



PHOTO: STAR

This bridge over Balidakhali canal at Sadipati village in Melandaha upazila under Jamalpur district has remained in a precarious position since its partial collapse during the flood in August last year.

# Bridge collapse causes long-term woe to 20,000 villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Over 20,000 people from 12 villages in Melandaha upazila's Kulia union in Jamalpur have been suffering for eight months since the lone bridge on Sadipati-Tonki road over Balidakhali canal at Sadipati village collapsed during last year's flood.

The canal flowing through the middle of the village divides 11 other villages into eastern and western sides.

Kulia, Tarakandi, Ukhretair, Bhaluka, Chinitola, Ballapur villages are on the eastern side, while Pochabahela,

Davshai, Pugli, Shiright and Teghoria villages are on the western side.

Around 10,000 people live in six of the eastern villages and 8,000 people in the five western villages, while around 2,500 people live in Sadipati village itself.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built a 160 foot long concrete bridge over the canal in 1990 to facilitate smooth transportation for the villagers.

Since the bridge collapsed during the flood in August, 2015, commuters from both sides have been facing severe troubles to reach their intended desti-

nations. The people of Sadipati are the worst affected as they usually go to both the eastern and the western sides with regularity, villagers said.

As the Sadipati Government Primary School is on the western side, around 200 children from the eastern villages take great risks to go to school over the collapsed bridge.

Besides, farmers face many problems in carrying their agricultural products to markets located on the western side due to the collapsed bridge.

A large number of school and college-going students

of the five western villages are facing the same ordeal while going to Jobaida Jabbar High School and Alea Azam College, which are located at Tonki Bazar area on the eastern side.

Relatives of serious patients, especially pregnant women, from the western villages are suffering as they cannot reach Melandaha Upazila Health Complex by motor vehicle or even rickshaw van, he added.

Contacted, Md Shafiqul Islam, government engineer of the upazila, said he had sent a proposal for the construction of a 90-metre bridge over the canal last November, but to no effect.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Government Edward College in Pabna form a human chain in front of the college yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who raped a second year student of the institution on March 13.

## GANG-RAPE OF EDWARD COLLEGE GIRL

# Rally, human chain demand immediate arrest of culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students of Pabna Edward College held a rally and formed a human chain on Pabna-Rajshahi Road in front of the college yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits who raped a girl of the college on March 13.

A gang of 4/5 criminals gang-raped a second year student of history department of the college while she was going to attend a religious programme at Punduria village in Santhia upazila of the district on the

day. The victim's father filed a case, accusing four people, including Faridul Islam and Hafizul Islam of the village, the following day.

Soon after the incident, police arrested one Md Chand Ali, suspecting his involvement in the incident.

Addressing a rally at the venue yesterday, students of the college questioned the role of police as the culprits are yet to be arrested.

Students Krishna Pada Barman, Iftehadul Hasan Sagar, Aminul Islam,

Johurul Islam and Arif Hossain, Kamruzzaman Prince, among others, spoke.

On March 16, teachers and students of the college held a rally on the campus, demanding immediate arrest of the rapists.

Head of history department Dr Md Shajahan, president of Pabna Press Club Shibojit Nag and president of the district unit of BCL Ruhul Amin, among others, spoke.

Later, the agitating students put up a barricade on Abdul Hamid Road in the

district town to press the demand.

The students later withdrew the barricade following an assurance by Additional Superintendent of Police Liton Kumar of taking immediate steps to arrest the culprits. None of the accused in the rape case was arrested as of yesterday.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Nasir Uddin of Santhia Police Station said the accused went into hiding soon after the incident. Law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest them, he added.

## One dies, 3 fall sick after taking liquor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A youth died and three others became sick from drinking spurious liquor at Shadhubari area in Shahbondegi union under Sherpur upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Dulal Mia, 25, son of Chandu Mia of Ronobirbala village in the upazila.

The sick are Minhaz Uddin, 28, Amirul, 25, and Ratan, 24, of the same area.

Police, quoting Minhaz Uddin, said some people drank the liquor and four of them became sick. Locals rushed them to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMCH), but Dulal died on the way.

The other three are out of danger in SZMCH now, added the police.

## AL leader held with pistol, bullets in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

An Awami League leader was arrested with a pistol and bullets in Sonagazi upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The arrestee is Alauddin alias Babul, general secretary of AL Bogadana union unit under the upazila.

Police said a team of Rab-7 waylaid an auto-rickshaw in Char Sahabhikhari area at around 9:00pm and arrested Babul with a pistol and four bullets.

Rab filed a case with Sonagazi Police Station against Babul under the Arms Act and handed him over to the police yesterday morning.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Humayun Kabir of Sonagazi Police Station said they produced Babul in the Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent him to jail.

## Cop sent to jail in dowry case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Nilphamari court yesterday sent a police constable to jail, rejecting his bail prayer in a case for demanding dowry from his wife.

The accused is Safiar Rahman Taju, 32, son of one Mohashef Hossain of Police Lines para in the district town. He is attached with the district Police Lines.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Court passed the order when he surrendered to it.

According to the case statement, Taju married Ume Ayeman Ayesha Siddika, daughter of Maulana Abu Bakkar Siddique of Purbo Patwaripara area in Saidpur municipality of the district, in 2008.

After their marriage, Taju and his family members often tortured Ayesha Siddika for Tk 5 lakh dowry.

On July 6 last year, the victim filed the case with the court, accusing Taju and four others, including her mother-in-law.

# UP chairman aspirant shot dead in Bandarban

## Another hacked in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Masked criminals killed an aspirant for the post of chairman of Galengya Union Parishad under Bandarban's Ruma upazilla early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Shanti Priyo Tripura, 40, a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) of the upazila.

Voting in the union will be held in the third phase of the union parishad polls on April 23.

A gang of five to six masked gunmen broke into Shanti's house at Ramdu para around 3:30am and fired blank shots to scare away the locals, deceased's brother in-law Jogesh Tripura told this correspondent.

They took Shanti to a nearby jungle and shot him dead, Jogesh said, adding that the gang threatened him with death as he tried to

save Shanti.

Jogesh said Shanti had a longstanding enmity with a Tripura terrorist gang and they killed him.

Anachandra Tripura, a ward member of the area, said the group has been involved in criminal activities, including killing and abduction, in the area for a long time. Shanti might have been killed by them as he protested against their criminal activities, he added.

Sources said the gang consists of around 15-18 members of the Tripura community of the district. The gang is active in Ruma, Thanchi and Alikadom upazillas of the district.

KS Mong Marma, central member of PCJSS, demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of his killers.

Away in Pirojpur, supporters of Jatio Party (JP-Manju) hacked an Awami League (AL) nominated chairman candidate at

Nesarabad upazila of the district yesterday noon.

The victim is Ashish Kumar Baral from Jalabari union of the upazila, reports our correspondent.

Witnesses said Ashish went to Aramkathi village of the union at around 1:00pm yesterday with over 20 people. They engaged in a clash with JP-Manju nominated chairman candidate Touhidul Islam's men.

Touhidul's men beat up Ashish's men and hacked him on the head. They also threw the motorbikes of Ashish's men in the nearby canal.

Critically injured Ashish was taken to Nesarabad Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Md Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nesarabad Police Station, said police visited the spot and took five injured people to hospital.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Employees accompanied by election officials carry ballot boxes and other materials to the polling centres from Kalapara upazila headquarters in Patuakhali district yesterday on the eve of today's election to Nilganj, Chakamoia and Tiakhali union parishads under the upazila.

# Habiganj municipality mayor Gaus suspended again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Habiganj municipality mayor Golam Kibria Gaus, accused in former finance minister and Awami League leader SAMS Kibria murder case, has been suspended again.

The authorities concerned issued a letter in this regard signed by AKM Anisuzzaman, secretary of the local government division.

Mayor GK Gaus was

suspended again because of his links with the murder of Kibria, said Dilip Das, panel mayor of the municipality, yesterday.

Dilip Das, also councillor, has to perform his duty as acting mayor during the time, said municipality secretary Noor-e-Alam Siddique.

Former finance minister and Awami League leader SAMS Kibria and five others were killed in a grenade attack in Habiganj Sadar upazila on January 27,

2005. GK Gaus is currently in prison.

Earlier on March 6 last year, he was suspended as an accused in Kibria murder case.

On December 30 of the same year, Gaus was elected mayor of Habiganj municipality from jail.

On December 28, 2014, a Habiganj court sent Gaus to jail rejecting his bail prayer after he surrendered before it seeking bail.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

It is hard to believe that this is the Surma river. Garbage and waste have covered a large portion of the river, making it look like a dumping ground. The photo was taken at Kazir Bazar in Sylhet city three days ago.