

New bridge on the Mohananda River connects char people to town



The Sheikh Hasina bridge on the Mohananda River at Shaheber Ghat of Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj was officially inaugurated on May 16, 2015.

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

The people of seven char unions of sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj district can now breathe a sigh of relief, as their dream of a bridge connecting the two parts of char areas and the town is now a reality. The Sheikh Hasina bridge on the Mohananda River at Shaheber Ghat of Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj opened to traffic on May 16, 2015.

After inauguration, several hundred people, including children and women of different areas in district gathered on both sides of the bridge. When this correspondent visited the bridge area on Sunday afternoon, he found several hundred people gathered at the bridge area. The bridge has instantly become a place of congregation. Street vendors have been drawn in by the crowds of people, and there are makeshift stalls selling chatpoti, tea and street foods. At afternoon, the whole place becomes festive. The refreshing environment of the bridge area can easily lift one's spirits, said Modhusudan Bhaskar of Mistrypara in town. According to some visitors, there are no places in town for recreation, so people gather at the bridge area now. Chapainawabganj Shishu Park, the lone park meant for children's recreation in the town, has been in an awful state for years. Therefore people have no option to visiting any place for recreation, especially women and children.

Construction work of the bridge has been completed at a cost of Tk 49.79 crore, according to sources. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the bridge on May 16. Earlier, she laid the foundation stone of the bridge on April 23, 2011. Rafiqul Islam, a primary school teacher of Chataidubi village under Islampur union said, "I come to school every day from the village home crossing the Mohananda River. The newly built bridge has changed my life." Monirul Islam, businessman of Charbagdanga village said, "We are proud that the bridge is finally a reality. Farmers will be able to take the opportunity to sell their product in town easily now."

Alamgir Kobir, Chairman of Narayanpur union said, "We are happy that the bridge is open and now people are using it regularly. Thousands of char people are benefited." Officials of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) sources said the construction work of the bridge was completed on March 31, 2015. The bridge is 546.60 metre long and 8.10 metre wide, with 2,400 metres of approach road on both sides and two more 45 metre and 48 metre long small bridges on approach roads. There are 13 spans of the bridge, which are 42 metres long each. Navana Construction Limited built the bridge under supervision of LGED. It was scheduled to be completed in September, 2013, but the construction time was extended, sources said. "A dream has come true for the people of seven

unions," said A N M Wahiduzzaman, upazila engineer of LGED of sadar upazila.

Around 5 lakh people of seven unions - Islampur, Devinagar, Charbagdanga, Shahjahanpur, Alatuji, Narayanpur and Sundarpur of Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj, mostly comprising char areas, who did not have means of proper communication now have easy access to upazila and district headquarters, according to LGED of Chapainawabganj. LGED officials said, there are 85 government and non-government primary schools, 20 high schools, 10 dakhil madrasas, two colleges and a number of NGO offices in these char areas. Prior to the opening of the bridge, about 15 to 20 thousand people of the unions crossed the river by boat every day to visit the district headquarters.

Eighty percent of cultivable land of these unions is covered by mango orchards. Besides, different types of crops, including vegetables, are grown in abundance in the areas, but farmers do not get fair prices as they cannot market them due to lack of communication facilities, said locals. Abdul Odud, lawmaker of Chapainawabganj-3(sadar) constituency and general secretary of district unit Awami League said, "We have a plan to establish a park near the bridge for people's recreation. I placed a request for it to the Prime Minister during her visit on May 16. I hoped she will talk with the concerned ministry for establishing a park."

Expansion of mung bean farming supports rural women

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

About fifteen thousand rural women, including students, are harvesting mung beans in six upazilas in Jhenidah this season. The area of mung bean farming has increased in the district this year, keeping trend with previous years. Farmers said that they are able to earn good profits from mung bean production.

Lilima Aktar, 30, a house wife of Roghunathpur village under Kaliganj upazila said that she was helpless. Now she collects 10 to 25 kilograms of beans from the fields of the farmers and earns Taka 130 to 150 per day. The farmers pay taka twelve for each kilogram of collected beans, she said. Hasina Khatun, Salma Khatun and some other women of the area who are currently engaged in the same work shared the same story.

School students Bithika Rani and Salma Pervin said they work in the mung bean plot after their studies and earn taka 80 to 100 a day. The money helps them to manage the education expenses as well as lend a helping hand to their poor families.

Farmer Badsha Mia of Bishoykhali village in Jhenidah sadar upazila said, he had cultivated Barimug-6 variety of mung beans on his one and a half bigha land this season. He is expecting 14 maunds of pulses from the plot, which can bring a return of about Taka 30 thousand.

The area of coverage of mung beans was 1,180 hectares in Jhenidah sadar, 2,450 hectares in Kaliganj, 1,600 hectares in Kotchandpur, 1,460 hectares in Moheshpur, 55 hectares in Saikupa and 220 hectares of land in Harinakundu upazila this season. Sources said, the farmers in the district had produced 8,971 tons of mung beans in 2014-15, which is projected to grow to 9,500 tons in 2015-16 fiscal year.

Deputy Director of the DAE in Jhenidah Shah Md. Akramul Haq said, "The mung bean farming area has been increasing in the district as farmers are earning better returns from it. The farmers in the district have brought 7,025 hectares of land under the mung bean farming in the season against a target of 7,597 hectares. Furthermore, mung bean expansion has helped rural women earn a seasonal living.



Men and women of Roghunathpur village under Kaliganj upazila harvesting mung bean at 12 tk per Kg.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Digging of Bogra irrigation canal under the second phase of Teesta Irrigation Project lies stalled for the last three years at Laxmanour village in Nilphamari district due to complexities regarding payment of compensation to the owners of acquired lands.

SECOND PHASE OF TEESTA IRRIGATION PROJECT

Canal digging in Dinajpur, Nilphamari hampered

Complexities in payment of damages to land owners led to work suspension

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Digging of Bogra irrigation canal under Teesta Irrigation Project of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has remained stalled for last three years, following complexities in payment of the value of acquired land.

Amid long delay in the payment and start of the work, the land owners are demanding their compensation as per the existing market price, which is much higher than the value fixed 7-8 years ago.

The 34.50-kilometre-long Bogra irrigation canal meant for supplying water to 20 thousand hectares of cropland in Bogra and Joipurhat districts is the third vital canal of Teesta Irrigation Project under its second phase initiated in year 2006-2007 with an estimated budget of Tk 227.21 crore.

Two other vital canals, Rangpur irrigation canal and Dinajpur irrigation canal, were constructed under the first phase of the project in 1998.

BWDB in 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The land value was fixed as per the then market price but no payment was made that time due to unavailability of fund.

In 2012, BWDB came to implement the project as fund was available but this time land owners demanded compensation for their land as per the present market prices.

Meanwhile, the authority increased the budget to Tk 420.66 crore in 2012, and BWDB continued construction work at larger portion of Bogra canal from starting point at Rajib village in Nilphamari district and also three attached side canals after paying enhanced land prices settled through negotiation, said Abu Raihan, sub divisional engineer of BWDB in Saidpur.

But the work has remained stalled for three years in 10 km portion of the canal in the downstream consisting about 400 acres of land as BWDB failed to settle the dispute with land owners in seven villages -- Chander Danga, Huglipara, Darikhamar, Baraishal para, Rampur, and Jagannapur in Dinajpur and Laxmanpur in

Nilphamari district.

"In last month I went to Huglipara village in Dinajpur district with men and machinery to dig a part of the canal in the disputed portion but landowners rushed in with lethal weapons and compelled us to leave the spot. Similar incidents happened at different points," said Shahjahan Ali, section officer of BWDB in Nilphamari division.

Several affected landowners including Alfazuddin, Mominur and Armina Begum said they are determined not to allow canal digging until getting payment for the acquired land at present market rate.

Admitting the situation, executive engineer of BWDB in Saidpur division Abdus Shahid said Dinajpur DC recently paid Tk 27 crore to landowners of Chander Danga, Huglipara, Darikhamar and Jagannapur villages at revised rate and the problem is settled there.

Efforts are on to break the deadlock in digging the canal with 191.84 acres of land at Baraishalpara and Rampur villages in Dinajpur and 25.71 acres of land at Laxmanpur village in Nilphamari district, he added.

Storm wreaks havoc on 2 Nilphamari villages

200 houses smashed, 100 trees uprooted in two minutes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A violent storm caused devastation at Miapara and Colony Haat villages of Purbo Chhatnai union in Dimla upazila under the district on Monday night.

About two hundred houses and shops were razed to the ground, three educational institutions were badly damaged and one hundred trees were uprooted in the squall that lasted only two minutes.

"We heard the roaring of a storm coming towards our village at about 11:30pm on Monday. Within seconds, it hit the area and moved violently in a circular way for around two minutes," said Ainal Huq, 55, a resident of Miapara village.

In the twinkling of an eye, tin roofs of houses began to fly in the sky, trees got uprooted and a number of thatched huts destroyed, said villagers.

Four people were injured, being hit by uprooted trees or damaged houses.

Two of them were admitted to Dimla Upazila Health Complex with broken hands and legs, said hospital sources.

Structures of Chhatnai Colony Government Primary School, Simanto Shishu Niketon and Chhatnai High School were damaged and their tin roofs blown away, said Abdul Latif, chairman of Purbo Chhatnai union parishad.

Electricity supply in the area was also snapped, as an electric pole belonging to Rural Electrification Board was broken at Purbo Chhatnai colony market.

Road communication was disrupted as a number of uprooted trees fell on roads.

"Dry food was distrib-

uted among the affected people at noon today and I have directed the local union parishad chairman to prepare a list of actual victims to give them money and house making materials like corrugated iron sheets from the upazila relief department," Dimla

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rezaul Karim said after visiting the spot along with upazila parishad Chairman Tabibul Islam yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Houses lie ravaged at Miapara village in Dimla upazila under Nilphamari district after a violent storm hit the area on Monday night.

BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology
(Innovating Excellence Through Education)

Faculty Search

BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) requires qualified and competent faculty members for the following discipline:

Faculty	Position	Subject/ Course Specialization
Fashion Technology	Professor/Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Lecturer	Pattern; Illustration; Elements of Design (Colour Concept), Surface Ornamentation
	Assistant Professor /Lecturer	*CAD (Apparel)
Apparel & Textile Engineering	Professor/ Associate Professor	AMT/GMT; Clothing Materials; Fully Fashion Knitwear (KMT), Sewing Technology (AMT/KMT); Yarn Manufacturing ; Fabric Manufacturing
	Assistant Professor/ Lecturer	
Science & Engineering	Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor	Industrial Engineering (IPE)
	Assistant Professor/Lecturer	CSE
Business Studies	Professor /Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/Lecturer	Finance & Accounting; Business Administration; Economics; Management
Arts & Social Sciences	Professor /Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor	English
Allied Subjects	Lecturer	Sociology, Statistics
	Lab Instructor	Dyeing, Weaving, Fabric
Laboratory	Lab Assistant	Physics, Chemistry, Computer, Mechanical Workshop, Computer

For detail information please visit our website <www.buft.edu.bd>