



PHOTO: STAR

People of 14 villages under Phulpur upazila of Mymensingh use this bridge to cross the Kharia River as their repeated appeals to the authorities concerned for construction of a concrete bridge there has remained unheeded.

# Thousands suffer for want of concrete bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People of 14 villages have been suffering for decades due to lack of a concrete bridge on Kharia River in Phulpur upazila of the district.

A small bamboo bridge had been built by villagers some 80 years ago, and they have been maintaining the age-old bridge every year, said local sources.

Vegetables produced here are supplied to different districts of the country, including Dhaka, but the farmers do not get fair price of their produce due to poor communication system, said local people.

Hundreds of students have to cross the bamboo bridge every day to reach their schools and colleges, said sources.

"We appealed to the political leaders on different occasions to construct a bridge on the river but it is yet to be fulfilled," said Shamsur Ali of village Poyari.

Many political leaders pledged to fulfill our demand before elections but after the election they never thought of executing their pledges, villagers alleged.

Abul Kashem, 50, a trader in Guptergoan village, said he has been involved in repairing the bridge for

some 30 years.

"The bridge was constructed by the villagers before my birth, and it might be about 80-years old. Village people contribute according to their ability to repair the bridge every year, and the repair cost is about Tk 1 lakh. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Al Mamun, Amjad Ali Sarker, Sabur Master, Mohor Ali, Chand Miah, Salam Member, among others, also led the repair work every year," said Abul Kashem.

Rabiul Karim Rabi, a local journalist, said they filed reports in local dailies on the sufferings of the people on various occasions, but

the authorities concerned did not take any step in this regard.

Delwar Hossain, chairman of Poyari Union Parishad, said local people reconstructed the bridge using bamboos three years ago. Rickshaws, vans and motorcycles can use it now. "We never got any financial support from the government to repair the decades-old bamboo bridge," he said.

During the rainy season, the village people and students have to suffer a lot to cross the river. We want a concrete bridge on the river, the chairman added.

# Moheshkhali through a foreigner's eyes

BY ANDREW EAGLE

A stranger in a tea shop says I have a Bengali face. "How so," I ask. "Foreigners usually have a fat face," he says. "So, do I look sick then?" It didn't take long for Moheshkhali's locals to prove they're not shy.

A trip to the island readily accessible by speedboat from Cox's Bazar town won't leave the visitor feeling they're not a part of it.

It's advisable to walk in from the jetty to the start of the road before taking a rickshaw, for a better fare. Anywhere in Gorakghata town will be about twenty taka. I'm lucky. I find an honest driver. But as he rides others excitedly call out, "Hoto!" meaning "How much?" in their local Bangla. They're wondering how much overcharging has gone on, but when the driver calls back "one hundred taka!" they know he's criticising them.

"Ah, Bengalis!" says the honest driver, displeased. But he's Bengali too.

For anybody presumed to be without Bangla accommodations are made. "Good night!" one man calls out, remembering whatever English he can. It hardly matters that it's early afternoon.

Another man is busily buying roadside fish. He seems engrossed in the sale but the sight of an outsider is too tempting. "How is your country?" he asks. Should I take him literally? "Well, most of it is quite dry, desert in fact... Large parts are flat but in other areas there are mountains..." Or should I just say "Australia", answering the "Which country are you from?" that he actually means?

At the Adinath Temple there's a fair going on and one college professor has been tasked with making loudspeaker announcements. I stop for a chat. As I walk away I hear a new

announcement, "Thanks to our Australian friend who says he just ate jelabisi!" It'd be difficult to feel more welcome!

In a local eatery I'm stunned. "Do you speak Bangla?" someone asked, a simple question but I'm lucky I caught it since it's uttered in what sounds like one long syllable! I'm not used to Chittagonian-style Bangla. "I speak a little Bangla," I'm thinking, "But do you?"

To the outsider, Bangla in Moheshkhali sounds a bit like an electric saw unsure if it wants to cut a tree. It sounds choppy like the speedboat getting there that banged, wave to wave, across the channel. It sounds like chewing on gum. It sounds a bit Burmese.

"Chittagong dialect," reads the District Gazetteer, "is almost unintelligible even to the people of neighbouring districts like Noakhali and Comilla. The

most noticeable feature that strikes the stranger is the tendency of the people to slur over consonants, to clip syllables and to substitute aspirates for sibilants." I think that's a more sophisticated way of saying the same as above.

By evening I find myself in Chandan's tea shop. He says he'll soon be married which is my queue to question him like a relative, though we've just met. "Is the girl from a good family? What's her qualification? What does her father do?" He returns from the counter with an invitation card in shiny gold. "This is the very first invitation I'm giving," he says, and he's hoping for two hundred guests.

Meanwhile Jamal the betel seller over the road is concerned for my wellbeing. He gives his mobile number. "If you have any problem, you just call me!"

I ask if that also applies if I'm in Cox's Bazar and he

says it does. "But what if I'm further away, like maybe in London or Tokyo? Should I call you then?" Bless him! He offers to shut up his betel shop and come to my rescue anywhere, worldwide, anytime!

In Moheshkhali, everybody's watching the foreigner, but I'm told I'm lucky. "A few years ago two foreign women came here, I hear, "and a crowd of at least a hundred followed them as they walked along the road."

About the jetty on the muddy shoreline are mudskippers basking, lounging and fighting for ground. Larger specimens are charging; forcing smaller ones back into the tide. As I'm boarding a speedboat to follow the tide to Cox's Bazar myself, I can only smile at the memories of friendliness and curiosity that the people of Moheshkhali have given me.



PHOTO: STAR

Passengers arrive on Moheshkhali island from Cox's Bazar by trawlers and speedboats.

# Minor boy rescued hours after abduction, 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A six-year-old boy, abducted from Singair upazila of Manikganj on Wednesday, was rescued from Bank Colony area in Savar early yesterday.

The law enforcers also arrested five kidnapers, Shahinur, 20, son of Nur Islam, Robin Hossain, 18, son of Romel Ali, and Saiful Islam, 25, son of Badsha Mia, of Singair; and Soheli

Hossain, 25, son of Nurul Haque of Savar, and Al-Amin, 23, son of Abdul Malek of Nawabganj upazila in Dhaka.

Quoting victim's family members, police said two neighbours, Shahinur and Robin, picked up Tawhid, son of Shahidul Islam of Bhautipara village and a nursery student at a local kindergarten, while he was going to attend his coaching

classes around 3:00pm on Wednesday.

They later took the boy to Bank Colony area and confined him to a room of Soheli and Al-Amin's rented house.

Failing to know their son's whereabouts, victim's mother Kaniz Fatema filed a general diary (GD) with Singair Police Station the same night, said Syeduzzaman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

After filing of the GD, police detained Tawhid's neighbour Shahinur for interrogation, suspecting his involvement in the incident.

According to Shahinur's confessional statement, police conducted a drive in Bank Colony area around 2:30am, rescued the kid and arrested the four other abductors from there, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Heavy rain floods the low-lying areas in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha yesterday.

# 11 jailed for making fake cosmetics

UNB, Chandpur

A mobile court sentenced 11 people to six months' imprisonment each for manufacturing fake cosmetic products in Kachua upazila of the district on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a drive in Baliaoli area of the upazila on Tuesday night and arrested them with fake cosmetic products.

Later, the arrestees were produced before a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Zia Ahmed Sumon, which pronounced the verdict.

Mohammad Ebrahim Khalil, officer-in-charge of Kachua Police Station, the arrestees were sent to Comilla Central Jail.

# Madrasa teacher jailed for sexually harassing girl

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A madrasa teacher in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat was jailed by a mobile court yesterday for sexually harassing a girl student.

The convict, Sohrab Hossain, 42, son of late Nasiruddin of Nondoil village, is an assistant teacher of Uchna Dakhil Madrasa in the upazila.

The mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Nur Uddin Al Faruk, also the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), sentenced Sohrab to eight months in jail and fined him Tk 5,000. In default, he has to suffer another year in prison.

Witnesses said Sohrab Hossain was investigating during a half-yearly examination of the madrasa yesterday. At one stage, he touched a sensitive part of the body of a Class VII girl with the excuse of checking her answerscript.

Later, the girl informed her parents about the incident.

Her father filed a complaint with the mobile court, which found Sohrab guilty and handed down the verdict.

Away in Lalmonirhat, a union parishad (UP) member was arrested yesterday on charge of raping a schoolgirl in Panchagram union under Sadar Police Station, reports our correspondent.


The victim is now undergoing treatment at a clinic in Rangpur town, police said.

The arrested, Aminur Islam, is a member of Ward No 8 of the union.

Police said Aminur raped the girl, promising to marry her. The girl had become pregnant a few months ago.

Aminur forced the girl to have an abortion in a clinic in Rangpur a week back. She fell sick during the abortion and has been under treatment since then.

Knowing the matter, the schoolgirl's father lodged a rape case with the Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station on Wednesday, accusing Aminur, police said.



**আর্মি সার্ভিস কোর সেন্টার এবং স্কুল**  
**জাহানাবাদ সেনানিবাস, খুলনা**  
**সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনীর আর্মি সার্ভিস কোর সেন্টার এবং স্কুল জাহানাবাদ সেনানিবাস, খুলনা কর্তৃক গত ০৫ জুন ২০১৫ তারিখের দৈনিক কালেরকণ্ঠ এবং ০৭ জুন ২০১৫ তারিখের The Daily Star পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রমিক ১৫ নিম্নরূপভাবে আংশিক সংশোধন করা হলোঃ

জন্যঃ							
কাজের বিবরণ							
ক্রমিক	বিবরণ	হিসাবের একক	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন)	
১৫।	ক। প্রশিক্ষণ মাঠ ও খেলাধুলার মাঠ সম্পূর্ণ নতুনভাবে তৈরীর জন্য মাটি জরটি (২০% অতিরিক্তসহ যা ঘনীভূত (Compaction) হয়ে সমতল হবে )	ঘনফুট	৩৪,৯৩,৫০০	১০০০.০০	১০%	১৫ জুন হতে ৩০ জুন ২০১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে	
	খ। রিক্রুট প্রশিক্ষণের নিমিত্তে কম্পিউটার ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি করা	নম্বর	২০	১০০০.০০	-		
পড়ুনঃ							
কাজের বিবরণ							
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২। প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

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**কমান্ড্যান্ট**  
আর্মি সার্ভিস কোর সেন্টার এন্ড স্কুল  
জাহানাবাদ সেনানিবাস