



Only 60 percent of the Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Bridge over the Andharmanik river under Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has been completed, although the work was scheduled to be finished by September 4 this year.

PHOTO: STAR

KUAKATA ALTERNATIVE ROAD

Time expires, bridge incomplete

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Construction work of Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Bridge over the Andharmanik river under Kalapara upazila has not been completed, although the scheduled completion date was September 4 this year.

Sixty percent of the work has been completed, and the contractor has submitted a prayer to the concerned authorities to extend the time for one more year to complete the remaining 40 percent.

The bridge is named after the president of the then provisional government during the Liberation War Syed Nazrul Islam.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the 677-metre-long Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Bridge over the Andharmanik river at Baliatali area under Kalapara upazila on the 25-km-long Kalapara-Kuakata alternative road on November 19 in 2013.

District Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) floated a tender to build

the bridge at a cost of Tk 89.83 crore and two constructions firms, Max-Ranki and Jevi, jointly started work on September 4 in 2016 while LGED fixed two years for completing the work.

Construction was scheduled to end on September 4 this year, but around 40 percent of the work is still incomplete.

The bridge will make communication between Kalapara and Kuakata easier as it situated on the Kalapara-Kuakata alternative road. Several lakh people of Baliatali, Lalua, Mithaganj, Dhulashar and Latahaplee unions will also be benefited by the bridge. Now, these people have to cross the river by a wooden boat locally called kheyas.

Md Yousuf Ali, a college teacher, also a local Awami League leader, said local people, including school and college goers, will be benefited by the bridge as they have to suffer to cross the river.

Md Masud, a local trader, said they have to wait for a long time at the riverside to cross the river by kheyas with goods from Kalapara upazila

town. The suffering will end after the bridge opens, he said.

Baliatali Union Parishad Chairman Md Humayun Kabir said locals and tourists will be benefited as they will not have to suffer at the kheyas after completion of the bridge.

Communication with Kuakata tourist spot and Kalapara upazila town will become much easier, he added.

Md Mokhlesur Rahman, site engineer of the construction firm, said construction work is being delayed due to bad weather and heavy tidal surges in the river.

"We submitted a prayer to the authorities concerned for extension of the time by one more year," said Indrajit Paul, manager of the construction firm.

"We are working round the clock to complete the work by June next year," he added.

Kalapara Upazila LGED Engineer Abdul Mannan said the construction firm submitted a prayer for extending the time by one more year and it is under consideration.

Rohingya woman, four kids held in Joypurhat

They were trying to flee to India, say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police detained a Rohingya woman and her four children from Joypurhat Sadar upazila yesterday.

The detainees are Sohana Begum, 30, wife of Fayed Uddin, and her children—Tamim Hossain, 10, Naim Hossain, 7, Rabiul Islam, 4, and one-year-old Habibur Rahman.

The woman and her children, belonging to Rohingya community in neighbouring Myanmar, lived at Dastagir Camp in Cox's Bazar after fleeing from their country.

Sirajul Islam, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said the mother along with her four children was wandering aimlessly at Paikartoli village.

Following information from locals, police detained the woman and her four children and took them to the police station, the OC said.

They were apparently trying to flee to India crossing the border, he added.

Process is on to send the detained Rohingya family back to Cox's Bazar, said the police official.

Teenage boy drowns in river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A teenage boy drowned in the Teesta river near Bhaulaganj Bazar in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh yesterday.

The deceased was Habibullah, 14, son of Md Shahajal of Purba Bhaulaganj village.

Locals said Shahajal's twin sons Habibullah and Mahub went to catch fish in the river at noon. At one stage, Habibullah drowned in the river.

Mahub told locals about the incident and they searched for Habibullah and recovered the body after two hours of frantic efforts.

'Obey traffic rules for road safety'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Speakers at a discussion meeting here on Saturday emphasised upon obeying of traffic rules properly.

A large number of people, including students, are killed in road accidents in the country every year. It is happening due to different reasons including reckless driving and unawareness of the passengers and passers-by, they said.

If they all remain conscious about the causes of road accidents, and also perform their duties from their respective positions, road accidents will be curbed in the country within a very short period, said the speakers.

The meeting titled "Our duty to ensure road safety" was held at Bindubasini Government

Girls' High School in the town.

Over hundred students as well as their guardians attended the programme.

Mayor of Tangail municipality Jamilur Rahman Khan Miron joined the programme as the chief guest.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (education and ICT) in Tangail Ashraf Momin Khan, Additional Superintendent of Police (crime) Md. Ahaduzzaman, Organising Secretary of district unit of Awami League Subhas Saha, District Education Officer Laila Khanom, Senior District Information Officer Kazi Golam Ahad, and Traffic Inspector Eshrajul Haque spoke at the programme with Headmaster Al Mamun Talukder in the chair.

SCHOOLBOY RIAD MURDER No accused arrested yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Family members of a schoolboy, who was beaten to death in Gafargaon upazila over two weeks ago, expressed their deep concern as no accused has been arrested yet.

The victim, Lutfur Rahman Riad, 14, of Uthori village was a ninth grader at Ghagra Uthori Chhipan High School in the upazila and son of Saidur Rahman Shaheen, a Saudi expatriate.

Gafargaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Ahad Khan told this correspondent that separate police teams have been conducting drives in and outside the district to arrest the killers.

Different branches of police are also working in this regard, the OC said. The OC also said he and Gafargaon Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dr Shamim Rahman visited the victim's family members and neighbours yesterday and assured them that the killers will be arrested soon.

Meanwhile, the case was transferred to the Detective Branch of police yesterday, the OC said.

Riad was beaten to death by a mob over suspicion of theft at local Ghagra Uthori Tower Bazar on the morning of August 30.

The attackers claimed that the boy was caught while trying to break into a grocery store at the bazar adjacent to his home. Due to the merciless beating, the boy died on the spot.

Victim's uncle Abdur Razzaq lodged a case with the police station against nine named and six unnamed people on the day of the murder.

Poultry trader Abdur Rashid of the bazar, the prime suspect in the case, is ward level secretary of Awami League's committee at Gafargaon union.

Victim's elder sister Neelful Nahar Shanta, a second year Higher Secondary Certificate student, said the boy was brutally beaten to death in broad daylight, but the accused are yet to be arrested.

Shanta also demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Four jailed for cutting hill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A mobile court in a drive sentenced four people to one year's imprisonment each for cutting hill at Khawaja Manzil under Cox's Bazar municipality on Sunday.

The convicts are Md Rafique, 28, son of Sultan Ahmed of Badsha Ghona area, Md Nabi Hossain, 26, son of late Abul Hossain, Md Jamal Hossain, 26, son of late Abdus Salam of Dakhkhin Mohuri Para, and Md Faruque, 25, son of Abu Bakar Siddique of the same area.

On information, Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Habibul Hasan, who led the court, caught the four red handed while they were cutting the hill and punished them.

Equipments used in cutting hill including hammer, saw and machete were seized, said the UNO.

Hill cutting behind Al Amin Academy School in Khawaja Manzil area has been going on for several months, he said.

The seized equipments have been kept under the custody of the Department of Environment (DoE). Assistant Director at DoE Cox's Bazar office Md Saiful Ashraf was the prosecutor of the court.

Ashraf said one Ahmed Nabi has been involved in the hill cutting and grabbing.



Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Chairman Nabo Bikram Kishore Tripura hands over a cow to a beneficiary in Khagrachhari town following inauguration of a programme for underprivileged women yesterday. One hundred women each in 13 upazilas out of 26 upazilas of CHT region will get cows along with training for cattle rearing under a government-run pilot project for development of women's capability in the region.

PHOTO: STAR

Hasina, Modi to inaugurate

FROM PAGE 16

Chattogram Port. Later, the oil is brought to Khulna Doulatpur Depot through coastal tanks and carried to Parbatipur again through rail wagons.

In this process, additional time and money is required alongside creation of transport-related problems. But with the launching of the pipeline, these problems will be solved.

Bangladesh and India signed an MoU here on April 9 last to set up the 130km oil pipeline aimed at pumping Indian oil to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million tonnes per year.

Earlier, Bangladesh inked a sale and purchase agreement with India on importing diesel through the pipeline on Oct 22, 2017.

Through the cross-border pipeline, India will supply fuel oil from its Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), located at Golaghat in the north-eastern state of Assam, while Bangladesh will receive the oil at Parbatipur Depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in north-western district of Dinajpur, the BPC sources said.

India will supply 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel for the first three years.

The import of fuel through the pipeline will be raised further as per the requirements of Bangladesh. The NRL will distribute diesel for 15 years through the pipeline and the time could be expanded following the consent of both sides, the BPC sources

said. With the completion of construction of the pipeline, they said, the deal on sale and purchase will be made effective.

The Parbatipur Depot formally received the first consignment of 2,268 tonnes diesel from the NRL through rail wagons on March 19, 2016.

Through the rail wagons, Bangladesh has imported 57,000 tonnes of diesel from India till July 2018 and it is expected that another 50,000 tonnes will be brought from India in August-December 2018 through the same way.

RAIL PROJECTS BR sources said over Tk 1,106 crore under Indian Line of Credit (LoC) would be spent for implementing

the construction work of the two rail projects.

Under the two schemes, the sources said, 48.80km of two new dual gauge rail lines would be constructed on Dhaka-Tongi route, while a 12.28km new dual gauge railway double line on Tongi-Joydevpur route, in parallel with the existing rail tracks.

On completion of the schemes, rail communication of Gazipur, Tangail, Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, Mymensingh and Jamalpur with Dhaka would be improved to a great extent.

As a result, travel time would be reduced on these routes, while the trains could run maintaining schedule set by the railway authorities.

Work to plug

FROM PAGE 16

The electoral manifesto is still largely a formality for the parties. Little effort and research goes into developing the documents.

"This can be considered as a 'minimalist approach' of the political parties as reflected in their manifestos, i.e., parties concentrated all-out effort on winning in the election in a 'winner takes all' context," reads the report.

No party has been able to exhibit their commitment to good governance and integrity through its

activity while not in power, it added.

Although many of the indicators of good governance were reflected in the election pledges, in most of cases no outline was given about the way they could be materialised or how resources would be mobilised to make good on all the promises.

The ruling party should prepare a report mentioning the extent to which it has fulfilled its electoral commitments made in the last election and make the report public, it recom-

mended.

Every political party participating in the parliament election must make it clear in the manifesto what role it will play to establish democracy and good governance even if it does not win.

One person should not be the head of a party, government and parliament at the same time, it observed.

The opposition should be given more opportunity of participation.

A code of conduct for the MPs should be enacted and article 70 of the constitution

should be amended to ensure the MPs' freedom of expression.

Iftekharuzzaman said the upcoming parliamentary election could be held in a fair manner under the partisan government if all political parties, the Election Commission and other stakeholders played a positive role.

According to the EC, the schedule for next parliamentary polls will be announced any day after October 30 and election is likely to be held by the end of this year.

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