

Bridge lying collapsed for two years

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Ramdakua bridge on Sundarganj-Ulipur road across a branch of the Teesta river is yet to be replaced two years after it collapsed, causing immense problems for the residents of 20 villages travelling to and from the upazila headquarters.

In the rainy season, people use country boats to cross the tributary, while it is very difficult to cross it on foot in the dry season, villagers said, adding that farmers cannot carry agriculture produce to markets across the tributary as even rickshaw vans cannot run over it.

In 2012, former Jatiya Party lawmaker Col (Rtd) Dr Abdul Kader Khan constructed the 150-foot-long bridge under the government's special Food for Work Programme.

The bridge turned risky just one year after construction because the former lawmaker did the work as per his own direction without consulting the upazila engineering department, locals said.

Surging water eroded the foundation pillars during the rainy season and the bridge subsequently collapsed in 2015, snapping road communication between vast areas of Teesta char lands.

It is not possible to carry bulky goods on this road from the upazila markets, so people

have to use the longer alternative way, incurring additional expenditure and also losing time, said Afzal Hossain, a trader of Kashimpur bazar.

"We have to face trouble while crossing the river in the rainy season as it takes a long time to get a country boat, so we cannot attend classes duly, said Shafiqul Islam a student of Taluk Belka.

Locals said they set up a bamboo bridge over the canal in the dry season last year when the water level was knee-deep, adding that it helped pedestrians to cross the tributary but vehicles, including rickshaw vans, cannot do so.

People of Belka, Tarapur, Kashim bazar and Haripur unions face immense trouble every day for want of a bridge, locals said, adding that they have been crying for replacement of the damaged bridge for the last two years, but the situation remained as before.

The area is under Sundarganj municipality and a proposal for construction of a bridge was sent to the ministry concerned, but it is yet to be approved, said Abdullah-Al-Mamun, Mayor of Sundarganj municipality.

Work of the bridge will start as soon the plan is approved, said Abul Monsur, executive engineer of the upazila parishad.



Collapsed two years ago, this bridge over a branch of the Teesta river at Ramdakua in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha is yet to be replaced. Due to the situation, people of 20 villages in the area have been facing problem while travelling to and from the upazila headquarters. PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

Elderly trader beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An elderly trader was beaten to death yesterday in Sakhipur upazila, allegedly by a local youth, when the trader demanded payment of money owed to him by the youth.

The deceased was Abul Hossain, 65, a cement pole trader at Moynar Chala in Sakhipur municipal area.

Victim's son Shamsul Alam filed a case with Sakhipur Police Station in this regard on the same day against Jahangir Alam, 35, of Gar Govindapur in the municipality, said Maksudul Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Shamsul alleged that Jahangir had bought cement poles worth Tk 10,000 on credit from Abul about four months ago.

Jahangir beat Abul mercilessly yesterday when he asked for the owed money, leaving him seriously injured, Shamsul alleged.

The on-duty doctors declared his father dead when locals rushed him to Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex, he added.

Later, local people brought out a stick procession demanding immediate arrest of Jahangir.

Pledge not to take, peddle drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thirty-one drug users and peddlers, including a former union parishad chairman, yesterday pledged to give up using and peddling drugs.

Police organised the programme on the premises of Ishwarganj Police Station, said the officer-in-charge.

Additional Superintendent of Police SA Newazi greeted them with flowers as the chief guest.

The drug users and peddlers were arrested at different times and were sent to jail.

Following campaign and counselling by police against drugs for six months, they gave up drugs and drug peddling, said the OC.

The drug users and peddlers also sought police help to return to normal life.

JAMALPUR SCHOOLGIRL GANG RAPE CASE

Criminals still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The youths, who were allegedly involved in gang-raping a schoolgirl in Sadar upazila on Friday night, are yet to be arrested.

The girl, 16, an SSC candidate and only daughter of a poor widow of Dewanipara village in Kendua union, attended a religious gathering at local Hafijia Madrasa ground in the village along with her mother and a cousin, a Class VII student of a local Dakhil madrasa.

A gang of youths led by a local Jubo League leader caught the two girls when they went to buy snacks from a makeshift shop near the ground at around 11:00pm and forcibly tried to take them to a lonely place.

After a scuffle, the cousin managed to free herself while the gang took the victim to Abirerchar, over half a kilometre away from the religious gathering, and raped her, said Inspector Tariqul Islam, investigation officer (IO) of the case. They left her there

when she became unconscious, he added.

Some people found the girl lying unconscious when they were returning to their houses after the function and took her to her house.

Victim's mother filed a rape case accusing Sabbir Hossain Akanda Setu, 23, president of ward No-3 unit of union Jubo League and son of Abdul Mannan Akanda of Gopalpur village, Rifat, 22, son of late Alal Uddin, Babu, 24, son of Mostafa of Defulibari village, Minhaj, 23, son of Aftab Uddin, Shakil, 23 of Dewanipara village, and four to five other unnamed people, with Sadar Police Station on Sunday.

The victim was admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital on Saturday night, the IO said, quoting the victim's mother.

A three-member board led by Dr Fakria Alam, gynaecologist of the hospital, was formed to examine the victim, Civil Surgeon Goutom Roysaid.

The examination was done on

Sunday and the report was submitted to the legal authorities concerned, said Dr Fakria, adding that the victim was released from the hospital in the evening as she felt a little comfortable physically.

"But the girl was grievously mentally shocked and it will take time for her to recover from the shock," added Fakria.

"The girl is now uncertain about appearing in the SSC exam, scheduled to be held on February 1, as she is still traumatised," said the victim's paternal uncle Rafiqul Islam.

"We are raiding different areas to arrest the accused but are yet to capture any of them as they went into hiding soon after the incident. Nonetheless, we expect to arrest them within a short time," the IO said.

Meanwhile, the union Jubo League expelled Setu from the party on charge of his alleged involvement in the gang rape, confirmed Farhan Ahmed, general secretary of the district Jubo League.

HOUSE HELP RAPED

Employer sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court in Tangail yesterday sent a trader to jail in a case filed on charge of raping a 13-year-old domestic help.

Police arrested the accused, Khalilur Rahman, 45, of Hamidpur village in Ghatail upazila, from Elenga municipality office in Kalihati upazila on Monday evening and produced him before the court yesterday morning, said Mosharaf Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kalihati Police Station.

Earlier, the victim's father filed a case against Khalil with the police station on Monday noon.

"My daughter worked as a domestic help at Khalil's rented house at Betdoba in Kalihati upazila. Khalil raped her on Friday and sent her to my house the same day, in a sick condition," goes the case statement.

"As her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to Kalihati Upazila Health Complex the next day. Khalil gave death threat to me if I file any case regarding the matter," it adds.

The girl was sent to Tangail General Hospital for medical tests, the OC added.



Occupying government land, an influential person is erecting a wooden structure around a tube-well, set up for the people by an NGO, at Banatee Bazar in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Encroachment on govt land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A local influential man is erecting a wooden structure around a tube-well, set up for the people by an NGO a few years ago, at Banatee Bazar in Kalapara upazila of the district.

Funded by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Lalua Union Parishad set up the tube-well about eight years ago, to ensure safe drinking water for the locals.

Mentionable, there are over 200 shops and other business establishments at the Bazar.

Locals said one Saiful Alam Gazi is erecting the wooden structure beside the approach road of a bridge on a canal.

Abdul Latif Hawlader, a trader at the Bazar, said the tube-well has been a source of pure drinking water for long, but they are facing trouble now due to the wooden structure erected around it.

Considering public interest, authorities concerned should take immediate steps to save the tube-well by freeing the grabbed land, Latif added.

When asked, alleged occupier Saiful Alam Gazi declined to make any comment in this regard.

Mohammad Zihad Hossain, upazila public health engineer in Kalapara, said they will take necessary steps after visiting the spot.

Mentally ill man takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A mentally challenged man allegedly committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself in Baharpur union under Baliakandi upazila of Rajbari.

The deceased was Durga Charan Biswas, 40, son of late Kanti Bhushon Biswas of Bagutia village.

"Durga had been suffering from mental illness since long. He hanged himself from a tree beside his house yesterday," said Hasina Begum, officer-in-charge of Baliakandi Police Station.

Police sent the body to Rajbari General Hospital morgue for autopsy, she added.

Municipal employees won't leave demand for govt salary

Agitators say as their three-day work abstention ends

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The three-day work abstention by around 32,000 officials and employees of 327 municipalities, demanding payment of their salary and other benefits from the government coffers, caused sufferings to the stakeholders across the country.

The agitators warned of harder programme including fast to death from next Saturday if the government fails to give certain assurance.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports: The municipality employees in the district refrained from rendering their services for the three consecutive days yesterday.

"I came here to get a citizenship certificate for a job application, but failed due to the municipality staff's work abstention," said Most Mariom Akter, 20, an inhabitant of Sultanganj village under Bogra municipality.

"People feel hesitant to come here to buy fruits as garbage got piled up during the last three days," said Abdur Rahim, a roadside fruit seller at Satmatha in Bogra town.

As many as 27 services like birth, citizenship and death certificates, road lighting, trade license, garbage cleaning, EPI vaccination and rabies vaccination remained suspended as municipality staff went on a strike demanding salary, pension, gratuity and others allowances like government employees.

Contacted over phone, Md Abdul Alim Molla, president of Bangladesh Municipality Service Association, said, "We are employed by the government, transferred by the government, and work under government rules. Why won't we get the salary and other allowances from the state coffers?"

"Arrear dues of salary and gratuity of many municipality staff are still pending. We will go for harder programme including fast to death

from next Saturday if we do not get any assurance from the government," he said.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: Gaibandha district unit of Municipality Service Association organised a discussion on Gaibandha Shaheed Minar premises yesterday, the last day of their three-day work abstention.

The agitation will continue until the demand of over 32,000 municipality employees are met, speakers said at the programme.

Presided over by unit president Amitav Chakravarti Rintu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Alim Mollah, president of central committee, and Shafiqul Islam, joint secretary.

Gaibandha municipality Mayor Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir Milon, Sundarganj municipality Mayor Abdullah-Al-Mamun expressed solidarity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Gowainghat, District: Sylhet
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. LGED/UE/Gowain/2018/857

Date: 30.01.2018

e-Tender Notice e-GP Tender Notice Number: 06/2017-2018

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below:

No.	Tender ID No.	Description of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
1	158770	Construction Boundary Wall Including Gate of Bisnakandi, Kalijuri, & Pukas Govt. Primary School under Gowainghat Upazila, District: Sylhet	22 February 2018 at 12.00 Noon	22 February 2018 at 14.00pm	22 February 2018 at 14.00pm

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, please registration in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 22 February 2018, 12.00 Noon. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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