



Villagers have built a 400-foot-long bamboo bridge over the Sati river in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur to ease sufferings of residents of seven villages.

PHOTO:
KONGKON KARMAKER

Bamboo bridge over Sati river

Villagers erect it on their own in Rangpur's Kaunia

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

People of seven villages in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur erected a 400-foot-long bamboo bridge over the Sati river as they had been suffering for long due to absence of a bridge.

"We bore all the expenses for building it," said Rashidul Islam of Chatura village.

Aminur Rahman, the man behind the effort, said the people of Char-Chatura, Dhungara, Gangrir Bazar, Pallimari, Banglabazar and Haragachh of Kaunia and Khuniagachh of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila had been suffering a lot while going from one village to another since the 300-foot-long Banglabazar-Char Chatura mud road was washed away by the Sati river two decades ago.

"Since then, boats were the only means for moving from one village to another, which was risky," he said. Boat capsizing is common during the rainy

season, Aminur said, adding that students and farmers suffer the most due to the absence of a bridge.

"We wrote several times to the local representatives, requesting them to build a bridge here. They promised they would do so, but we are yet to see any action," Aminur said.

The villagers decided to build a bamboo bridge over the Sati river by themselves as the local representatives did not take any steps to build one, he added.

The villagers started building the bamboo bridge on May 28.

"We erected the 400-foot-long bamboo bridge in 33 days," said villager Rafiqul Islam. Twenty people worked every day to complete the bridge on June 30, he added.

Nearly 35,000 people of the seven villages are now the beneficiaries of the bridge, Rafiqul said.

Mayor of Haragachh municipality, also former president of Kaunia upazila Awami League, Md Hakibur Rahman Master said the local lawmaker had been trying his best to build a bridge on the Sati river.

Block raid against militancy

'Robber' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Law enforcers yesterday started block raids against militants and robbers in different char lands along Jamuna and Teesta river basin areas.

During the eight-hour drive from 6:00am, the teams raided different areas of Mollar char and Kamajani unions in Gaibandha Sadar. The forces arrested one Sukur Ali, a suspected robber, from char Sidhai.

Led by Additional Superintendent of Police in Gaibandha Mainul Haq, a total of 60 members of counter terrorism unit, Detective Branch of police and district police participated in the drive.

This is part of the routine assignment of police for raiding different char lands against militants and robbers, said the ASP.

The block raid in remote char lands will continue for arresting militants and to stop robbery during floods, said SP Masrukur Rahman Khaleed.

Train ticket crisis in Joypurhat

KONGKON KARMAKER, back from Joypurhat

Although it has been a week since Eid was celebrated across the country, people are still rescheduling their travelling date to reach their destinations while many are travelling on the roofs of trains risking their lives due to ticket crisis in Joypurhat.

According to Bangladesh Railway (BR) officials, seven intercity trains stop at Joypurhat station regularly.

They are Akota Express, Drutojan Express, Nilsagar Express, Borendra Express, Rupsha Express, Titumir Express and Simanta Express.

Besides, there are two mail trains -- Rocket Mail and Uttara Express.

The trains ply on Dinajpur-Dhaka, Nilphamari-Dhaka, Saidpur-Khulna, Rajshahi-Khulna, Rajshahi-Chilahati routes.

Total seat allotment of these trains is 437. Of them, 150 seats are of Joypurhat-Dhaka routes while 287 seats are of Rajshahi-Khulna, Saidpur-Lalmonirhat routes, said BR officials.

Regular demand of train seats is 1200 in the district.

But, the demand of seats goes three to four times higher before and after festivals like Eid, said officials and locals.

During a visit to the railway station in Joypurhat on Monday, this correspondent found hundreds of people gathered there and lined up for train tickets for travelling to their destinations.

"I have got my tickets after two attempts in the last two days," said Rafiqul Islam. He blamed black marketing of tickets for crisis of train tickets.

"You will get a ticket easily if you pay Tk 200 additional," said Rafiqul.

Another passenger Nabiul Haq of Joypurhat urged the Ministry of Bangladesh Railway to increase allotment of seats for the people of Joypurhat as people think train service is safer.

Shawkat Ali, stationmaster of Joypurhat Railway Station, said there is ticket crisis in Joypurhat.

"A letter has already been sent to higher authorities of Bangladesh Railway to increase the seat allotments in the district. We hope to get a solution soon," he said.

Newsman assaulted by mayor's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A journalist was assaulted allegedly by the son of Jhalakathi municipality mayor yesterday morning.

The victim, Manik Acharjo, district correspondent of Asian TV and the daily Janata, is also a lawyer of Jhalakathi court, said Akkas Shikder, secretary of Jhalakathi Press Club.

"I reached Kumarpatti of Jhalakathi Sadar on the way to court when Liton Talukder, son of the mayor, hit me with his motorbike from behind. As I fell down, he kicked and slapped me," said Manik.

He was admitted to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor informed that he is out of danger.

"A case has been filed with Jhalakathi Police Station and process is on for investigation," said Tajul Islam, officer in charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station.

Mayor Liakat Hossen Talukder, father of accused Liton, said, "Liton and Manik are friends; it was a misunderstanding which has already been settled."

Bananas bring solvency to Lalmonirhat char areas

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

The remote char (landmass emerging from riverbed) lands in Dharla River basin areas of Lalmonirhat have never been synonymous with vibrant economic activity. For most char residents, life has always been a struggle with options few. Nowadays in twelve shoal areas the future looks brighter however, thanks to success in cultivating the type of banana known locally as the malbhog variety.

"Eight years ago my three acres stood idle," says Nazrul Islam, 60, from Char Shiberkuti. "Time to time, I farmed sugarcane but it never brought anticipated profits. More recently I saw my neighbour was growing bananas and decided to try. Now I earn around Tk 6 lakh from my three acres every fourteen months."

"I've been growing bananas on my five acres for the past six years," says another char resident, Dulal Hossain, 48, from Char Dhamopal. "Each acre can support up to 1,300 healthy banana trees that each produce as many as 150 bananas per annum. We spend around Tk 60 on each tree, earning about Tk 300 from the bananas it produces."

"We only grow malbhog," says farmer Surendra Nath Sarker, 65, from Char Gorokmandol, who harvests bananas from his ten acres round-the-year. "This variety is sought after in the



local markets so it's no difficulty to sell them. Our living standard has improved a lot since we started growing bananas commercially a few years ago."

Planting season for bananas occurs twice a year, says another grower, Yakub Ali. "We plant from March to May and then again from September to November. Each banana tree will start to produce fruit approximately fourteen months after planting."

Banana trader Idris Ali, 45, from Lalmonirhat town says he purchases four green bananas at around Tk 12 from growers, to sell when ripe to retailers, for up to Tk 17. The same bananas are subsequently available to consumers for about Tk 24. "After

satisfying local demand we send huge quantities of bananas to the capital and other parts of the country," he says, adding that nationwide, malbhog bananas are a specialty of the Dharla River char areas.

According to the Lalmonirhat office of the Department Agriculture Extension, at least 2,000 banana orchards of between two and six acres each on average are to be found in the Dharla River basin. "The Dharla River basin is suited to growing the malbhog variety," says the department's deputy director in Lalmonirhat, Bidubhushon Roy, "while the Teesta River char areas are best suited to other crops, especially maize."



Workers busy making traditional bamboo baskets at Kolonypara under Sariakandi municipality under Bogra.

PHOTO: STAR

Bamboo baskets a thriving tradition of Bogra's Jamuna river basin

MAMUN-UR-RASHID with ANDREW EAGLE

In two villages in Bogra's Jamuna river basin, weaving bamboo baskets is a tradition with a long history. Up to 600 families in Kolonypara in Shariakandi municipality and Kuptola village in adjacent Shariakandi upazila rely on bamboo products for their livelihoods, as they have done for generations. For the last four years a new design has proved popular: bamboo containers for carrying

vermicelli, which is locally known as shemai.

"During the month of Ramadan, we had an order for Tk 75,000 to supply shemai-carriers to Bogra town and other parts of the district," says one craftsman, Shahidul Islam from Kuptola.

Shemai being a popular Eid dish, Ramadan month in the lead up to the festival is a busy time for these villagers, who work from dawn to dusk to keep abreast of demand.

Indeed, students of various schools get involved during the peak

season in helping their parents to fill the many orders from shemai makers.

"Each container requires around Tk 12 in bamboo, with associated costs adding an extra Tk 8 to the manufacture price," says Solaiman Ali, an artisan from Kolonypara. "We can make around 12 containers per day, and in the market each one will sell for up to Tk 30 to shemai makers."

Locals estimate around 3,000 people work in the basket making industry year-round, with chatai,

talai, hoca, ghorer chad, jhair and basher mora included in the traditional product range.

The mayor of Shariakandi municipality Alamgir Shahi Sumon says the bamboo craft traditions of the two villages have been practiced for a very long time, and that nowadays the business is actually improving.

Shariakandi upazila social service officer Abdur Rashid says his office has been providing training and financial support to the cottage industry.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার					
অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরীক্ষা পরিদপ্তর					
গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা					
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পুরাতন অকেজো ঘোষিত গাড়ির নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি					
নিম্নবর্ণিত অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরীক্ষা পরিদপ্তরের গাড়িটি "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত ক্রয়ে ইচ্ছুক বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক/প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।					
ক্রঃ নং	গাড়ির নং	প্রস্তুতকারকের নাম	তৈরির সন	সিসি	গাড়ির অবস্থান
১	ঢাকা মেট্রো ক ১১-০৮৭৫ (কার)	মারুতি মটর কোং লিঃ, ভারত	২০০০ খ্রিঃ	১০০০	ঢাকা ইন্সটান গার্ডেনস্থ অফিসার্স কোয়ার্টারের গ্যারেজে
শর্তাবলীঃ					
১। পুরাতন অকেজো গাড়িটি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরে বর্ণিত দপ্তরের সাথে যোগাযোগ করে অগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণ কর্তৃক পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।					
২। অগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তিগণ কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বেই পুরাতন অকেজো গাড়িটি সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শনপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের পর এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন প্রকার ওজর আপত্তি বা অজুহাত সরাসরি অগ্রাহ্য করা হবে। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের কার্যকারিতা (ভেলিডিটি) দরপত্র দাখিলের পর হতে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত বহাল থাকবে।					
৩। দরপত্র পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ ৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকার বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে ২০/০৭/২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার পর্যন্ত সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।					
৪। দরপত্রসমূহ (সিডিউল) আগামী ২৫/০৭/২০১৭খ্রিঃ মঙ্গলবার দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) এর কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে সিডিউল জমা দেয়া যাবে এবং একই দিনে বেলা ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে উক্ত টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হবে।					
৫। প্রতিটি দরপত্রের সাথে আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসাবে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের মোট ১০% (শতকরা দশ টাকা) হারে যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক (সিডিউল ব্যাংক) হতে পরিচালক, অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরীক্ষা পরিদপ্তর, গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।					
৬। দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্র সিডিউলের উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের নির্দিষ্ট কলামে (৫ ও ৬ নং কলাম) উদ্ধৃত মূল্য অংকে ও কথায় উল্লেখ করতে হবে এবং লিখিত দরের কোন প্রকার ঘষামাজা বা উপরিলিখন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।					
৭। নির্বাচিত দরপত্রদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ৫ (পাঁচ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে এককালীন সমুদয় মূল্য এবং সরকারি বিধি-বিধান মোতাবেক হারে আয়কর ও ভ্যাট পরিশোধ করতে হবে। টাকা পরিশোধের প্রমাণপত্র যাচাইপূর্বক অত্র পরিদপ্তরের ছাড়পত্র (Clearance) প্রদান করা স্বাপক্ষে নির্বাচিত দরদাতাকে ৫ (পাঁচ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে পুরাতন অকেজো গাড়ি যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে তা সরিয়ে স্থান পরিষ্কার করে দিতে হবে। ৫ (পাঁচ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে সমুদয় মূল্য এবং প্রযোজ্য হারে আয়কর ও ভ্যাট পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে আর্নেস্টম্যানির টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।					
৮। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন সময়ে যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।					
নাজমা বেগম সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) ফোনঃ ৯৫৪০৪৬৬					
জিডি-১৩৬৪					