



10 Lalmonirhat bridges without approach roads

People continue to suffer as link uncertain

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Ten bridges, constructed over canals and small rivers at different villages in four upazilas under the district one to four years ago, are still lying useless due to lack of approach roads.

Of the bridges, one was constructed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at Balapara village, six by the Department of Disaster Management at Chinatuli and Panchagram villages in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Purbo Shalmara and Kamlabari villages in Aditmari and Bhateshwar and Sholmari villages in Kaliganj upazila, three by the local union parishad (UP) at Dikri Char village in Aditmari, Dawabari village of Hatibandha and Kawamari village of Patgram upazila.

"The union parishad built a footbridge on the canal in mid-2016 but we cannot use it due to lack of approach road," said Aktar Ali, 65, of Dikri Char village of Aditmari upazila.

"LGED built a bridge over the Sati river four years ago but no vehicles, not even rickshaws and bicycles, can move on it as approach roads are yet to be made," said Afzal Hossain, 52, of Balapara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Mobarok Hossain, 48, at Purbo Shalmara village of Aditmari said the Department of Disaster Management built a bridge over a canal but it is lying useless due to lack of approach road.

Salekuzzaman Pramanik, chairman of Durgapur UP in Aditmari upazila, said approach roads for the foot over bridge at Dikri Char village would be built by December this year.

"The contractors concerned were not given their payment as they didn't complete the approach roads of the bridges. Approach roads would be completed hopefully by June next year," said Mafizul Islam, disaster management department's project implementation officer in Aditmari upazila.

LGED Executive Engineer Zakiur Rahman said, "It was not possible to build approach road of the bridge over the Sati river at Balapara village as local land owners declined to sell their lands. We are still trying to convince the land owners to sell their lands to build the approach road."



BRIDGES REMAIN MOCKERY FOR LOCALS: Like several others in Lalmonirhat, the bridges at 1) Dikri Char village in Durgapur union of Aditmari upazila, 2) Purbo Shalmara village in Bhelabari union under the same upazila, and 3) Balapara village in Rajpur union of Sadar upazila are lying useless as the authorities concerned are yet to build the approach roads.

Stop extortion

Demand Thakurgaon auto-bike drivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon auto-bike drivers on Monday demanded an end to extortion by a section of local influential transport workers backed by the ruling party leaders.

Auto Sramik Odhikar Andolon leaders submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in this regard.

The speakers at the rally said the auto-bike drivers have to pay illegal tolls at ten points.

Everyday a bike driver has to pay Tk 10 at each point. Some drivers have to pay up to Tk 40, they said.

Auto-bike Sramik Kalyan Society in Thakurgaon collected over Tk 2 lakh daily from 18,000 auto-bike drivers at the mentioned points, said the speakers.

They also urged the municipal authority to collect Tk 300 as license renewal fees instead of Tk 500.

To get relief from the toll collection, they urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps in this regard.

Refuting the allegation of toll collection, General Secretary of the organisation Siddique Hossain said auto-bike drivers pay an amount for their welfare fund.

We are passing a crucial time

Tearful Fakhrul tells Mahila Dal conference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

"We are going through a crucial time as thousands of leaders and activists of our party are becoming victims of forced disappearance," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"The children of forced disappearance victims are still waiting for their parents' return," he said, while speaking at triennial council of the district unit of Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, BNP's women wing, held at Thakurgaon Zila Parishad auditorium in the town yesterday.

At one stage of his speech, Fakhrul was crying as he was telling about plight of the victims belonging to his party.

The council has been held seven years after the formation of district unit convening body in 2010.

Forhatun Nahar and Shirin Akhter were elected president and general secretary of district Mahila Dal at the conference.

Central committee President Afroza Abbas inaugurated the event with Forhatun Nahar in the chair.

Fakhrul in his speech urged the women leaders and activists of the party to be united for the next parliamentary elections.

While describing sufferings of the party leaders and activists, Fakhrul said women activists will play a vital role in future in establishing justice, peace and democracy.

Present Awami League government has destroyed all the pillars of democracy, he said, adding that the ruling party has snatched people's voting rights and fundamental rights as well.

Mahila Dal central committee General Secretary Sultana Ahmed and its Vice-president Ziba Khan also addressed the conference where nearly 3,000 women activists from different parts of the district took part.

JMB man on remand in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A court here yesterday placed a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) man on a five-day remand.

Tareq Mohammad, arrested by Detective Branch (DB) of police from Bhaluka upazila on Monday night, was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court with a 10-day remand prayer yesterday afternoon.

Tareq, 22, is son of Maulana Aftab Uddin of Bororchar Kustiapara village in Sadar upazila.

On information, a DB police team raided Jamirdia area in Bhaluka and arrested him. Later, he was handed over to Bhaluka Police Station.

"In primary interrogation, the arrestee confessed that he was an associate of JMB man Alam Pramanik, who was killed in a bomb blast at Chhoto Kashor in Bhaluka on August 27 this year," said Officer-in-Charge of district DB police Ashiqur Rahman.

Forhatun Nahar and Shirin Akhter were elected president and general secretary of Thakurgaon Mahila Dal.

I have never seen a doctor

Says an indigenous woman in Bandarban

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

She does not want any more children, but she has never seen a doctor or even a hospital in her life and she does not know what family planning is.

Hashtoti Tripura, 26, of remote Remakri union under Thanchi upazila of the district already has four children and is now five-month pregnant.

"I don't want any more children, but I don't know from where I will receive suggestions on how to prevent pregnancy," Hashtoti said. "I never saw a doctor or even a hospital in my life," she added.

Hashtoti's family lives in Haliram para, a remote area, along with fifteen other families.

There are three other pregnant women in Haliram para, who also don't know what family planning is.

"Nobody comes to see us, while local representatives come only before election," said Raju Ram Tripura of the area.

"Doctors do not want to go to the remote areas of the upazila," said Remakri Union

Parishad Chairman Mui Shwe Thoai Marma, who lives in Bandarban town.

"There is only one community clinic for around 14,000 indigenous people in Remakri union, but it remains closed most of the time," he added.

"It is really tough to communicate with pregnant women in remote areas, so we have proposed a 'Safe Delivery Home Programme' for those areas," said Deputy Director of Bandarban Family Planning Department Dr Aung Tha Loo.

"Recently, a medical team visited Remakri bazar area where we found 25 pregnant women," he said.

"It is really sad that people of

remote areas in the district are still deprived of health care as we have to work under lots of limitations," Civil Surgeon Dr Aung Swi Prue Marma said.

"We are working to establish more health centres in remote hills, but it takes time," said State Minister of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing.



PHOTO: STAR

Hashtoti Tripura with one of her four children.

Meet 7-point demand

Textile students urge govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Bangabandhu Textile Engineering College (BTEC) in Kalihati upazila formed a human chain on the campus yesterday to realise their seven-point demand.

The demands include allocation of two buses for transportation of the students, construction of a student hall, ensuring security for the female students' dormitory, starting activities of the modern laboratory, ensuring smooth power supply and inauguration of the institute by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The college was established in 2007.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to meet their demands immediately, otherwise they will go for tougher movement.



Students of Bangabandhu Textile Engineering College in Tangail's Kalihati upazila form a human chain on the campus to realise their seven-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

STEP Skills Competition 2017

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কারিয়ার পার্টনার

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