



PHOTO: STAR
PICTURE TELLS THE TALE! This bridge at Dhoali on Magura-Mohammadpur road poses serious risk for commuters as the railing and girder walls were broken down six months ago as preparation for constructing a new one but further work remains stalled.

Usable bridge turns risky

Railings, girder walls broken down for new ones but further work remains suspended for 6 months due to 'non-allocation' of fund

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Magura

People and vehicles cross the old bridge at Dhoail on Magura-Mohammadpur road, the only link between Mohammadpur upazila with the district headquarters, amid high risk as the railing and guard walls of the bridge were broken down about six months ago as preparation to construct a new one.

Meanwhile, works for the new bridge measuring 18 metres in length and 5.5 metres in width is yet to begin.

"Before breaking down of the railings and guard walls of the bridge, I did not feel any difficulty to run vehicles over it, but at present panic of accident seizes me whenever I cross it," said Shahabuddin, a truck driver.

"Left without railings and

guard walls, the bridge starts swinging whenever a vehicle crosses it," said Shahidul Islam, a government official who regularly travels to his working place at Magura from Mohammadpur upazila headquarters.

On May 25 this year, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Magura appointed Harun-ar-Rashid, a listed contractor in Magura, for constructing eight bridges including that at Dhoail on roads covering 58 kilometres from Magura Sadar upazila to Lohagara upazila in Narail district via Mohammadpur upazila headquarters, RHD sources said.

The cost for the eight bridges were estimated at Tk 4 crore 83 lakh 85 thousand and those were scheduled to be completed in 18 months from the work orders given, the sources added.

At first the contractor initiated work for the bridge at Dhoail and before start of the rainy season early June, workers appointed by him made a diversion road and broke down the railings and guard walls of the bridge as preparation to construct a new bridge there, said sources in RHD and locals.

But with the arrival of rains the diversion road was washed away by the strong current of the canal water under the bridge and the construction workers left the site, they said.

The work has remained halted since then.

Admitting the vulnerable condition of the bridge, Faye Ahmed, sub-divisional engineer (SDE) of RHD in Magura, said they would arrange 'decking system' on the bridge till construction of the diversion road there to facilitate

smooth passing of vehicles.

When asked why the usable bridge was damaged before confirming smooth completion of its reconstruction, the SDE requested this correspondent to talk to the contractor.

When contacted, contractor Harun-ar-Rashid said, "I had to stop the construction work due to unavailability of fund. Starting construction of the new bridge remains uncertain as the RHD is yet to allocate fund for it." He however assured repair of the diversion road within a couple of days.

Contacted over cell phone, Executive Engineer of Magura RHD Mohammad Shahjahan said, "We have already ordered the contractor to start the construction work of the bridge and it will begin within the shortest possible time."

Six NSTU students suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

Six students of Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) were yesterday suspended on charge of vandalising the administration building.

The university authorities took the decision on Monday night with Vice-Chancellor AKM Syedul Chowdhury in the chair.

The suspended students are Monjur Alam Mohsin and Tripati Chakma of computer science and telecommunications department, Anisul Islam Mahmud and Binoy Roy of fisheries and marine science department, and Mahmudur Rahman and Ameer Hamza Didar of applied chemistry and chemical engineering department.

The authorities served notices on the students yesterday morning.

On the night of January 1, Mohsin, one of the suspended students, requested the university authorities for the teacher's microbus to bring a student to the campus from the hospital. But the authorities could not provide him with the vehicle due to absence of its driver at that time.

A few minutes later, a group of students led by Mohsin ransacked some rooms at the administrative building and the microbus. They also misbehaved with some teachers of the university.

Police have been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.

LOKMAN MURDER CASE

AL leader Montaz gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court yesterday granted bail to town Awami League President Montaz Uddin Bhuiyan in Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain murder case.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahjahan passed the order after advocate Asaduzzaman sought bail for Montaz.

On Monday, the court placed the AL leader on a one-day fresh remand in the case.

Following a court order, Montaz was taken to the office of the deputy commissioner to attend the election appeal hearing.

After a long hearing, the authorities concerned declared Montaz's nomination for the Narsingdi mayoral post valid.

Top criminal arrested in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

Police arrested top criminal Khairuzzaman alias Khwaja, 25, from Chhoto Bahirdia village in Saltha upazila of the district on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, police launched a drive at the village and arrested Khwaja. He was wanted in several cases including those for murder, dacoity and snatching.

ROW OVER DISTRIBUTION OF TR WHEAT

UP chairmen lock UZ chairman's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Eleven of the 14 union parishad (UP) chairmen in Shaikupa upazila under the district locked the upazila chairman's office yesterday following a conflict in distribution of wheat under Test Relief (TR) meant for development of rural infrastructure.

As upazila Chairman Nayeb Ali Joarder did not sign the official file of TR, the aggrieved UP chairmen locked his office at noon when he was not present there.

The chairmen alleged that Nayeb Ali Joarder claimed 3/4 tonnes from the wheat allotted for each union over mobile phone and threatened not to sign the TR file in case of failure.

"We failed to make upazila Chairman Nayeb Ali Joarder agree to sign the TR file even after making him aware that we had ensured different sections about the TR. Consequently, we got united and locked his office," said Mostafa Arif Reza Munnu, chairman of 9 No Monoharpur UP.

"In last October, TR wheat was allotted for the development of rural areas in the upazila and a resolution regarding it was passed in a

monthly meeting of the upazila parishad on December 27. Later, the relevant file was sent to the upazila chairman's table but instead of signing it, he forwarded it to the office of project implementation officer of the upazila," said Tozammel Haq, chairman of 3 No Dignagar union parishad under Shaikupa upazila.

Sabdar Hossain Mollah, chairman of 12 No Umedpur union parishad and president of Shaikupa upazila union parishad chairmen's association, said the upazila chairman's office will remain locked until the TR issue is solved.

When contacted, upazila Chairman Nayeb Ali Joarder said, "I am an honest man. People of Shaikupa know about me. I don't take any rice and wheat illegally."

Asked why he did not sign the TR file, he said, "All the union parishad chairmen do not implement the TR in village areas. They loot the allotment. So, I could not sign the file."

Shaikupa Upazila Nirbahi Officer Azmal Haque said, "Nayeb Ali Joarder was present at the December 27 meeting on TR. He knows very well why he did not sign the file."



PHOTO: STAR
Chairmen of 11 of the 14 union parishads under Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah district locked the upazila chairman's office yesterday to vent their grievance as the upazila chairman did not sign the official file for distribution of wheat under Test Relief meant for development of rural infrastructure in different unions under the upazila.

Two Jubo Dal men killed in Benapole, Bogra

Suspected killer of Natore Jubo Dal activist beaten to death

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two Jubo Dal men--one in Benapole and another in Bogra--were murdered yesterday and the day before.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that Patkahali union Jubo Dal general secretary Abdul Khalek, 46, was shot dead by his rivals in Dighirpar area under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer in-charge of Benapole Port Police Station, said Khalek was gunned down by his rivals while going to Benapole Bazar at noon.

Police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Bogra, Jubo Dal activist Aminul Islam Dipu was

stabbed to death in Maikchal area of Sadar upzila on Monday, reports our staff correspondent.

The deceased, 35, of the area, was involved in illegal sand business, police said.

Witnesses said some locals, including Hasan, Jhantu and Miru, stabbed Dipu in the area at around 11:00am, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to Ziaur Rahman Medical Collage Hospital where he died soon after admission.

AKM Khalequzzaman, officer in-charge of Bogra Sadar Police Station, said the Jubo Dal activist was killed by his rivals as he had a feud with them over illegal sand business.

Jobo Dal Bogra district unit President Sefar Al Bakhtiar condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the killers

According to our Natore

correspondent, a suspected killer Jubo Dal activist Shafiqul Islam Sabuj was beaten to death by a mob at Bingham Bazar in Singra upazila on Monday night.

The deceased, Ruhul Amin, 38, of Bingham village, was an accused in three murder cases, police said.

Faizur Rahman, officer in-charge of Singra Police Station, said a mob caught Amin and Babul Hossain, 50, two suspected killers of Sabuj, at the bazar at around 7:00pm. They beat them up mercilessly and later handed them over to the police.

Police took the seriously injured Amin and Babul Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital where Amin died at around 10:00pm.

Jubo Dal activist Sabuj was stabbed to death by a gang at Bingham Bottala village in Singra upazila on Saturday night.

Over 300 illegal structures demolished in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) demolished over 300 illegal business establishments built on its land here yesterday and the day before.

Yesterday, the RHD demolished over 100 illegal business establishments from Shyamnagar bus stand to Banshipur bus stand on Kaliganj-Munshiganj Road, Executive Engineer Anisuzzaman Masud said.

It also demolished over 200 illegal structures from Satkhira new market area to Bakal intersection on Satkhira-Kaliganj Road and at Sadar hospital intersection on Kaliganj-Shyamnagar Road in the town the day before, the engineer said.

Team members consisting of RHD executive engineer Masud, executive magistrates Sadekur Rahman and Abu Sayeed Monjurul Hasan, and Power Development Board (PDB) Assistant

Engineer Ali Nur Ayen conducted the drives with the help of law enforcers.

Contacted, RHD Executive Engineer Masud said land grabbers have illegally erected their business establishments on the land belonging to RHD. The authorities served notices on them, asking to remove their structures from RHD by December 31, he added.

"As the land grabbers did not comply with the order, we conducted the drives and recovered our land," he said.

SNIPPETS

3 arrested with yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives arrested three people along with 800 Yaba tablets from Cox's Bazar town yesterday and the day before. The arrestees are Nur Hossain, 32, son of Md Islam Miah of Teknaf, Md Obaidul Kader, 27, son of Aminul Haque and Md Zia, 26, son of Md Amir Hossain of Chakaria upazila, said Rab. On secret information, a team of Rab raided a hotel yesterday afternoon and arrested Nur Hossain along with 700 tablets. In another drive, the elite force conducted a drive at a restaurant and arrested Kader and Zia with 100 yaba tablets on Monday night.

Three alleged robbers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested three suspected robbers along with a microbus from Shako Mathanpur village of Kaliganj upazila early yesterday. The arrestees are Motiar Rahman, son of Nekbar Joarder of Harinakundo upazila in Jhenidah, Fazlur Rahman, son of solaiman Kabiraj of Lalpur in Natore, and Khokon Ali, son of Waresh Shikdar of Jhumki in Patuakhali, police said. On suspicion, locals challenged the trio and informed the police who arrested the three along with the microbus, said Sayeed Kamruzzaman, officer in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.

Woman killed for 'dowry'

UNB, Laxmipur

A woman was killed by her husband allegedly for dowry at Kosba village in Sadar upazila yesterday. The victim, Selina Khatun, 35, was wife of Nesar Ahmed of the village. Selina's mother Nur Jahan Begum alleged that Naser used to torture Selina, for dowry in the last several years. Following an altercation over the issue yesterday morning, Naser beat up Selina and strangled her, she added. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy, said Golam Sarwar, officer in-charge of Laxmipur Police Station.

BCL groups clash over tender, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Patuakhali district unit clashed over tender near the office of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in the district town yesterday.

Police and locals said yesterday was the last date for dropping tenders for Tk 11 crore works under Emergency Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRRP).

When BCL men Tuhin and Ibrahim led by Shahin reached near the LGED office at around 1:300pm to drop tenders, Chanu, Rizvi and Yasin of Chanu group obstructed them.

Hearing the news, BCL

men belonging to the both factions rushed to the spot and locked in a clash, leaving Tuhin injured. He was admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They arrested Rizvi of Chanu group and Sayeed of Shahin group from the hospital area.

Meanwhile LGED executive engineer Syed Ahmed Baset said the clash occurred outside the LGED office and it was not related to tenders.

Patuakhali Sadar Police Station OC Monirul Islam said legal action will be taken against the arrestees if their involvement in the incident is found.



PHOTO: STAR
Dinajpur journalists form a human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday protesting excesses against journalists and occupation of the old press club building premises at Nimtali in the town by Mirza Ashfaq, APS of a state minister.