



PHOTO: STAR

The bridge on Nurainpur canal in Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district, and right, another one on Kalishuri canal in the same upazila, have remained unusable as the authorities concerned did not bother to build approach roads, respectively six and two years after completion of the bridges.

Bridges lie useless for want of approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two concrete bridges built in Baufal upazila have been lying useless for a long time for want of approach roads on both sides of the bridges. A 150-metre-long and 5.85-metre-wide RCC girder bridge on Nurainpur canal connecting Nurainpur and Keshobpur unions was built in 2008.

bridge for the last six years as approach roads were yet to be built," said Jainal Bari, 50, of Nurainpur village.

"It is a matter of regret that we have to cross Nurainpur canal by boat in spite of building the bridge years ago," said villager Abdul Khaleq Khan.

"We do not know why the approach roads of Kalishuri canal bridge could not be built in last several months, said another local.

Contacted, Patuakhali LGED Assistant Engineer Md Nazrul Islam said they wrote to the higher authorities for fund to build the approach roads on both sides of the bridges.

Tenders for jobs are under process, he said.

On the other hand, a 120-metre-long and 7.2-metre-wide bridge on Kalishuri canal on Baufal-Dhulia road in the upazila was constructed last year, said sources at Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office here.

"We could not use the

EROSION TAKES SERIOUS TURN

River Paira out to devour Lebukhali ferry ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Erosion by the River Paira has taken a serious turn, threatening Lebukhali ferry ghat (terminal) on Patuakhali-Barisal highway.

Over 160 pieces of bamboo-made cages each filled with 25 bricks dumped at the erosion points to save the terminal recently were washed away by the river in the last three weeks, said WDB deputy assistant engineer Abu Bakar Bhuiyan.

Earlier, during the monsoon, about 300 metres of flood control dam on both sides of the ferry ghat went into the river.

Of the total, 100 metres on the east side and 200 metres on the west of the ghat were devoured, said Water Development Board (WDB) official.

"As the bamboo cages were not properly made, they were broken by heavy tidal surge eventually. The bricks came out from the cages and rolled into the river," said Shahjahan Pada, a resident of the area.

Due to the situation, the ghat, deemed as the lone entrance point of the district

and also the only way to Kuakata, is now under erosion threat, he said.

Local people blamed the men of contractors for the worsened situation.

Meanwhile, over 100 families in the area are now passing their days in fear

that erosion might devour their homesteads anytime, said Delwar Hossain Akon, another local resident.

If immediate steps are not taken to thwart the erosion, the terminal may go into the river anytime, he said.

Contacted, Md Jahirul

Islam, executive engineer of Patuakhali RHD, said they informed the higher authorities about the matter.

"We recently wrote for fund to save the ghat from the erosion but yet to get any positive response", said Abu Bakar Bhuiyan.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Paira River has taken a serious turn in Lebukhali ferry terminal area, making vehicular movement on Barisal-Patuakhali road highly vulnerable.

Two get 20 yrs' jail in arms case

UNB, Joypurhat

A special tribunal here on Monday afternoon sentenced two people to 20 years' imprisonment each for possessing firearms.

The convicts were identified as Ruhul Amin Pramanik, 27, son of Akbar Hossain Pramanik, a resident of Jindarpur village in Kalai upazila, and Humayun Kabir, 24, son of Shahjahan Mandol, a resident of Kushumshahar village in Khetlal upazila of the district.

According to the prosecution, a team of police arrested the duo in possession of one America-made pistol, one magazine and six rounds of bullet from Kalandapur Bridge area in Panchbibi upazila on June 05, 2013.

Man beaten dead by grandson

UNB, Comilla

An old man was beaten to death allegedly by his grandson over a land-related dispute at Baro Dharmapur village in Sadar (South) upazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Humayun Kabir, a resident of the same village.

Prashanta Pal, officer-in-charge of Sadar (South) Police Station, said Kabir had a longstanding conflict over a piece of land with his grandson Muktadir Hossain Manjil.

On Monday morning, Manjil hit Kabir with a stick, causing his death at hospital.

In a week or two

FROM PAGE 20 adulteration and contamination of food, which is a major public health concern.

Use of formalin, fruit ripening agents, cow-fattening medicines, excessive pesticides in food production and contamination of livestock feed have been rampant, much to the worries of consumers.

The authorities concerned had been negligent in coordinating with various government ministries and

departments responsible for checking the irregularities.

The Jatiya Sangshad, against such a grim backdrop, last year enacted Food Safety Act 2013 with a provision of forming Bangladesh Food Safety Authority. It will be tasked with setting food safety standards, enforcing related laws and ensuring coordination between the line ministries and departments.

Mike Robson, FAO representative in Bangladesh, lauded the government's

approach to implement the food safety act. He stressed the need for capacity building and strengthening the institutions concerning food safety.

Shashi Sareen of FAO said they would help the government formulate the regulations on the basis of the Food Safety Act 2013.

Ramona El Hamzaoui of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also spoke, with Food Secretary Mushfeka Ikfat in the chair.

Jinxed as yet

FROM PAGE 20 Bangladeshi agent.

"I never wanted to get into that kind of profession. So I rejected their proposal and they beat me up and made me starve for two days," she told The Daily Star yesterday. Tears rolled down her cheeks while she narrated her ordeals over the last six months at a hospital in Lebanon.

"After five days of my confinement in a room with other girls, I could escape with the help of a Lebanese man," said the ill-fated girl who is now receiving treatment in the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.

Although she fled the premises she was kept in, she seriously injured one of her legs in an accident. Later she was rescued by the Lebanese army and admitted to Dr Monzer Al Hajj Hospital in Lebanon where she was treated for six months.

She returned to Bangladesh on a flight of Air Arabia on Wednesday night. However, it was not easy to find her way back home.

"Doctors in Lebanon conducted two surgeries on my leg. They took very good care of me," Sharmin said.

After two months at the hospital, she could contact her sister in Bangladesh. Her brother-in-law then contacted the Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB) to bring Sharmin back home. The WEWB works under the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

"We contacted the hospital authorities through our mission in Lebanon. They informed us that the total costs for her treatment amounted to around Tk 20 lakh," said Ziauddin, director (admin) of WEWB.

Sharmin's family and the WEWB officials then sought assistance from different sources to bring Sharmin back.

Finally, she returned with the help of a Bangladeshi named Ameen who has been living in Lebanon for over 20 years now, informed Sharmin.

Seriously disillusioned about foreign jobs, Sharmin now wants no Bangladeshi girls to go abroad with the

help of agents like Nipa. She also dreams of walking normally again.

Razia Sultana, eldest sister of Sharmin, appealed to the government and the kind-hearted section of the society for standing beside her hapless sister.

Matiur Rahman, deputy managing director of WEWB, said they would take action against the alleged Bangladeshi agent after conducting an investigation.

"We will see what we can do for her [Sharmin]," he told The Daily Star yesterday night.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, founder chair of Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit, said the government must ensure all-out support for the victim.

"The government must set up shelter for such victims in all destination countries. If anyone is victimised by such an incident, she can take shelter there," she added.

Breaking all previous records in the outflow of female migrant workers, the country has sent more than 60,000 female workers abroad in the last 11 months, according to BMET statistics.

MURDER OF LITTLE SHUVO

Police yet to submit charge sheet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Around three months into the incident, police are yet to submit charge sheet in the case filed for abducting and killing of a five-year-old boy in Sunderganj upazila of the districts.

Earlier, police arrested nine people, including Harun Mia, Mostafizur Rahman, Sumon Mia and Jewel Mia, in this connection.

On December 1, a court here granted a two-day remand for the four after police had produced them before the court, seeking a two-day remand.

Jinnat Ali, investigation officer (IO) of the case, said during remand the accused provided some vital information about the abduction and killing. After completion of their remand they were sent to jail on Wednesday night, the IO added.

Criminals abducted Shuvo Mia, son of Ashek Ali Master, a resident of Balapara area in the upazila from in front of his house on September 8, and demanded



Shuvo

Tk 15 lakh from Ashek Ali as ransom for his son's release on December 10.

In reply, Ashek agreed to pay the money and asked the abductors to come to his house to receive the money and tactfully informed the police.

Being informed, police encircled Ashek Ali's house and caught nine people from the spot who went there to realise the money.

Later, according to their confession, police recovered Shuvo's body from a marshy land adjacent to Balapara Eidgha field the same night.

Implementation

FROM PAGE 1 the auditorium of The Daily Star.

Santu Larma there pointed out civil and military bureaucracy as the main obstacle to the implementation of the accord. PCJSS did everything as it was required to do to comply with the accord but the government has been delaying its implementation in fear of vested interests opposing the accord.

"The deprived people in CHT will not sit idle if the government continues to delay the implementation of the accord. And it would not be wise for the government to consider them weak," he said, warning of the non-cooperation movement against the government from May 1 next year if it did not give a roadmap as to how the accord would be implemented within a timeframe.

The local government would be empowered only if the central government is democratic and progressive. But here the government is not democratic enough and it does not allow local government institutions to be strong and functional, said Santu Larma.

The government should implement the accord without any further delay as it will serve the nation's interest, said Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of the Indigenous People's Forum while delivering his welcome speech at the discussion.

Ushatun Talukder, MP from Rangamati and a leader of PCJSS, said the organisation members had talked to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina several times over the issue and she seemed very much sincere in implementing the accord.

"We have seen in many cases that the prime minister is capable of making decisions fast and implementing them. But it's

taking too long to implement the peace accord," he added.

The government signed the peace accord and now it is its responsibility to implement it, said Pir Fazlur Rahman, MP.

Indigenous people also fought during the Liberation War, said Prof Sadeka Halim, member of the Information Commission, but whenever they tried to realise their fundamental rights, they were threatened.

"But still I believe, if somebody could implement the CHT peace accord, it would be none other than present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," Sadeka said.

"We take pride in saying that Bangladesh is a diverse country. But we could not live with them [indigenous people] peacefully and failed to ensure their rights," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Bangalees have been carrying out violence against indigenous women just to grab their land and none of the perpetrators has been punished for their crimes, she added.

The government keeps saying it will implement the accord that was signed 17 years ago. Now the question is how much more time will be needed for its implementation, said Sohrab Hasan, deputy editor of Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Robayet Ferdous, associate professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, presented the keynote speech on "Peace versus non-cooperation movement" while Binotamoy Dhamai, joint secretary of the Indigenous People's Forum, moderated it and Rabindranath Soren, chairperson of Kapaeng Foundation chaired the programme.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

'Missing' trader found killed

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police yesterday recovered the body of a local trader from a mustered filed at Shibpur village in Daudkandi upazila of the district, after days of his missing. The deceased, Aatur Rahman Selim, 26, son of Abdul Latif Molla, was an electronics shop owner at Gouripur Bazar in the upazila. Police said, Selim, accompanied by Anwar Hossain and Amjad Hossain, went to attend a dinner at the house of one Jahangir Alam of Maaidpur village on November 14, and since did not return home. Police on Wednesday night, arrested Sumon, Amjarul, Anwar and Salahuddin from different villages of the upazila. Later as per the confessional statements of the arrestees, police recovered Selim's body from the filed yesterday.

Man held for killing AL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police in a drive on Wednesday detained a youth for his alleged involvement with the killing of Imran Hossain, a ward level ruling party leader, of Paglapir Bazar area in the town. The arrestee, Wahedul Islam alias Rohidul, 35, is son of Lutfar Rahman, a resident of Namapara area in Sadar upazila. Abdul Qader Jilani, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said being tipped-off, a team of the law-enforcers raided Paglapir Bazar area and arrested Rohidul. Earlier, in separate drives on November 18 and 19, police detained six people from different areas of the city in this connection. Unidentified criminals stabbed Imran Hossain, 35, joint secretary of ward no 30 unit AL to death at Satmatah Intersection in the city on November 10.



PHOTO: STAR

This 160-kg Vishnu statue, found while digging earth at a field of Kasba village in Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday, is being taken to Munshiganj Treasury. Process is on to send the highly valuable artefact to the National Museum in the capital, officials said.

Prisoner dies in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

An accused in a drug peddling case died at Naogaon Sadar Hospital on Wednesday night. The deceased is Subhash Pahan, 45, son of Danesh Pahan of Uttar Mirzapur village in Badalgachhi upazila of Naogaon. Sayem Uddin, assistant jail super of the district jail, said police arrested Subhash, accused in a drug peddling case, from his home on Tuesday night and produced him before a court on Wednesday that sent him to jail. Subhash fell sick in the evening and was rushed to the hospital where he died around 11:00pm.

Charges pressed against two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police on Wednesday pressed the charge sheet against two people in a case filed under Pornography Control Act. The accused are Nabiul Islam, 25, son of Abdus Sattar of Shiberkuti village and Shahin Hossain, 26, son of Mokbul Hossain of Kulaghat village in Sadar upazila of the district. Of the accused, Nabiul was arrested and later freed from the jail on getting bail in the case while Shahin is still on the run. According to the case statement, the victim residing at Purbo Baruya village in Sadar upazila was married with Nabiul Islam in 2012. Nabiul shoot their intimate moments on his mobile and later with the help of a computer shop owned by Shahin, in the area. Sub-Inspector Shahjahan Ali, also the Investigation officer of the case, said Nabiul supplied the video footages in the locality after failing to realise dowry money from the girl's parents.

Train derails in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Rail communications of Dhaka and Sylhet with Chittagong remained snapped from yesterday morning following the derailment of a train in Sadar Dakhkhin upazila. Abdul Hamid, assistant engineer of Comilla Railway Station, said four wheels of a bogey of the Chittagong-bound 'Jalalabad Express' train from Sylhet veered off the tracks at Jalgalia around 9:50am, halting train movement on the Dhaka and Sylhet routes towards Chittagong.