



## WHEN LOSS IS GAIN

A study finds weight loss boosts brain power

PAGE 7

## CAREERS OVER JOBS

Experts outline the importance of building specific skills for careers

PAGE B8

## SUPERB SIDDIKUR

Golfing sensation finished top among the Asians in Maybank Open Championship

PAGE 16

# U-loop to take care of Kanchpur chaos

### Ministry goes for it to ease gridlocks on Sylhet, Ctg highways

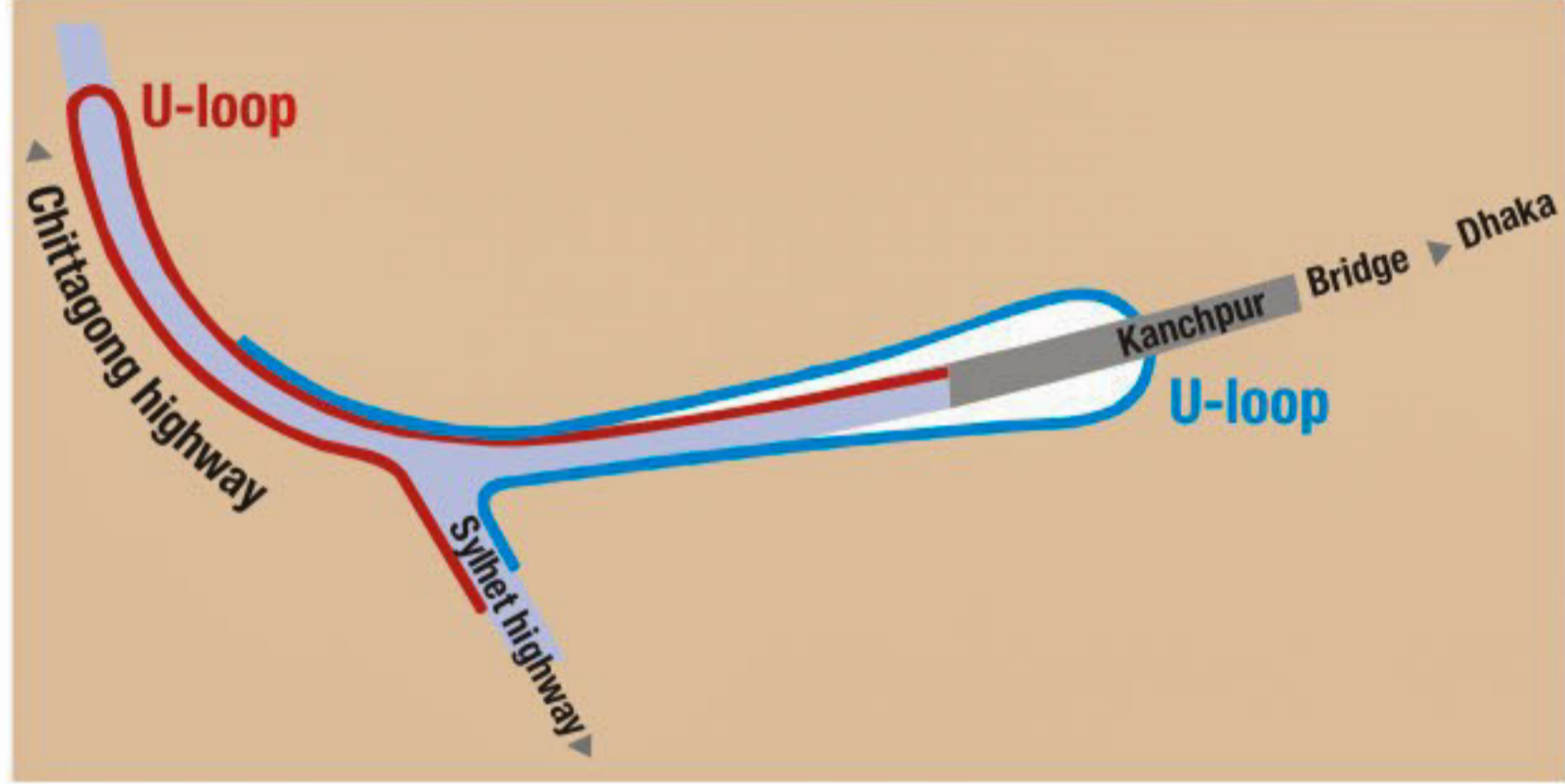
M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The communications ministry has finally chosen U-loop as an easy option to solve gridlock on the Kanchpur Bridge leading to Sylhet and Chittagong highways.

Though experts prescribed the scheme two years back, officials of the communications ministry and roads and highways department (RHD) realised its importance recently.

The RHD is now preparing the tender document of one U-loop to be constructed under the bridge with an estimated cost of Tk 2 crore. The fund will come from the maintenance budget of the RHD.

The RHD officials are also working to figure out the construction cost of another U-loop on the eastern part of the bridge leading to Chittagong highway, said Arifur Rahman, superintendent engineer, Dhaka zone, of RHD.



Experts find the two-way signaling system at the junction of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet roads on the eastern part of the bridge, which is around 8 km from the capital, the main reason behind the tailback.

Hundreds of passenger buses, goods-laden trucks and other vehicles from all directions face gridlock while crossing the junction every day.

"The two U-loops can be constructed within six months to ensure

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A mother picks up a few containers of drinking water from a Buddhist temple on her way home from her children's school at Bashabo in the capital. Residents of the area suffer from water crisis almost around the year.

## Tried utmost to defuse it

### Fakhruddin writes to JS probe body on DU violence

RASHIDUL HASAN

Former chief adviser to caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his inability to appear before a parliamentary probe body to give testimony on atrocities against Dhaka University teachers and students in August 2007.

Fakhruddin, now in the US, in a written statement to the parliamentary body however claimed the then interim government tried "its best to defuse the violent situation".

He sent the letter through one of his relatives in response to a March 29 letter from the parliamentary sub-committee that asked him to appear before it and testify at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban today. He also sent the committee a



SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Cop stabbed to death 2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A policeman was stabbed to death during a raid in Mirsarai upazila of the district Saturday night.

Police arrested two people early yesterday in this connection.

The victim, Borhan Uddin, 32, was an assistant sub-inspector of Mirsarai Police Station.

Acting on a tip-off, policemen Borhan and Nasiruddin went to East Hinguli village in the upazila around 7:00pm to arrest drug peddlers including Parvez alias Madak Samrat Parvez.

As they entered the village, Parvez and his gang attacked the law enforcers. The gang stabbed Borhan and fled,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## 3 killed in hills over land row

### 40 houses torched in restive CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three people were killed, 20 injured and 30 houses burnt yesterday over a land dispute between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers at Shankhola Para of Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachhari hill district.

Five Bangalees of the injured were taken to Manikchhari upazila health complex where their condition was stated to be critical.

Hearing the news, enraged Bangalees of the adjacent Mahamonitilla village chased Adivasis away from the village and set another 10 houses of indigenous people on fire.

In Ramgarh, a group of 10-12 Bangalee settlers were ploughing a disputed land at around 3:30pm when some 15-20 indigenous people attacked them with knives and machetes to take control over the land, said Md Monjurul, acting officer-in-charge of Guimara Police Station.

Hearing this, a group of Bangalees from Bara Pilak Bazar area went to the spot and attacked the indigenous people. Soon a fierce clash ensued leaving three dead and 20 injured. The Bangalees then set fire to 30 Adivasis' houses

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## CTG ARMS HAUL 2 ex-DGs of NSI to be quizzed at jail gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to interrogate two former National Security Intelligence (NSI) directors general at Chittagong Central jail gate in connection with the 10-truck arms haul cases.

Metropolitan Magistrate Fazlul Bari passed the order during a hearing on a petition moved by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The investigation officer (IO) of the case Md Muniruzzaman

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## 600 Bangladeshis enter Egypt from war-torn Libya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After a lull of over a fortnight, around 600 Bangladeshis crossed over into Egypt from Libya on Saturday night while more are reportedly moving towards Al Salloum border point.

This sudden influx has caused serious concern among many as International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is currently facing shortage of funds to charter flights, and Biman is also not operating its flights from Egypt.

According to a foreign ministry press release last night, all the Bangladeshis, who have crossed over from Libya, are staying at Al Salloum border point in Egypt.

"Around 200 to 300 Bangladeshis are reportedly on their way to Al Salloum and they are expected to arrive by tonight (Sunday night)," the press release said.

More staff from the Embassy of Bangladesh in Cairo is being attached to the consular team of the foreign ministry, which has been working at Al Salloum since the beginning of the repatriation.

The team has reported that so far the situation is under control and they will issue One Way Travel Permit for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# Grabbers choke Karatoa

### 57km of the river encroached by locals



Homes and factories are built on the Karatoa at Chelopara of Bogra town significantly narrowing down the river. Inset, farmers grow crops on the Karatoa during dry season in Sherpur upazila of Bogra as the river has almost no water flow then.

PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

A huge chunk of the Karatoa river has allegedly been occupied by local people at several important areas in Gaibandha and Bogra districts, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board and the Department of Environment.

Sources at BWDB Bogra circle office say about 57 kilometres of the 86.75 km channel from Khalisha of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha to Khanpur of Sherpur upazila in Bogra has already been occupied for cultivation.

The sources say people have used forged land documents to occupy the huge land on both banks of the river.

They add the river has lost its main channel from Khalisha to Khanpur about 21 years ago as the flow of water was regulated. The BWDB

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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