

## Bailey bridge collapse snaps road link

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Road communication between Sreemangal and Kamalganj upazilas in the district remained suspended for the last three days as a Bailey bridge collapsed when an overloaded truck was passing through it in Lawacherra forest area early Thursday.

Shortly after the incident, the authorities started repair work and it was going on as of filing of this report.

The bridge caved in under the weight of the 10-wheeled truck filled with coal around 12:30am on Thursday, witnesses and LGED officials said.

"Heavy vehicles kept using the bridge ignoring our warning, which eventually led to its collapse," said Sreemangal LGED official Sheikh Sohel.

Mahmudul Haque, upazila nirbahi officer of Kamalganj, said, "The bridge collapse caused much inconvenience to the locals and tourists. The repair work will be complete as soon as possible."



This Bailey bridge in Lawacherra forest area of Sreemangal upazila in Moulvibazar caved in under the pressure of a coal-laden truck early Thursday. Road communication with adjacent Kamalganj upazila remained suspended since then as the repair work could not be complete as of yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

## DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

# First case in Chandpur

Youth accused of defaming PM, two other ministers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

The first case in the district under Digital Security Act has been filed with Chandpur Model Police Station against a youth on charge of posting defamatory items on his Facebook page against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu.

Shahadat Patwari, Jubo League's Ward No 1 president of Madhya Sreeramdi area in Chandpur town filed the case yesterday morning against Swapna Bepari, 32, son of Fazal Bepari of Puran Bazar Markatiz Road in Chandpur town.

Swapan recently made a collage using distorted pictures of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu as replacements of villains' pictures in a poster of a Bangla cinema, said sources at Chandpur Model Police Station.

He then uploaded the collage as a post on his Facebook page.

After seeing the post, Jubo League leader Shahadat Patwari lodged a written complaint with Chandpur Model Police Station in this regard.

"After investigation, we became confirmed about the incident and filed the case under Digital Security Act as it was defamatory to the prime minister and two other ministers. Besides, it could also instigate deterioration of law and order," said Ibrahim Khalil, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Model Police Station.

Swapan Bepari went into hiding, he said.

The accused could not be contacted for his comment.

# Patients the victims

Shortage of doctors, nurses and beds at General Hospital, Kurigram

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Patients have been suffering a lot for long as services at the 250-bed General Hospital, Kurigram has deteriorated due to shortage of beds as well as physicians and nurses.

The hospital started its journey as 50-bed Kurigram Modern Hospital in 1968 and it was upgraded to a 100-bed one as Kurigram Sadar Hospital in 1999.

Later, it was again upgraded to 250-bed as General Hospital, Kurigram in 2010 but patients, physicians and staff are now facing accommodation crisis there.

Around 800 patients at outdoor and around 250 patients at indoor departments are given treatment every day. Many indoor patients stay on the veranda due to shortage of beds.

"Around 70 patients take treatment in the medicine and surgery wards every day, even though there are only 28 beds there. Most of the patients stay on the hospital floor and veranda due to shortage of accommodation," said Senior Staff Nurse Morsheda Khatun at medicine and surgery wards (female).

"The 50-bed Kurigram Modern Hospital was set up in Kurigram town in 1968. The hospital was upgraded to 100-bed Kurigram Sadar Hospital in 1999 and to 250-bed General Hospital in 2010," said hospital Superintendent Dr Anwarul Haque Pramanik.

"There are 18 doctors and 70 nurses against the posts of 42 doctors and 165 nurses at the hospital. Five medical officers are working at the indoor, outdoor and emergency departments as the posts of 24 doctors and 95 nurses have been

vacant for long," Dr Anwarul said.

Kadvanu Bewa, 70, came to the hospital from Andharirjhar area in Bhurungamari upazila of the district. "I have been staying for ten days on the veranda of the surgery ward (female) due to shortage of bed," she told this correspondent.

"An eight-storey building is being constructed under the supervision of Kurigram Public Works Department (PWD). Construction was started on November 4, 2013 and it was supposed to end on June 30 in 2017. But construction work is not completed yet," said Dr Anwarul.

"Patients have been suffering from shortage of beds since the 100-bed hospital was upgraded to 250-bed general hospital. I informed the higher authorities of health department, Kurigram deputy commissioner and PWD officials about the matter several

times," he added.

"To take better treatment, a large number of referred poor patients come to the general hospital from different upazila health complexes, union health sub-centres, union health and family planning welfare centres and community clinics in nine upazilas of the district. The building should be completed as soon as possible and handed over to the hospital authorities, considering the patients' sufferings," said Civil Surgeon Dr Aminul Islam.

The building is being constructed in the hospital compound at a cost of Tk 29 crore by DU-FU-MT JV (Joint Venture) under the supervision of Kurigram PWD, said Executive Engineer Dewan Maududur Rahman.

"We are putting pressure on the JV contractors to complete it in a short time," Dewan said.



The photo taken a few days ago shows patients lying on the floor of General Hospital, Kurigram due to shortage of beds. Inset, front view of the hospital.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

## ARSON ATTACK IN SIRAJGANJ 140 BNP-Jamaat men sued: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police in a drive yesterday detained two of 140 activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, who were sued on charge of launching an arson attack at a village courtroom, run by Saydabad Union Parishad (UP), in Sadar upazila of Sirajganj on Thursday.

Sujala Islam, an assistant of the village court, filed a case with Sadar Police Station accusing 140 BNP-Jamaat men, including Saydabad union BNP President Rafikul Islam and its General Secretary Golam Molla yesterday morning. Officer-in-Charge of the police station Md Abu Daud said.

According to the case statement, the accused BNP-Jamaat men hurled a petrol bomb targeting the closed village courtroom when none was present there on Thursday night.

Saydabad UP Chairman Nabiul Islam said some important documents and office furniture were damaged during the arson attack.

None was, however, hurt in the incident, the UP chairman said, adding that it was a planned attack.

## Assault on journo

Jubo League leader allegedly led the attack over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A group of people led by a Jubo League leader attacked a journalist in Sadar upazila when he tried to stop them from grabbing his land on Friday.

Victim Md Asaduzzaman Asad, district correspondent of The Daily Independent, told local reporters that his father bought 76 decimals of land at Barunagaon village in 1998 and set up a sawmill there.

Asad said his father ran the business till his death on April 18 this year and he is now running the sawmill that he inherited.

He said on Friday evening, the criminals led by Rabiul Mustafa Habib, alias Mota Babu, a district unit Jubo League leader (social welfare secretary of the immediate past district committee), went to the place equipped with sticks and sharp weapons.

They broke the fences of the sawmill and beat him when he tried to resist them, Asad said, adding that they also threatened him of dire consequences if he did not give up the land.

Refuting the allegation, Babu said they did not attack Asad but asked him not to build any establishment on the land as a case was pending with a court.

Asad said he would file a case against the attackers with Thakurgaon Police Station.

Thakurgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Mostafizur Rahman said they asked Asad to file a complaint. "We will take steps after getting a complaint," the OC said.

## Father jailed for daughter's early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A mobile court on Friday sentenced a man and two others to six months' imprisonment each for arranging marriage of his underage daughter in Jashore's Keshabpur upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each.

Moshir Rahman of Jahanpur village arranged marriage of his 14-year-old daughter, a student of Class X, with one Sirajul Islam of Deoli village on Friday night.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mizanur Rahman, who led the court, foiled the marriage and punished Moshir and Ojiar Mollah and Mominur Mollah.

## Man strangles wife for dowry

Victim's father alleges husband tortured her since marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Rudrapur village in Jashore Sadar upazila on Friday.

The deceased was Mira Khatun, 23, daughter of Hafizur Rahman of Malanchi village.

The victim's father Hafizur said Sohel Rana, 30, son of Monir Hossain of the upazila, often tortured his daughter for dowry since their marriage four years ago.

They gave Tk 2 lakh to Sohel's family members during the marriage. They also gave Tk 30,000 to Sohel for business six months ago and the latter again asked his daughter to bring Tk 45,000 from him on Friday, said Hafizur.

Sohel strangled Mira following an altercation over the issue at night, alleged Hafizur.

The body was sent to Jashore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Khabir Uddin, sub-inspector of Kotwali Model Police Station.

The reason behind the death will be known after getting the autopsy report, said the SI.

## Man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

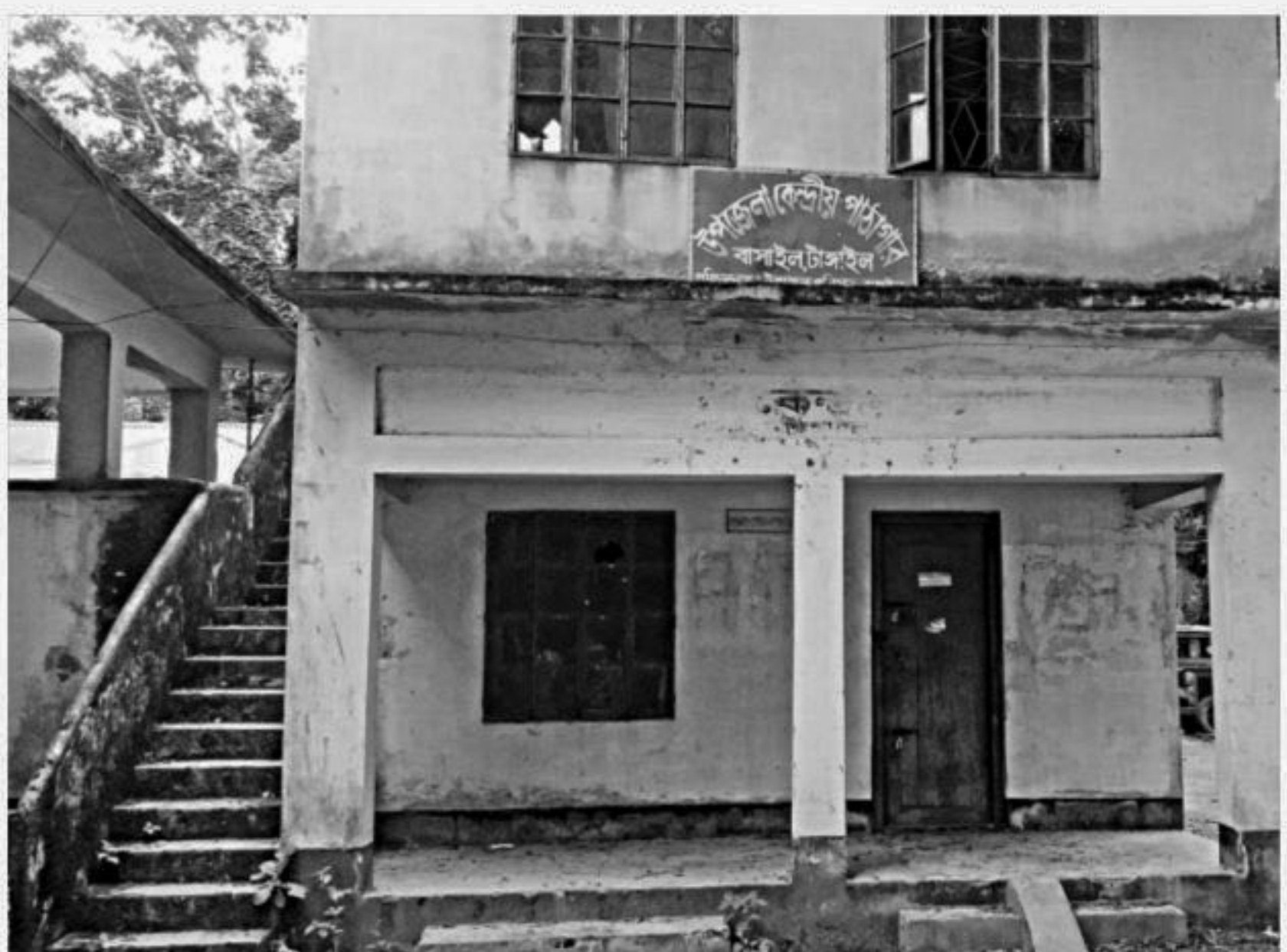
Criminals hacked a man to death at Chutlia intersection under Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The victim was Shafiqul Islam, 40, son of Abdul Wadud Tarafdar of Police Lines area in the district town.

Jhenaidah ASP Milu Mia Biswas said locals found Shafiqul lying injured in Chutlia intersection area around 11:00pm on Friday. Police sent him to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 2:00am.

On-duty doctor Shahin Dhali of Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital said the body bore marks of serious injury on the head and on different parts. He died due to excessive bleeding from his wounds, the doctor said.

## Basail library shut for years



The library in Basail upazila of Tangail has been closed for long, depriving local people as well as students of the facilities for acquiring knowledge.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The central library in Basail upazila has remained closed for a very long time, depriving local people as well as students of the facility for acquiring knowledge.

The stock of costly books and the furniture of the library are also getting damaged due to lack of necessary care.

The library started in a room on the first floor of a two-storey building beside the upazila auditorium during the '90s.

Since its inauguration, the library attracted knowledge-thirsty people as well as poor and meritorious students in the upazila.

However, the library was closed for unknown reasons within a few years, said Anayet Karim Bijoy, a rights activist in Basail.

Recently the muezzin of the

upazila Jame Masjid started using the library room as his residence, he said.

"The people of the upazila have been deprived of reading facilities as the library has been shut for a long time. The only public library of the upazila should be reopened immediately," said Jahangir Hossain, vice-principal of Emdad Hamida Degree College.

Basail Upazila Parishad Chairman Kazi Shahidul Islam, also president of the library management committee, said the library had been closed before he became chairman of the upazila.

"However, I have a plan to reopen it as soon as possible," he said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsunnahar Swapna said she would provide necessary support for reopening the library.