

Abduction of Khagrachhari AL leader sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A local Awami League leader was abducted from Baillachhari area under Matiranga upazila of the district on Sunday afternoon.

Locals said a gang of criminals waylaid Mohammad Jahangir Alam, 55, president of Awami League Guimara unit, in the area while he was returning to Guimara from Matiranga upazila headquarter on a hired motorcycle at around 5:00pm.

The gang picked up Jahangir, also a contractor, and motorcycle driver Mohammad Harun from there. They also took away the bike.

Mohammad Hanif, son of the abducted AL leader, said the armed cadres of a regional party demanded toll from his father a few days ago, but he refused. He held them responsible for the abduction.

Protesting the incident, local AL unit put up barricades on the roads in Guimara area under Matiranga upazila yesterday morning. Traffic on Khagrachhari-Chittagong Road and Khagrachhari-Dhaka Road remained halted for five and a half hours from 10:30am.

Local AL leaders and activists also held a rally at Guimara in the afternoon, protesting the abduction of Jahangir.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Bashir Ahmad of Guimara Police Station, said police and army personnel yesterday launched a joint drive to rescue the abducted AL leader. Additional police have been deployed in Guimara Bazaar area to avoid any untoward incident, he added.

SNIPPETS

BCL leader stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Party rivals stabbed a BCL leader in Ishwardi municipality area on Sunday afternoon following a party feud. Seriously injured Rajib Sarkar, 30, former secretary of Ishwardi upazila unit of BCL was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at night. Police and the locals said, at least 20/25 men including BCL and Jubo League activists attacked Rajib at about 4pm on Sunday when he was gossiping with the locals at post office intersection of the municipality area.

Six shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Six shops were gutted in a fire in Monu Mukh bazar area in Sadar upazila early yesterday. Locals said, the fire originated from a short circuit at a shop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. On information, fire fighters from Sadar upazila fire station rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after one and a half hours frantic efforts. The loss of property due to the fire may go up to Tk 7 lakh, said fire service officials.

Death in septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A labourer drowned in a septic tank in Rahimabad area of Shajahanpur upazila on Sunday evening. The deceased was identified as Limon, 30, son of Tabibur Rahman of Kamarpara village in the upazila. Police said the accident took place when Limon was working with his father. Suddenly Limon fell in the 30-feet deep tank. His father with the help of locals tried to rescue him but failed. Later the fire service men recovered the body.

Youth's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Body of a youth of Udyokathi village was recovered from a canal at Durgapur village in Sadar upazila yesterday. Family sources said, five days ago Mizanur Rahman, 18, went to his grandfather's house at Durgapur village. He went 'missing' on Sunday evening while returning to his house at Udyokathi village from there. Yesterday afternoon, locals spotted the body in a canal near Durgapur union parishad office at around 2pm and informed the police. Father of the deceased said Mizanur was an epilepsy patient.

Sad death of old man

UNB, Chandpur

An old man died after falling from a tree at Kawnia village in Faridganj upazila on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Sirajul Haque, 60, son of late Imam Uddin of the village. Officer in-charge of Faridganj police station said, Sirajul fell from a coconut tree at noon while plucking green coconuts. Critically injured, he was rushed to Faridganj upazila health complex where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Swindlers vanish after cheating hundreds

They collected Tk 50 lakh in six months in two Lalmonirhat upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Swindlers have gone into hiding after cheating around a thousand people in the name of a cooperative styled 'Durbeen' in different areas of Kaliganj and Patgram upazilas under the district.

During the last six months, the cooperative collected at least Tk 50 lakh from around a thousand people promising to give them loan at different villages of the two upazilas but the organisation officials went into hiding late last month, locals said.

"I became a member of Durbeen on January 1 this year and deposited Tk 3600 as a local representative of the organisation told me that I would get loan of Tk 40 thousand from them to run my business. But the cooperative staff went into hiding before giving the loan to me," said Motiar Rahman, 42, a small trader at Burimari Land Port Bazar in Patgram upazila.

Bokul Miah, 44, a small fruit trader in the same market, said he deposited Tk 4,500 to

the cooperative following assurance of getting loan of Tk 50,000 from the organisation.

Mofidul Islam, 45, a grocer at Bhotmari Bazar in Kaliganj upazila, also deposited Tk 4700 to the organisation upon similar assurance.

The traders expressed their utter frustration as the co-called cooperative officials made good with the deposited money before giving the loan.

Like them, at least 120 small traders at Bhotmari and Bhullarhat Bazars deposited huge amount of money with the hope of getting loan, the traders said.

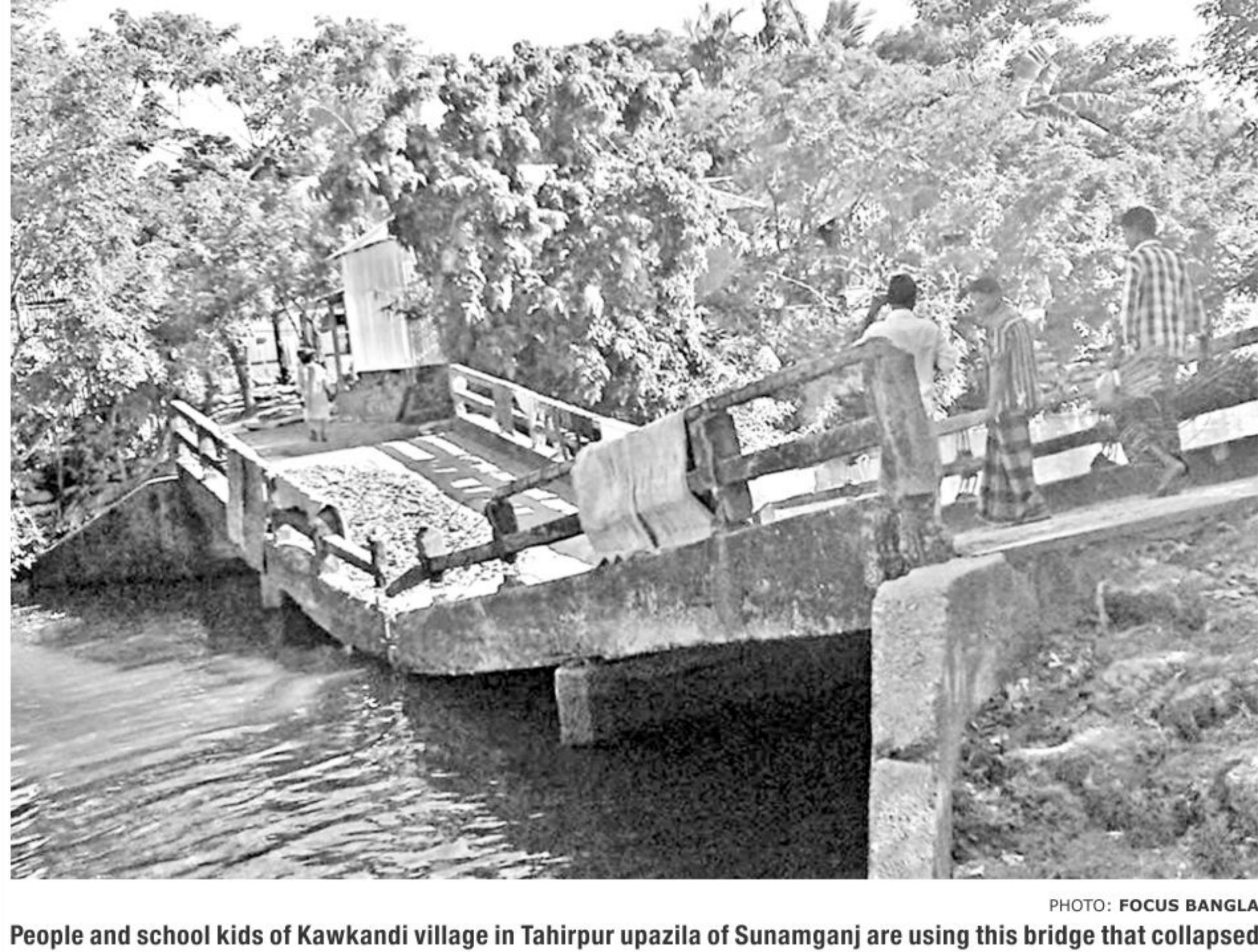
Now it is too late when they understand that the organisation authorities cheated them.

Lalmonirhat District Cooperative Officer Nur Mohammad said, "My office has already gotten a probe report from Kaliganj upazila office regarding allegation of cheating by cooperative Durbeen. I am preparing to take legal action against the perpetrators who cheated so many people in the two upazilas."

PHOTO: STAR



Cheated by swindler cooperative styled 'Durbeen', one of its members holds his deposit book with marks of despair on his face at Burimari Bazar in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district. The photo was taken a few days ago.



People and school kids of Kawkandi village in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj are using this bridge that collapsed quite a long ago, risking their lives. But they are helpless as the bridge is on the lone road linking the village with the upazila headquarters.

CHT settlers enforce 72-hr hartal from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Parbatya Gono Parishad (PGP) and Parbatya Banglae Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) will jointly enforce a 72-hour hartal in the three hill districts from today.

The two organisations of the settlers are demanding cancellation of draft amendment to CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission (CHTLDRC) Act 2001.

In a press release, jointly signed by Begum Nurjahan,

convenor of PGP, Rangamati district unit and Md Sumon, publicity secretary of PBCP, district committee, yesterday called the strike in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari from 6:00am.

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He had been one of the leading personalities actively involved in BTV from the late 1970s to late 80's. He started off as a producer and retired as the deputy director general of the state-run TV station. He had made over 450 TV plays there.

His notable plays include

Durbin Diya Dekhun, Nil Nokshar Shondhaney, Shukher Upoma and Babar Kolom Kothai.

He had been a teacher of Drama and Dramatics at Jahangirnagar University for 11 years.

Atiqul had been working as an adviser of Ekushey TV for the last three years.

They arrested Karim Gazi, from the spot and recovered three axes from him.

Trawler owner Siddikur

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