

Tk 1cr BTCL stolen cables yet to be recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Copper cables worth around Tk 1 crore that went missing from Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd's (BTCL) Rangpur Divisional Warehouse in March this year are yet to be recovered. Rangpur BTCL officials came to know the incident during an audit in the middle of November.

After the incident came to light, BTCL authorities suspended engineer Abdul Gafur for his alleged negligence and formed a five-member probe committee led by Moktadir Mahmud, divisional engineer of Rangpur BTCL, to investigate the incident.

The BTCL authorities also asked the probe committee to submit its report within shortest possible time.

BTCL sources said the expensive copper cables were brought to Rangpur in early March for fixing around 500 phone connections in Rangpur city and Haragachh upazila.

Some unscrupulous officials and employees of BTCL allegedly embezzled the cables without fixing the phone connections.

About 500 phones remained out of order for the last 10 months.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The collapsed bridges over the Jhinai river at Kajirpara in Basail upazila under Tangail and Dola canal on Mirganj-Khutamara road in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari, and the awfully risky bridges on Kedarpur canal in Babuganj upazila under Barisal and a canal near GK High School in Rajapur upazila under Jhalakathi.



PHOTO: STAR

C'nawabganj road blocked for three hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Local people yesterday barricaded the Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port road in Shibganj upazila for three hours, protesting the abduction of a local union parishad (UP) chairman, causing a huge tailback in the area.

However, they removed the barricade after police rescued Shamsul Huda, chairman of Chhatrajitpur UP, from the upazila headquarters after he had been abducted on the UP premises in the upazila the same morning.

Locals said a gang of criminals entered Shamsul's office on the union parishad premises around 1:00pm. They picked up Shamsul forcibly onto a microbus at gunpoint and fled the scene.

Protesting the incident, locals put up a barricade in Chhatrajitpur bazar area from 1:00pm, said Officer-in-Charge Sarwar Jahan of Shibganj Police Station.

The OC, however, declined to name the place from where Shamsul was rescued.

6 broken bridges not repaired for years

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A large number of people in different areas of Tangail, Jhalakathi, Nilphamari and Barisal districts are suffering from communication problems as several badly damaged bridges have remained without reconstruction or incomplete long after start of the work.

Thousands of people have to cross the Jhinai river, a tributary of the Jamuna, by boat amid risk as a 108-metre-long bridge on Kanchanpur-Natiapara road at Kajirpara in Basail upazila of Tangail collapsed on August 30 last year, reports our correspondent.

Since then, locals as well as the people from adjacent Mirzapur, Sakhipur and Delduar upazilas have been facing problems for movement in the area.

"We have to take risky ride on boats to cross the river to reach school daily," said Masud Miah, a student of Kanchanpur Dakkhinpara High School.

Movement on another bridge on the Jhinai river on Kasil-Ballanatiapara road at Kasil in Basail upazila has also remained suspended for long as a part of the bridge broke down, locals said.

Condition of another bridge on the river on Fulki-Karatia Road at Dapnazar under the same upazila is

also vulnerable due to removal of soil under it, they said.

Mohammad Abdus Sattar, upazila engineer in Basail, said, "Survey and designing to construct three new bridges at Kanchanpur, Kasil and Dapnazar areas have already been done. Construction works can be started after approval of the projects by the ministry concerned and ECNEC."

Our Jhalakathi reports: Thousands of people including students are badly suffering as an under construction bridge over a canal near GK High School on Nijgalua-Pakapul road in Rajapur upazila under the district has remained incomplete for years.

The work of the bridge started in 2011 and supposed to be complete within 2012 at a cost of Tk 43.38 lakh financed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) but the contractor constructed only two pillars on its both sides in last six years, said Md Lutfur Rahman, upazila engineer of LGED.

A good number of students of Galua Primary School, GK High School and Nijgalua Madrasa situated near the bridge have to cross the canal amid risk of a sako (a narrow bridge made of bamboo and wood), said Md Mahamudul Hossen, a teacher of GK High School.

The LGED engineer said the construction work has resumed recently

and it would be complete hopefully under it, they said.

About ten thousand people of seven villages in Jaldhaka upazila are suffering much for the last two years as the dilapidated bridge over Dola canal on Mirganj-Khutamara road at Dhigoltari village was washed away during the flood in 2014, our Nilphamari correspondent reports.

The road is very important as it connects two famous markets in the district, Mirganj Haat and Tengonmari Haat.

Project implementation officer of Jaldhaka Moazzem Hossain said they are preparing project proposal for building the bridge within a couple of months.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: An iron bridge on Kedarpur canal in Babuganj upazila under the district remains in an awful condition for long, much to the sufferings of thousands of people including school going children.

Vehicle cannot use the bridge and trawlers cannot pass the canal due to the dilapidated condition of the iron bridge, locals said.

Humayun Kabir, sub assistant engineer of LGED, Babuganj, said they are preparing a project proposal to build an iron bridge at the spot.

Labourers cry for job

Activities at different sectors in Bogra decreased

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A good number of day labourers are suffering from job crisis as the northern district sees much less activities in different sectors with the early arrival of biting winter.

Visiting Colony Bazar in Bogra town around 10:00am yesterday, this correspondent saw over a hundred people waiting there with spades, baskets, and other tools for daily-basis work.

The scene appeared as a stark contrast to the usual situation that prevailed only a couple of weeks ago, when almost all the labour-

ers coming to the market would leave the spot by 8:00am to engage in works, offered mostly by solvent people in the town.

"Now I have to take loan to feed my five-member family as I often fail to get job as a day labourer," said Mozaffar Ali, 32, coming from Madla area under Shajahanpur upazila in the district.

Kamrul Hasan, a social service officer in Bogra town, said, "Hopefully, the jobless labourers will not face starvation as rice at Tk 10 a kg is being provided to the poor and helpless people under a government initiative."

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
BEPZA Complex
House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
(www.epzbangladesh.org.bd)

No. 03.307.011.00.00.063.2012-1133 Dated: December 07, 2016

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Selection of Security Consultant Cum-Executive for Export Processing Zones (EPZ) under BEPZA

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) is seeking for appropriate candidates for the post of Security Consultant-Cum Executive with a view to strengthening Security Department of Export Processing Zones (EPZ) under BEPZA.

- The main task of the Security Consultant Cum-Executive:** The Terms of Reference (TOR) for appointment of Security Consultant Cum-Executive is available at BEPZA Executive Office and BEPZA Website. Interested candidate may collect it for better understanding.
- Qualification and Experience:** The Security Consultant Cum-Executive shall be retired armed forces officer not below the rank of Major & equivalent. Experience in the field of security management both in armed forces & civil administration along with security courses & qualifications will be treated as added qualification.
- Remuneration:** The monthly fees to be paid as (Consolidated including VAT & Taxes): Negotiable.
- Age Limit:** Maximum 55 years (As on December 22, 2016).
- Place of Work:** Export Processing Zones (EPZ) under Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA). There are 08 (eight) EPZs all over the country. Officer will have to serve any one of these EPZs' as decided by the authority.
- All applications must be accompanied by:**
 - Attested copies of the academic certificates.
 - Character and nationality certificates from first class gazetted officer.
 - 02 (two) copies of attested passport size and 01 (one) copy of stamp size photographs.
 - Experience certificates (if any).
 - Contact number.
- Those who served earlier as Security Consultant Cum-Executive in BEPZA is ineligible to apply for the post.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- Any persuasion by the applicant will be treated as disqualification.
- Initially the Security Consultant Cum-Executive will be appointed for 01 (one) year. His service may be extended after the completion of his 01 (one) year satisfactory performance.
- Interested applicants shall obtain Standard Request for Application (SRFA) for TOR & further information from the Office of Secretary, BEPZA from 0900 to 1600 hours on working days or it may be downloaded from BEPZA website www.bepza.gov.bd
- Application must be delivered to the address below by 4:00pm on December 22, 2016.
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for the selection of Security Consultant Cum-Executive in BEPZA.

Rabeyan Nahar
Deputy Secretary
Phone: 9613472

GD-2514



A farmer takes care of his ginger field at Karnopur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Ginger a money-spinner

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Cultivation of ginger in the district is gaining popularity as it has become a money-spinner for farmers.

Ginger farmer Mohor Ali of Karnopur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said he has cultivated ginger on five decimals of land spending Tk 10,000 this year.

"I hope I will get 12-15 maunds of ginger from the land," he said, adding that he may bring one bigha of land under ginger cultivation if he has the ability to invest in large scale as it is a profitable farming.

He made a profit of Tk 8,000 from selling ginger on five decimals of land last year, said Mohor.

"We sell one maund of ginger at Tk 1200 to Tk 1500 during the season while it

is sold at Tk 2500-3000 in off-season," said farmer Seher Ali of Kamlabari village in Aditmari upazila.

According to Lalmonirhat Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, about 550 bighas of land in the district were brought under ginger cultivation this season while it was 450 bighas last year.

Although it becomes profitable farming, many farmers are showing less interest in cultivating the spice due to higher cost of production.

Due to high price of chemical fertiliser and pesticide, they use only organic fertiliser for good yield, Hamidul Islam of the village said.

DAE officially helps farmers to get loan from banks for spice cultivation, said Aditmari Upazila Agriculture Officer Biplob Kumar Mohanto.

ROW OVER OWNERSHIP Decision to hand over land to RHD

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The district administration at a meeting yesterday decided to hand over the one acre of land to Roads and Highways Department (RHD) that earlier they protected from the grabbers erecting a tin-shed fence.

They also took a decision to remove the tin-shed fence at the monthly law and order committee meeting at the deputy commissioner's office auditorium here.

Earlier, Manikganj district administration erected a tin-shed fence around one acre of government land in bus stand area on December 2 to protect the property from illegal encroachers.

After visiting the spot on December 3, Superintendent Engineer Sobuj Uddin (Dhaka Circle) asked the executive engineer to take necessary steps in this regards.

According to the superintendent engineer's directive, Mohibul Haque wrote to Manikganj deputy commissioner and superintendent of police on December 4 to take lawful steps to remove the fence.

Contacted, Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Rashida Ferdouse said the government is the owner of the land adding that she made the fence to save the property from grabbers.

Superintendent Engineer Sobuj Uddin said the RHD is the legal owner of the one acre land under Joyra mouza in Manikganj Sadar upazila.

Earlier, locals had grabbed the land by building a mosque and a three-storey market on it.

Claiming the ownership of the land Executive Engineer Mohibul Haque of Manikganj Roads and Highways Department (RHD) alleged that some local influential people also erected a fence around the land in a bid to grab it.

On June 26 this year, RHD freed the land by demolishing the illegal structures.

Meanwhile, Manikganj Additional District Magistrate Anjana Khanmajlish at the monthly meeting yesterday said they will remove the fence and hand over the property to RHD as soon as possible.

PHOTO: STAR