



# Risky bridge only means

*Bamboo poles set to prevent collapse of the structure in Narail*

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Believe it or not, a dilapidated concrete bridge, 'protected' with bamboo poles for around three years, serves as the lone means for people of at least 12 villages in Narail Sadar upazila.

The bridge, built around 20 years ago over a canal at Sitarampur village in the upazila, developed cracks after couple of years of construction and lastly two large holes appeared on its deck.

Around 4,000 people daily use the bridge amid risk, said locals.

"We have set bamboo poles to protect the bridge that faces the risk of collapse anytime," Ovimannu Roy, 80, a resident of Sitarampur village, told this correspondent during the latter's recent visit to the spot.

"Before national and local elections, political leaders give us promise to repair it. But they forget everything afterwards," he added.

Fish farmer Amrita Roy, 35, of the same village said, "It is not possible to cross the bridge even with a rickshaw-van loaded with fish. We have to unload the fish from vehicles before getting on the bridge and then we load it again after crossing the bridge."

Another villager Probin Kobiraj, 32, said their sufferings increase during the rainy season as the approach roads of the bridge also became awful.

A large number of people including those from Hizaldanga, Sitarampur, Durbarjuri, Icharbaha, Shaliarvita, Basvita, Mulia, Pantita, Korgram, Baliadanga, Barendar and Goaldanga villages travel through the bridge amid risk as there is no alternative, said Sujon Gain, a local union parishad member.

Several hundred schoolchildren have to cross the bridge daily to attend their classes, he said.

Contacted, Bidhan Chandra Samaddar, executive engineer of the district's Local Government Engineering Department office, said, "I have been informed of the matter. After inspecting the bridge, we will take necessary steps."

The awfully risky bridge at Sitarampur village in Narail Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

## 2 found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two young men were found murdered in Faridpur and Madaripur yesterday morning.

Police recovered the throat-silt body of a man from a mahogany orchard at Kolimaji village in Faridpur's Boalmari upazila.

The deceased was Sardar Ripon Kazi, 35, son of Chiru Kazi of Bagdanga village in the upazila.

He was accused in 14 cases, including those for robbery and arms peddling, said Md. Sohikul Islam, sub-inspector of Boalmari Police Station.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the orchard around 8:00am and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said the SI.

The deceased's uncle Delwar Kazi said on Sunday, Ripon went out of house to go to Dhaka and did not return since then.

Ripon might have been killed following a dispute over drug peddling, said the police official.

Meanwhile, the bullet-hit body of a man was found in Mohisarchar area of Madaripur's Sadar upazila around 9:00am.

The deceased was Sagar Fakir alias Kala Sagar, 30, son of Kalam Fakir of Dorgadhorif area in Madaripur town.

He was accused in 15 cases, including one for robbery with different police stations, said Md Badrul Alam Mollah, assistant superintendent of police.

Salayha Begum, mother of the deceased, said Sagar was released from the district jail on Tuesday after he secured bail in a drug case. On the day, he went to Dhaka and remained missing since then.

On information, police recovered the body from the area yesterday morning and sent it to Madaripur General Hospital for autopsy, said the ASP.

## 36 Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police arrested 36 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir from Gopalpur upazila in Tangail on Tuesday.

They hail from different areas in Tangail, Jamalpur and Gaibandha districts.

The arrestees include Golam Mostofa Ranju, 54, acting ameer of Gopalpur upazila unit of Jamaat, said Md Amir Khasru, assistant superintendent of police.

The law enforcers arrested the 36 from Nolin Bazar area when they were taking preparation to go to the Bangabandhu Bridge area by boats for picnic, said the ASP.

The arrestees were planning to carry out subversive activities in the bridge area, said SP Sanjit Kumar Roy.

# Disaster-resilient houses for 244 homeless families

*Authorities concerned have already started handing over the dwellings to the beneficiaries*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two hundred and forty-four homeless families in the district are getting houses under a project named 'Disaster tolerance dwelling house building for homeless people'.

The Department of Disaster Management is implementing the project under its Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme.

Construction work of the disaster-resilient houses have been completed almost and the authorities concerned have already started handing over some dwellings to the beneficiaries, said Md Nazrul Islam, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Patuakhali.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Matul Islam Chowdhury visited some houses in different areas under Sadar upazila on Monday. Nazrul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Latifa Jannati and Md Rafiqul Islam, project implementation officer (PIO) in the upazila, among others, were present at the time.

On a visit, this correspondent found that the semi-pucca houses have been built with brick wall, tin roof and concrete floor.

Each dwelling contains two rooms, a toilet, a corridor and a kitchen.

With two rooms, a toilet, a corridor and a kitchen, each house was built at a cost of Tk 2.58 lakh, said the PIO.



Day labourer Selim Sikder along with his family members in front of the newly built house in Patuakhali's Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Hailing from Dibupur village in Sadar upazila, 55-year-old day labourer Md Selim Shikder expressed his utter happiness over getting the house.

As he had no ability to build a house, he lived in a shanty earlier, said Selim.

"From now my two school going children will get better environment for studying," said Selim's wife Samsunnahar Begum.

Liton Khan, a construction worker of Pashchim Hetalia village in the upazila, said he is very happy to get the house as he

had no ability to build a house on 4.50 decimals of his land.

A total of 244 houses are being built, said Nazrul Islam, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Patuakhali.

Of them, 33 are in Galachipa, 32 in Rangabali, 31 in Baufal, 27

in Dashmina, 27 in Dumki, 25 in Kalapara, 22 in Mirzaganj and 47 in Sadar upazila, he said.

The DC said the houses have been built to distribute among homeless people and the prime minister will soon distribute those formally.



A bulldozer goes into operation as a mobile court conducts a drive yesterday to demolish structures set up by illegal occupiers of the land of a school for mentally challenged and autistic children in Stadium area of Tangail town.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

## CANE THROWING AT CLASS

# Third grader may lose eye, accused teacher suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Authorities yesterday suspended the primary school teacher in Habiganj, who threw a cane, causing severe damage to the eye of a third grader on Sunday.

Following report of an official enquiry committee, District Primary Education Officer Abdur Razzak has issued an order effecting suspension of Niranjan Das, 32, assistant teacher of Jadobpur Government Primary School in Habiganj Sadar upazila, said Upazila Primary Education Officer Abul Kalam Azad.

"The victim, Habiba Akther, 8, daughter of Shaheen Mia in Jadobpur village, may lose her left eye as it was severely damaged due to hitting by a cane," said Dr Mithun Roy, resident medical officer in Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

"After examining, I sent her to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Later, family members took her to National Institute of Ophthalmology in Dhaka where she is now under treatment," he said.

Victim's father Shaheen Mia said, "During the class on Sunday, teacher Niranjan Das threw a cane that hit my daughter's left eye and it started bleeding."

Locals took Habiba to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Accused Niranjan Das said, "I threw the cane as some students, despite my repeated warning, kept standing in front of the door of Class II where I was teaching."

"The cane hit Habiba in the eye. This was an unintentional mistake. I'll do whatever is needed for her better treatment," he said.

District Primary Education Officer Abdur Razzak said, "Teachers are not allowed to use canes or beat students in the classroom. If any such incident occurs, action will be taken against the responsible persons."

Legal action will be taken if a complaint is lodged, said Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Sadar Model Police Station.