

# Work of Khoksha bridge on Buri Teesta stalled halfway

*Lack of fund, political rivalry blamed for the stalemate*

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,  
Nilphamari

Fourteen years after starting, construction of Khoksha Ghat bridge over Buri Teesta River on Domar-Dimla road in the district has remained half done as political rivalry, lack of fund and obstructions by locals for getting unpaid money for requisitioned land stood in the way.

Roads and Highway Department (RHD) gave work order for construction of Khoksha Ghat bridge to the lowest bidder on July 27 in 1998 and Tk 2.34 crore was allocated for this purpose, sources said.

The construction firm completed about 50% of the total work including foundation of pillars in scheduled time.

As prices of construction materials like steel rods, angles, and cement rose up by the time, the contractor demanded increase of budget as condition for doing the rest of the work.

Consequently, the construction work of the bridge has remained suspended, said Aftabuddin Ahmed, chairman of Dimla upazila parishad.

"During the last BNP-Jamaat alliance rule, local lawmaker from Domar-Dimla constituency was from Awami League and so, the government did not pay any attention to the problem," he added.

The then lawmaker in 1996-2001 period, Jatiyo Party leader NK Alam Choudhury had inaugurated the bridge construction in 1998.

Alam said he failed to manage increased money for the bridge as the then Awami League (AL) candidate, who lost to him in the



PHOTO: STAR

**Incomplete 14 years after start of construction, Khoksha Ghat bridge over Buri Teesta River on Domar-Dimla road in Nilphamari district remains a mockery for locals.**

parliament election, obstructed his efforts during the AL government's tenure.

After completion, the 107.56-metre-long Khoksha Ghat bridge will lessen the distance between Domar and Dimla by eight kilometres and about five lakh people of both the upazilas will be benefited from it, RHD sources said.

The department called a second tender in 2010-2011 fiscal year to do the rest of the bridgework, said Horish Chandra Roy, assistant engineer of RHD in Nilphamari.

Tk 2.83 crore was allocated for this purpose and construction firm 'Roads and Bridge Construction Company Limited' got work order afresh.

The new contractor, Azad Ali said he could not start work, as allotted fund is insufficient.

He also alleged that some locals were obstructing the work, as they did not get the price of their land that was requisitioned by the government 14 years ago for the bridge.

The chairman of Balapara union parishad of Dimla

upazila Zahedul Islam said, "The east end of the bridge is situated in my union. For bridge construction and approach road, 8.25 acres of land was requisitioned 14 years ago. But the government is yet to pay the price to the poor landowners."

Several owners of the requisitioned land, including Joinal, Amin Hossain, Adam Ali, Monnaf, Bisa and others alleged that they moved door to door for years to get the price of the land but to no effect. They firmly said that they would not allow the contractor to start the work until they get the

land price.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of RHD in Nilphamari Mahbulul Alam Khan said, "The government had allocated Tk 66 lakh out of 2.83 crore this year for rest of the bridge work."

We have written to the higher authorities, asking for allotment of the total amount."

Regarding demand of the landowners, he said, "My office submitted price list of the requisitioned land to the concerned department of the deputy commissioner's office recently. It is getting a little bit late due to

# 70 AL men sued on charge of grabbing house

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Seventy men of the ruling Awami League (AL) have been sued for their alleged involvement in looting and illegally occupying a house owned by a retired army man in Dashmina upazila under Patuakhali district.

Naznin Akhter, wife of retired army officer Md Ibrahim, filed the case (No 162/12) with the Speedy Trial Tribunal in Patuakhali on Sunday against the 70 people including Iqbal Mahmud Liton, organising secretary of Dashmina upazila unit of AL, the main accused.

After receiving the case, tribunal Judge Tapan

Kumar Roy asked the officer in charge (OC) of Dashmina police station to treat the allegation as FIR (First Information Report) and inform the tribunal within three days, said advocate Abul Kalam Azad, lawyer of the plaintiff.

Md Ibrahim has been living in the house for 23 years but on August 25 morning a gang of about 100 men led by Iqbal Mahmud Liton went to the house and forced out all members of the family and locked the house, goes the case statement.

"Naznin Akhter filed a General Diary with Dashmina police station the same day but police

did not take any step to protect the family. At midnight on the same day the gang demolished the one-story tin-shed house. Since then the family has been on the run," it adds.

In absence of the OC, Mozammel Hossain, a sub-inspector of Dashmina police station, said, "The copy of the case has not reached the police station. We will take lawful step after receiving the instruction given by the court."

When contacted, Iqbal Mahmud Liton said, "I am not involved in this regard. I know documents of the retired army man are not valid and a case is pending with the court."

# Schoolgirl raped, scene videoed in Kalapara

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Criminals gang-raped a schoolgirl and videoed scene with their mobile in Kalapara upazila under the district on Wednesday noon.

Saheda Begum, an aunt of the victim, filed a case with Kalapara police station on Sunday accusing four people including Saidur Rahman, 20, and Mehedi Hasan, 18, but police could not arrest anybody as of yesterday.

The victim, 13, also a class seven student of Betmore High School in Kalapara upazila, reached Hospital Road on the way to her grandmother's house at Kalapara

ferryghat from her nearby residence at about 9:00am on Wednesday, when the gang led by Saidur Rahman forcibly took her onto a motorcycle and brought her to Manikjhuri area, she said.

They confined the girl inside a computer shop owned by Mehedi. Four youths raped the victim and videoed the scene on the mobile. At one stage the victim became senseless.

When she regained sense the gang brought her to Kalapara ferryghat at about 3:00pm on the day. The gang threatened the girl to publish the video on the Internet if she tells the matter to anybody, the victim said.

After reaching home the victim told her parents of the matter. Meanwhile, the gang gave life threat to the girl's family members if any case is filed in this regard, she said.

Demanding justice for the brutal torture on his daughter, the victim's father Solaiman, a poor farmer, said they are feeling insecure as the criminals have continued threatening them.

Md Ishaq Ali, officer in charge of Kalapara police station, said, "Medical test of the victim was completed on Monday. Al the accused went into hiding after filing of the case. We are trying our best to arrest them."

# ATTACK ON AL-BACKED MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLOR BCL, Jubo League men torch BNP leader's house in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A councillor of Parashuram municipality in Feni district was physically assaulted by Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal men on Monday night.

Hearing the news, Chhatra League and Jubo League activists gathered at Parashuram Bazar, went to Banshpudia village under the upazila and vandalised the house of BNP municipal unit Organising Secretary Nurul Islam Majumdar. They also set the house afire.

Police and locals said councillor Rasul Ahmed Swapan, also former president of BCL Parashuram upazila unit, had an altercation with some BNP

men over tearing a poster of Jubo League leader in the area on Saturday. He blamed two local BNP men for tearing the poster and beat them up.

As a sequel to the incident, JCD and Jubo Dal supporters swooped on Rasul at Guthuma village at around 11:00pm and hit him with sharp weapons.

The seriously injured councillor was admitted to the upazila health complex on Saturday. Protesting the attack on the AL-backed councillor, BCL and Jubo Dal men blocked Parashuram-Feni Road at

Dak Bungalow point at the upazila headquarters for two hours from 8:00am yesterday.

Police yesterday arrested four people for their alleged involvement in the attack on Rasul. The arrestees are Ataul Haq, general secretary of JCD municipal unit, Nur Ahmed Patwary, convener of upazila Sramik Dal, and Jubo Dal activists Saddam Hossain and Md Faruk.

Parashuram upazila BNP President Habibur Rahman yesterday alleged that the ruling party men beat up their four party leaders and activist and later handed them over to the police.

"Though the AL men torched BNP leader Nurul Islam's house on Monday night, police did not arrest any of them as of today," he alleged.

# ACID ATTACK ON SCHOOLGIRL MONI Main accused arrested

Follow-up

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangpur

Police yesterday arrested one of the four accused in a case for throwing acid on a schoolgirl in Rangpur city on August 13.



Ariful Islam

The arrestee is Ariful Islam, 23, son of Anwar Hossain of South Babukha area in the city. Mokbul Hossain, investigation

officer (IO) of the case, said they, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in Rangpur Medical College area and arrested Ariful, the prime accused in the case.

Ariful Islam, Alal, Arefin and Dulal used to tease Masuda Akhter Moni, a class nine student of Samaj Kalyan Bidyabithi School in the city, on her way to and from the school. As Moni rebuked them for giving an indecent on August 13, the culprits entered their house at dead of night and threw acid on Moni, leaving her critically injured.

Family members rushed Moni to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Later, she was shifted to Acid Survivors' Foundation in the capital as her condition deteriorated.

Majedur Rahman Sohel, elder brother of Moni, filed a case with Sadar Police Station the following day, accusing Ariful, Alal, Arefin and Dulal.

Students of different educational institutions, political parties and socio-cultural organisations in Rangpur held several demonstrations and formed human chains demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

During preliminary interrogation yesterday, Ariful confessed to hurling acid to Moni. Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station, said.



PHOTO: STAR

**Saghata-Dakbungalow road in Gaibandha district has remained in an awful state, much to the distress of the locals.**

# Four electrocuted in 2 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four people were electrocuted in Khulna and Nilphamari yesterday and the day before.

In Khulna, three men died and four others sustained injuries from electrocution in Aichgati union of Rupsha upazila on Monday night.

The deceased, Abdul Gaffar, 37, Bellal, 30, and Liton, 25, hailed from Ranipur area in Mirjaganj upazila of Patuakhali district.

Meanwhile, of the injured, Abdur Razzak, 23, Mosarrat Hossain, 42, and Md Zamal, 26, hailed from the same area, reports a correspondent.

Md Ashraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rupsha Police Station, said the victims came in contact with a live electric wire when they were sinking a deep tube-well at a residence of one Abdul Malek of the union at around 7:00pm.

They were rushed to Khulna Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared the trio dead.

According to our Nilphamari correspondent, a young man was electrocuted in Neyamatpur area of Saidpur municipality yesterday morning.

The victim, Shaheen, 18, son of late Faijul Islam of Charaikhola village of Sadar upazila, was a worker of a

Polythene factory in Sutkipatti area of Neyamatpur.

He lived in a rented house in Brittipara Mahalla of the municipality along with his family members.

Police and locals said Shaheen came in contact with an electric machine while he was working in the factory at around 10:00am.

He was rushed to the hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

A case was filed with Saidpur Police Station in this connection.

Following the incident, owner of the factory went into hiding, said police.



PHOTO: STAR

**Panicked after Monday's clash between two groups of local Awami League activists at Beroil village in Magura Sadar upazila, residents leave the area with belongings, and right, a woman gives a bleak look at her house.**