

Bring attackers to book, arrest land grabber

Ethnic community students demand at human chain in Chapainawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Students under the banner of Adivasi Chhatra Parishad, an organisation of the ethnic students in plain land, yesterday demanded arrest and punishment of the land grabber who attacked four people, including two journalists in Nachole upazila on August 26.

Followed by a human chain, their demands came at a rally in front of Bangabandhu Mukta Mancha in the town.

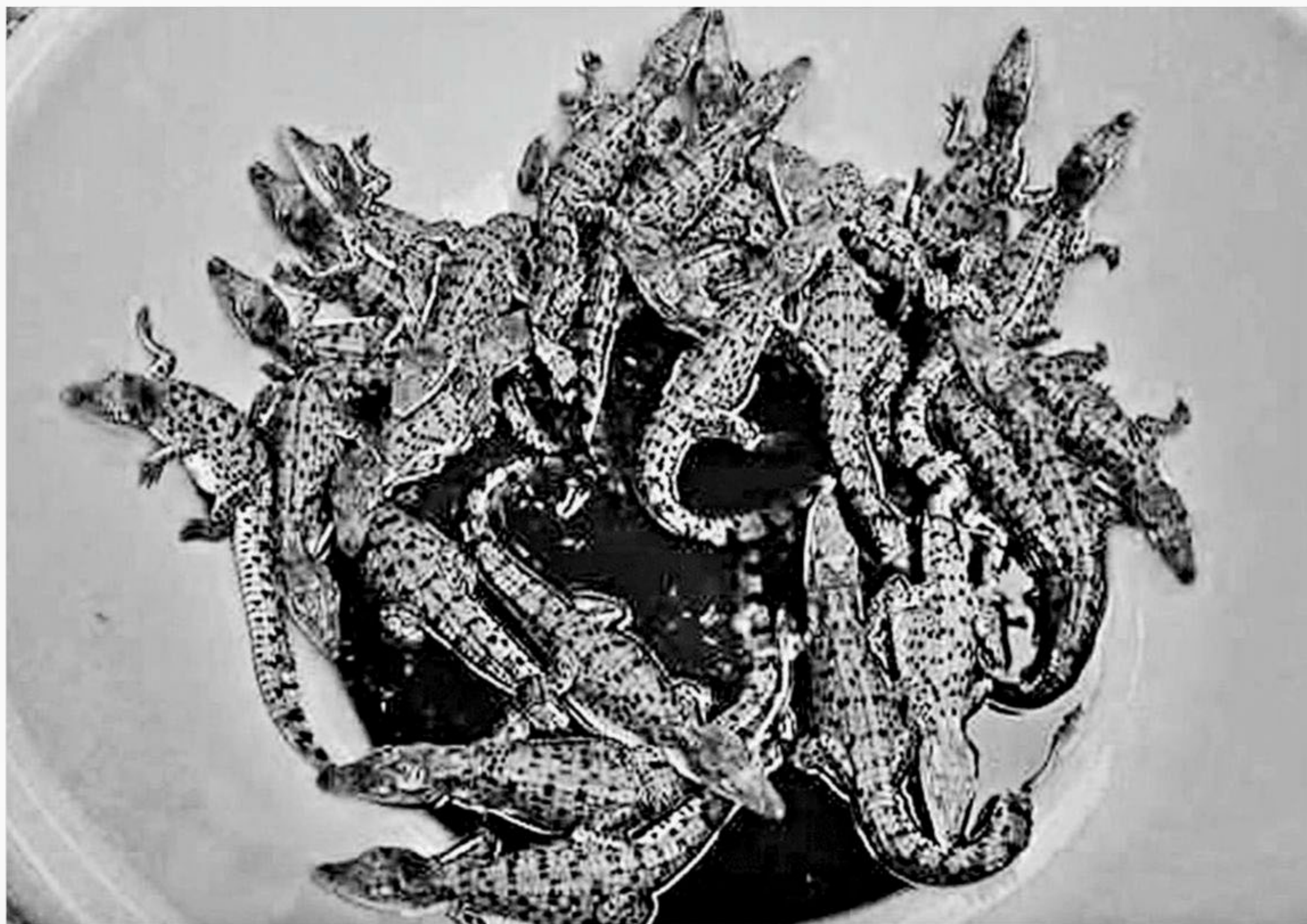
They also urged the government to ensure the security of the indigenous people living in plain land and later submitted a memorandum (MoU) Chapainawabganj deputy commissioner to press home their demands.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Rabindra Nath Saren, General Secretary Sabi Chandra Munda and Chapainawabganj Press Club President Golam Mustafa, spoke there, among others.

Locals said there had been a longstanding feud between local influential Tarikul Islam and ethnic people of Manikpara village over the ownership of a disputed pond and its adjacent land.

On August 26, Tarikul's men allegedly beat up four people, including two journalists, when they went to collect information about the dispute around 1:00pm.

Injured, Anwar Hossain Dilu, staff correspondent of Daily Prothom Alo, and Abdur Rob Nahid, journalist of a local daily Gaur Bangla, were treated at Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.



Newly born crocodiles at Karamjol Crocodile Breeding Centre in East Sundarbans.

PHOTO: STAR

47 newborns in croc farm

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Forty-seven crocodiles hatched from the eggs laid by crocodiles Juliet and Pilpil at Karamjol Crocodile Breeding Centre in East Sundarbans.

Twenty-seven crocodiles were born from 48 eggs of Pilpil and 20 from 50 eggs of Juliet. The baby crocodiles, born in the incubators at the Karamjol Crocodile Breeding Centre, are doing well.

Officer-in-charge of the Centre Abdul Mannan told this correspondent that about three months ago, Pilpil laid 48 eggs while Juliet laid 50 eggs, which were kept under intensive care in separate incubators. The healthy baby crocodiles were born from the eggs of the two crocodiles after 85 days. No crocodiles were born from 51 eggs as some fetus died and some eggs did not fertilise. Out of the 47 baby crocodiles born, 80 percent are female.

The baby crocodiles were kept under intensive care and monitoring for 36 hours, and then released into the water bodies kept ready for them.

Abdul Mannan said crocodiles

were born from eggs laid by Juliet since 2005. He said 16 crocodiles were born from Juliet's eggs in 2005, 26 in 2006, 29 in 2007, 30 in 2008, 27 in 2009, 20 in 2010, 27 in 2011 and 20 in 2016. Juliet will be capable of laying eggs for the next 40 years, he added.

Pilpil laid eggs for the sixth year. She will retain reproductive capacity for about 50 years.

Juliet and Pilpil laid a total of 621 eggs since 2005, and 482 baby crocodiles were born out of those. At different times, 101 baby crocodiles were released in Bangabandhu and Dulahazara Safari Parks, and in different rivers and canals in the Sundarbans.

Some 61 crocodiles -- big and small -- escaped from Karamjol Crocodile Breeding Centre in the tidal surge caused by the Cyclone Aila on May 15, 2009. Besides, some big animals from outside the breeding centre ate up 18 baby crocodiles. At present, there are 302 baby crocodiles at Karamjol.

Divisional Forest Officer of Sundarbans East Zone, M Saidul

Islam, said the country's only government crocodile breeding centre was established in 2002 in Karamjol Forest Camp area with the initiative of the Department of Forest under "Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project" to increase breeding and rearing of saltwater crocodile species, which is nearly extinct in Bangladesh.

The Centre started its journey with five small and big crocodiles caught in the nets of the fishermen at different rivers in the Sundarbans. Trained forest workers of Australia's International Wildlife Conservation Centre have been supervising the Centre from its start.

Karamjol Crocodile Breeding Centre has two adult female crocodiles and one male crocodile of saltwater species. The caretakers at the Centre named them Pilpil, Juliet and Romeo. Pilpil is 19 years old while Juliet and Romeo are aged 28 years. The average life span of a crocodile of saltwater species is 80 years to 100 years.

Missing schoolboy found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

An 11-year-old schoolboy was found dead in a pond at Shibpur upazila under the district yesterday, two days after he went missing.

The deceased, Bappi Bhuiya, son of newspaper hawker Kawsar Bhuiya of Giddapara village in the upazila, was a Class II student of Pubergao Government Primary School in the area.

Bappi took a job at a poultry farm near his house to help his family.

Family members said the owner of the farm Ferdousi Begum called the boy from his house to her farm on Tuesday night to get some work done.

But Bappi remained untraced since that night. As he did not turn up, his father made announcement about the missing of his son through a loudspeaker in the area, they said.

Khandaker Imam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shibpur Police Station, said some locals saw the boy's dead body in a pond of Pubergao village and informed the police.

Police found his body in a sack floating on the pond water at the village.

The body was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The boy's employer Ferdousi Begum and her mother were detained for interrogation, said the OC.

2 to die for murder

UNB, Natore

A court here on Wednesday sentenced a man and his second wife to death for killing his son last year.

The convicts are Imdadul Haq Milon and his second wife Nahida of Kamardah village in Baraigram upazila.

According to the prosecution, Imdadul divorced his first wife Kulsuma

Begum and used to live with his second wife and son Yeasir Arafat Imon, 8, at the village.

On August 27 in 2015, the two strangled Yeasir.

Imon's mother Kulsuma filed a case with Baraigram Police Station.

After examining records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge

Rezaul Karim handed down the verdict.

Permanent structure on govt market

Show cause notice on Bogra AL leader for violating lease term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Dhunat sent a show-cause notice to the lessee of a government marketplace in Mothurapur area under Dhunat upazila of the district for erecting brick-built structures in the marketplace, violating the lease terms.

UNO Muhammad Ibrahim sent the show-cause notice, asking for a reply within 10 days. The notice reached the lessee on Wednesday.

The lessee is Al Helal Mia, a local trader and also a member of Mothurapur union Awami League (AL) under the upazila.

Office assistant of UNO's office said the lease of Mothurapur government marketplace was given to a local trader Al Helal for Bangla year 1423 for Tk 20.83 lakh, but he violated the rules by erecting brick-built shops in the marketplace.

Lessee Al-Helal said he will give his reply within the time limit mentioned in the notice from the UNO's office.

Muhammad Ibrahim said his office found proof of illegal erection of brick-built structures in the marketplace after locals informed him about the erection of the structures.

If the lessee failed to give his reply within the time limit, legal action will be taken against him, the UNO said.

His office has made a list of the illegal structures in the marketplaces of the upazila to demolish them, he UNO.

Clean Kulaura campaign launched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

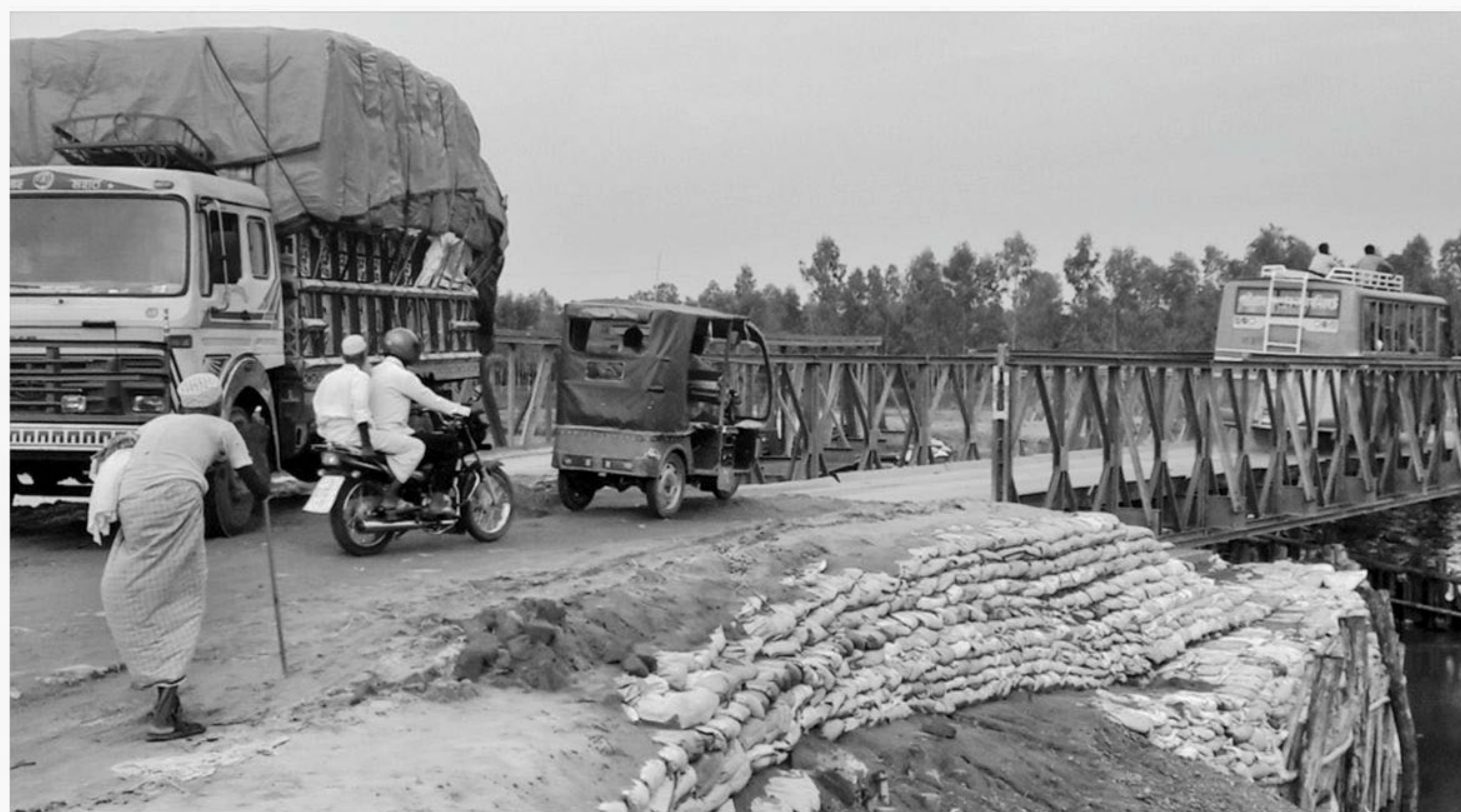
A clean campaign was launched to raise awareness among the locals in Kulaura under the district for taking immediate steps to keep the municipality clean.

Under the title of "Amar Kulaura Ami Poriskar Rakhbo (I will keep my Kulaura clean)", United Royals Club yesterday launched the campaign in association with Kulaura Mukto Scout, Nabin Chandra Model High school scout group and Nirapad Swastho Rokkha Andolon.

As chief guest Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Tahsina Begum attended the programme conducted by Md Mahfuzur Rahman, president of the club.

"We solely express solidarity with the initiative and will work together to clean the town," said the UNO.

Each group comprising 10 to 15 people joined the campaign to raise awareness among local people to keep the town clean.



Heavy vehicles ply across a risky Bailey bridge over Swarnamati River on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway at Sarpukur village in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR

PLYING OF OVERLOADED VEHICLES

Bailey bridge at risk of collapse in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The Bailey bridge over Swarnamati River on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway at Sarpukur village at Aditmari upazila of the district may collapse at any time due to plying of overloaded vehicles over it, which would cut off road communication between the district headquarters, four upazilas and Burimari land port

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Lalmonirhat has put up a notice barring vehicles of over 15-tonnes from crossing the bridge, but the caution notice is violated everyday as no vehicle follows the rule.

Locals said at least 5,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day. Of them, 50 percent are light vehicles, 20 percent are

below 15-tonnes, and 30 percent are overloaded vehicles. Each overloaded truck carries around 40 tonnes of goods.

Bus driver Nur Islam, 48, of Lalmonirhat town, said they face a lot of trouble while crossing the bridge as it has become weak due to plying of overloaded vehicles on it. "We are forced to use the bridge as it is the only road connection between four upazilas and Burimari land port," he added.

Truck driver Zahedul Islam, 52, said they carry 25-45 tonnes of goods on their trucks from Burimari land port. "It is highly risky driving the truck on the vulnerable bridge, but we do it as there is no alternative way to connect with Burimari land port," he added.

"We know RHD has put up a cautionary notice forbidding crossing of

overloaded vehicles over the bridge, but we violate it due to lack of options," said truck driver Helal Uddin. Overloaded trucks cross the bridge at night to dodge the vigilance of RHD officials, he added.

RHD officials said the Bailey bridge over the Swarnamati has been in use for the last ten months, when construction of the main bridge started. It will be used until construction is completed within 2-3 years.

Shahidul Islam, estimator of RHD in Lalmonirhat, said it was not possible to keep watch on the Bailey bridge round the clock, so the put up a cautionary notice. The local administration will take necessary action against plying of overloaded vehicles, he added.

Four robbers arrested in Jessore

UNB, Benapole

Police arrested four suspected members of a robber gang at Arabpur in Jessore town on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Shimul Kumar Biswas, Alauddin, Saiful Islam Rony,

Motaleb Hossain and Rony Miah of the area.

Sub-Inspector of Kotwali Model Police Station Molla Miraj Mosaddek said informed that a gang of robbers were preparing to commit robbery in the area, a police team conducted a drive there at night.

Later, they arrested the four while their other associates managed to flee the scene.

The law enforcers also recovered some sharp weapons from their possession.

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS 2016-9127345
Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide a complete Vehicle Fleet Management System (VFMS) along with all hardware and related services for the vehicles run by UNICEF in Dhaka and seven field office locations

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. For detailed scope of work and how to submit the bid offer please write to UNICEF at "supplybangladesh@unicef.org" or visit our website: http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/supply_4914.htm. The deadline to submit proposal is 25 September 2016 by 11:00 am.

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