habibur Rahman Mukul as they protested to his remark. Shafiqul said they protested when Humayun made derogative remarks on the prime minister. Mukul said the journalist also threatened to paralyse the campus 'within five minutes' and made several calls over mobile phone. At one stage, the officials informed the matter to police and the higher authorities of the university. Pro-vice chancellor Prof M Nurullah rushed to the Public Relations Office and handed Kabir over to the law enforcers.

ARREST OF BCL MAN SPARKS PROTEST IU BCL, locals barricade Kushtia-Khulna highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Islamic University (IU) unit and local supporters yesterday barricaded the Kushtia-Khulna highway for about two hours protesting arrest of BCL activist Ali Murtoza Khasru. According to sources, police arrested Khasru while searching a Kushtia bound bus from Dhaka at Bheramara at about 10:30 pm on Wednesday. Khasru was a student of Bangla department and an aspirant for general secretary post in the next council of Chhatra League Islamic University unit scheduled for February 5. After the news spread, BCL activists loyal to Khasru and a group of local people barricaded the Kushtia-Khulna highway at about 7:30 am disrupting the normal plying of vehicles till 9:30 am. Khasru hailed from Padamdji village close to the university campus. The protesters locked the main gate of the university and stopped plying of university vehicles. At a stage, they also locked the administration building of the university. According to UNB, the BCL men also ransacked the office of Islamic University Proctor Mahbulul Arefin and damaged a vehicle on the highway during the barricade. A chase and counter-chase between law

enforcers and activists of Chhatra League occurred leaving 10 people injured. Nine of the injured were identified as Chhatra League activists Arif, Asad, Ashraf, Shahid, Malek and police Sub-inspector Sazzad, constable Hasan and two local journalists Zakir and Rony, the news agency said. On information, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) forces from Kushtia and Jhenidah rushed to the campus. Vice-Chancellor Prof M Alauddin also visited the campus and talked to the Chhatra League men. Being assured by the vice chancellor, they withdrew the road barricade. However, examinations and classes were postponed. According to police, they arrested Khasru following a tip-off that the arrestee was planning to create anarchy on the campus before the council of BCL. Police said they raided Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of the university on November 19 last year following an information that Khasru kept firearms at the hall. Police later recovered three LG guns from an abandoned room of the hall. Police said since then they were looking for Khasru. Additional police superintendent of Kushtia Subash Chandra Saha told journalists that they are interrogating Khasru.



PHOTO: STAR

People head towards the mausoleum of Bangabandhu at Tungipara as local educational institutions were closed following hanging of the killers of Bangabandhu yesterday.

Thousands in Tungipara pay homage to Bangabandhu

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Thousands of people, including Awami League men, teachers and students, thronged Bangabandhu mausoleum in Tungipara of Gopalganj yesterday morning to pay homage to the father of the nation. They also expressed their satisfaction over the execution of five condemned killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Faruq Khan reached Tungipara around 12:30pm, visited the Bangabandhu's grave and offered prayer. Rajab Ali, Abdur Razzak, Anwar Hossain and others, who laid Bangabandhu to eternal rest at Tungipara after August 15 killings, visited the grave after Fazr prayers and offered special prayers seeking salvation of the departed soul. Caretakers of Bangabandhu mausoleum hoisted national flag atop the mausoleum in the morning. When the news of execution of five condemned killers spread in Tungipara after midnight on Wednesday, people took to the streets, thronged the mausoleum complex and placed wreaths on grave of Bangabandhu. Colleges and schools in Tungipara remained closed yesterday and national flag was hoisted

atop the houses and shops in the upazila. Students, teachers, AL leaders and followers of Bangabandhu from different parts of Tungipara upazila and nearby districts came to the mausoleum in the morning and paid homage to Bangladesh's founding father. People recited from the holy Quran sitting beside the grave after Fazr prayers and offered special prayer. Receiving the news of execution of five condemned killers during Fazr prayers at the local mosque, Abdur Razzak Molla, 86, rushed to the mausoleum and offered special prayer. He was one of those who buried the body of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975. Former chairman of Tungipara municipality Ilias Hossain said a dark cloud that has been looming over the nation since August 15, 1975 was partially removed on Wednesday night with the executions of five condemned killers of Bangladesh's architect. Syed Nurul Haque Manik Miah, who was Bangabandhu's classmate at the primary school, took a photograph of the country's founding father and stared at it for long. Sheikh Jinnatunnessa Jinni Bibi, 86, elder sister of Begum Fazilatunnessa, said she was happy over execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

RU BCL council ends, new unit elected

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Awal Kabir Joy and Mazedul Islam Apu were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Rajshahi University (RU) unit at its council held on the campus on Wednesday. The other executives of the new committee are vice-president Redwan Ahmed Shuvro, joint secretaries Abu Hossain Bipu and Fuwad Hasan Murad, and organising secretary Shamima Akhter Ila. After announcement of the election results, the new committee led by the president and general secretary met Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, RU Vice-Chancellor

Schoolboy murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A schoolboy was murdered by criminals at Laxminarayanpur village under Sadar upazila on Wednesday night. Victim Abdul Khalek, 13, was son of Yeasin Ali and a student of class five at Laxminarayanpur Government Primary School. Ahsanul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station said, Khalek went out for a village fair near their house at about 8:30 pm and did not return home. Villagers found his body in a cropland near their house yesterday morning. Police later recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Advertisement for Ratan's Dental 1st International Dental Conference 2010. The ad features a logo with a tooth and the text 'RATAN'S DENTAL 1st INTERNATIONAL DENTAL CONFERENCE 2010 4-6 FEBRUARY 2010, DHAKA'. It lists several international professors and dental surgeons, including Dr. Rukha C Gehani, Dr. Mrs. Anwarul Haque, Dr. Yukihiro Takita, and Dr. Khalid Moin BCL. It also provides contact information for registration and a list of interested dental surgeons.