



PHOTO: STAR

**GREED MAKES THEM CALLOUS:** Oblivious to the detrimental effect on the stock of fishes, a section of fishermen catch fry, available during the ongoing rainy season, to sell it for high prices. The photo was taken from the Padma River at Alupatti near Rajshahi city.

## Boy abducted for ransom murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A six-year-old boy, abducted for ransom from Bishulia Katabri village in Gobindaganj upazila on Tuesday, was found dead in a bamboo cluster at the village yesterday.

A gang abducted Mesbahul Hasan Musa, son of Akbar Ali, while he was playing outside their home in the afternoon. His father filed an abduction case with Gobindaganj Police Station the same day.

On Wednesday, the gang members phoned Musa's father Akbar, demanding Tk four lakh ransom for release of his son. As Akbar failed to meet the demand, the gang killed Musa and dumped the body into the bamboo cluster.

Locals found the decomposed body of Musa in the bamboo cluster yesterday morning and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

They also picked up eight people from there and took them to the police station for interrogation. The arrestees are Lokamn Mondol, 50, Majedul Islam, 30, Aynul Huq, 20, Nasim Mondol, 22, Anwar Hossain, 30, Golapi Begum, 23, Amena Begum, 30 and Lipi Khatun, 24.

Police said the abductors killed the boy as his family did not pay heed to their demand.

## UP chairman held for attack on policemen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The law enforcers on Saturday night arrested a union parishad chairman and an aide on charge of attacking police in Phulpur upazila.

The arrestees are Rokonz-Zaman Rokon, 36, chairman of Rambadrapur union and Alam, 40.

Police said, a gang allegedly led by Rokon ransacked a shop at Char Bahadurpur village on August 10.

Following the incident, one Azharul Islam of the village filed a case, accusing the UP chairman and his supporters. Later, police arrested six people, including a woman.

Angered at filing of the case, the chairman and his men held a motorbike procession on the upazila headquarters premises at around 9:15 pm.

On information, a team of police rushed to the spot and asked them to stop the rally. At one stage, Rokon attacked the on duty police men, leaving three constables--Nabiul Islam, Sohag and Kawsar--injured, said S. Alam, officer in-charge of Phulpur police station.

Later, police arrested the duo, said the OC.

The arrestees were produced in a court yesterday which sent them to jail, he added.



## Hilsa still remains out of reach of common people

Demand up ahead of Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The price of popular fish hilsa is yet to come down as expected, following the ban on export, due to increased demand ahead of the Eid festival.

The government on July 31 banned export of all kinds of raw fishes except shrimp during the month of Ramadan to ensure adequate supply to the local market and keep the prices at tolerable level.

Hilsa supply became abundant following its huge netting at different fishing points of the estuaries and coastal fishing zones in the first week of last month while imposition of ban on its export contributed to decrease in its price.

But the price again rose by 10 percent compared to that of last week, said Aslam Khan, manager of hilsa trading house Five Star.

Increased demands due to Eid festival amid shortage of supply caused the price hike, said hilsa trader Yunus Ali.

Now hilsa weighing 600 grams is selling at Tk 500-600 per kg, hilsa weighing 800-900 grams at Tk 800-900 per kg while the fish weighing 1,000 grams or over is priced at 1,000-1500 per kg.

The prices were Tk 1100, Tk 1600 and Tk 2500-3000 per kg last month. Only solvent people are now buying hilsa as a

medium-sized hilsa costs Tk 800 to 1000, said Sentu Mia, a retail hilsa trader at the market.

"Several factors including demand, supply, investment, costing, profit, purchasing capacity of consumers determine the price of hilsa. Only ban on export cannot bring any sustainable solution to control the hilsa price in the local market as only 10-15 percent of netted 3,50,000 tonnes of hilsa is exported yearly," local hilsa trader Yunus Ali said.

The amount of hilsa netting reduced in the second week of this month, fishermen said, adding that the catches depend on the flow of current in river and sea, amount of rainfall and periods of lunar calendar, such as full and new moons.

In last week, 20-30 fishing trawlers, each carrying 150-200 maunds of hilsa, daily reached Barisal fishing port from the estuary and coastal areas but now the number has come down to 10-15, said Kalam, a worker engaged in unloading hilsa at the port.

The ban on hilsa export is likely to be withdrawn after Ramadan, said AKM Nur Muhammad, manager of Barisal Fish Landing Centre under Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation.

## 'Criminal' held after gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A 'top criminal' injured a gunfight with the law enforcers was arrested in Jihashola area of Sadar upazila on Saturday at night.

The arrestee was identified Amir Khashru, 32, son of Suruj Mia of Bollalbari village.

At least five policemen were also injured during the gunfight.

Officer in-charge of Sadar police station Abu Bakar Siddik, sub-inspectors Nazrul Islam, Mostafa Kamal, Moniruzzaman and ASI Moniruzzaman were admitted to Munshiganj General Hospital.

Sultan Uddin, second officer at the PS, said Khashru along with his two accomplices were going towards Sardarpara from Panchasar intersection by a motorbike.

The criminals opened fire on the policemen as they tried to intercept them. In retaliation, the law enforcers also fired at them.

Later, police arrested Khashru while the rest managed to flee, said Sultan.

## Protesters demand arrest of criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Several hundred locals formed a human chain in front of the office of deputy commissioner in the city yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the criminals who attacked a college student.

They also submitted a memorandum to DC Farid Ahmed in this regard.

Victim Wakimul Islam Shakil of Alhajinagar area in Sadar upazila is a first year student at Rangpur Collectorate School and College.

Locals said, there was a longstanding conflict between the family members of the victim and one of their neighbours over a piece of disputed land.

The protesters said a gang beat up Shakil mercilessly and at one stage, attempted to kill him on August 1.

Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot and rescued him.

Motruza Begum, mother of the victim, filed a case with Kotwali police station in this connection.

Following the case, the criminals continued to give Shakil's family death threat but police did not take any steps as yet to arrest them for unknown reason, alleged the locals.

Refuting the allegation, Altaf Hossain, officer in-charge of the PS, said they were conducting drives in different areas to arrest the attackers.

## Ghior Bridge remains risky, authorities turn blind eye

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The road passengers from Daulatpur upazila of Manikganj, Chowhali of Sirajganj and Nagarpur of Tangail district are badly suffering as Ghior Bridge over the Dhaleswari River on Ghior-Daulatpur road has turned risky due to loosening of soil under its two pillars.

The authorities on July 19 suspended plying of vehicles except rickshaws, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws on the bridge, and consequently, road journey between Manikganj district headquarters and Daulatpur upazila has remained a troublesome one.

The people of Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj and Nagarpur upazila of Tangail also use Ghior-Daulatpur road to go to the capital Dhaka.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the 180-metre-long and 3.66-metre-wide Ghior Bridge with Tk 2 crore in 2007 and it was opened in June for vehicular movement, said sources of Ghior upazila office. There are eight pillars in the bridge.

As the bridge has turned risky, the authorities have set warning signboards and fence with tree logs and iron chain on both sides of the bridge to prevent vehicular movement there. The police have been deployed three too.

"We have taken the steps according to decision of the authorities concerned. However, we allow government vehicles and ambulance to cross the bridge," said Ashraf-ul-Islam, officer in charge of Ghior police station.

Now the people travelling on the road have to spend more time and money for

the purpose, locals said. Ahead of the Eid, the situation has appeared as an added worry especially for the homebound people travelling with family members.

During this correspondent's visit to the spot on Wednesday, locals alleged that a section of people have been lifting sand from 60-70 yards off the bridge for long although soil lifting within 200 yards of the bridge is illegal.

"The bridge is now under threat as the soil from the bottom of its two pillars has been washed away by the river current. The LGED high

officials have already visited the bridge two times. The soil has been sent to the research unit of LGED head office for test. We will take necessary steps after getting the soil test report," said Md Yusuf Hossain, Ghior upazila LGED engineer.

Asked about the allegation of illegal sand lifting, he said the local administration is supposed to see the matter.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent failed to talk to the upazila nirbahi officer for his version as he did not receive phone calls.

When contacted, local

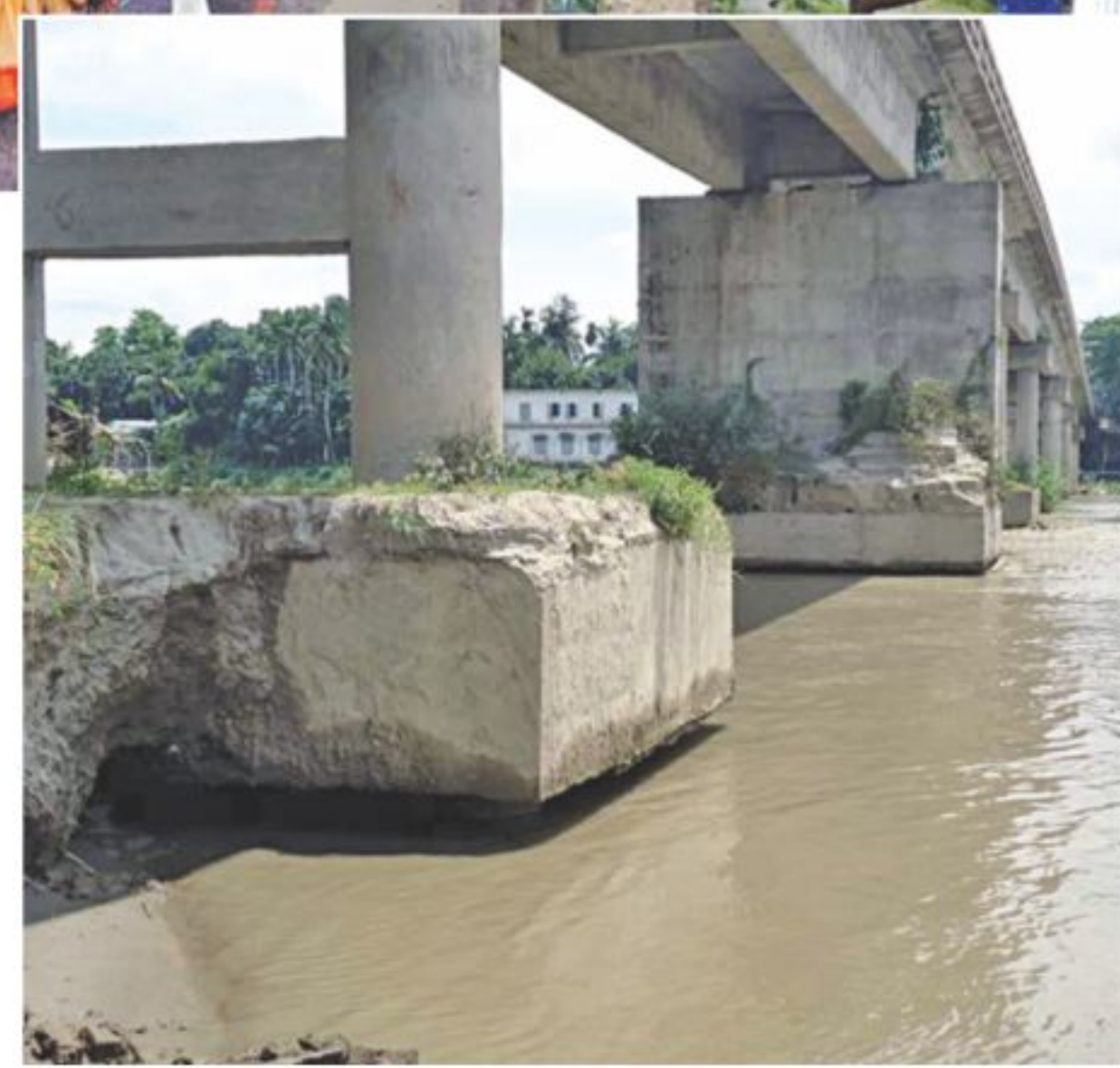
lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque said, "I talked with the officials of Water Development Board, LGED and Roads and Highways Department and directed them to take necessary steps jointly to make the bridge usable in an urgent basis. I also sat with the deputy commissioner, the police superintendent, the upazila nirbahi officer and the officer in charge to solve the problem."

The Daily Star on July 25 ran a report with photo on its National Page regarding the bridge.



PHOTO: STAR

**Passengers, including the ones to and from Manikganj district headquarters and capital Dhaka, take the trouble to cross Ghior Bridge over Dhaleswari River on foot to look for transport at the other end. The authorities prohibited movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge due to loosening of soil from near its pillars (inset).**



## Comilla Govt College badly needs more teachers, classrooms

It has now only 35 teachers for 6,300 students

UNB, Comilla

Comilla Government College has been facing shortage of teachers, accommodation including classrooms and other facilities, hampering education of over 6300 students.

Sources said at least 21 posts of teachers, including that of vice-principal, have been lying vacant for long. The college is now running with only 35

teachers and 20 classrooms.

Established in 1968, the college offers Masters course, Honours course in four subjects, Degree (pass course) and Higher Secondary (intermediate) degree.

Although computer education was introduced, the college never saw any teacher for the subject. Besides, the post of librarian was not created despite having a library at

the college.

There are only 20 classrooms for 6300 students against the requirement of at least 32 classrooms, seriously hampering the academic activities at the college.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam, a lecturer at Political Science Department, said only three teachers, each in English, Political Science and Accounting and Management disciplines

are teaching the students of higher secondary, honours and masters level students.

Besides, some part-time teachers are also taking classes but they are too few in number, he said.

Contacted, Principal AKM Asaduzzaman said, he informed the matter to the Education Secretary and he (education secretary) visited the college. The problems would be resolved soon, he said.

## আমানতের উপর উৎসে কর কর্তন সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক জারিকৃত নতুন সার্কুলার অনুসারে জুলাই ২০১২ হতে টি.আই.এন. রয়েছে এমন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যাংক সুদ/মুনাফার উপর ১০% হারে এবং টি.আই.এন. নেই এমন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যাংক সুদ/মুনাফার উপর ১৫% হারে উৎসে আয়কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য। তবে কোন সঞ্চয়ী ব্যাংক হিসাবে অর্থ বছরের যে কোন সময়ে মোট স্থিতির পরিমাণ ১ লক্ষ টাকার বেশি না হলে উক্ত ব্যাংক হিসাবের সুদ/মুনাফার উপর ১০% হারেই উৎসে আয়কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে হালনাগাদ টি.আই.এন. সনদের কপি অথবা ট্যাক্স রিটার্ন জমা রশিদের কপি আগামী ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১২-এর মধ্যে আমাদের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় জমা দেয়ার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ব্যাংক এশিয়া লিমিটেড