

# Time, cost increase but road remains unfinished

HASIBUR RAMAN BILU, Bogra

Seven years into start, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Bogra is yet to complete land acquisition for construction of a 2.64 km road to ease communication between Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Mohammed Ali Hospital in Bogra.

Began on July 1 in 2003, the Tk 13.70 crore task styled 'Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Connecting Road project' was supposed to complete within four years.

Meantime, problem in land acquisition and delay in project implementation has added Tk 11 crore to the estimated cost despite drastic reduction from the amount of original work under the project.

Admitting the matter, Md Moniruzzaman, executive engineer of RHD Bogra Division, said, "Project Implementation Committee (PEC) advised us to submit a fresh Revised Development Project Proposal (RDPP) to the ministry concerned. We have submitted the RDPP to the ministry through proper channel according to meeting reference of PEC on January 6."

"The project is likely to restart within April this year if the revised proposal gets approval in time. Meanwhile we have completed 15 per cent of total construction work, mostly earth work," said Md Rashedul Alam, sub-divisional engineer of Bogra RHD.

"We are expecting that the project will be complete by June 2012 according to RDPP," said Md Abul

Hossain Pramanik, superintending engineer of RHD Bogra Circle.

RHD Bogra Division sources said that the project was taken to ensure easy access to 500-bed Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital on the outskirts of Bogra town.

Originally the project comprised construction of a 4.5 km road at a cost of Tk 13 crore but later the RHD authority cut the project size, reducing the road length to 2.64 km.

Still the RHD has to bear additional Tk 11 crore as the estimated cost has risen to Tk 24.70 crore.

"I have to cover additional two kilometres to reach Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College from Satmatha area. The new road is needed for a risk free journey and easy access to the college premises," said Md Shiplu Mahi, 28, a three-wheeler driver.

According to RDPP, 2.90 hectares of land is required to construct the 2.64 km road but only 1.37 hectares of land has been acquired during the last seven years, RHD sources said.

"We are preparing acquisition documents for 1.37 hectares of land to start the project work. Meanwhile earth work on 800 metres of land has nearly finished," said Md Rashedul Alam.



PHOTO: STAR

Barisal City Corporation demolished boundary wall of a teacher's house and fell trees in the compound in the city last month allegedly violating a court order.

## BCC ignores court order, continues demolition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) has demolished the boundary wall of a private house and cut down trees on its two decimal of land for expansion of a road and construction of a drain, violating court order.

The property belongs to the family of Prof AFM Abdul Moin, a teacher of management department of Dhaka University.

Talking to this correspondent, Moin said they filed a writ petition with the High Court on February

15 after the city corporation damaged a portion of the boundary wall to occupy their land without giving prior notice and compensation.

Upon the writ petition, the HC ordered *status quo* and served a show cause notice on the BCC, giving it a four-week time.

As the BCC demolished the boundary wall and chopped the trees on the land, ignoring the high court order on February 26, the land owners filed a contempt of court petition with the Additional District

Magistrate's Court, Barisal, on March 3.

The BCC had continued its drain construction and road expansion work even after filing of the contempt petition, the victims alleged.

Contacted, BCC Executive Engineer Abdul Motaleb acknowledged demolishing boundary wall and cutting down trees on the private land for construction of a drain and expansion of a city road. He, however, said they stopped work on receiving the court order on March 10.



PHOTO: STAR

Construction of the road connecting Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra drags on despite several attempts to finish the work in the last seven years.

## Boy killed; shops, houses gutted

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A schoolboy was killed while 43 shops and 7 houses were gutted in separate incidents of fire on Sunday and Saturday.

A schoolboy died and his father sustained injuries in a fire at Dakkhin Patuapara in Natore town early Sunday, reports our correspondent.

Police and fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the house of one Abdus Salam at about 2:00am and soon engulfed the entire house.

Salam's son Tanzim Ahmed, 15, a student of class

X at Natore Government Vocational School and College, died in the fire as he could not come out of the house.

Abdus Salam was taken to Natore Sadar Hospital with serious burn injuries.

In Sylhet, at least 40 shops were gutted in two fire incidents at Railway Bypass Road and Bangabor Road under Dakkhin Surma police station early Sunday and on Saturday night.

At least 10 shops were gutted in a fire that broke out on Bangabor Road early Sunday, reports our staff correspondent.

The loss of property was

estimated at Tk 20 lakh.

In another incident, 30 shops were gutted in a fierce fire which broke out on the Railway Bypass Road on Saturday night.

The extent of loss from the fire incident was estimated at Tk one crore.

In Satkhira, at least three shops were gutted at Jethua Bazar in Tala upazila early Sunday, reports our correspondent.

The fire damaged jute, pesticides, fertiliser and other property worth Tk two lakh, victims claimed.

Quoting eyewitnesses police said that the fire originated from an electric short

circuit at Balam Roy's shop at about 4:30am.

The fire damaged jute at M/s Sagar owned by Sahabuddin Sardar and pesticides and fertilisers at M/s Reshad Enterprise owned by Abdul Alim, they said.

In Madaripur, at least seven houses were gutted in a fire which broke out at Rajobali Munshir Kandi village in Shibchar upazila early Saturday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from the kitchen of one Halim Mollah of the village and soon engulfed the adjoining houses at 4:00am.



PHOTO: STAR

Artists from Bangladesh and West Bengal offer a captivating cultural programme during 'Epar Bangla-Opar Bangla Basanta Utsab' at 'zero line' on Hili border in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur district on Sunday.

## Spring breaks the barrier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A colourful programme titled 'Basanta Utsab' was celebrated at zero point on the Hili border on Sunday to strengthen the historical cultural bonds of the people on both sides of the border.

Organised by Bhasha o Sangskritik, Kolaghat, East Medinipur of West Bengal, a large number of people, including artists, joined the programme, ignoring the barrier.

The 'spring festival' began at 8:30am and continued until 11:00am. Around 100 artistes, 40 of them from Shanti Niketan, performed on a small stage erected at the zero line.

College and school students also participated in the cultural event.

People from both sides of the frontier got united at the zero point after BSF and BGB opened the border at around 8:00am.

Saroj Chatterjee of Shanti Niketan, who rendered

Tagore's songs at the programme, urged the organisers to arrange such programme every year.

Raj Kumar, commanding officer of 57 BSF Battalion was present at the programme as chief guest. The programme concluded with splashing paint on each other.

The organisers said if the ministries concerned of both countries take an initiative in this regard, they can arrange the programme in a bigger way.

## EU envoy visits food facility project

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

European Union (EU) Ambassador William Hanna has said the EU is going to spend more money to help farmers adapt to climate change and gain solvency.

Farmers need to be helped, especially against the backdrop of devastating natural disasters and price hike of agricultural inputs, he said during a visit to an area under the project of FAO-EUFF in Shibchar upazila of the district on Sunday.

The EU funded food facility project is being implemented in 20 upazilas of 12 south-western districts with 85,114 target beneficiaries, mostly landless and marginal farmers, destitute women, disabled families.

During the visit, the ambassador exchanged views with the beneficiaries of the project.

He was leading a delegation that included Koen Duchateau, head of rural development section (EU), Mrs Paola Fornari, El Zein El Muzzamil, senior emergency coordinator, among others.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations organised the event with the help of local partner NGO Social Advancement Community Organisation.

## Kid killed as spear thrown by clashing group hits him

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

An 11-year-old boy fell victim to a clash between two rival groups of villagers on Saturday.

Babu, a class three student of Sajanpur Government Primary School and son of Abdus Sattar of Sajanpur Gachhala village under Nikli upazila died as he was watching the clash in front of his house.

Ten other villagers were also injured in the clash.

Police and locals said, two groups of rival villagers, one led by Nasir and the other by Obhi locked in a fierce clash with home made lethal weapons in Jaroitala Sajonpur area to establish right over a water body at around 9:30am.

Babu was hit in throat by a spear as he was standing in front of his house. He was rushed to Bazitpur Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital. But he succumbed to his injuries on the way at around 10:30am.

## Ban on vessel service on risky routes starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The seven-month-long restriction on plying of water vessels, including launches and trawlers, on risky four routes touching 23 stations in the danger zone of Meghna River estuary and coastal areas, will be effective from today.

The ban, without an arrangement of alternative transportation will confine a large number of people to islands and endanger their lives because of travel by unsafe small transports.

Acknowledging this, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Kazi Wakil Newaz yesterday said, the ban on plying passenger transports without

Moloy Bhoumik, sub-inspector (SI) of Nikli police station said, 12 people were arrested from the both groups while additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further untoward situation.

In Nilphamari, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a piece of land at Bachukata Bazitpara village in Sadar upzila Saturday morning, reports UNB.

Police and locals said there was a longstanding dispute over the land between Zafiruddin's family and family members of late Mansur Ali of the village.

Locals said an altercation ensued at about 7:00am when one group tried to occupy the disputed land.

Later, both the groups equipped with the lethal weapons and sticks attacked each other leaving 10 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Sadar Modern Hospital while the rest were released after fist aid.

having valid licence or sea-survey fitness, is aimed at saving lives of the travellers.

The 210-day restriction was imposed first by the sea transportation directorate on June 18, 2000 on 3000 kilometer routes touching major stations like Shabajpur, Mozu Chowdhurir Hat, Daulatkhan, Mirzakalu, Char Alexander, Serajganj, Shashiganj, Betua, Aslampur, Buriabon, Barguna, Patharghata, Baro Machuakati on Meghna, Ilisha, Kocha, Baleswar, Bishkhal, Tentulia and Bura Gourango.

The restriction is imposed because of nor'wester, cyclone and storm during monsoon threatening lives of travellers in the river estuaries and coastal belts in the southern region.

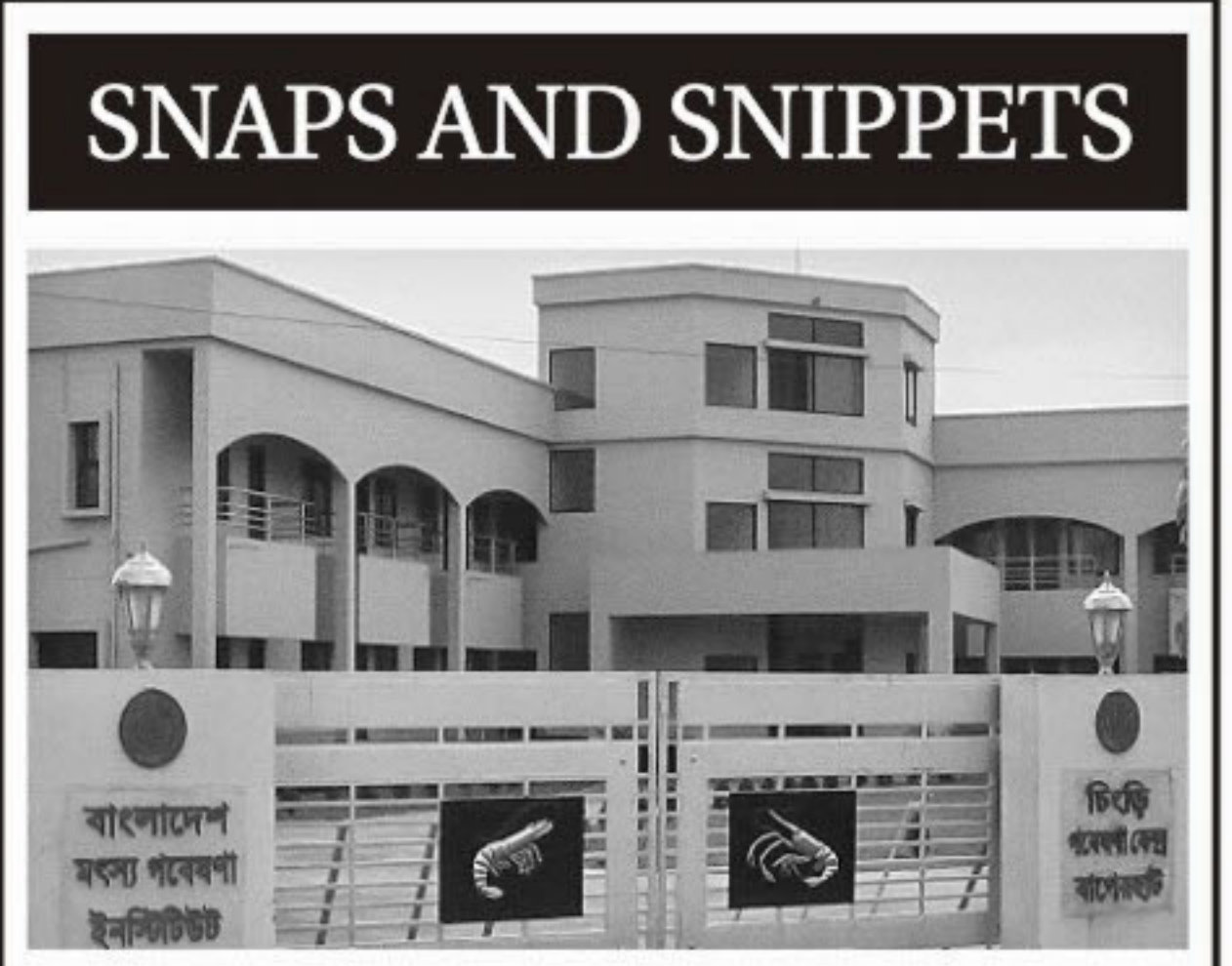


PHOTO: STAR

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to formally inaugurate the Tk 23 crore Prawn Research Centre at Boitpur of Bagerhat district today.

## Human chain in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indigenous people of Joypurhat district yesterday formed a human chain urging the government to include all their communities in the upcoming population and housing census 2011. The census would begin today. Jatiya Adivasi Parishad of Joypurhat unit organised the hour-long programme in front of Joypurhat Central Mosque in the town at around 10:30am. Out of the 46 indigenous communities, only 27 were included in the last census while in the coming census, over 10 lakh indigenous people would be enlisted as general population, they said.

## Expat's body brought back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Body of a Bangladeshi expatriate who was killed in Malaysia on February 26 was returned to his families at Charulia village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga on Sunday night. The deceased, Monwar Hossain Biplob, 36, and father of two children -- Natasha, 6, and Binni, 4, -- went to Malaysia three years ago and was working as an electrician at a company there, according to the victim's family members. Biplob, while residing in Tuang area of Malaysian capital city, went out with some Indian nationals on February 26, they said. On the following day, Biplob's body was found in a manhole of the area.

## All cases false, says wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Nazmun Nahar Baby, wife of former minister ANM Milon, at a press conference yesterday claimed that her husband is being tortured and harassed by filing false cases. "Twenty-three false cases have been filed against my husband. He was kept in various jails. Currently he is being held in Comilla jail," Baby said. ANM Milon Mukti Parishad, Chandpur district, arranged the press conference and also a human chain to demand his immediate release.

## Deer poachers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhaat

Forest officials arrested six deer poachers from a boat in Choraputia camp area of Chadpai range of eastern Sundarbans on Sunday. The arrestees are Shafiqul Gazi, Nur Mohammad Shikari, Shafiqur Sardar, Indrajeet Mandal, Romen Mandal and Kamalesh Mandal. All of them come from different villages of Dakope upazila in Khulna. The officials also seized 105 nylon rope traps and around 5000 feet nylon rope from them.