

## 17 injured as Faridpur AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Seventeen people were injured and a number of houses were damaged as two groups of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy at Bhowal union in Saltha upazila here on Saturday.

Police fired shotgun bullets and tear-gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Locals said supporters of Bhowal union Awami League president and Abdul Wahab Matabber clashed with supporters of AL leader Mofazzal Hossain following an altercation over establishing supremacy in the area.

The one-hour clash left 17 people injured and some houses damaged.

Officer-in-Charge (investigation) of Saltha Police Station Md Faikujaman said they arrested one person from the spot.

## Man arrested for cutting wife's hair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested a man on charge of cutting hair of his wife in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

The arrestee is Nazrul Islam, 45, son of late Mobarak Ali of Kaluz village in Bogra's Dupchanchia upazila.

Nazrul along with his wife Sabeka Begum, 35, has been living in Bagzana area of Panchbibi after their marriage.

Yesterday, Nazrul started beating Sabeka over a minor issue. Later, he allegedly cut off hair of his wife before driving her out from the house. The wife then filed a complaint with the local police station. Later, a case was filed.



The under-construction Second Dharla Bridge over the Dharla river flowing between Lalmonirhat Sadar and Kurigram's Fulbari area.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Second deadline missed

LGED sets third deadline to complete work of Second Dharla Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The construction firm missed the deadline for second time to complete the work of the Second Dharla Bridge.

The bridge over the Dharla river flowing between Lalmonirhat Sadar and Kurigram's Fulbari area was scheduled to complete construction on 30 June this year while earlier it missed its first deadline on June 30 in 2016.

The joint venture JV Simplex-Navana of Dhaka is constructing the bridge while the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and

Cooperatives is implementing the project worth Tk 191.97 crore. The 950-metre-long and 9.8-metre-wide bridge with 19 girders has approach roads of 2.2 kilometres in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila and 0.84 kilometres in Fulbari upazila of Kurigram.

The authorities concerned now set the third deadline to complete the construction by December this year.

The locals blamed slow progress in construction work for the failure to meet schedule.

LGED official sources said the construction of the bridge started on April 24 in 2014 scheduled to be completed by

June 30 in 2016.

School teacher Abdus Salam said the Second Dharla Bridge when completed would improve communication as well as socio-economic state of the people of 30 unions and one municipality under four upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram.

The present government is always keen to improve people's socio-economic condition and livelihood but delay in completion of the construction makes them upset, he said.

"We are facing an untold suffering as we still use boat to cross the river and waste a lot of time due to delay in construction of

the bridge," said Nurul Islam, a businessman at Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

LGED's Fulbari Upazila Engineer Shamsul Arefin Khan said about 85 percent work has already been completed and rest of the work would be done by October. The bridge would be opened to traffic in December this year, he said, adding that the deadline to complete the work was missed due to flood and rain last year.

Sadhan Chandra Karmokar, project manager of the construction firm, however, could not be contacted despite repeated attempt.

## 3,000 families marooned as Teesta starts rising

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 3,000 families in six unions under Gangachara upazila of Rangpur have been marooned for more than 24 hours as the Teesta river started rising from Friday due to torrential rain upstream.

The affected unions are Nohali, Alambiditar, Kolkandal, Laxmitari, Gazaghanta and Morneya.

Alambiditar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Md Aftabuzzaman said ten families of his union have been relocated in the last seven days due to erosion. Besides, 500 families have remained marooned for the last 24 hours as the water level of the Teesta has gone up.

Nohali UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad said nearly 500 families of his union have also been marooned for more than 24 hours.

Deputy Assistant Engineer of WDB in Rangpur Shahidur Rahman said that the Teesta was flowing eight cm above the danger level at Dalia point on Sunday.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gangachara Aminul Islam said he urged the UP chairmen and members to stay alert until the situation became normal, adding that his office is trying to send food and other essential items for the affected families.



The pontoon at Sreepur launch terminal in Mehendiganj upazila under Barisal got detached from the bank due to erosion by the Kalabadar river three months ago, causing troubles for passengers.

PHOTO: STAR

# Erosion disconnects pontoon from ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Erosion by Kalabadar river during the last three months has disconnected the pontoon from the mainland at Sreepur launch ghat (landing station) in Mehendiganj upazila of the district.

The pontoon has not been reattached to the launch ghat and no alternative way to go to the ghat has been put in place, locals said.

People now have to take a boat to get on or off the launch, which is very risky, they said, adding that the pontoon is totally disconnected from the mainland, so people cannot use the launch ghat easily.

Many commuters are suffering due to the disconnection of the launch ghat, said Hossain Akash, a launch passenger.

A trader at Sreepur Bazar Mahabub Hossain said paddy fields and at least five shops have been washed away.

Around 100 families have been affected by erosion, locals said.

Mehendiganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kazi Md Alimulla said, "We have informed the deputy commissioner about the situation and requested him to send emergency relief."

"We have dumped sand bags in the area to protect the launch ghat," he added.

Deputy Director (River Safety and Transportation) of Bangladesh Inland Water Authority Barisal Ajmal Huda said he has no idea about the matter as local representatives did not inform him about it.

He will take action after investigation, he added.

## Row in Ishwardi AL

Jubo League leader sues mayor Mintu on charge of looting fish farm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Intra-party conflict in the ruling party's local units took a new turn as Ishwardi municipality Jubo League President Md Alauddin Biplob has submitted a complaint against municipality Mayor Abul Kalam Azad Mintu, upazila BCL president Jubayer Bishwas and 17 others on charge of looting his fish farm.

"The accused looted fish and fish feed from my farm in the last week of May this year, causing losses worth Tk 41 lakh," Biplob alleged in the complaint submitted on Saturday.

Contacted, Mayor Mintu said, "The pond that Biplob claimed as his fish farm is the property of Bangladesh Railway. Locals catch fish from there. Biplob is an illegal occupier of the pond and submitted the complaint to harass us."

Earlier, Ishwardi upazila Jubo League's President Shirhan Sherif Tomal, among 11 ruling party men, were held on charge of attacking the house of Ishwardi upazila BCL President Jubayer Bishwas on May 19.

Tomal, son of Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif, was also sued in two other cases filed by the men of Mayor Mintu.

Mintu is son-in-law of the minister.

Biplob was among the accused in the three cases. Tomal and the other arrestees were freed as all the accused got bail in the cases on June 13.

"When Tomal and his fellows were arrested and I was on the run due to the case, the accused looted my fish farm. After getting bail, I have submitted complaint to police," Alauddin Biplob said.

Asked about the illegal occupation, Biplob claimed he leased the pond from the railway authorities.

Abdul Hai, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said police have started investigation for taking step.

## SCHOOLBOY MURDER Six of 23 accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Twenty three people have been sued on charge of killing a schoolboy here.

The deceased was Al-Amin, 14, son of Amzad Hossain of Choto Italy village in Gabtoli upazila.

Police arrested six of the accused. They are Abdul Mannan, Yakub Ali, Abu Bakkar, Shamim Mia, Faruk Hossain and Bablu Mia.

They were later produced before a court that sent them to the district jail, said police.

On Friday, nine people, including the schoolboy, were injured in a clash. He later died at a hospital.

# Hospital generator lying packed for 9yrs

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A generator at Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex in the district has not been used for the last nine years as it is more powerful than needed and also costly to run.

As a result, treatment is being hampered at the hospital, and patients as well as doctors and staff face great suffering during power cut/load shedding.

The health directorate allocated the generator for the 50-bed hospital on July 5, 2008, said Rezaul Islam, storekeeper of the hospital. However, the generator has been lying packed in its box at the store of the hospital since then.

"We heard that it will take fuel worth Tk 12,000 per hour to run the 50 kilovolt generator, and an operator is needed to run it. But no fund was sanctioned and no operator was appointed for it," said Resident Medical Officer Dr Nazmul Hossain.

"Patients, especially newborns and their mothers, as well as doctors and staff suffer a lot during power cuts," he added.

"What is the benefit of having the generator if it cannot be used when needed?" said Shamima Akter, relative of a patient.

Hours-long load shedding is a regular matter in the upazila, but the hospital has been running without alternative power system for years, said local rights activist Sajjad Latif. "The authorities concerned

should take necessary steps to solve the problem immediately," he added.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Rafiul Karim said no engineer from the health directorate has come to install the generator, and no operator has been appointed to run it so far.

"Treatment is hampered seriously during power cuts as four to five operations are done per day," he said.

"The authorities should install a small generator," he said, adding that they wrote to the office of the civil surgeon several times, but nothing has been done in this regard so far.

*A generator at Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex has not been used for the last nine years as it is more powerful than needed and costly to run.*



A 50 kilovolt generator lies in its packing in the store of Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex in Tangail for the last nine years as it is too powerful and costly to run.

PHOTO: STAR