

Driver, cattle farmer strangled

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were strangled in Mymensingh and Bogura yesterday.

An auto-rickshaw driver was killed allegedly by muggers in Chakua Puraton Ghat area of Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Sujon Mondol, 25, son of Babul Mondol of Sutarchapur village in the upazila.

Quoting villagers, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Pagla Police Station Md Shahinuzzaman said Sujon went out of home with his vehicle on Friday afternoon and since then he remained missing.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body, which bore injury marks, from the area in the morning and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Criminals might have strangled Sujon and snatched away his auto-rickshaw, said the OC.

In Bogura, an elderly farmer was strangled by cattle lifters at Bhabanipur village in Sherpur upazila of the district early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The victim is cattle farmer Shahajahan Ali, 60, son of Abdus Samad of the village.

The incident took place in Bhabanipur Bazar area at midnight, said police.

Quitting family members of the deceased, Humayan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Police Station, said Shahajahan had been rearing two goats and three cows at his cattle farm ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

A gang swooped on the farm around 2:30am. They strangled Shahajahan and took away the cattle.

Three women land in jail for chopping off neighbour's hair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A Pirojpur court yesterday sent three women to jail after police produced them before it in a case filed for forcibly chopping off a woman's hair in Indurkani upazila on Thursday.

Indurkani police arrested the three women -- Tymun alias Farida, 55, wife of late Mosharref Hossain Sheikh; Mithi Begum, 35, wife of Riaz Sheikh; and Beauty Begum, 23, wife of Shafikul Islam Sheikh, all from Dorirchar Baroikhali village in the upazila, on Friday night.

Earlier that day, their neighbour Sajida, 35, wife of Rafikul Islam Sheikh from the same village, filed the case with Indurkani Police Station against four people including the three arrestees and Shafikul Islam, husband of Beauty.

Three dependent young children of the arrestees also had to accompany their mothers to the jail, said Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

Citing the case statement and locals, the OC said the three women went to Sajida's house on Thursday morning and accused her of stealing a pet chicken of theirs.

At one stage, the three women forcibly chopped off Sajida's lock of hair with a pair of scissors.



The Jamuna river devours about 200 metres of a concrete road at Khanpuran village in Pabna's Bera upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by Padma, Jamuna takes serious turn in Pabna

The two major rivers devoured many homesteads, vast croplands in Bera and Sujanagar upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Erosion by the Padma and Dharla rivers has taken a serious turn in Bera and Sujanagar upazilas and continued devouring more fresh areas every day.

As a result, thousands of people of different villages in the two upazilas became homeless.

Besides, many roads, houses and vast tracts of croplands have been washed away as the two major rivers continued swelling in the last three weeks.

During a visit to Notakhola and Khanpuran areas in Bera upazila a few days ago this correspondent saw about 200-metre of a concrete road at Khanpuran village washed away due to huge pressure of water in the Jamuna.

Jamuna had engulfed the entire Notakhola village and Notakhola Ferry Terminal last year and has been getting more wider, devouring houses, croplands and roads at Khanpuran, Char Panchakola, Mohonganj and Ghop Shilonda villages in the last three weeks, Water Development Board (WDB) Bera Sub-Divisional Executive Engineer Abdul Hamid said.

The water level in Jamuna is increasing rapidly and already devoured 200 metre Notakhola-Dayarampur road at Khanpuran village in the first week of July, Jane Alam of Khanpuran village said, adding that "Within 24 hours, Aman paddy on my three bighas of land was washed away by the river."

"The river is only 500 meter from

my residence," Alam said, adding that the Ankara Tower, the control tower of national grid's power transmission line, at Khanpuran village is also facing erosion threat.

If the tower is damaged, power supply to the national grid will be disrupted as well, he said, adding that villagers are trying to protect the area by setting bamboo and dumping sand bags beside the erosion-hit Notakhola-Dayarampur road.

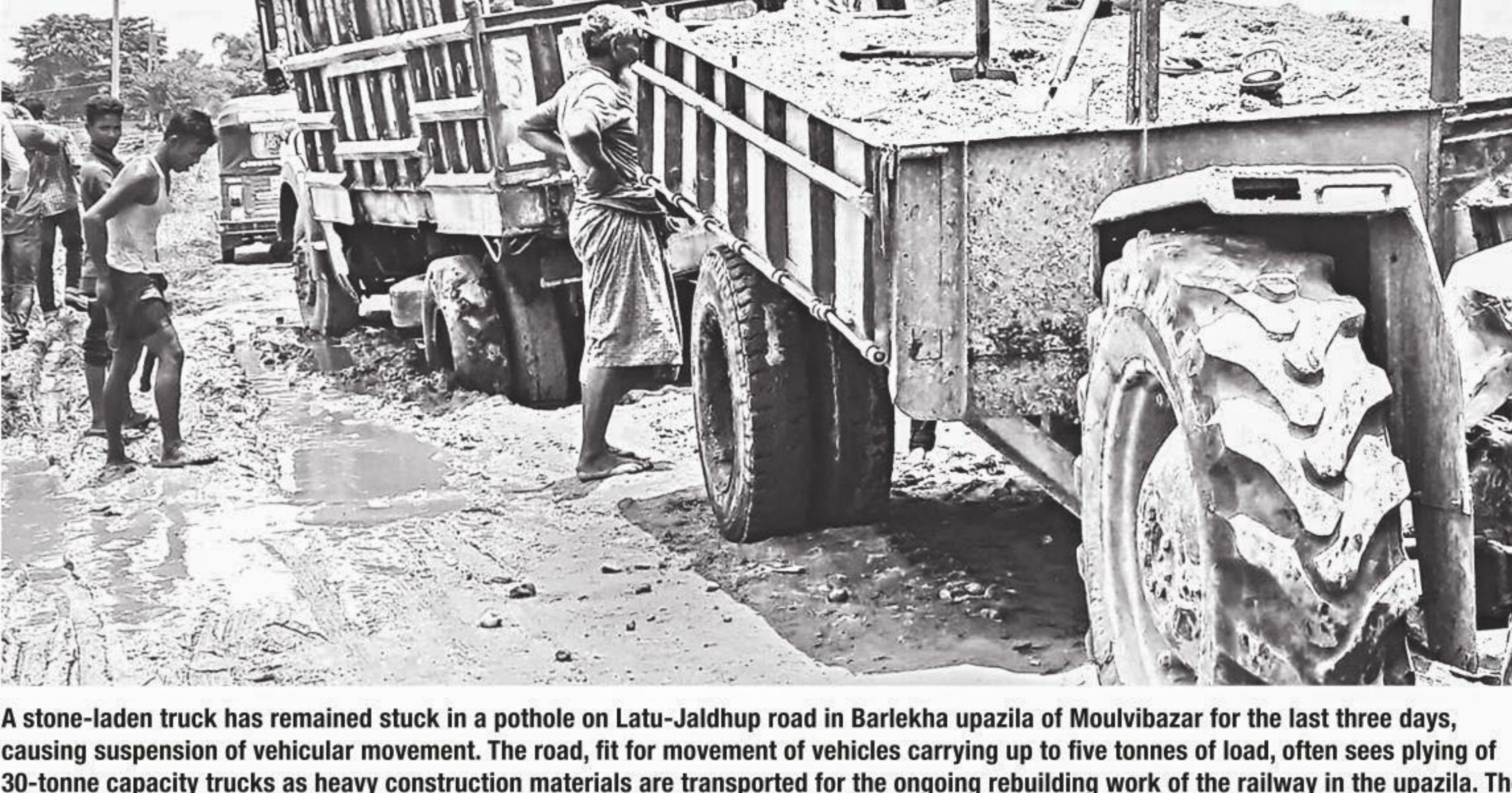
According to the sources at WDB, not only the Jamuna, but the mighty Padma has also taken a serious turn at Borkhupur, Raipur, Gupinpur, Naruhati, Kanchan Bandh, Hashempur and Khalilpur areas in Sujanagar upazila, devouring many houses and croplands.

Sujanagar Upazila Parishad Chairman Mohammad Shahinuzzaman Shahin said several hundred people of different areas in the upazila have become homeless due to erosion by the Padma.

The actual number of the erosion-hit people could not be ascertained as the river continued devouring houses and croplands in the last three weeks.

WDB Executive Engineer Hamid said due to onrush of water from the upstream, both Padma and Jamuna are swelling up, eroding different vulnerable areas along the two major rivers.

"We have already dumped over 30,000 sand bags in the affected areas and the protection work is continuing in different areas," Hamid said.



A stone-laden truck has remained stuck in a pothole on Latu-Jaldup road in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar for the last three days, causing suspension of vehicular movement. The road, fit for movement of vehicles carrying up to five tonnes of load, often sees plying of 30-tonne capacity trucks as heavy construction materials are transported for the ongoing rebuilding work of the railway in the upazila. The practice has continued for around one and a half years despite lodging of objections to the contractor concerned by the Local Government Engineering Department.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Teenager drowns in Brahmaputra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A teenage boy drowned while bathing in the Brahmaputra river, flowing along Jamalpur town, yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Kawsar, 18, son of Ramjan Ali of Pathalia Bakultola area in the town.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said Kawsar, a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, went to take a bath in the Brahmaputra river around 12:30 pm.

As the boy did not know how to swim, at one stage, he went missing due to strong current in the river, Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Salemuzzaman said, adding that a few hours later locals rescued Kawsar from the river and took him to Jamalpur General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Broken bridge woes for Bandarban dwellers

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

An important bridge over the Painchhara canal in Bandarban Sadar has been lying broken for the last four months much to the inconvenience of the residents of four localities.

In March, the middle portion of the bridge, mostly used by the residents of Kattoli Marma Para, Notun Chakma Para, Roaza Para, and Monjoy Para, caved in.

Commuters are still using the 40 feet long bridge risking their lives.

"This bridge is the only way to reach the Sadar upazila. Students and patients use it, traders carry their goods to the town via this bridge," said Uba Hai Marma, a student of Bandarban Government College and a resident of Kattolipara.

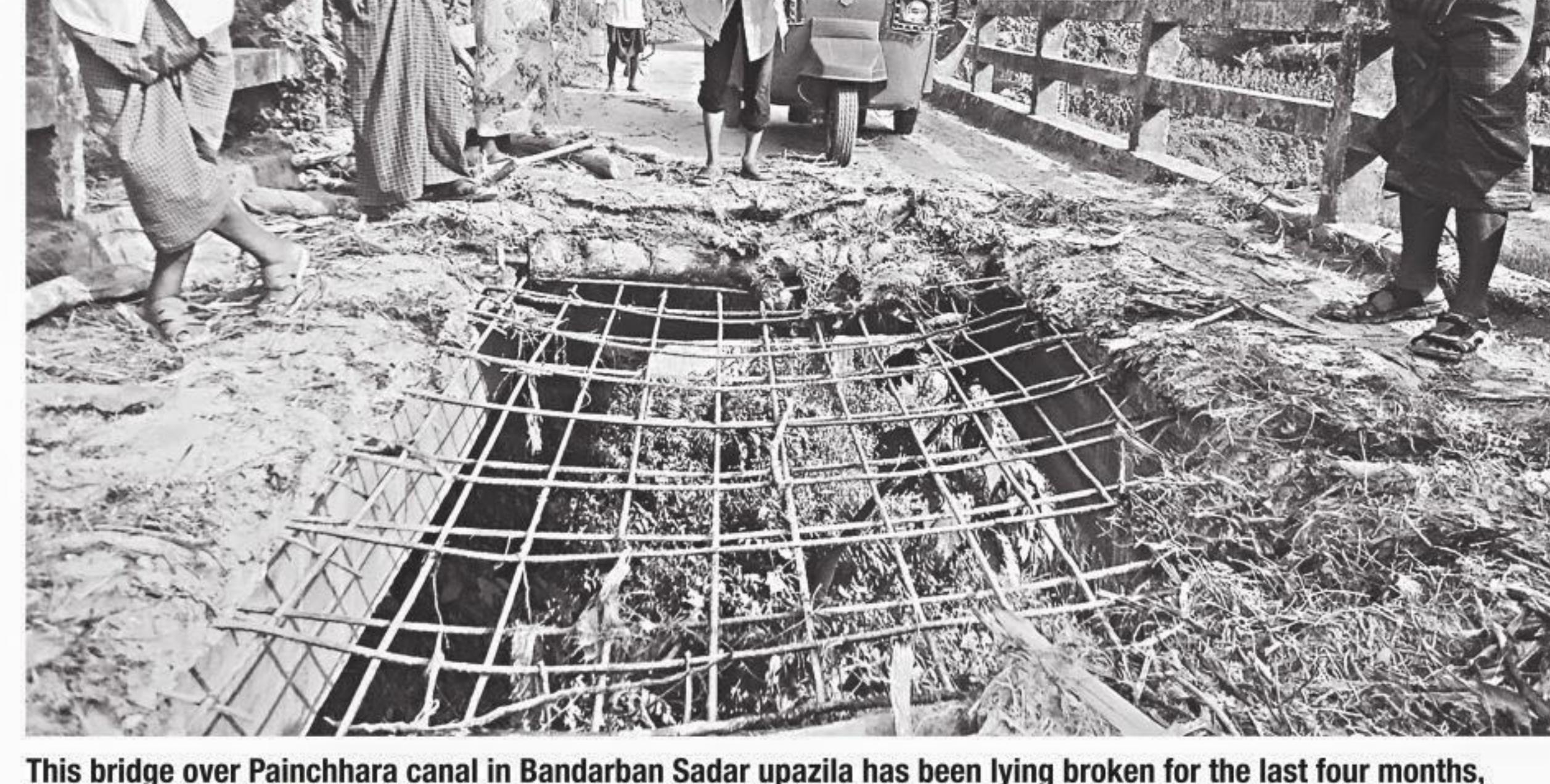
"We are afraid to send our children to school as the structure has become very weak and might collapse anytime," said Mong U Ching, another resident of Kattolipara.

Locals claimed that the Upazila Project Implementation Office used substandard materials when they constructed the bridge back in 2011-12 fiscal year. The bridge was built under the "Bridge/Culvert Programme" of the Department of Disaster Management with Tk 26.22 lakh.

"They were supposed to bring sands and stones from Sylhet but instead they used the low quality ones available here," said Sabu Shwe Marma, karbari (local term for village head) of Kattoli Marma Para.

Mohammad Alamgir, project implementation officer (PIO) of the upazila, said he was not aware of what materials were used to build the bridge as it was not built during his tenure.

"Usually bridges last for 50 years. The previous PIO will be able to tell you why this one collapsed just seven years



This bridge over Painchhara canal in Bandarban Sadar upazila has been lying broken for the last four months, causing immense sufferings to locals.

Trader found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An umbrella trader was found murdered in Kuakata sea beach area yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Hakim Sharif, 50, of Dobhasipara area, was father of two sons and two daughters.

Quoting locals, police said some tourists spotted Sharif's body in the beach area yesterday morning and informed police, who went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Patuakhali General Hospital for autopsy.

Patuakhali Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman said a murder case was filed with Mohiupur Police Station in this regard and they were trying to find out the reason behind the murder.

into its making," he told this correspondent.

When contacted over phone, Niaz Morshed, the erstwhile PIO in Bandarban Sadar, said, "Since I am not posted there anymore, I do not know about the current situation. Let me check into it and get back to you." But the officer was unreachable afterwards.

"Locals are vexed at the awful condition of the bridge. The government spent a huge amount of money on this but it lasted for only seven years," said U Wai Mong, a member of the Bandarban Sadar Union Council, adding that he had urged the PIO time and again to fix the bridge but in vain.

PHOTO: STAR