



Left incomplete after construction of a few pillars two years ago, this bridge over Boral River at Gunaigachha village in Faridpur upazila of Pabna district remains a mockery to a large number of people in four unions of surrounding areas.

People of 4 unions suffer as work on bridge stalled

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The construction work of a bridge on the Boral River at Gunaigachha village in Faridpur upazila under the district has remained suspended for over two years, much to the sufferings of over two lakh people of four unions in the surrounding areas.

According to the technical report of the LGED, the bridge would ease communication from BL Bari and Pungoli unions of Faridpur upazila, Dilpashra union of Bhangura upazila and Mohanpur union of Ullapara upazila to Faridpur upazila headquarters.

The bridge would also help establish direct communication with Sirajganj district, sources said.

The construction work of the 180-metre-long concrete bridge costing Tk 5.1 crore

started on April 2 in 2008 as LGED gave the work order to Golam Mohammed Co. Ltd, the lowest bidder of a tender called in March 2008, on condition of finishing the work within August 10 in 2009, said the sources of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

But the contractors left the work after building four pillars on both sides of the river, completing only 30 percent of the total work, said an official of LGED.

"The construction firm left the work after drawing Tk 1.54 crore and so, the fund was stopped. Despite sending several notices, the firm has not resumed the work while the scheduled time for construction ended in 2009," said Faridpur upazila LGED Engineer Md Imtazur Rahman.

On the other hand, Md Saidul Haque Chunnun, one

of the owners of the construction firm, said, "We finished the primary work and collected a running bill. But we had to suspend the work as the LGED authorities stopped funding. Due to the price hike of construction materials, we requested the authorities to increase the fund but they did not respond positively."

Faridpur upazila LGED Engineer Md Imtazur Rahman said, "The construction firm left the work during the bidding year without any reason. So there is no scope to increase the construction value now."

During a recent visit by this correspondent, locals said a large number of people work in several hundred dairy farms in the area but the farm owners have to depend on the river route for transporting milk and dairy products to the upazila headquarters and the Milk

Vita Zone in Sirajganj district.

"If the bridge is constructed, our communication and the transportation of milk and dairy products would be easier," Md Anwar Hossain, a resident of BL Bari village of the upazila, said.

Faridpur Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Johurul Islam Bakul said at least two lakh people of the area are badly suffering due to non-completion of the bridge.

Asked about the matter, the executive engineer of LGED, Pabna, Md Abdul Kader said, "On March 22, we issued a final notice to the construction firm, ordering them to finish the construction work within December this year. If the firm fails, we will cancel the contract with them and go for re-tender."

PEACEFUL VOTING HELD IN 24 UPS ON 2ND DAY YESTERDAY 36 hurt in post-poll clashes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 36 people were injured in sporadic incidents of post-poll violence, following Tuesday's union parishad (UP) polls in several coastal districts.

In Laxmipur, a man died after he saw his injured son, who had become a victim of pre-poll violence in Hazarihat union of Kamalnagar upazila on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, election to 24 more UPS were held peacefully on the second day of the polls yesterday.

At least 28 people including women were injured in five separate pre-violence in different places under Baufal upazila in Patuakhali. Of injured 16 were admitted to Baufal upazila health complex, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

Men of Ruhul Amin Rumu, a defeated chairman candidate of Kanakdia UP, also a local leader of ruling Awami League, attacked local residence of Rafiqul Islam, personal assistant (PA) for Jatiya Sangsad Whip ASM Feroz, at about 12 noon yesterday, locals and police said.

Abdul Gofur Sikder, 75, Badal Poul, 40, Basu Dev, 42, Mahfuza, 12, and Zahid, 20, injured when they tried to resist attackers.

Hanif, a defeated member candidate of ward No 4 of Dashpara UP along with a gang attacked supporters of his rival candidate at about 10:00am yesterday. Injured during the incident, Shefali Begum, 40, Reaz Uddin, 28, Halima Begum, 35, Nur Bhanu, 40,

Monir Hossain, 35, Didar Alam, 25, -- all of Dashpara village, were admitted to Baufal upazila health complex.

Four people were injured as supporters of a member candidate attacked supporters of a defeated member candidate at Chourasta under Najirpur Taterkathi UP. Of them, Nizam, 35, Shahidul, 28, and Faruq, 35, were admitted to upazila health complex. In the same UP, defeated candidate's men attacked the house of winner female member (reserved seat) Mahinur Begum, causing injuries to Bilkis Begum, 35, and Nargis Akhter, 45.

Two shops owned by Abdus Sattar and Sultan at Singherakathi Bazar near Kalishury High School under Kalishury UP were ransacked and looted by rivals candidate's men at about 11:00am.

Babu, 20, and Sajib, 19, were injured when they tried to resist the attackers. Zafar, 22, Salauddin, 20, and Kayes, 26, -- all supporters of winner chairman candidate Taslim Talikder, were injured as rival men attacked them in the morning.

Ishaq Ali, OC of Baufal police station said, "We have heard all the incidents. If anybody files case we will take lawful action against the culprits."

Our staff correspondent reports from Khulna: A schoolboy received serious bullet injuries during a post-poll violence at Gobra village of Sadar union under Koira upazila in Khulna district at 10:30pm on Tuesday.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, 17, is son of Aftabuddin Sana and a student of class nine of Koira High School, received

bullet on the head during a fierce clash between supporters of two candidates who contested for post of general member from ward No 3 in Koira Sadar union in Tuesday's UP elections, said Khulna Superintendent of Police Tanvir Haider Chowdhury.

With serious injuries, Bulbul was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) at 4:30am yesterday and was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 12:30pm for better treatment, said Superintendent Dr Hamid Asgar.

As police fired 12 to 15 rounds of shots while trying to quell agitating crowd during post-poll violence at Gobra ward, a bullet hit Bulbul on the head, eyewitnesses said.

On the other hand, OC Inamul Huq of Koira police station said, "We fired blanks shots as supporters of UP member candidate Dhali Abdul Gaffar stormed Gobra Primary School centre to snatch ballot boxes. The schoolboy was injured by a bullet fired by clashing people, not police."

The clash occurred soon after the presiding officer Mofizul Islam unofficially declared Abul Kalam Sheikh elected as member of Ward no-3. Supporters of Abul Kalam's rival Dhali Abdul Gaffar went on rampage damaging the polling centre and over 50 vehicles.

Four policemen sustained injuries while trying to quell a post-poll violence at Garhoikhali union under Paikgachha upazila of Khulna district.



Women stand in a queue in front of Nizabad Primary School centre in Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali district to cast their votes yesterday, the second of union parishad elections in the coastal districts.

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Fire kills 3 of a family

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Three members of a family were burnt alive as a fire broke out at a house at Kaffila village in Kachua upazila early Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Dulal Bakaul, 55, a fisherman, his wife Taslima Begum, 45, and their daughter Farzana, 15. Two children of Dulal escaped unhurt as they were sleeping in a separate room.

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