

# Flood-damaged bridge lies without repair for months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People of 20 villages in Sundarganj upazila are suffering because a bridge at Ramdakua, five kilometres from the upazila headquarters collapsed during last year's flood and has not been repaired.

Transport links between the upazila headquarters and the villages have been hampered since the collapse of the bridge built on a Teesta River tributary.

People of the villages can cross the tributary on foot during the dry season, but in the rainy season they have to risk their lives by crossing in canoes.

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker Col (Rtd) Dr Abdul Kader Khan constructed the 600-foot long bridge under a special food for works programme in January 2013.

The bridge was built without consultation with the engineering department, and because of this, over 40 feet of the approach road on the eastern bank washed away during last year's flood, causing the bridge to collapse.

Authorities have not taken any initiative to repair



PHOTO: STAR

Ramdakua bridge in Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district has remained unusable following its virtual destruction by flood last year.

the bridge despite repeated appeals, local people complained.

Shahidur Rahman, a rickshaw van puller, said, "I return home on foot every night, keeping the van in a garage in Sundarganj municipal area, which costs Tk20 per night."

"We have to carry our

bicycles on our shoulders while crossing the canal in the dry season. Very often we miss classes because we come late," said Anwarul Islam, a first year student at Sundarganj Degree College.

"We don't have adequate funds to reconstruct the bridge. However, the authorities concerned are

going to arrange it," said Abdullah-Al-Mamum, mayor of Sundarganj municipality.

"Higher authorities have been informed about the matter through the deputy commissioner, Gaibandha," said Abdul Hye Milton, the UNO of Sundarganj upazila.

## Two siblings electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two siblings were electrocuted at Kenai village in Faridpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased are Saiful Islam, 35, and Hazrat Ali, 30, sons of Abdus Sattar Sarder of the village.

Md Abdul Mannan, chairman of Punguli Union Parishad, said the duo came in contact with a pump machine when they were busy for irrigation at their paddy field in the afternoon. They died on the spot.

## Four fined for carrying jatka

UNB, Luxmipur

A mobile court yesterday fined four people Tk 5,000 each for carrying jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches long) in a pickup in Piarpur area of Sadar upazila.

The convicts are fish traders Padar Bhandari and Anwar Hossain, pickup driver Jasim Uddin and his helper Selim Uddin.

Police arrested the four while they were carrying small hilsa fish to Dhaka from Motirhat area of Kamalnagar upazila in the early hours.

Later, the arrestees were produced before the mobile court, led by Sadar upazila nirbahi officer and executive magistrate Mohammad Nuruzzaman. The court fined the four.

## HOMAGE TO LANGUAGE MARTYRS



PHOTO: STAR

From top: Students of Biam School and College in Bogra town join a barefoot procession organised by the district administration, locals walk towards a Shaheed Minar in Dinajpur town, children place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in Munshiganj, a tiny tot lays flower at the Shaheed Minar at Shaheed Khokon Park in Bogra town, and teachers and students of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, bring out a procession on the campus marking 'Amar Ekushey' and International Mother Language Day yesterday.

## BOMB EXPLOSIONS AT SHAHEED MINAR 10 arrested from Jessore MM College dormitory

Crude bombs, gunpowder seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Following bomb explosions at Jessore Shaheed Minar at midnight, police arrested 10 students from Shaheed Asad Hall of MM College early yesterday.

During the raid at around 3:30am on the student dormitory, known as a stronghold of the college unit of Chhatra League, police recovered ten crude bombs, 100 grams of gunpowder, bomb making materials and seven iron bars.

The wreath placing event at the first hour on the International Mother Language Day was disrupted due to the chaotic situation following the bomb explo-

sions and frequent firing at the Shaheed Minar.

Locals said the violence was a sequel of the race between the local lawmaker Kazi Nabil Ahmad and Shaheen Chakladar, secretary of the district Awami League and chairman of Sadar upazila parishad.

At least five crude bombs went off near the Shaheed Minar, when Chhatra League activists loyal to Shaheen Chakladar started creating chaos centring placing of wreaths immediately after the lawmaker, deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and MM College principal left the premises, said Ilias Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jessore Kotwali

Police Station.

Opponents of the lawmaker conducted the bombs attack, leading to a chase and counter-chase and firing of several gunshots, he said.

Police fired 23 rounds of blank shots and three teargas canisters to disperse the unruly people and bring the situation under control, he added.

Police filed a case accusing 50/60 unnamed people in this connection, the OC said.

On the other hand, district BCL secretary Anwar Hossain Bipul told journalists that police arrested the Chhatra League activists to divert attention from the bomb attacks and firing incidents.

## 3 held for torturing boy in Mymensingh town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested three people early yesterday on charge of torturing a 12-year boy in the town's Patgudam area on Wednesday noon.

The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, 25, Azizul Islam, 35, and Abdul Aziz, 45.

Police arrested them from different areas of the town, said Sub-Inspector Anisur Rahman, also investigation officer of the case. But the prime suspect in the case, Shafir Uddin Suru, an AL leader, is still at large.

The accused were identified from video footage, said the IO.

There was public outrage after video footage of the incident was posted on social media.

The arrestees were produced before a Mymensingh court that sent them to jail, police said.

Victim's mother Parvin Akhtar lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station on

Thursday night, accusing 4/5 unidentified people.

Shafir Uddin Suru, vice-president of Mymensingh municipality's ward no-18 unit of AL, and his men intercepted 12-year-old Saddam Hossain in Patgudam area while the boy was returning home from his aunt's house in Netrakona around 2:00pm on Wednesday, said Parvin Akhter.

They accused the boy of stealing the mobile phone of a woman at Krishtapur and beat him up, said Parvin, who collects scraps in the area.

"I am not a thief. I repeatedly requested them not to beat me, but they did not listen to me," Saddam told reporters yesterday at his home.

Police have launched drives to arrest the other accused, including the prime suspect, said Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

## Missing bike driver found murdered in Khagrachhari

PBCP to enforce road blockade in the district today demanding arrest of the killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police recovered the body of a motorbike driver from Richang Jharna tourist area under Matiranga upazila of the district yesterday and arrested a youth in this connection.

The deceased was identified as Azizul Hakim, 28, son of Salah Ahmad of Natunpara area in the upazila. The arrestee is Dhana Bikash Tripatha of Bangmara area of the upazila.

Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Matiranga Police Station, said Azizul went missing on Thursday and his family members filed a General Dairy with the police station.

Police arrested Dhana Bikash yesterday morning from Matiranga bazar area and recovered the body on his information.

Motorbike theft might be the reason behind the murder the OC said, adding that

the body was handed over to the victim's family members after autopsy at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital. A case was filed in this regard, the OC said.

Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) held a protest rally at Changhi square area of the town and called a dawn to dusk road blockade in the district today, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

## Criminal arrested after gunfight with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Police arrested a listed criminal after he was injured by bullets during a gunfight between police and his cohorts near Gabtoli graveyard in Narsingdi Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee, Rubel, 24, son of Baten Mia of Ghoradia village, was wanted in several cases, including those for murder and extortion, said Golam Mustafa, officer-in-charge of

Sadar Model Police Station.

A police team, acting on a tip-off, raided the area to arrest Rubel around 4:00am.

Sensing the presence of the policemen, Rubel and his cohorts opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Police later arrested injured Rubel from the spot and seized a pistol and two bullets from his possession.

Rubel was hurt during the gunfight while the rest managed to flee, the OC said.

## Robbers kill fisherman, abduct another

UNB, Bagerhat

A fisherman was killed and four others were injured as a gang of robbers swooped on a fishing trawler in Kachikhali area under Sundarbans east zone in Sharankhola upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Ismail Hossain, 30, son of Azgar Ali of Jaliaghata village in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district.

Officer-in-Charge Ziaul Haque of Pathorghata Police Station said armed robbers attacked six fishermen while they were fishing in Kachikhali area around 8:30pm.

The gang chased the

fishermen with another trawler and fired several gunshots targeting them, killing Ismail on the spot. They later caught the rest five and beat them up.

The robbers also picked up one of the injured fisherman named Riaz, looted fishes and fled the scene.

Three injured fishermen returned to Patharghata headquarters along with Ismail's body on Saturday, the OC added.

Coastguards have launched a drive to arrest the robbers and rescue the abducted fisherman, said the station commander of Pathorghata coast guard.



PHOTO: STAR

A doctor examines the eye of a patient at the day-long camp organised by Lions Club of Dhaka at Atia Mamudpur Primary School in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district yesterday. Around 2000 people received free check-up and medicines and 150 of them were scrutinised for cataract operations to be conducted by the Lions Eye Hospital at Agargaon in the capital.