

5 Marma families under grabber's threat

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

Seventy-year-old Sing Yu Marma and his only son have to keep vigil on their remaining 40 decimals of jhum land almost round the clock as an influential man has already grabbed their 3.60 acres of jhum land among four acres of their land in Bangamura Marma Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila.

"The land grabber named Mohiuddin gave death threat to me and four other families of Bangamura Marma Para to leave our land," said the indigenous man, worried about impending poverty amid mental agony with his physically challenged wife.

"We used to get good amounts of paddy and other crops from our four acres of land but now we are facing food crisis along with uncertainty to survive on our ancestral land as most of our jhum land has been grabbed," he lamented.

The affected five families are now living in fear of ouster from their ancestral homes as three male members of the families had to go to jail in a 'false' case filed by the alleged land grabber in July.

"I had never gone to any police station in my life but police arrested me on July 24 and again on July 30. The land grabber has snatched away peace from our life," said Ba Chaw Mong, karbari (local chief) of Bangamura Marma Para.

"The land grabber is very influential, he managed the local administration and police," said U Hla Aung, another victim of the land grabbing of the para.

Mohiuddin grabbed around 1.26 acres of jhum land of the four families including the karbari, said U Hla.

"On July 28, hired thugs of Mohiuddin destroyed our jhum cropland and hung a signboard there. On July 29, the land grab-



Like a few other Marma families at Bangamura Marma Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila, U Hla Aung and his family members are worried about their existence there as an influential person has grabbed parts of their jhum land and filed a false case to oust them from their ancestral home.

ber filed a false case against seven of us and the next day the court sent three of us to jail when we attended the court," he added.

The indigenous families, dependent on jhum cultivation and forest resources for their livelihood, are worried about their future as they are hardly in a position to engage in legal battle with the influential person.

Mohiuddin committed forgery during the signing of the papers, said Prue Mong U, headman of Kuhlalong Mouza.

Refuting the allegations, Mohiuddin said, "I bought land legally from people of the area and I have documents."

Md Shafiul Alam, additional deputy commissioner of Bandarban, said, "We proceeded with this case following our surveyor's report, which misguided us, saying that no indigenous families are cultivating the lands."

"We didn't know that there is a dispute between indigenous villagers and Mohiuddin. We are investigating the matter

seriously," he said.

Golam Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said, "Police did not harass anyone in this regard. Rather we will help if anyone complains to us."

There are 80 Marma families in Bangamura Marma Para in Bandarban and if anybody has to leave this area amid insecurity due to land grabbing, it will be an ominous sign for the community living in the area for generations, said Buddhajyoti Chakma, a senior journalist of the district.

Jubo Dal leader Tuku denied bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal General Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku in a case filed for subversive activities in Gopalpur upazila of the district.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Farzana Hasnat passed the order in a crowded courtroom, said Court Inspector Anoarul Islam.

Tuku's lawyer Golam Mostafa sought his bail in the case, saying that Tuku was not involved with the incident.

Tuku, also former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was produced before the court around 1:00pm amid tight security.

Earlier, he was taken to the District Jail in the morning from Keraniganj Central Jail in Dhaka.

Several hundred leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies led by BNP's district President Shamsul Alam Tofa gathered in the court area from the morning.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF GIRL Punish accused teacher Demand locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Locals at a human chain in Boda upazila headquarters of Panchagarh yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of an assistant teacher of Boda Pilot Girls' School and College for alleged sexual harassment of a female student of Class IX.

Students, teachers and guardians joined the human chain on Panchagarh-Dhaka highway.

Several guardians at the programme alleged that a vested quarter threatened the general students and guardians to stop movement of demanding punishment of assistant teacher Abdur Razzak who harassed a female student of Class IX on August 26.

The incident took place when the victim went to attend tuition at the house of Abdur Razzak.

Following the complaint, the institution's governing body suspended the teacher.

Schoolboy found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The decomposed body of a schoolboy wrapped in a sack was recovered from a pond in Kendua upazila of Netrakona yesterday.

The victim was Jhony Mia, 11, son of day-labourer Sobhan Mia of Gogda village in Kendua. He was a fourth-grader at a local primary school, police said.

Quoting family members and local people, Kendua Police Station Officer-in-Charge Imdad Hossain Gazi said Jhony went out of his house on Friday afternoon for playing with other children of the locality.

As the boy did not return home until evening, family members started searching in different places of the locality and outside, but could not find him.

Local people found a sack floating in a pond in the village at noon yesterday. They spotted the decomposed body of the boy in it and informed police.

Police sent the body to Netrakona General Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC said.

The boy might have been killed in a planned way over previous enmity, he added.

No case was lodged and none was arrested as of filing of this report at around 5:00pm.

Risky Bailey bridge setback for Sheikh Hasina bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The risky Bailey bridge over the river Ratnai in Sadar upazila is in the doorway of newly constructed Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge over the river Dharla, causing immense sufferings to businessmen.

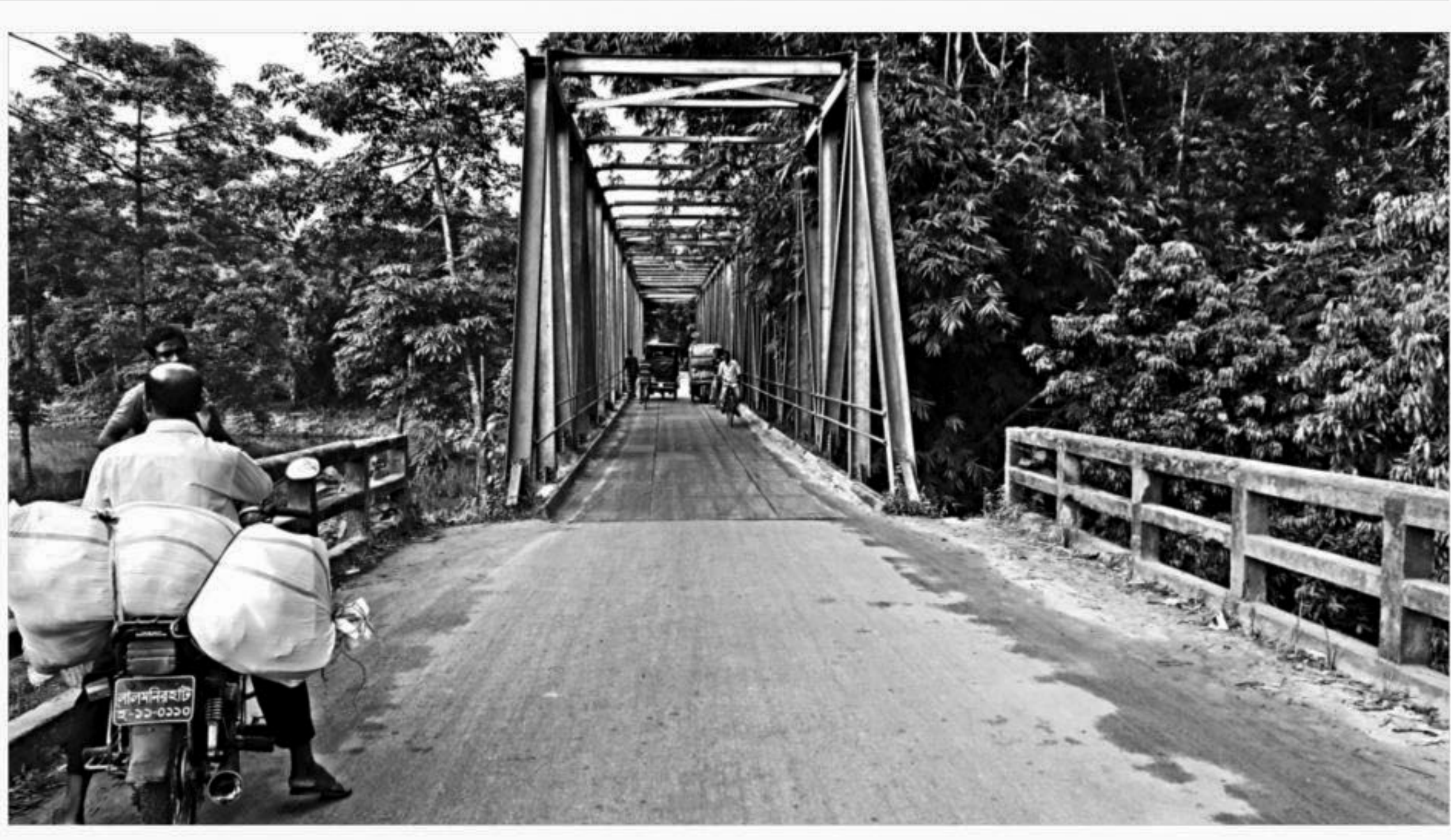
"We are happy to get the newly constructed bridge over the Dharla between Lalmonirhat Sadar and Kurigram's Phulbari upazila but upset over the risky Bailey bridge as heavy vehicles, especially loaded trucks, are not allowed over the Bailey bridge," said local businessman Nazrul Islam of Kulaghat Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

As the risky Bailey bridge is not fit for plying of heavy vehicles, they have to spend additional cost to transport goods by light vehicles, said Nazrul.

Maize trader Sabbir Ahmed of Thana Road in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila said Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge will help them if a concrete bridge is built in place of the Bailey bridge.

Kulaghat Union Parishad Chairman Idris Ali said the Bailey bridge was constructed over the river Ratnai in 2003 after a long plea from local people. Heavy vehicles used to move on the Bailey bridge but it turned risky in 2011 and since then heavy vehicles are not allowed to ply it.

Executive Engineer of Lalmonirhat Roads and Highways Department Ali Noorayen said, they have already written to the higher authorities for fund to construct a concrete bridge in place of the risky Bailey bridge but are yet to get allocation.



The risky Bailey bridge over the Ratnai in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila causes problem in transporting goods. PHOTO: STAR

JOURNO NODI MURDER Key accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Md Samsuzzaman Milon, one of the key accused in journalist Suborna Nodi murder case, was held from Dhaka early yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Milon, son of Abdur Rahim of Gopalpur village in Pabna town, from Armanitola area in Old Dhaka.

Milon, also the manager of IDRUL Pharmaceuticals, went into hiding since Nodi, Pabna correspondent of Ananda TV, was hacked to death in the town on August 31, said Md Ruhul Amin, commander of Rab-12.

The victim's mother later filed a murder case, accusing Rajib Hossain, former husband of Nodi, Rajib's father Abul Hossain, also the chairman of IDRUL group, Milon and four to five unidentified criminals.

Police arrested Abul Hossain after the incident.

Another key accused Rajib still remains absconding, said the Rab official.



Samsuzzaman Milon

AKIFA'S DEATH Bus owner arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Owner of Faisal Ganj-e-Raj Paribahan was arrested from Faridpur town early yesterday in connection with the death of 13-month-old Akifa Yasmin, who was hit by a passenger bus in Kushtia on August 28.

The arrestee, Jainal Abedin, 63, is son of late Adel Uddin Matbor of Charnotakhola village in Dohar upazila of Dhaka.

A team of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8), acting on a tip-off, raided Jhiltuli area in the town and arrested Jainal around 5:30am, Additional Superintendent of Police Md Rois Uddin, also company commander of Rab-8, said.

Jainal was later handed over to Kushtia Sadar Police Station around 3:15pm yesterday, the police official said.

Akifa was critically injured after she fell from her mother Rina Khatun's arms when

the two were hit by the bus in Kushtia on August 28.

The kid succumbed to her head injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 30.

The following day, Akifa's father Harunur Rashid filed a case with Kushtia Sadar Police Station against three people, including bus owner Jainal and driver Mohid Mia alias Khokon.

The CCTV footage obtained by the police shows the bus was stationary when Rina started crossing the road with Akifa in her arms.

When she was about to cross the stationary bus, its driver set off without warning, hitting the two before speeding away.

As Rina fell down, the baby slipped from her arms and fell to the road, suffering severe head injuries. Akifa was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital from where she was moved to DMCH.

SNATCHING OF BETEL LEAF BCL man caught

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested a Kulaura upazila unit leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on charge of snatching betel leaf from a van on Tuesday.

The upazila BCL suspended the arrestee, Talukder Jasim Siddiquee, organising secretary of Bhatara union BCL, and issued a show cause notice to Kamrul Islam, general secretary of the unit, for their alleged involvement in snatching the betel leaf, party sources said.

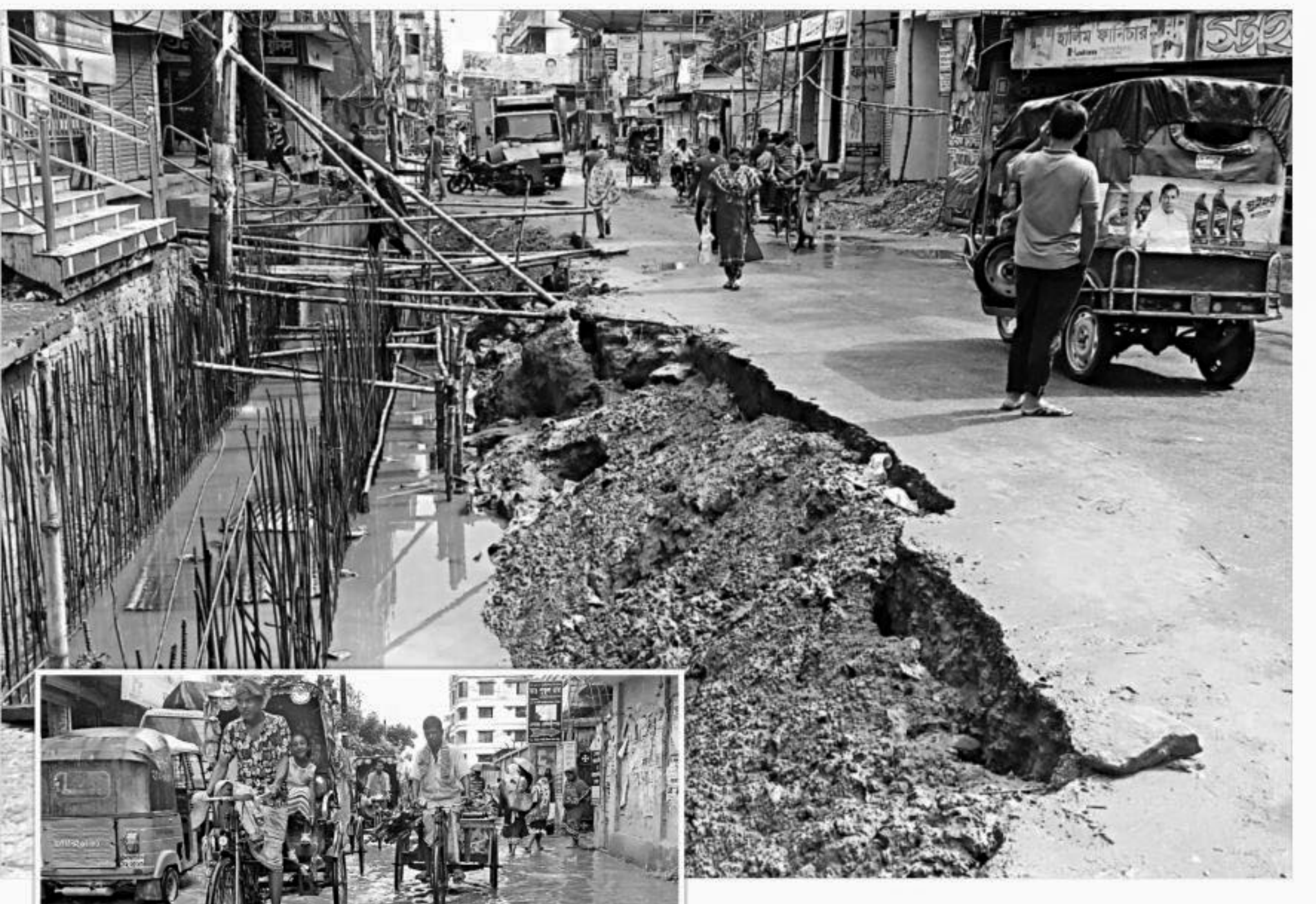
A Sylhet-bound pickup van carrying the item reached a newly constructed culvert in Bhatara union, when Kamrul and Jasim tried to stop the vehicle and took cages of betel leaf from it on Tuesday, said locals.

Afterwards, the van driver chased them and caught Jasim.

Informed, police arrested Jasim and took him to Kulaura Police Station.

Later, betel leaf trader Abdul Khalek filed a case with the police station on Thursday.

"We suspended Jasim Siddiquee from BCL and issued a show cause notice to Kamrul. The action has been taken for violation of the organisation's code of conduct," Kulaura upazila BCL General Secretary Abu Saiham Rumel told this correspondent yesterday.



An under-construction drain at Kalibari road in Tangail municipality. Inset: Registry Para Road in the municipality gets flooded after a rain. PHOTO: STAR

Roads pain for townsmen Battered roads, delayed drain constructions cause sufferings in Tangail municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Battered roads and slow pace of drain construction at different places in the municipality have been causing sufferings to the town dwellers.

The roads from Nirala Intersection to Dighulia, Park Bazar to Homeo College, Registry Para, Milkvita of New Bus Terminal to Deola Uttarpara and those in Kandila Bypass, Sabalia, Kodalia and College Para areas are in terrible condition.

Numerous potholes have developed on the roads and the situation worsens when rainwater fills the large potholes, making movement of small vehicles, especially rickshaws and three-wheelers, risky.

Repairing work of several roads was started recently and construction of drains besides the roads is also going on, hampering movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Rafiqul Islam of Masjid Road area said road and drain construction works are going on in the area and they are facing problems due to the slow pace of the work.

Md Aslam of Registry Para area in the town

said the condition of the roads in the area is awful and people, including students of the local educational institutions, suffer a lot while moving on the road. The roads get submerged when it rains, he added.

Repair work of 31 km of roads in the municipal area was started at the beginning of this year and about 60 percent of the work has been completed, Mayor Jamilur Rahman Miron said.

About 50 percent of the construction of 18 km of drains has been completed, he said.

A total of Tk 66 crore is being spent to repair the roads and build the drains, he added.

One hundred km of other roads in the municipal area are also in bad shape and 100 km more drains need to be built, the mayor said.

Acknowledging the sufferings of the municipality dwellers, the mayor said the repairing and construction works were delayed due to rain.

Two more separate projects costing a total of Tk 54 crore were also taken up for repairing other roads in the municipal area, and the works will be started very soon, he said.

The mayor also expressed his hope that the sufferings of the people will be over by this year.

Man killed by son for money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man was hacked to death allegedly by his son as he refused to give him money at Peerpur village in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

The victim was Md Abdul Hanif, 55, of the village.

Officer-in-Charge of Ataikula Police Station Md Masud Rana said Hanif had bitter relation with his son Md Mamun for long due to their family dispute.

Mamun sought some money from his father on Saturday night. On refusal, Mamun hacked Hanif with a sharp weapon. Critically injured Hanif later died on way to a hospital.

Mamun went into hiding soon after the incident, said the OC.