

Sherpur VIP Road in bad shape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

The Sribordi crossing-TNT road, also known as VIP Road, in Sherpur looks more like a canal than a road due to the potholes developed on it.

The one kilometre-long section of the road has not been repaired for the last 12 years. There is no drain on either side of the road. Big holes have been created on the road by the heavy vehicles plying on it. Brick layer and carpeting have mostly disappeared. Water remains stagnant in these potholes for a long time, even with very little rain.

Though that part of the road runs through the municipal town, it is under the control of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). It has now become unfit for use even by pedestrians.

There are some government and private offices on both sides of the road, including the upazila parishad office, upazila health complex, food silo, Telecom Bhaban, Shaheed Minar and Mathuranath Binodini Government Girls' High School, along with shops and residences.

More than 500 vehicles use it every day to carry goods and passengers from Kamalpur customs station in Bakshiganj upazila of Jamalpur to Rajibpur and Roumari in Kurigram. Besides, many light vehicles, including CNG-run and battery-run auto-rickshaws, ply the road every day.

Zahurul Haque, a stationery shop owner in Khamariapara, said the number of customers has decreased in his shop as the road has been submerged for a long time.

Mariam Akhter and Salma Begum, students of Mathuranath Binodini Government Girls' High School, said they face serious problem while going to school as their clothes sometimes get wet up to knees.

Ambulance driver Mohammad Ibrahim said serious patients suffer a lot while passing the road.

AZM Ruman, president of local social organisation Sribordi Local Voice, said local people formed human chains several times, demanding repair of the road, but the authorities concerned are indifferent to the problem. He said they even staged a demonstration planting paddy and arum on the road.

Sribordi Municipality Mayor Md Abu Sayeed said he has requested the LGED authorities to repair the road quickly for public interest.

Sribordi upazila engineer Md Jahangir Alam said a Tk 21 lakh tender would be floated soon for reconstruction of 600 metres of the road. The work in this regard was suspended through an order of the higher authorities as there was a risk of damage to carpeting in the monsoon, he added, saying that the repair work of the road would start soon.

Sribordi crossing-TNT road has not been repaired for the last 12 years. Local people stage demonstration planting paddy and arum on the road, demanding its repair.



Locals give worried look, standing on the bank of the Dhalai at a village under Kamalganj municipality in Moulvibazar as erosion by the river has taken a serious turn. Around 3,000 families of ten villages are passing their time amid anxiety as the Laghata, another river in the area, also started devouring the banks.

PHOTO: STAR

KAMALGANJ MUNICIPALITY IN MOULVIBAZAR

Embankment under threat

Around 3,000 families living in fear of losing houses

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

With the Dhalai and Laghata rivers raging with floodwaters in recent days around 3,000 families in ten villages of Kamalganj municipality in Moulvibazar district live in constant fear that their houses will be washed away if damaged embankments collapse.

"I haven't slept in days from fear of the embankment collapsing," says Jalal Ahmed, 45, from affected Gupalnagar village. "The men in our village are taking turns to guard the embankment every night."

His neighbour Nasir Uddin has taken shelter on the embankment with his family out of deep concern. Villagers fear that if immediate embankment repairs are not undertaken immediately, with the river flowing at dangerously high levels their entire village can be

devoured. "There are five points including near Hiramoti and Shukur Ullah Gaon villages where embankments face particular risk," says Pushpo Kumar Kanu, the chairman of Madhabpur union which straddles the Dhalai.

Indeed throughout Kamalganj municipality there are twenty points along both rivers where damaged embankments are at significant risk of collapse. Rain and river water has already destroyed at least 60 hectares of crops.

"For the last few years we haven't been able to cultivate our farmland due to contamination by saltwater which covers the unprotected area during the monsoon months," says Modorish Miah, a farmer from Gupalnagar village.

In Kumrakapon village where,

according to former local councillor Mujibur Rahman, thirteen houses have been washed away in the past due to collapsed embankments, the situation is desperate. "People are leaving," he says. "We are living in a constant state of panic."

Kamalganj mayor Md Jewel Ahmed says the municipality does not have a large budget to devote to embankment repair. "Farmers are experiencing significant losses to their vegetable and Aus paddy crops," he says, "due to unrestrained floodwaters. We have requested flood control measures to be given priority in the past but without result."

"Immediate steps are needed not only for farmers but to save villages," he adds.

Project implementation officer in Kamalganj, Md Ashaduzzaman

agrees. "I visited some of the vulnerable embankment points with Moulvibazar's water development board executive engineer," he says. "They need repairing urgently."

"We have no budget for immediate repairs," says the aforementioned executive engineer, Md Foizur Rob. "With respect to repairing vulnerable embankment points along the Dhalai and Laghata Riviers we have sent a letter to higher authorities seeking their support as a matter of priority."

In the meantime, with the start of embankment collapse already reported in three villages a week ago and no remedial action underway by local authorities, villagers across Kamalganj municipality can only wait in the hope of better weather and the return of safer times.



Vehicles ply with difficulty as water gathers in large potholes on Sribordi crossing-TNT road in Sherpur.

PHOTO: STAR

Charges framed against 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday framed charges against eight people in a case filed over the killing of four schoolboys in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj district on February 12.

Magistrate Atab Ullah of Habiganj District and Session Judge's Court passed the order, said Abul Hashem Mollah Masum, special public prosecutor of the court.

According to the charges, Abdul Ali, 60, ordered the killing; his son Rubel Mia, 18, Habibur Rahman Arju, 25, and Bachchu Mia, 32, killed them; Ali's another son Jewel Miah, 20, Shahed Ahmed Bashir, 32, Billal Mia, 30, Ustar Mia, 48, and Babul Mia, 45, aided the killers.

They are residents of Sundrateki village under the upazila.

Dozens 'motivated' for jihad Three female JMB activists tell court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Abu Talha alias Rabin (might be a fake name), a close associate of absconding JMB leader Faridul Islam, motivated dozens of people in Sirajganj for jihad, three arrested female activists of the banned militant organisation said in a confessional statement to the court on Tuesday.

Fulera Khatun, 45, and her daughters Shakila Khatun, 18, and Salma Khatun, 16, gave the confessional statement to the Court of Sirajganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Nazrul Islam on Tuesday evening under Section 164, said Md Shahidullah, Sirajganj court inspector.

Earlier, Sirajganj DB police arrested four suspected operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen

Bangladesh (JMB) including Fulera, Shakila and Salma who were waiting for instruction from the high command to take part in fedayeen (suicide) attacks, police said.

"Faridul, son of the Fulera Khatun, is a top IT expert of JMB. He went missing from the house after the Eid-ul-Azha, a year ago, saying, 'I am going to the path of religion'. Then his associate Abu Talha alias Rabin came to us and motivated us for the Jihad," Md Waheduzzaman, officer in charge (OC) of Sirajganj DB police quoted the arrestees' confessional statement.

"They have mentioned names of some 20 to 25 people organising JMB in Sirajganj who got primary training from Talha. Police is trying to find out Faridul and Abu Talha as well as other suspects," he said.

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
Biddut Bhaban (3rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000
Web site : www.dpdc.org.bd

ISO: 9001:2008 Certified

Memo No- 87.111.105.00.00.05.2016.89 Date: 06/09/2016.

"Correction of Invitation for International Tender"

Reference: Tender Notice reference no. : 87.111.105.00.00.05.2016.80; Date: 31/08/2016

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.		
Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).		
Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Project-1, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).		
Invitation for	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of BGB 33/11kV GIS Substation on Turnkey Basis.		

15	Item	Tender Security Amount (Taka) (Original)	Tender Security Amount (Taka) (Corrected)
	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of BGB 33/11kV GIS Substation on Turnkey Basis.	US \$ 75,000.00 (USD Seventy Five Thousand Only) Or equivalent BDT 60,00,000.00 (Taka Sixty Thousand Only)	US \$ 75,000.00 (USD Seventy Five Thousand Only) Or equivalent BDT 60,00,000.00 (Taka Sixty Lac Only)

Engr. D.S.M. Ferdous, Project Director, Project-1 (Foreign Aided Project), DPDC.

Confusion

FROM PAGE 2

As reporters asked why the statement did not have anything about literacy rate, Mostafizur said different survey reports have different statistics.

He then said the last survey on literacy was done in 2011 and that is why they did not mention it in the statement.

He said the government was implementing various programmes in the education sector with the major objectives of ensuring education for all and setting a standard in education.

This year, the global theme of the day is "Education for the 21st Century". Apart from the global theme, the day in Bangladesh will be celebrated with the theme: "Reading the past, Writing the future".

Different government and private institutions and organisations will organise various programmes to observe the day.

BASIC Bank Limited
Serving people for progress
A STATE OWNED SCHEDULED BANK

Head Office: Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Phone: 9568190, 9564830, 9556616, 9590548-9, Fax: 88-02-9564829
Email: basicho@basicbanklimited.com, Web: www.basicbanklimited.com

Invitation of themes/designs of Desk Calendar of the Bank for the year 2017

- Themes/designs are invited from bona-fide advertising firms/design houses/printers for Desk Calendar of the Bank for the year 2017. This is a two stage tendering method. Themes/designs will be selected in the first stage and selected themes/designs will be purchased from the successful tenderer. Quotations for printing of the Desk Calendars based on the selected themes/designs will be asked from the tenderers participated in the 1st stage of the tender.
- The tender schedule may be obtained from Establishment Division, Head Office [Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th Floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka] of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk. 300/- only. No schedule will be sold after 05:00 P.M. of October 4, 2016.
- Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at Establishment Division of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office [Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th Floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka] on or before 05:00 P.M. of October 5, 2016.
- Tk. 5,000/- has to be submitted by the participating company with the offers through PO/DD in the name of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka as earnest money. Failing to deliver the themes/designs in time and at its required format will result in forfeiture of the earnest money of the successful bidders.
- Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

Deputy General Manager
Establishment Division