

20 bridges risky

The bridges are on Charkhali-Mathbaria road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

All the 20 iron bridges on Charkhali-Mathbaria road under Bhandaria and Mathbaria upazilas of the district have become risky.

Recently, the longest iron bridge at Madarshi village in Bhandaria upazila collapsed as two stone-laden trucks got on it at the same time.

In June last year, another bridge collapsed at Gudighata village in Mathbaria upazila for the same reason.

The bridges have been in use for around 30 years, whereas the life-span of an iron bridge is 10 years, said Pirojpur Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Executive Engineer Md Nazrul Islam.

There are 20 bridges from Charkhali ferry terminal under Bhandaria upazila to CMB Bazar of Mathbaria upazila, and all of them are risky, Nazrul said, adding that the bridges were built in 1988.

Abul Hossain Howlader of Hetalia vil-

lage said the 25-year-old iron bridge over Hetalia canal starts swaying when a bus or truck gets on it.

"All the bridges on Charkhali-Mathbaria road are risky as the plates of most of them have become damaged," said Shafiqullah Khan of Darulhuda village, adding that trucks loaded with wooden logs, stones, cement and other heavy materials get on the iron bridges at great risk.

Bus driver Shamim Hossain said he feels afraid when crossing any bridge on the Charkhali-Mathbaria road as it starts swaying as soon as he gets on it.

Engineer Nazrul said there are 100 iron bridges in the district, and they have sent a list of 43 bridges for replacing them with reinforced cement concrete girder bridges under Development Project Proposal, adding that other iron bridges will also be replaced step-by-step.

They will be able to complete the repair work of the collapsed bridge at Madarshi village within two weeks, he added.



An iron bridge over a canal in Madarshi village under Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur collapsed recently when two stone-laden trucks got on it at the same time.

PHOTO: STAR

SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN LALMONIRHAT

Flood-hit people cry for relief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Flood-affected people of Sadar upazila in the district are suffering immensely due to acute shortage of food and relief materials.

Office Assistant of the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office Abul Kalam Azad said a total of 3,50,000 people of 1,02,750 families in 200 villages under 35 unions of five upazilas have been registered as flood-affected people. The government allocated only 242 tonnes of rice, which is being distributed among 24,200 affected families, with each family getting 10 kg of rice, he added.

Fulo Bewa, 80, a widow of Dharla river char Boalmari, has taken shelter on the Water Development Board (WDB) embankment in Kurul area of Mogholhat union. She has been half starved since Friday, she said.

"I got two packets of khichuri, a loaf of bread and a half-kg packet of gur, muri and chira," she said.

Fulo's daughter Safia Begum, 58, who has also taken shelter on the embankment, said, "We did not get any government relief till Wednesday."

Nazrul Islam, 55, son of late Sekandar Ali of Dharla river char Kharuya, said he got ten kg of rice on Wednesday, which is insufficient for his

six-member family, adding that two of his four houses were washed away by floodwater.

Anowar Hossain, 48, said he did not get any relief, so he and his family have been passing their days in hardship on the WDB embankment since Saturday. "Only twenty percent of the affected families got government relief, while the rest eighty percent are still without help," he said.

"We have not been able to study for the last seven days as our textbooks and khatas got wet by floodwater," said Ruma Akhter, 11, a student of Class V and daughter of Ramzan Ali of Char Kulaghat village. "My two textbooks were washed away by floodwater," said Ruma's younger brother Sabuj Islam of Class IV.

Deputy Commissioner Shafiqul Arif told this correspondent that the allocated rice is being distributed among badly affected families, and all other affected families would be given relief materials soon. "I have written a letter to the ministry concerned, seeking more relief materials. I hope the ministry will allocate it shortly," Shariful said.

"Floodwater is receding from the affected areas. Affected people of Teesta river basin have gone back to their homes, while the Dharla river basin people are still in their temporary shelter on the WDB embankment," said WDB's Executive Engineer Krishno Kamol Sarker. He expected that all the affected people would go back to their homes in a couple of days.

Around 200 Indian flood-hit people from Jaridharla, Daribash and Nagortari villages in Cooch Behar district took shelter at Mogholhat border on Saturday night and Sunday morning. They went back on Wednesday as floodwater has started receding from their homes.

Two robbers held after 'gunfight' with Rab

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two suspected forest robbers were arrested after a gunfight between their cohorts and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the Sundarbans early yesterday.

The arrestees, Mintu Gazi, 34, a resident of Shaymnagar upazila of Satkhira, also second in command of notorious 'Sumon Bahini' and Abul Hossain alias Abu Dhali, 32, of Mongla upazila in Bagerhat.

Lt Col Anwaruzzaman, commanding officer (CO) of Rab-8, said the elite force raided Andaria canal area under Chandpai Range in the Sundarbans in the morning.

Sensing the presence of the lawmen, the gang members opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate, triggering a gunfight around 8:45am.

Rab detained the duo while they were fleeing the area.

They also seized a foreign made pistol, a locally assembled pipe gun, a shutter gun and 24 bullets from the spot, the CO added.

Domestic help from Barguna missing in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A domestic help, hailing from Amtali municipality area of Barguna, went missing from her employer's house at Boro Moghbazar in the capital one and a half months ago.

The victim is Tania, 12, daughter of Billal Hossain and Sumita Begum of ward No 3 of Amtali municipality area.

"Mahmuda Akhter, assistant teacher of Kawnia Government Primary School in Amtali upazila, took my daughter Tania to the residence of her cousin Tanni Chowdhury at Boro Moghbazar in Dhaka as domestic help on October 8 in 2016," said the girl's mother Sumita Begum.

"I sent my daughter to Dhaka to work as domestic help for Tk 1,600 salary per month as we are a very poor family," she said.

"But in July this year Tania went missing from that house. My husband Billal Hossain filed a GD with Ramna Model Police Station in Dhaka on July 19 in this regard," she said.

"Tanni Chowdhury and her mother Masuda Begum often physically and mentally tortured my daughter over even petty matters. After hearing I came to Dhaka but Tanni didn't allow me to enter the house and misbehaved with me. She threatened me not to disclose the matter to police or journalists," said Billal Hossain, a day labourer.

Contacted over mobile, Tanni Chowdhury denied the allegation of torture and said, "Tania went out with a Tk 1,000 note to buy food and didn't return."

Md Moshir Rahman, officer in charge of Ramna Model Police Station, said, "We are searching for Tania. Lawful steps will be taken if the allegation of torture is found true."



Tania



Flood-affected Fulo Bewa, 80, of Dharla river char Boalmari, has been half-starved since Friday as she received insufficient relief materials.

PHOTO: STAR

Saudi expat's wife killed in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Criminals brutally killed a housewife at Refarpara of Chaikkhoyong union in Alikadom upazila under the hill district on Wednesday night.

The victim was Jannatul Rokeya, 28, wife of Saudi expatriate Morshed Alam.

They were married about eight years ago and Jannatul was living with her two children at Refarpara, police quoted locals as saying.

On Thursday morning, neighbour Nilu Begum found Jannatul's body in a pool of blood at her bed.

"Informed by locals, we recovered the body and sent it to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for autopsy," said Kazi Saidur Rahman, officer in charge of Alikadom Police Station.

"We are investigating whether the brutal murder took place during robbery or it was committed as a sequel to past enmity," he said.

More disastrous than 1988, '91 floods Says Dinajpur victim

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A major part of the district including rural and urban areas has witnessed massive damages to its public and private infrastructure due to the recent flood.

It forced the authorities to suspend rail and road communications with Dinajpur and other districts, which caused immense sufferings to people.

"It was more disastrous than the floods of 1988 and 1991," said Jalil Mia of Mirzapur area in the town.

Most roads of Dinajpur town went under floodwater, he said.

Floodwater came in after the town protection dyke of Dinajpur was breached early Saturday in Mahutpara area. Within evening, the water flooded most places of the town.

Kalitola, Balubari, Chhotogurgola, Borogurgola, Chamber Road and Maldahpatty are the worst affected by the flood.

As the floodwater was coming in, people of low areas started moving to high places for shelter. Rafiqul Islam of Jogenbaburmah area has taken shelter at Shakhariipatti with his family members after water flooded his house on Sunday. He again moved to other place as Shakhariipatti

area was flooded on Monday.

"This place (Shakhariipatti) was not flooded in the floods in 1988 and 1991," he remembered.

Cloth traders of Maldahpatti area suffered massive losses as the water damaged their cloths, said local Basdev Agarwala.

Water of many places in the town receded, but the floodwater of Balubari is yet to recede due to inefficient drainage system.

Contacted, Zahangir Alam, mayor of Dinajpur municipality, said they have fund shortage.

Road communication between Dinajpur town and upazilas including Dinajpur-Chiribandar-Parbatipur road and Dinajpur-Biral-Kharol road have been damaged badly by the flood.

Besides, Dinajpur-Dhaka road via Gobindaganj was also damaged in many places. This road opened for traffic on Tuesday.

More than 20 bridges and culverts were damaged due to the flood.

Rail communication between Dinajpur and other districts remained suspended as floodwater was flowing over the rail tracks. Resumption of train service remains uncertain, said Golam Mostafa, station superintendent of Dinajpur Railway Station.



A large number of students hold palm plants before planting those on the three-kilometre Nachnapara-Chardoany road in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna on Wednesday as the upazila administration inaugurated a programme for planting 50 thousand palm trees in phases on the banks of canals and ponds across the upazila to prevent soil erosion.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
 Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project: (CHTRDP-II)
 (Rural Roads Component)
 Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar
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www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0000.872.14.005(Part-4).11.525

Date: 16-08-2017

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) For Selection of Individual Consultant(National) EOI No. 02/2017-2018

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the "Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II): (Output-B: Rural Roads Component)", ADB Loan No. 2763-BAN(SF) and intends to apply a portion of this Loan to eligible payments under the contract for the following nine (9) individual consultants:

Sl. No.	Name of Position	Number of Position	Duration Month	Educational Qualification and Total Experience	Relevant Work Experience
1.	Field Engineer	3	22	B. Sc.in Civil Engineering with 4 years experience (minimum) Or Diploma in Civil Engineering with 7 years experience (minimum)	At least Three (3) years' specific experience on Rural Roads including Bridge/Culverts (RCC/PC) construction in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
2.	Assistant Field Engineer	6	22	Diploma in Civil Engineering with 5 years experience (minimum)	At least Three (3) years' specific experience on Rural Roads including Bridge/Culverts (RCC/PC) construction in Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

The Field Engineer and Assistant Field Engineer will work with the technical staff of Districts and Upazila offices of LGED for close supervision and quality control of Road and Bridge/Culvert construction.

The duration of the assignment is indicated above but depends on their satisfactory performance. The duty station of Field Engineer and Assistant Field Engineer will be Upazila offices (Kawkhali/ Kaptai/ Bagaichari/ Panchari/ Guimara/Manikchari/Bandarban Sadar/Ruma/Naikhongchari/Lama/Alikadom) of three Hill Districts. The permanent inhabitants of Chitagong Hill Tracts region will get preference. The applicant must be physically fit to work in the remote challenging and hilly region.

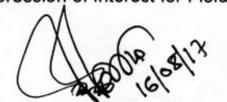
The Project Director "Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II): (Rural Roads Component)" now invites eligible applicants to apply for the above positions.

Applicants are requested to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service (application along with CV, recent passport size photograph, copies of educational certificates, description of specific experience in similar operating conditions of appropriate professional qualification).

Interested candidates are requested to collect Terms of Reference (TOR) from the office of the undersigned during office hour. The advertisement is also available in the website of LGED, CPTU and ADB.

Expression of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned on or before 10th September 2017 during office hours and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Field Engineer or Assistant Field Engineer".

The Client reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expression of Interest (EOI).


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