

## Elections to 11 Tangail UPs today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Elections will be held today in three union parishads (UP) in Sadar upazila and eight UPs in Madhupur upazila of the district.

The unions are Katulee, Silimpur and Mahmudnagar in Sadar upazila and Aushnara, Mohishmara, Kuralia, Aronkhola, Beribaid, Kuragachha, Sholakuri and Phoolbagchala in Madhupur upazila.

All preparations have been completed and voting will be held from 8:00am to 4:00pm, said district election officer Tajul Islam.

"A total of 1,060 police and Ansar members will be deployed at the 11 unions, along with one platoon of Border Guard Bangladesh and one team of Rapid Action Battalion at each union," he added.

## BCL INFIGHTING IN MADARIPUR Two cops among 20 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) over establishing supremacy in Madaripur town yesterday.

Police fired 12 rubber bullets and eight teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between the supporters of Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan and lawmaker AFM Bahauddin Nasim, organising secretary of Awami League central committee, over establishing supremacy in the area.

On July 2, Khoispur Union Parishad Chairman Mohammad Ali, supporter of the minister, clashed with supporters of the MP, leaving 12 people from both sides injured.

Over the incident, Tanvir Mahmud, general secretary of Madaripur BCL, and also the supporter of the minister, called a protest meeting on Tuesday.

Jahid Hassan, president of Madaripur BCL, yesterday called a meeting in the town demanding withdrawal of Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge.

When Tanvir along with his supporters came to the venue with a procession, triggering a clash that left at least 20 people, including two policemen, injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to bring the situation under control, said Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sumon Dev.

The situation is now under control, said the ASP.

Of the injured, eight people were admitted to Madaripur General Hospital, said the police official.

## 'Robber' dies, another shot in 'gunfight' with Rab

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

An alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and another bullet-hit miscreant was arrested by the elite force in the district early yesterday.

Three Rab members were also injured during the incident.

The law enforcers also recovered two one-shutter guns, two bullets, a machete and two knives from the spot.

The deceased was identified as Md Faisal, 25. Injured Noor Hossain Selim, 23, was admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

The gunfight took place near Lemua Bridge in Sadar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway around 3:00am.

Rab-7 camp commander Squadron Leader Safayet Jamil Fahim said on a tip-off that a gang of miscreants were taking prepa-

ration for committing robbery, a Rab patrol team rushed to the spot.

When the elite force challenged the duo, they opened fire on them. The Rab men retaliated. Three of the gang members fled in a private car.

Rab members recovered two bullet-hit robbers from the spot and sent them to Feni Sadar Hospital where on-duty doctor declared Faisal dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

They also recovered the firearms, bullets and knives from the spot.

Injured Noor Hossain Selim is a son of Obaidul Haque. He hails from Char Sonapur village in Sonagazi upazila of the district.

The commander said preparations are going on to file a case by the elite force in connection with the incident.



Fishermen now get only small quantities of fish in haor areas of Moulvibazar and Sylhet, a strikingly unusual situation during the ongoing monsoon. The photo was taken from Moulvibazar Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hard time for haor fishermen

*In an unusual development this year, fish gets scarce in rainy season*

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A large number of people dependent on fishing in the haor areas of Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts are passing days amid hardship as fishes are not available even during the ongoing monsoon.

Earlier in mid-April this year, different species of fishes saw massive death when half ripe paddy in vast fields rot due to early flooding in the haor areas, said fisheries officials, farmers and fishermen.

"I have been engaged in catching fish since my childhood but never experienced such crisis of fishes in the haor," said Sekhar, an elderly fisherman of Mirsankar village in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

"Different big fishes like rui, ayir,

katla and small fishes including pabda, shrimp, chela, chapila etc are usually available during this time of the year, but they have become rare this season. It has become difficult to maintain the family as I can hardly catch fishes worth Tk 100 a day," he added.

"I used to earn a lot by catching huge fishes in this season every year. But the situation is different now. My six-member family is passing days amid food crisis," said Modon Biswas, a fisherman of Sadipur village under Kulaura upazila.

"Most of the people, who depend on fishing in the haor area for livelihood, do not have experience of other works. And so, they are passing their days without any

work," Charan Biswas, 46, a fisherman of Chandpur village in Fenchuganj upazila of Sylhet said.

"I have already borrowed a lot to bear family expenditure including children's schooling cost," he said.

Many fishermen in Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts have similar tales to tell.

"After the relief minister's announcement during his visit at Badeghat, we the card holder fishermen got hope. But we are still waiting for aid as no instructions have been given about how many fishermen will be provided food aid," said Kutub Uddin of Badeghat area.

Different species of fishes including puti, tengra, veda, bailla, boal, pabda and rui started dying along with rotting of half ripe

paddy in the haor in mid-April this year, said Md Sultan Mahmud, senior fisheries officer of Kulaura.

The acidity in the haor water had risen while insecticides used in the crop fields have mixed with the water, causing death of the fishes, he said.

There are 13,400 card holder fishermen in Moulvibazar but no arrangement has been made to give relief for those suffering due to the fish crisis in haor areas, said Abdul Kuddus Akanda, district fisheries officer.

Sources of District Relief and Rehabilitation Office in Sylhet said 55,000 VGF card holders in the district are being provided food assistance for three months but there are no separate instructions to provide relief for fishermen.



The Dhaleswari river is about to devour Aagdighulia bazar in Nagarpur upazila of Tangail. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Four rivers turn furious as water level rises

*Affected people living under open sky, cry for aid in Tangail*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Flow of four Tangail rivers and their increasing water level is causing erosion in several upazilas of the district and devouring vast tracts of croplands and hundreds of homesteads.

Thousands of flood affected victims living along Jamuna, Dhaleshwari, Bangshai and Jhinai rivers in Bhuapur, Nagarpur and Mirzapur upazilas have been passing sleepless nights in fear of erosion.

Many have already shifted their houses to other places, locals said.

Besides, people who already lost their dwelling houses have taken shelter on different roads and flood control embankments or at their relatives' houses.

Erosion by Dhaleshwari river has devoured a number of dwelling houses and shops, a high school, a century-old market, a Hindu temple and cremato-

rium and vast tracts of croplands at Aagdighulia village in Nagarpur upazila in the last few days.

The union health and family planning centre, a primary school, a high school, post office, a mosque and madrasa and several hundred houses in Mokna union in the upazila are under threat of erosion.

Several villagers, including Pintu, Nayan and Rita Shil, said though they have lost everything they had, public representatives or government officials are yet to visit them.

Meanwhile, erosion by Banshai and Jhenai rivers have devoured over 150 dwelling houses and vast tracts of croplands in Mirzapur upazila in the last couple of days.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found a large portion of the flood control embankment and two educational institutions are also on the

verge of collapse.

In Bhuapur, around 350 families under Arjuna, Gabsara and Govindasi unions have already lost their houses by the devastating erosion of the mighty Jamuna in recent weeks, Bhuapur Upazila Chairman Abdul Halim said.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khan Mohammad Nurul Amin said he has directed the concerned upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) and project implantation officers (PIO) to prepare lists of genuine flood affected victims.

"We will provide government support to the affected people after getting fresh lists," the DC added.

Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Shajahan Siraj said they have written to the higher authorities seeking fund to check the erosion.

## Death threat for withdrawal of case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Family members of slain Saijudding Saju of Sadar upazila continued receiving death threat from the killers to withdraw the case.

The victim's youngest son Wshim Ali made the allegation at a press conference at Manikganj Press Club yesterday.

Saju's widow Nur Jahan Begum, eldest son Jasim Uddin, his wife Hajera Begum and other family members were present at the conference.

The killers also threatened witnesses to the murder not to give statements before the court, said Washim.

Saju was hacked to death allegedly by his younger brothers Dalil Uddin and Saher Uddin and their accomplices on June 12 in 2013 following a conflict over land dispute.

## Relief for Longadu arson victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati district administration on Tuesday distributed relief among 213 affected families of the arson attacks on the indigenous houses and shops in three villages of Longadu upazila.

They distributed the materials, including 30kg of rice, blankets, two bundles of corrugated iron-sheet and Tk 6,000, to the displaced victims.

Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Manzarul Mannan said they will provide more financial support to the affected families within a short time.

Over 200 houses and shops were looted, vandalised and put on fire when Bangalee settlers unleashed a series of arson attacks on the indigenous community on June 2.

## Bamboo bridge to cross road!

*People in Babuganj upazila of Barisal built a bamboo bridge on a dilapidated road*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People of Kedarpur union under Babuganj upazila of the district built a 100-foot-long bamboo bridge to cross over the road from Achhiya Wazed Girl's Secondary School to Payda Bari Jame Masjid.

The awful condition of the one-and-a-half-kilometre-long Kedarpur-Moulviganj road has been causing great suffering to commuters for many years. Thousands of people, including students, are forced to use the road every day, facing serious problems, locals said.

The suffering is increased during the monsoon, when some parts of the road turn as muddy as a paddy field, they said.

Some youths, led by Masum and Jewel, united the villagers and they constructed a bamboo bridge over the road one week ago.

"We had to build the bamboo bridge

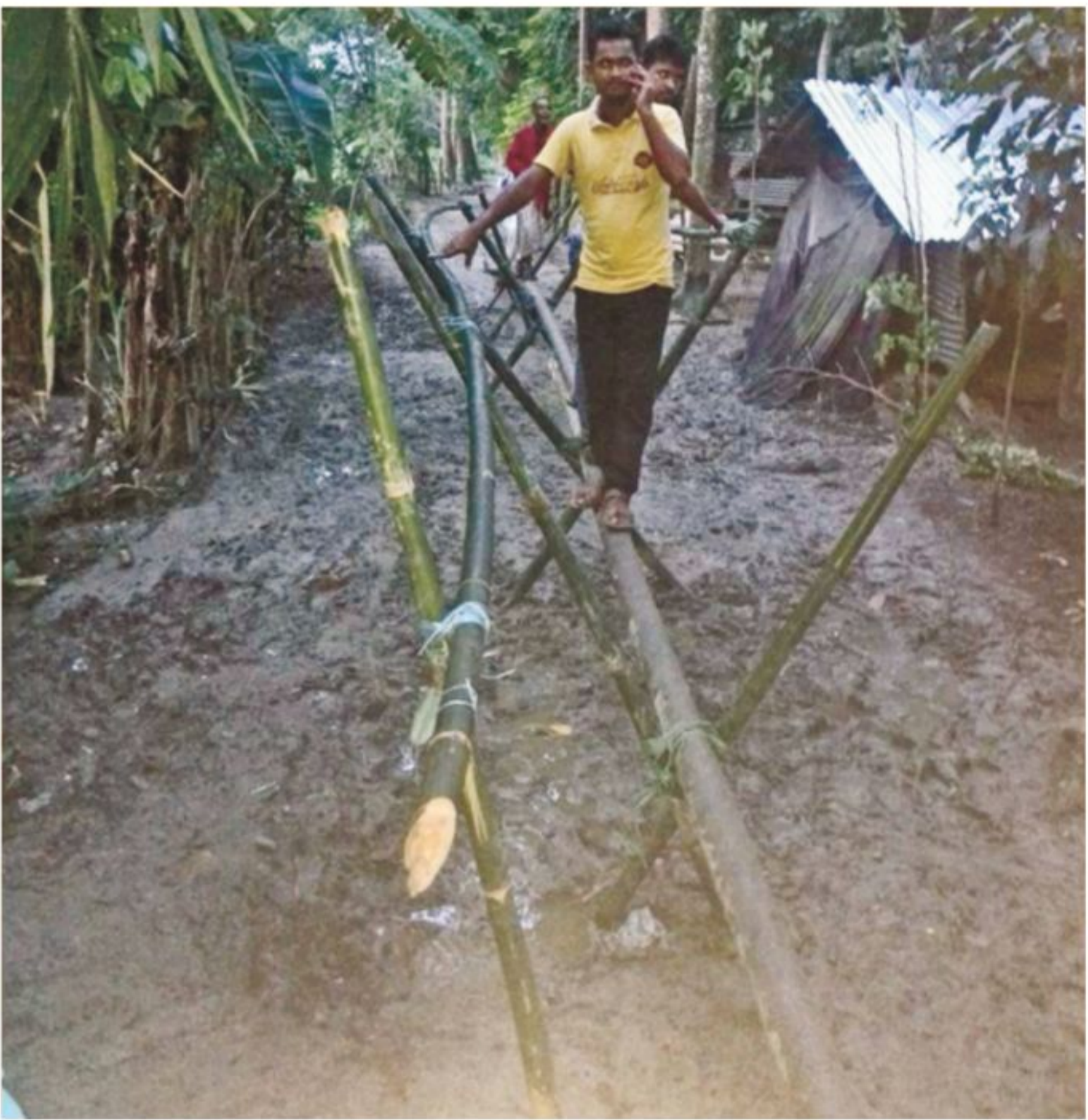
because children, women and old men face troubles using the damaged road," Masum said.

College student Rafiqul Islam Rony said hundreds of students had been facing many difficulties for years to get to their institutions.

Kedarpur Union Parishad Chairman Nure Alam Bepari said he requested the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) several times to repair the road immediately, but no action has been taken as yet.

Sub-Assistant Engineer of Babuganj LGED Humayun Kabir said a project paper for development work on the road was submitted to the department concerned nine months ago, and they are waiting for allocation of funds.

The brick road was built 10 years ago, but no repair work was done since then, locals said.



Locals have built a 100-foot-long bamboo bridge to cross this unusable portion of a road from Achhiya Wazed Girls' High School to Payda Bari Jame Masjid in Babuganj upazila of Barisal.

PHOTO: STAR