



A man wades through ankle-deep water after crossing the collapsed bamboo bridge over the Bhogai river at Dakkhin Ranigaon village in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila. Inset, another man makes an arduous efforts, defying the risk of accident, in case he slips from the steep deck of the twisted structure as the alternative way of crossing the river seems a bit time consuming to him.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Villagers suffer as storm damages bamboo bridge in Netrakona

Locals erected the bridge with their own fund about eight years ago and continued using it, repairing every year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People of eight remote villages in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila are suffering immensely since a bamboo bridge on the Bhogai river collapsed during a storm recently. Locals said although the broken bamboo bridge at Dakkhin Ranigaon village is the only means of communication for several thousand people of Ranigaon, Babnikona, Khola, Ganiargaon, Haatkhol, Chamarjani, Gupirpara and Tengra Bottala villages, it remains almost unusable now. Ibrahim Khalilullah, director

of a kindergarten school in the upazila, said the bridge is the only way for hundreds of villagers, especially school and college going students, to go to their destinations, but communication through the bridge remained suspended for the last couple of days. Local people erected the bamboo bridge with their own fund about eight years ago, Ibrahim said, adding that since then they have been repairing it spending Tk 1 lakh every year. There are some 500 students at two primary schools, one high school and a college on both sides of the bridge and at least 50

students use the bridge every day to go to their institutions, said Tamim Hasan, an intermediate student. Villagers have been facing serious troubles while crossing the bridge to go to different local bazars as well as the upazila headquarters, he said. The situation become more difficult when people have to carry a critical patient through the bridge, a farmer of Chamarjani village Abdul Gani said. Earlier, there was a boatman to ferry people, but he left the village for Dhaka about eight years ago, Gani added.

Sixty-five-year-old Hazi Abdul Motalab said a nor'wester uprooted a portion of the bamboo bridge last week and it is totally unusable now. Farmers are facing serious obstacles in transporting their produce like Boro and other vegetables using the bridge, he said. Farmer Soab Mia of Gupirpara village said the river is a source of livelihood for many and if a concrete bridge is constructed it could be a great source of agriculture business, Koilati Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Rubel Miah said.

## Picked up 4 months ago, BCL leader returns home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), who was picked up allegedly by law enforcers over three months ago, returned home at Taltala Halfrastra village in Sadar upazila yesterday. The victim is Jamil Hossain Milon, 30, son of Emdadul Haque Miazi of the village, and former organising secretary of Natore municipality unit of BCL. The victim's father said some men identifying themselves as law enforcers picked up Milon from the house on January 31 this year. "They confined me to a house. A microbus dropped me off blindfolded on a road in Dhaka's Abdullapur on Wednesday night and gave me Tk 2,000 as transport fare," said Milon. "Earlier on on February 1, Milon's father filed a case. Action will be taken in this regard," said Kazi Jalal Uddin, Sadar Police Station OC.

## TORTURED FOR DOWRY Housewife fighting for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Brutally tortured allegedly by husband and in-laws, a housewife is fighting for life at the ICU of a hospital in Rajshahi. The victim, Mahamuda Akhter Meem, 30, wife of Pintu Miah of Dari Sardiar village in Pabna Sadar upazila, was mercilessly beaten and strangled at her in-laws' house around 4:00pm on Tuesday, Md Moniruzzaman, officer in charge of Ataikula Police Station, quoted the victim's family members as saying. "Mahamuda's in-laws often tortured her to force her to bring dowry money from us. We gave him money on several occasions but he continued pressing my sister to give more," Md Mehedi Hasan, brother of the victim, told this correspondent. "Recently they pressurised her to give Tk 1 lakh as dowry. As we could not meet the demand, her husband and other family members mercilessly beat and strangled her. "When my sister's condition turned critical on Tuesday morning, they called us over



phone and said that my sister was sick. Reaching the hospital, we found her lying in a serious condition while her husband and in-laws had fled," he said. "We took Mahamuda to Pabna Medical College Hospital but the doctors referred her to Rajshahi for better treatment. "Now my sister is fighting for life at the ICU of Popular Hospital in Rajshahi," Mehedi said. He demanded punishment of the perpetrators. The victim's father filed a case accusing five people including her husband, Ataikula Police Station Officer in Charge Md Moniruzzaman said, adding that the police are trying to arrest the accused who went into hiding after the incident.

## GRAFT IN GOVT RICE DISTRIBUTION Fisheries dept starts probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Pirojpur fisheries department has started investigation in to the matter of collecting bribe allegedly by public representatives from the fishermen while distributing government allocated rice to the beneficiaries at Sikder Mollik union parishad (UP) premises in Sadar upazila on Monday. Following a report published in The Daily Star on Tuesday, the matter came to the notice of the authorities concerned, Pirojpur District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Mosharraf Hossain said. "After getting directives from the Barishal office, I asked upazila fisheries officer in Pirojpur Sadar upazila to investigate the matter and submit the report within a week," DFO Mosharraf said. Sadar Upazila Fisheries Officer Goutam Mondal said during primary investigation he has found the allegation of collecting money from the fishermen during the distribution of rice was true. He will submit the probe report to the authorities concerned within the stipulated time, Goutam said. During the distribution of the compensation rice on Monday, Rafiq Howlader, UP member of ward No 5 under the union, collected Tk 90 to Tk 100 from each of the beneficiaries with the consent of Sikder Mollik UP Chairman Shahidul Islam, many fishermen alleged. The government provides 160 kilogram of rice to each fisher family for four months, 40 kilogram per month, during the ban period of catching jatka, hilsa fry less than 10 inches long, from November 1 to June 30. Under the programme, 259 fisher families from Sikder Mollik union have been enlisted for the compensation this year and each was given 120 kg of rice for three months.

## 4 injured in AL-BNP clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least four people were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League (AL) and BNP at Durgapur village in Boalmari upazila on Wednesday. Three houses and two shops were also damaged and looted during the incident. Locals said Abul Kalam Azad, a member of Faridpur Zila Parishad, and also the vice president of the upazila unit of AL, arranged an iftar party at his house on Tuesday. The following day, Raisul Islam, president of Boalmari upazila unit of Chhatra Dal, also arranged an iftar party at his house. Zahid Mollah, nephew of Abul Kalam Azad, joined Raisul's iftar party that angered the supporters of Azad. Later, the two rival groups attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving at least four people from both sides injured.

## Tangail district police chief awarded as best SP in Dhaka Range

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Sanjit Kumar Roy, superintendent of police (SP) in Tangail, has been awarded as the best SP under Dhaka Range. Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Dhaka Range, handed over a crest and a certificate to SP Sanjit during a monthly meeting held at the DIG's office in Dhaka on Wednesday afternoon. Among others, Saleh Mohammad Tanvir, additional deputy inspector general of police at Mohera Police Training Centre in Tangail, and SPs of 13 other districts under Dhaka Range, attended the programme.

SP Sanjit was highly appreciated for his role in unearthing mystery of many clueless cases, recovering narcotics, ensuring proper traffic management, looking after welfare of members of the police department and their families and arranging different sports competitions and cultural events, speakers said. On February 4 this year, Sanjit received the Bangladesh Police Medal 2018 award from the Prime Minister at Rajarbagh Parade Ground for his dedication and hard work. In his reaction, Sanjit said it was not a personal achievement but a reward for all the members of Tangail police.



Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Dhaka Range, handed over a crest to Tangail SP Sanjit Kumar Roy at a monthly meeting held at the DIG's office on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'WRONG TREATMENT AT HOSPITAL' Case filed against doctor, nurses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A case was filed on Wednesday night against a physician and two nurses of Gopalganj 250 bed General Hospital over their alleged wrong treatment of a patient. Uncle of the patient, Moriyam Sultana Munni, 20, a second-year student of sociology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj, filed the case with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station. The three hospital employees accused in the case are Dr Tapan Kumar Mondal, assistant professor of surgery department; Shahnaz Parvin, senior staff nurse; and Kuhelika Akter, staff nurse. According to the case filed by the patient's uncle Zakir Hossain Biswas, Moriyam was admitted to the hospital on Monday night for gallbladder surgery. Early Tuesday, Moriyam's condition deteriorated after nurse Shahnaz gave a wrong anaesthesia injection to Moriyam. The patient was taken to Shaheed Abu Nasar Specialised

Hospital in Khulna the same day. Moriyam's uncle Zakir said his niece was admitted to the Gopalganj hospital for a surgery under Dr Tapan, but "the staff nurse pushed a wrong injection". On Wednesday evening, Moriyam had to be rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Khulna. "We want punishment for those involved in the incident [of medical malpractice]," he said. Dr Faridul Islam Chowdhury, assistant director of Gopalganj 250 bed General Hospital, said, "We formed a committee to investigate into the incident and the committee has been asked to submit its report within three working days. We will take action after getting the report." Confirming the filing of the case, Gopalganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam said, "We are trying to arrest the accused." Meanwhile, students of BSMRSTU yesterday formed a human chain in front of Gopalganj Press Club, demanding arrest of the doctor and nurses responsible for the medical malpractice.