



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Vehicles have to cross the worn out Singuria Bridge on Elega-Bhuapur road in Tangail amid risk. Eight other bridges on the busy road are also in similar condition.

Nine old risky bridges in Bhuapur

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Nine bridges on the Elega-Bhuapur road in the district are in dilapidated state due to lack of renovation for long.

The bridges are in Rajabari, Shampur, Phultala, Soya, Tatiara, Narandia, Singuria, Kagmaripara, and Shialkhola areas in Kalihati and Bhuapur upazilas.

The bridges in Shampur, Narandia and Singuria areas are the most vulnerable and Bailey bridges have been set up on them, but those have also become unusable and may collapse at any moment. The authorities sometimes repair the shaky Bailey bridges, but only temporarily, transport workers said.

The bridges in Phultala, Rouha and Rajabari areas are also vulnerable and collapsed several times after being repaired, they said, adding that vehicular movement

is suspended on the busy road when a bridge partially collapses, causing immense suffering to the thousands of passengers.

While visiting the road recently, this correspondent saw that nine of the 12 bridges from Elega to Bhuapur are old and in bad condition. Vehicles run over these bridges amid risk of accidents.

During the Liberation War, freedom fighters damaged half of Singuria bridge in Bhuapur upazila to snap road link between Tangail and Bhuapur.

After liberation, the authorities concerned repaired the bridge by setting up a Bailey bridge on top of the damaged portion. The bridge is now awfully dilapidated as steel slabs are badly damaged and the railing on one side is broken.

"I feel scared when buses cross the bridges," said trader Shah Alam Miah of Bhuapur, a regular commuter on the road.

Some vehicles fell from the bridge in the last few years, killing several people and injuring many others, said retired school teacher Azizur Rahman of Singuria village.

Jahangir Hossain, driver of a passenger bus on Tangail-Bhuapur Road, said the bridges were built before the Liberation War and they need immediate repair.

Drivers cross the bridges with passenger-laden buses and goods-laden trucks, including fertiliser-laden trucks from Tarakandi, every day, taking risk of life, he added.

Locals said officials of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) examined the nine bridges several times, but no step has been taken yet to repair or renovate them properly.

Kalihati Upazila Parishad Chairman Mojaharul Islam Talukder Thandu said

people who use the road can understand how risky the bridges are.

District Executive Engineer of RHD Noor-e-Alam said a project of Tk 118 crore to reconstruct 10 bridges and one culvert and develop a 22-kilometre-long road has been sent to the Planning Commission for approval.

The commission sent the development project proposal (DPP) back to RHD for verification of the authenticity of the project and making designs of the bridges, he said. "The verification and the designing have been completed," he added.

Later, the commission directed RHD to make designs of the approach roads, he said.

"We hope that we can send the DPP to the Planning Commission in one month after completion of the designing of the approach roads," he added.

Brute dowry-greedy husband

Bodoi tied Rabia's hands, feet with rope, tortured her mercilessly and cut off her hair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man shaved the head of his wife after brutally torturing her at Shuknachara village of Goalbari union in Juri upazila under the district.

The victim, Rabia Begum, daughter of late Ator Ali of Danapur village of the district's Kulaura upazila, filed a GD accusing her husband Bodoi Mia with Juri Police Station on Tuesday night and police recorded it as a case yesterday.

Bodoi Mia works as a mahout.

"My husband used to beat me for dowry for long. I left home on last Thursday in fear of torture by him. Later, he took me home following the intervention of local people," Rabia said.

"On Saturday midnight, my husband tied my hands and feet with rope. Then he beat and kicked me again and again. Around 4:00am he cut off my hair. On Monday, he left home and I informed the local UP chairman of the brutal torture on me," she said.

This correspondent failed to contact Bodoi despite trying to reach him over mobile.

Md Jalal Uddin, officer in charge of Juri Police Station, said, "Bodoi Mia tortured his wife for dowry. A case has been filed against him. He went into hiding."



An anguished Rabia Begum hides her face at Juri Police Station on Tuesday. The woman's dowry-greedy husband's brutal torture left her injured and the head shaven at their house at Shuknachara village in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR



A guard of honour was accorded to renowned communist leader Comrade Jasim Uddin Mondal at Ishwardi Central Eidgah premises before his burial at his family graveyard yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Comrade Jasim laid to rest with state honour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Veteran communist leader Comrade Jasim Uddin Mondal was laid to eternal rest with state honours at his family graveyard in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila yesterday.

The renowned revolutionist, who breathed his last at a hospital in the capital on Monday, was buried after his third namaz-e-janaza at Ishwardi Central Eidgah premises around 10:30am.

The upazila administration accorded a guard of honour to the noted anti-British movement leader before his burial.

Alongside his family members, hundreds of people from all walks of lives, including leaders and activists of different political parties and representatives of socio-cultural organisations joined the funeral.

After the janaza prayers on Dhaka University campus and his ancestral home in Kushtia on Tuesday his body reached

Ishwardi early yesterday.

"Comrade Jasim Mondal played vital roles in movements to uphold human rights. He never thought about his personal profit, rather dedicated himself to the welfare of the people," Monjurul Ahsan Khan, adviser of CPB central committee, said.

Born in 1920, Jasim Uddin joined the Communist Party of India in 1940, saved hundreds of lives from the rage of communal riots in 1946, and fought in Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971.

Son of a railway staff in Kushtia's Mirpur, Jasim served the railway too as a coal engine worker.

He joined labour and communist movements very early in his life and served 17 long years in jails all around.

Jasim took up a railway job in Pabna and later settled down in Ishwardi. In post-partition (India-Pakistan) days, Jasim joined movements against the then Pakistani misrule, losing his government job in early '50s.

3 Yaba addicts including cop jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A mobile court here on Tuesday awarded three Yaba addicts, including a police constable, six months imprisonment each.

The convicts are constable Sujoy Das, 35, son of Nirod Das of Kirtipasha in Sadar upazila, Sujon Sardar, 22, son of Bellal Sardar, and Saidul Mridha, 40, son of Rob Mridha of Bikna in the upazila, said Kamruzzaman, inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

Police arrested the convicts from Sadar College Mor area on Tuesday night while they were taking Yaba tablets, Kamruzzaman said.

The mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Sharmin Islam passed the verdict.

23 fishermen jailed for defying ban

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Mobile courts in Pabna and Faridpur districts jailed 23 fishermen for different terms yesterday for violating the on-going temporary ban on hilsa fishing.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that a mobile court sentenced 18 fishermen to one-year imprisonment in Sujanagar upazila yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also seized over 300 kilograms of hilsa fry, 30,000 metres of fishing nets and three boats.

The temporary ban on catching and selling the fish for safe breeding started on October 1.

Sujanagar Upazila Fisheries Officer Atiar Rahman said a joint team of police and fisheries department raided different points of the Padma river in the morning and caught the 18 red handed.

In Faridpur, five fishermen were detained by a mobile court from the Arial Kha and Padma rivers in Sadarpur upazila yesterday for defying the temporary ban, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees were produced before the court of Executive Magistrate Sajal Chandra Shil that sentenced them to 15 days imprisonment under Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950.

Cow dung as fuel

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Kohinur collects cow dung from the fields and then dries it to sell in the town.

Like her, many women in the char areas of the Teesta and Dharla rivers in the district earn their livelihood from selling dried cow dung.

Kohinur Begum, 42, wife of Ainuddin Miah of Dharla river char Shiberkuti in Sadar upazila, said she can collect 45 kg to 50 kg of cow-dung every day and earn around Tk 600 a week.

It takes 110 kg to 115 kg of cow-dung to get 40 kg (one maund) of dried cow-dung, which is being sold at Tk 250 to Tk 280 per maund.

"We use dried cow dung as fuel for cooking, so we do not have to purchase firewood," said Aklima Begum, 38, of the same char. "Selling dried cow dung is a source of income for us," she said, adding that many char women are also earning a living by selling those.

"I get a big amount of cow dung from our eight cows every day, some of it, we use as compost in our cropfield and sell the rest after drying. I earn about Tk 1,000 every week by selling dried cow-dung," said Mohsina Bewa, 48, of Teesta river char Dawabari in Hatibandha upazila.

Abdul Majid, a footpath tea-stall owner on Hospital Road in the town, said he prefers using dried cow dung as fuel as it is cheaper than firewood. "I need 60 kg to 65 kg of dried cow dung every day, and I buy it from the char women," he added.

Many women in char areas of the Teesta and Dharla rivers use cow dung as fuel and earn livelihood from selling dried cow dung



A woman dries cow dung at Dharla river char Shiberkuti in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR