## Bill drawn fully without constructing bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Construction of a bridge on Madarbunia canal in Rangabali upazila under the district hangs in the balance as a ruling party man received Tk 45 lakh as the total bill for constructing the bridge after doing some piling work only.

On February 28 in 2013, Rangabali upazila LGED (Local Government Engineering Department) issued work order to Md Feroz, a contractor of Patuakhali town, for construction of a 100-foot long and 10-foot-wide RCC girder bridge on Madarbunia canal at a cost

of Tk 45 lakh.

But Humayun Kabir Talukder, president of Rangabali upazila unit of Jubo League, started conducting the construction work 'on behalf of the contractor, making himself known to locals as the real contractor.



PAID IN FULL, BRIDGE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT: Madarbunia canal in Rangabali upazila under Patuakhali district sees no sign of bridge but the 'proxy contractor', also an influential district-level leader of the ruling party, has received full payment for the work under the LGED after doing some piling work under water.

completed only several feet piling work under water, received the total bill from LGED on June 30.

Contacted, Humayun said, "The bridge construction work has remained stopped during the rains. will complete the work after the rainy season."

order to my construction firm."

level lowers."

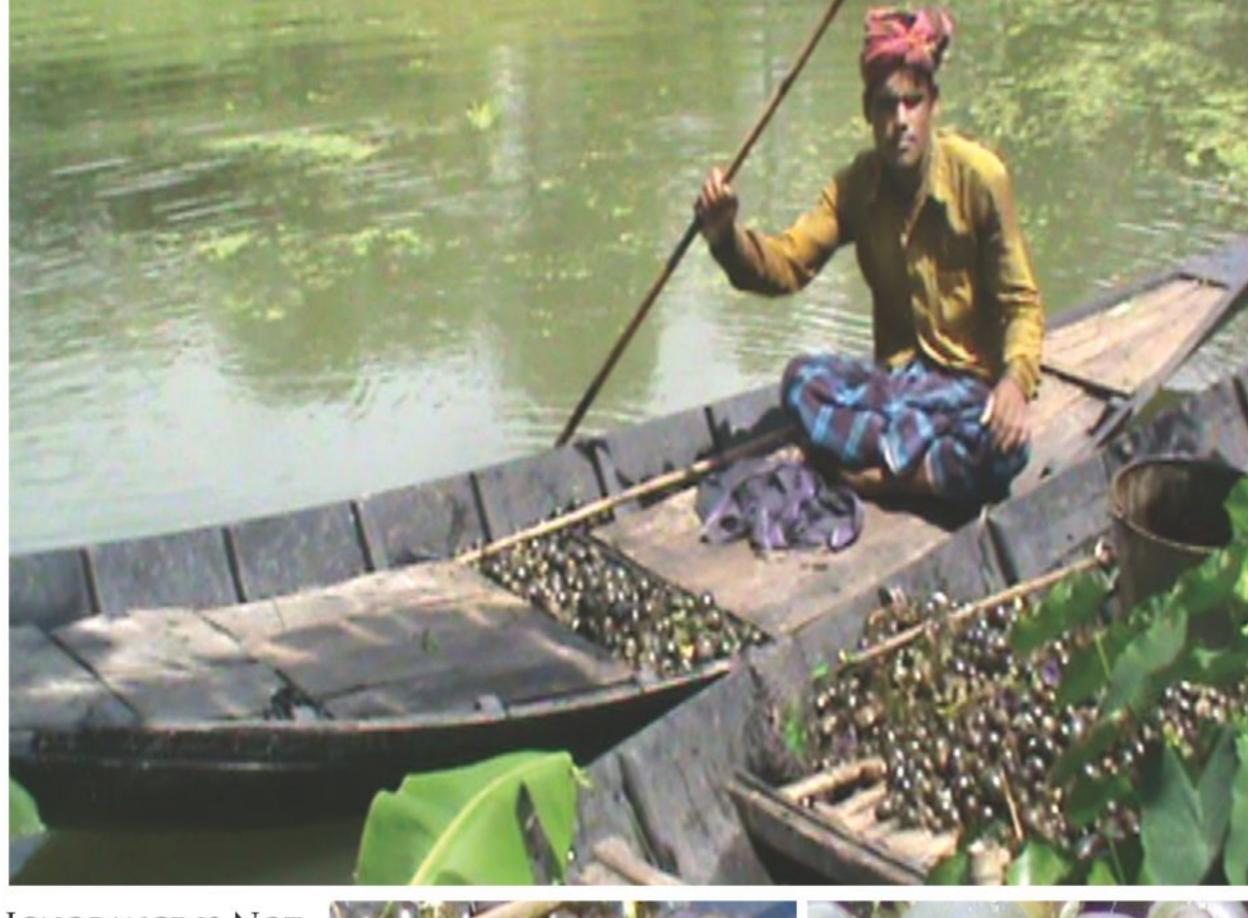
"We kept the rest of the money in a bank after draw ing the total bill so that the fund was not be returned to the ministry concerned when the fiscal year ended on June 30," he said.

Asked whether the system is legal, the LGED engineer said it is the usual practice followed in such

Md Feroz, the original contractor of the project, said, "Jubo League leader Humayun Kabir Talukder is conducting all work of the bridge as 'local contractor' although LGED issued work

Md Nazrul Islam, upazila LGED engineer, said, "Tk 22 lakh has already been spent for the bridge construction but the work is not visible as pilling has been done under water. Work of the bridge will restart when the water

type of works.



Ignorance is Not ALWAYS BLISS

Like many other poor people, Judhisthir Baroi, 45, earns a living by collecting and selling snails that are available in open water bodies of Rajoir upazila under Madaripur district. Environmentalists, however, are worried about the detrimental effect of the act on biodiversity.

PHOTO: STAR



The hartal was called by the 'Committee

During hartal, the committee brought

Committee president Abu Zahid said,

to Ensure Aman Murder Trial' and all associ-

out a protest procession from the town's

criminals allegedly belonging to Satkhira

district unit BNP president Habibul Islam

Habib group hacked Aman to death during

a clash between two rival factions of local

BNP on September 6 this year. The incident

against Habib but police were yet to arrest

Mother of the deceased filed a case

took place during a party conference.

anybody in this connection.

ated bodies of BNP a few days ago.

New Market area at noon.

# clash in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least six activists of Jubo Dal, youth wing of the main opposition BNP, were injured in an attack by the rival group in Nagarpur upazila yesterday over formation of the upazila unit convening committee of

the party. On September 28, the district unit Jubo Dal approved a convening committee in the upazila with Ponir Hossain Bhuiyan as convenor and Abul Kalam as senior joint convenor backed by Goutam Chakroborty, former state minister for water resources, said party sources.

A group of Jubo Dal men, who were dropped from the Rabiul Awal Lavlu, agitated liament election.

in the upazila headquarters on Tuesday against the committee, terming it a pocket committee of Goutam.

Locals said, the new committee leaders and activists organised a victory procession in the town yesterday noon.

join the programme in a motorcycle procession, the disgrantled Jubo Dal men swooped on them, leaving six people injured. The new committee was

formed with the leaders of one side, said Rafigul Islam Swapan, organising secretary of district unit Jubo Dal, adding that the committee should be dissolved immediately.

Otherwise, it would bring committee and supported by bad omen for the party district BNP vice-president candidates in the next par-

#HOME3OUND

### Rival Jubo Dal men Red heart disease breaks Hartal observed in Satkhira sugarcane growers' hearts

JAYANTA KUMAR BISWAS,

Sugarcane farming in the district faces setback as pest attack, affected by the recurrent flood creates red heart disease in the sugarcane When they were going to

Farmers cultivated sugarcane on 491 hectares of land against the target of 442 hectares in Bhola Sadar, Daulatkhan, Tazumuddin, Lalmohan, Charfassion and Borhanuddin upazilas in the district this year, said sources of the Department of Agriculture Extension

(DAE) office. But inundation for nine times during the last five borrowed Tk 15,000 for from June to September. The months, caused by embank- cultivating sugarcane on 10 red heart disease occurs if ment collapse in several decimals of land, was seen water stands for a long time

farmers futile.

Sugarcane production in the area will virtually turn to nil as the fields were inundated several times since from late May this year, said Momtaz Begum, upazila agricultural officer of Borhanuddin.

Visiting the affected areas, this correspondent saw awful condition of the sugarcane fields.

"Insects damaged all the sugarcane on my field. There were red spots in every sugarcane stick," said Tarik Sardar, who ploughed sugarcane on two acres of land.

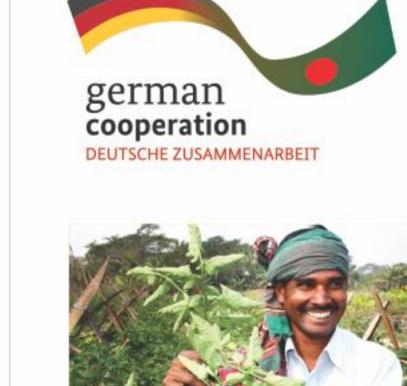
Jahangir Sikder, who had

all the hard work of the about repayment of the loan.

Dalil Uddin of Tumchar said he got 250 kg of sugarcane per decimal last year which inspired him to cultivate sugarcane on 24 decimals of land but the disease attacked his entire field this year.

Several farmers alleged that no agriculture expert visited the areas even after knowing about the dis-

Refuting the farmers' allegation, Shanti Ranjan Mondol, deputy director of DAE, said, "The problem arose this year mainly due to the continuous inundation areas of the district, turned crying as he was worried in a sugarcane field."



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

district yesterday.

College student union.

left the district due to the hartal.

incident during the programme.

A half-day hartal demanding immediate

arrest of the killers of a leader of BNP front

organisation was observed peacefully in the

The deceased was Amanullah Aman,

Most of the shops and business establish-

There was no report of any untoward

general secretary of district Matsyajibi Dal

and former VP of Satkhira Government

ments yesterday remained shut in the dis-

trict town. No long-route buses entered or

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Red heart disease wreaks havoc on sugarcane cultivation in different areas of Bhola district this season. The photo was taken from Tumchar village in Borhanuddin upazila a couple of days ago.

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