

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Rapist gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for raping a three-year-old girl in Matlab Uttar upazila of the district in 2008. The convict is Ruhul Amin, 25, son of Ali Ahmed of Tarki village in the upazila. Judge Ramani Ranjan Chakma of Women and Children Repression Tribunal also fined him Tk 50,000 in absentia. In default, he is to suffer another six months in jail. According to the prosecution, Ruhul raped the girl of the village on July 7 in 2008. The victim's mother then filed a case with Matlab Uttar Police Station, accusing Ruhul.

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A young man was stabbed to death by criminals in Sakar Market area of the district town on Sunday. The deceased is Md Faridul Islam Farid, 30, son of Akbar Mondol of Ghoshpara village in Sadar upazila. Md Ahsanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said a gang stabbed Farid in the area at around 5:00pm, leaving him critically injured. He died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Farid might have been killed over previous enmity, the OC said, adding that police are investigating the incident.

Free medical treatment

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Jamuna Bank Foundation arranged free medical treatment for patients with eye, diabetes, gynaecology and general problems at Utrail ML High School in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur recently, says a press release. Shaheen Mahmud, chairman of Jamuna Bank Limited, was present as chief guest on the occasion while Alhaj Nur Mohammad, chairman of Jamuna Bank Foundation, presided over the programme. Among others, Tasmin Mahmud, director, Shafiqul Alam, managing director of the bank, and Mosleh Alam Chowdhury, president of the school managing committee, were present as special guests. At least 3351 people were treated at the camp. Of them, 355 were selected for surgery.



Sammilito Sanskritik Jote brings out a procession at Satmatha intersection in Bogra town yesterday condemning sexual harassment of women and children near TSC on Dhaka University campus during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14.

Housewife strangled

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

A woman was killed allegedly by her drug addict husband in Khorki Kolabagan area of Jessore town on Sunday night. The deceased is Rikta Begum, 23, wife of Babur Rahman of the area. Police said Babur strangled Rikta as she refused to give him money for buying drugs. Babur went into hiding soon after the incident.

Lightning kills boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A minor boy was killed by lightning at Katakachha village in Fulchhari upazila yesterday. The deceased is Abdus Samad, 13, son of Hazer Ali Pramanik of the village. Locals said a thunderbolt struck Samad while he was working in a paddy field. He was rushed to the upazila health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

AL man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An activist of Awami League was killed by criminals over previous enmity at Krishanagar village in Sadar upazila yesterday. The deceased is Mozaffar Rahman alias Raja Sheikh, 36, son of Ismail sheikh of the village. Family sources said a gang attacked Mozaffar with sharp weapons in front of his house, leaving him critically injured. He later succumbed to his injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital. Police



Faced with seasonal unemployment in their areas, a large number of farm labourers among other passengers wait on Banglabandha Road in Thakurgaon town on Thursday, to get buses for going to Dhaka and Comilla districts in search of work there.

SEASONAL JOB CRISIS

Thakurgaon, Panchagarh farm labourers leave areas for work

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A large number of farm labourers from Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts are going to southern and north-eastern areas of the country in search of work amid seasonal unemployment that is likely to continue until start of Irri-boro paddy harvest early June.

During this period of the year, job seeker farm labourers from the northern region often go to Comilla, Sylhet, Dhaka and Jossore districts where Irri-boro paddy is planted and harvested earlier.

The government's 40-day job scheme titled 'Karmasrijan Karmasuchi' meant for mitigating sufferings of the unemployed farm labourers has just started in these districts but it is too inadequate for the requirement.

In Thakurgaon, the government has allocated Tk 6 crore 23 lakh 20 thousand for wages of 7,790 labourers under the scheme while Tk 4 crore 36 lakh 16 thousand has been allocated in Panchagarh for 5,452 workers, according to the district office of the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation.

After plantation of Irri-boro paddy and harvest of wheat and potato most of the farm labourers in the northern districts become jobless during this time.

"I became jobless early April after completion of weeding in boro field and I am now passing hard days with the family," said Robiul Islam, 45, of Bhurnia village in Ranishankoil upazila of Thakurgaon district, as he was waiting at Thakurgaon bus stand on Wednesday afternoon.

"I and 12 other farm

labourers from our village are going to Comilla for boro harvesting. We will stay at least 25/30 days there and earn Tk 10,000/15,000 each," he said.

Moin Uddin, 44, of Dhantala village in Baliadangi upazila said he became jobless after reaping potatoes and wheat.

"During the last two weeks I am passing hard days with family. I can't hope to get work here until boro harvest starts and so, I have decided to go to Comilla for work. I have borrowed Tk 2,000 from a local money lender for a month on condition of paying additional Tk 500," he said.

Md Lablu, ticket counter master of Taj Paribahan in Thakurgaon town, said four or five hundred farm labourers went to different districts including Dhaka and Comilla from there

Night guard rescued three days into abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidaha

A night guard, abducted from a fish enclosure in Kaliganj upazila on the night of April 24, was rescued from Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Osman Ali, 55, of Sundarpur village in Kaliganj upazila, is now undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Quoting victim's family members, Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station said a gang abducted Osman while he was guarding the fish enclosure at around 11:00pm.

Later, the gang phoned Omar's family members, demanding Tk 10 lakh as ransom for his release.

On April 25, victim's brother Omar Ali filed a

general diary (GD) with the police station, the OC added. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Laxmipur village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning and found Osman lying beside a road in an unconscious state.

The law enforcers arrested one Abul Kashem of Sundarpur village, suspecting his involvement in Osman's abduction.

Seismograph at PSTU inactive for over 3 yrs

No tremor signalling in absence of sensor

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The seismograph at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) has remained inoperative since its sensor went out of order over three years ago.

The earthquake detection device, the lone one in the country's southern region, was set up at PSTU campus on May 27 in 2008 at a cost of about Tk one crore under a MoU between Dhaka University and Columbia University, USA, said Dr Humayun Akhter, professor of geology department of Dhaka University.

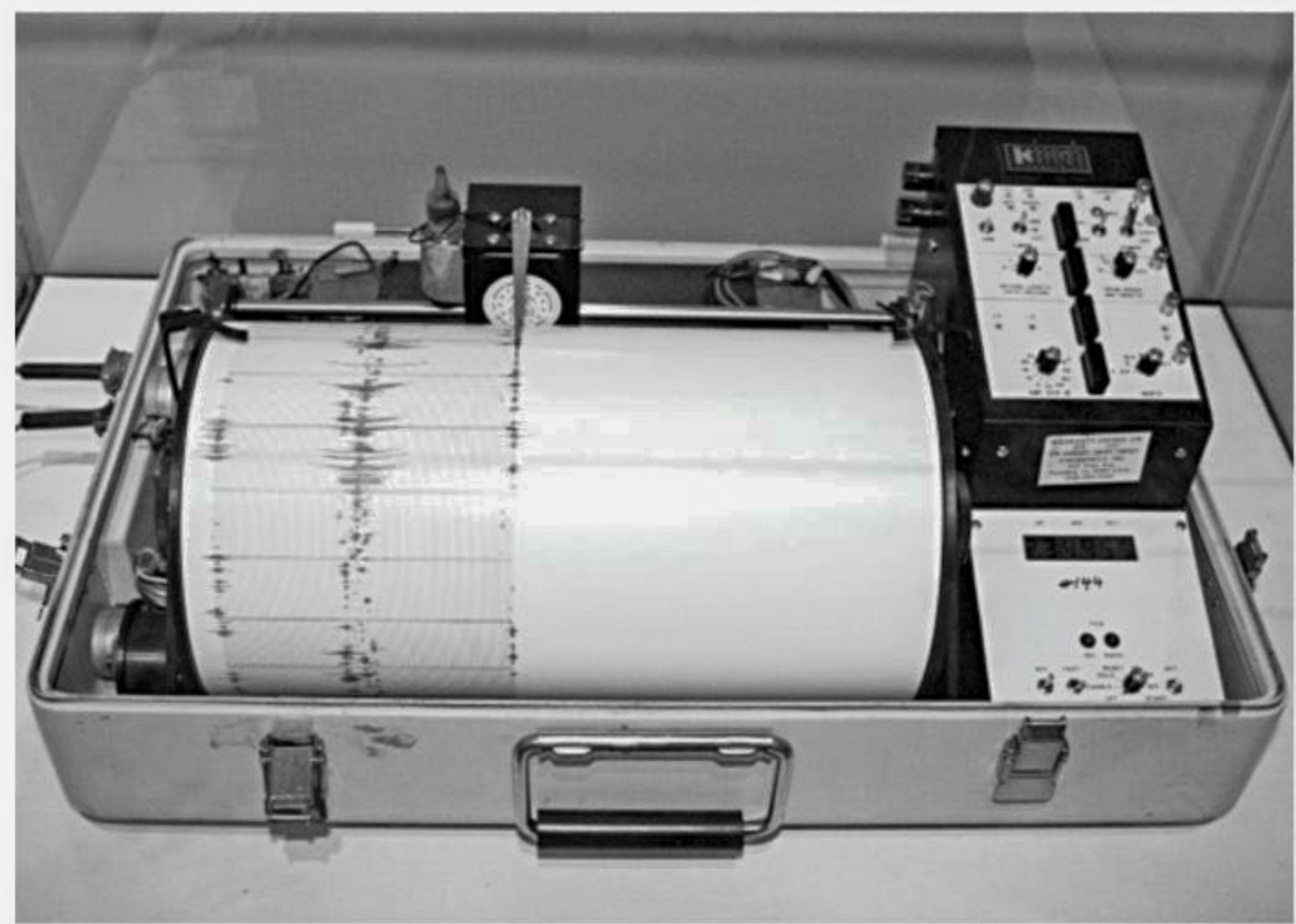
"The seismograph started functioning here in October 2010 under the supervision of geology department of Dhaka University and we got readings of two earthquakes from it," said Md Munibur Rahman, supervisor of the seismograph, also assistant professor of electric and electronics department of PSTU.

"But in early 2012, its sensor went out of order, making the machine virtually inoperative as it fails to give any earthquake signal," he added.

"Seismograph works at three levels -- the sensor

detects stimuli, the receiver receives it and the computer reads out and displays its intensity and distance. If any of the three components becomes inactive, its overall function virtually closes," said Md Jamal Hossain, assistant professor of computer science and information technology department of PSTU.

AKM Mostafa Zaman dean of disaster management department of PSTU, said, "We are trying our best to restart the machine in view of its importance to reduce damage to life and property in case of earthquakes."



The seismograph at Patuakhali Science and Technology University remains inoperative for over three years as its dysfunctional sensor has not been repaired or replaced.

Separate land commission for plain land adivasis demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Indigenous leaders yesterday demanded a separate land commission for plain land indigenous people living in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts.

They came up with the demand at a regional seminar on 'Land Rights of Plain land Indigenous Peoples' at a hotel in Sylhet city.

Supported by International Labor organization (ILO), the

programme was organised to find out the problems of indigenous peoples living in the four districts.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF), was present as chief guest at the seminar organised by BIPF and Patro Samprodai Kalyan Parishad (PASKOP) in Sylhet region.

He urged the government to formulate a national policy for all indigenous communities and a separate ministry for the indigenous

peoples in plain lands. Father Joseph Gomes, central committee member of BAPA, also demanded more budgetary allocation for indigenous people.

Babli Talang, general secretary of KUBORAZ Inter Punjee Development Association of Khasi people, Endru Solomar, president of Khasi Welfare Association, Bonifash Khongla, executive member of BIPF, and Sribash Mahali, leader of tea garden communities, among others, spoke.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Invitation for Tender

Table with 5 columns: Ministry/Division, Agency, Procuring Entity name, Procuring Entity Code, Procuring Entity District, Invitation for, Tender Ref. No., Date, Procurement Method, Budget and Source of Funds, Development Partners, Project/Programme Code, Project/Programme Name, Tender Package No., Tender Package Name, Tender Publication Date, Tender Last Selling Date, Tender Submission Date & Time, Tender Closing Date & Time, Tender Opening Date & Time, Place of selling Tender Document, Receiving & Opening Tender Document, Place/Date/Time of Pre Tender Meeting, Eligibility of Tenderer, Brief Description of Related services, Price of Tender Document, Other Details (If applicable), Association with foreign firms is.

Thousands suffer as Bailey bridge collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Three steel plates in the middle of a Bailey bridge over the Aoliakhana River in Jaldhaka-Domar-Dimla road in Jaldhaka municipality of the district collapsed on Sunday night.

Locals said a portion of the bridge collapsed when a stone-laden truck was crossing the bridge at about 10.30 pm. The truck somehow managed to avoid falling into the river.

Hossain Babul, Chairman of Jaldhaka upazila parishad, said about 50 thousand

people of Domar, Dimla, Deviganj, Boda and Jaldhaka upazilas in Nilphamari and Panchagarh districts are suffering as the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) hoisted red flags on both ends of the bridge as a warning signal, forbidding people and vehicles from using the bridge.

Hasan Habib, upazila nirbahi officer of Jaldhaka, visited the spot yesterday noon and told this correspondent that he had asked the department concerned to take immediate steps to repair the collapsed portion of the bridge.



Red flags are set on two sides of this Bailey bridge over Aoliakhana River in Jaldhaka upazila under Nilphamari district as the Roads and Highways Department prohibited movement of heavy vehicles after three steel plates of the bridge floor collapsed on Sunday night.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো ফিন্যান্স, এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এন্ড এমআইএস পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৮ম তলা, ব্লক-১) ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭। উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি