



An overloaded truck gets stuck as the Bailey bridge over Ratura canal in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila broke down due to the pressure of the vehicle on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bridge collapse brings woe to Moulvibazar villagers

The Bailey bridge in Juri upazila broke under overloaded truck on Friday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

People of 40 villages in Juri upazila have been facing immense sufferings since a Bailey bridge collapsed on Friday.

The risky bridge, which was already vulnerable due to movement of overloaded vehicles, over Ratura canal in Gualbari union collapsed when a heavily overloaded truck was crossing it on Friday night, locals said.

Hundreds of vehicles got stranded on both sides of the bridge as the overloaded truck is still stuck there, they said.

Road communication between the villages and the upazila headquarters has remained

suspended since the accident.

At least seven educational institutions, including three government primary schools, are situated near the bridge, said elderly citizen Miftha Ahmed Liton of Goalbari village.

The villagers, especially school going children and traders, are suffering a lot due to collapse of the bridge, he said.

Despite repeated call, the officials of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) are yet to take any initiative to remove the truck and repair the bridge, he added.

Biresh Rudro Paul, headmaster of Huson Ali High School, said as a number of students have to come to school by crossing the bridge, the

authorities concerned should take immediate steps to set up a new bridge there.

Azizul Islam, a Class V student of Gualbari Government Primary School, said now he along with his classmates has to go to school crossing the canal on foot beside the broken bridge amid risk of accident as the truck is still stuck there.

Abdul Motalib of Chandon village said the bridge has become almost unusable for vehicular movement as well as pedestrians as huge potholes and cracks have developed after completion of the repair work ten months ago.

Sohodeb Sutradhor, deputy engineer of RHD in Juri, said they started the repair work of the collapsed bridge and removing the truck.

Three arrested in two rape cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police in separate drives on Saturday night and early yesterday detained three people in connection with two rape cases filed with Kamalganj and Juri Police Stations on Wednesday and Friday.

A Class IV girl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours at Vanubeel village in Kamalganj upazila on December 30.

A police team raided Doarabazar area in Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj district early yesterday and arrested Ruson Mia, 32, son of late Khalil Mia of Vanubeel village, from there.

Father of the 10-year-old victim said his daughter was studying alone at home on December 30 evening when Ruson, a chicken trader, entered the house and raped her.

Ruson, however, managed to flee the scene when neighbours ran for help, hearing her screams, he said.

After the incident, some local influential people told him not to speak to the journalists and asked him not to take his daughter to any hospital saying that they would solve the matter through village arbitration, the father alleged.

Seeing a delay from the village leaders in resolving the issue, the father of the minor girl finally filed a case with Kamalganj

Police Station accusing Ruson on Wednesday, three days after the incident, Officer in Charge of Kamalganj Police Station Arifur Rahman said.

Away in Juri upazila, police in a drive on Saturday night detained two people for their alleged involvement in gang-raping a mentally challenged woman on Wednesday.

The arrestees are auto-rickshaw driver Masuk Mia, 30, and trader Fazlu Mia, 40, of Ranimura area in the upazila.

According to the case statement, a gang of three picked up the 22-year-old mentally challenged woman on an auto-rickshaw while she was returning home from a nearby market, took her to an abandoned house on Wednesday evening and raped her overnight.

Locals found her lying unconscious in the abandoned house the next evening and admitted her to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

After regaining her consciousness, the woman narrated the incident to her family members.

Later on Friday, father of the victim filed a case with Juri Police Station accusing three people.

Officer in Charge of Juri Police Station Zahangir Hosain Sarder said they have arrested two accused of the case and were trying to nab the other suspect.

15 HSC examinees face uncertainty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fifteen students of Chhoto Baisdia Business Management Institute in Rangabali upazila are uncertain about appearing in the Higher Secondary Certificate (Technical) examinations this year as the college authorities are charging extra money from them.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, acting principal of the college, issued a notice with names of 15 students on Saturday on the notice board of the college and also on its Facebook page, saying that they cannot attend college or coaching classes.

The education board fixed Tk 1,170 for filling up the form, but the college authority is charging Tk 5,000 to Tk 9,000 for the purpose, the students said.

"The college authority demanded Tk 9,000 for filling up the form to appear in the examination. Lastly they asked me to pay Tk 5,000, but my family cannot afford it," said Aminul Islam, one of the 15 students.

Refuting the allegation of charging extra money, the acting principal said the notice was issued as the 15 students did not come to the college for filling up their forms.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The body of a CNG-run three-wheeler driver was found beside Mohimaganj-Sonatola road yesterday.

Police said a team went to the spot and recovered the body.

The victim was Mofazzal Hossain, 45, son of Altaf Ali of Amtoli village in Shibganj upazila of Bogura.

On Saturday night, some people hired Mofazzal's three-wheeler to go to Sonatola. On the way, they killed him and fled away with the three-wheeler, his family members suspect.

'Dubious' up-gradation of rly staff protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Activists of Railway Sramik League yesterday staged a demonstration and besieged the Divisional Transport Office (DTO) at Pakshey in Ishwardi upazila, protesting what they said dubious promotion of 12 fellow Class IV employees.

They also gave an ultimatum, demanding cancellation of the up-gradation test and removal of the divisional transportation officer within seven days.

Railway Pakshey Divisional Transportation Officer (DTO) Abdullah Al Mamun said Railway Sramik League men staged a demonstration around 12:00noon.

They also physically harassed Assistant Transportation Officer Nasir Hayder and Office Assistant Masudul Karim.

Railway Sramik League, Pakshey unit, General Secretary Nazrul Islam refuted the allegation of assaulting anyone.

DTO sources said Railway's Pakshey Divisional Office recently promoted some 12 Class IV employees through an internal up-gradation test.

"The Sramik League men have been preventing us from holding any up-gradation test for the last couple of years. As recruitment of lower-grade staff was not possible due to a halt on employees' promotion, we arranged a promotion test on December 27," the DTO said.

Nazrul, on the other hand, said, "The authorities held the up-gradation test secretly and about 17 promotion seekers could not appear it. The DTO promoted the staff as per his choice."

Pakshey Divisional Railway Manager Nazmul Islam said they will investigate the matter and departmental action will be taken if anyone is found guilty.

No Oikya MPs to take oath

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"We aren't taking oath now. I would like to state in clear terms that no Gonoforum MPs will take oath."

The alliance will continue its programmes demanding a fresh election under a nonparty administration, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said, "The committee meeting decided that no MPs-elect would take oath as we have rejected the farcical election."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, JSD chief ASM Abdur Rob, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Gonoforum Executive President Subrata Chowdhury and Mostafa Mohshin Montu were present at the meeting, with Kamal in the chair.

At the meeting at the eminent jurist's Motijheel chamber, alliance partners were able to convince him that they should not send any of their MPs-elect to parliament as they rejected the election results, said a leader of the alliance.

The meeting also discussed holding a rally in the capital and a view-exchange meeting with a cross section of people on the "widespread irregularities" in the election.

Earlier on Saturday, Kamal, also president of the Gonoforum, said, "We've rejected the election, but the way our two candidates came out successful in such an election through competition is a big achievement for them. So, we're thinking positively about sending them to parliament."

He said their MPs could play a positive role.

"If the others [BNP MPs] think it won't be possible for them to play a good role in parliament, they may make that decision in their own way," he had told journalists.

After Saturday's press briefing, Gonoforum leader Sultan Mohammad Munsur, elected from Moulvibazar-2, told this correspondent that he and his party colleague Mukabbir Khan, elected from Sylhet-2, would take oath as lawmakers.

Munsur, a former Awami League leader, was elected with BNP's electoral symbol "sheaf of paddy" while Mukabbir with Gonoforum's symbol "rising sun".

This is the first time any Gonoforum leader won in national election since its formation in 1992.

Hours after Sunday's voting was over, the Oikyafront termed the election a farce and demanded a fresh election under a nonpar-

tisan government.

The next day, the BNP said that its five MPs-elect would not take oath of office, as they already rejected the results.

Under article 67 (1) (a) of the constitution, lawmakers' seats fall vacant if they fail to take oath within 90 days from the date of the first sitting of the House.

In the December 30 polls, 280 candidates of the Oikyafront and the BNP-led 20-party alliance ran with "sheaf of paddy".

The alliance won only seven seats against 288 secured by the AL-led grand alliance.

The Jatiya Party, a key partner of the grand alliance, bagged 22 seats while independent candidates got three.

Voting in Gaibandha-3 was rescheduled for January 27 following the death of a candidate, and re-polling will take place in three centres in Brahmanbaria-2 on January 9.

PUSH FOR FRESH POLLS

Oikyafront leaders yesterday called upon the foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka to convince the government to hold a fresh election in a free and fair manner to resolve the crisis.

At a meeting with the diplomats, senior Oikyafront leaders, led by Kamal, also presented various allegations of election irregu-

larities and provided the envoys with different paper cuttings and video clips.

Emerging from the meeting at a city hotel, Kamal said, "We had a very good discussion. We drew their attention to what had happened on the voting day. They themselves saw what had happened. So, there was no debate on it. We placed information and data over the election irregularities before them."

The friendly foreign countries can play a constructive role in the interest of the country, its people and democracy by creating pressure on the government to hold a credible election, he said.

The Gonoforum leader said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also talked about election violence and how a "controlled" election was held using the state machinery.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and representatives from over 30 countries and organisations, including the UN, the EU, the USA, the UK, France, Canada, Germany, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Russia, India, China, Pakistan, Japan, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Nepal, Malaysia and Iran, attended the meeting, BNP sources said.

Kolma relieved

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yourself when you will not get any benefit from the elected persons?"

A good number of policemen were present there. Top administrative officials attended the meeting organised by the police.

Villagers alleged that AL men did not allow anyone in or out of the village and they cut off the village at the entry points. No bus or other vehicles plied village roads for six days.

The AL men captured the deep tube-wells and deprived the villagers of irrigation water and also snapped their cable TV connections, they alleged.

The DC asked the AL men to have patience as their party won the election.

"Your responsibilities are bigger than others," he said and asked the AL men to return possession of the deep tube-wells to their owners and restore cable TV connections.

The DC said no-one would be spared if they commit crimes.

Talking to this correspondent, BNP leader Hazrat Ali alleged that the AL men rigged the election at all centres except Komla Government Primary

School in Komla union.

The AL men were angry as they could not stuff the ballot boxes at the centre, he said, adding that it was the reason behind the siege.

In the meeting, Md Shahidullah, superintendent of Rajshahi police, said law enforcers would be deployed in the village for some days to maintain law and order. He asked the villagers to ensure their own security, saying that police would not stay in the village all the time.

AL and BNP leaders also spoke at the meeting where around 300 locals were present.

Addressing the meeting, AL leaders said they were not involved in the siege. Inhabitants of other villages did this as Kolma villagers misbehaved with them.

"I feel secure as the top officials visited the village and talked to us," said Yasin Ali after the meeting.

Some rickshaw-vans and locally made human hauliers were seen running in the village.

On his way back to Rajshahi, the DC stopped a bus and asked its driver to go through Kolma and report to him if anyone obstructed him.



PHOTO: STAR

This 35-kg poa fish (pama croakers), caught in the net of fishermen at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on Saturday evening, was sold to a local trader for Tk 2.5 lakh. The fish sells for high price as a part of its stomach, called 'padna', is used for preparing medicine, said Teknaf Upazila Fisheries Officer Md Delwar Hossain.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১	দপ্তরের নাম
২	প্রাপ্তির উৎস
৩	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ
৪	দরপত্রের নাম
৫	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা
৬	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান
৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান
৮	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময়সীমা ও তারিখ
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের সময় ও তারিখ
১১	দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও তারিখ
১২	কার্য সম্পাদনের স্থান
১৩	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ
১৪	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য
১৫	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
১৬	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়
১৭	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী
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