



A collapsed portion of the approach road and guide wall of this 15-month-old bridge over the Charalkhata river on Nilphamari-Kishoreganj road at Bajitpara village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

NILPHAMARI-KISHOREGANJ ROAD VIA PANCHAPUKUR

Communications hampered as bridge's approach road breaks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Communication between Kishoreganj upazila and Nilphamari district headquarters is badly disturbed for over a week as the approach road and guide wall of a new bridge over the Charalkhata river at Bajitpara village on Nilphamari-Kishoreganj road via Panchapukur in Sadar upazila collapsed at several places.

Now only small vehicles like rickshaws, battery-run easy-bikes, motorbikes and pedestrians can use the way while heavy mechanized vehicles are using an alternate way covering additional 7 to 8 kilometres, locals said.

The bridge and approach road, built by construction firm Islam Brothers at a cost of Tk 6 crore, was made open for vehicular movement on March 31 last year, said Saiful Islam, Sadar upazila engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

Visiting the affected area on Wednesday, this correspondent found that the approach road and guide wall collapsed at three points at east end of the bridge and six points at the west while sand beneath the structures seemed loose.

"No drain or outlet was made on both

sides of the bridge for smooth exit of rainwater and consequently, pressure of water due to the recent heavy rainfall led to the collapse of the approach road," said Mahatab Hossain, member of ward No 8 of concerned Kachukata union parishad (UP).

Khagendra Nath Roy, a local resident, said the approach road was constructed with sand extracted from the nearby riverbed but proper compacting work was not done, leaving the site vulnerable.

Several others including Rashidul Islam of Bajitpara village of Sadar upazila to bridge's west and Milu Chowdhury of Kalikapur village of Kishoreganj upazila to the east expressed fear that the approach road and the guide walls might be washed away as floods are expected during the ongoing rainy season.

Executive engineer of LGED in Nilphamari Belal Hossain admitted the situation and said he had directed the construction firm to take immediate steps to restore usual movement on the bridge as the mandatory 18-month maintenance period is yet to expire.

Jobseeker sues mayor for 'rape, assault'

Man held on charge of raping 4th grader

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A woman jobseeker filed a case with Parbatipur Police Station in Dinajpur on Tuesday night, bringing rape and assault allegations against three people including the mayor of Parbatipur municipality.

During a press conference at Parbatipur Press Club on Wednesday, the woman said the mayor lured her into his house with promise of a job at the municipality and raped her on various occasions, reports our correspondent in Dinajpur.

Parbatipur municipality Mayor AZM Menhazul Haque is also a senior vice president of BNP's Parbatipur upazila unit and the editor and publisher of local Bangla daily Manab Barta.

The other two accused are Ershad and Rabi.

Mayor Menhazul had taken nude pictures of her during the assaults and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the incidents to anyone, alleged the woman.

On June 29 around 8:00pm, the mayor again asked her to go to his house.

Mayor Menhazul with the help of the five individuals present in the house forcibly took her to the bank of a nearby pond. After raping her, they launched an assault on her in their attempt to kill her, she claimed.

Locals came to her rescue and took her to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex.

The case's investigation officer Inspector (Investigation) Sheikh Mohammad Zubair of the police station said they sent the woman to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur for forensic tests.

Contacted, Mayor AZM Menhazul Haque claimed that it was a false case, filed in an attempt to tarnish his image.

Our Barishal correspondent reports: A 52-year-old man was arrested early yesterday for raping a 12-year-old girl, a fourth grader, in his grocery store in Bakerganj upazila on June 27.

The arrestee is Ali Matabbar, a grocer in Uttampur village of the upazila, said Abul Kalam, OC of Bakerganj Police Station.

Villagers vow to uproot drug abuse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Cross section of people at a programme on Akcha union parishad (UP) premises in Sadar upazila on Wednesday vowed to uproot drug abuse.

The union parishad organised the programme following the instruction of Deputy Commissioner (DC) KM Kamruzzaman Selim.

Attending the programme as chief guest, the DC said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged people for working together to uproot corruption, drug and militancy for building Bangladesh as a peaceful nation.

"We have decided to hold programmes at all the unions to make Sadar upazila free from drug abuse," he said.

Additional District Magistrate Shilabrata Karmakar and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdullah Al Mamun, among others, spoke at the programme with Akcha UP Chairman Subrata Kumar Barman in the chair.

PAYRA POWER PLANT Bangladeshi workers resume work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Bangladeshi workers of 1320 MW Payra Power Plant started to re-join work from Wednesday at the plant site in Dhankhali area of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

As of yesterday, a total of 946 Bangladeshi workers resumed work at the power plant, being constructed by Bangladesh-China Power Company (Pvt) Limited (BCPCL).

Confirming the resumption of work at the power plant, BCPCL Executive Engineer Rezwana Iqbal Khan said, National Identity Cards (NID) of all Bangladeshis re-joining work are being collected for verification purpose.

Shah Abdul Maula, project director (PD) and chief engineer of BCPCL, said language and cultural differences between workers of the two nations are among the few reasons behind misunderstandings that often arise among them.

In order to address the situation, they will hire 12 more interpreters in addition to the existing 42 interpreters at the plant, he also said.

Construction work at the site was stopped on June 18 when workers from Bangladesh clashed with workers from China over rumours that the Chinese workers at the plant were trying to hide body of a Bangladeshi worker after killing him.

Police however said a Bangladeshi worker, Sabindra Das, 32, died around 3:00pm on June 18 after he fell from a height of around 70 feet in the terrace of the plant.

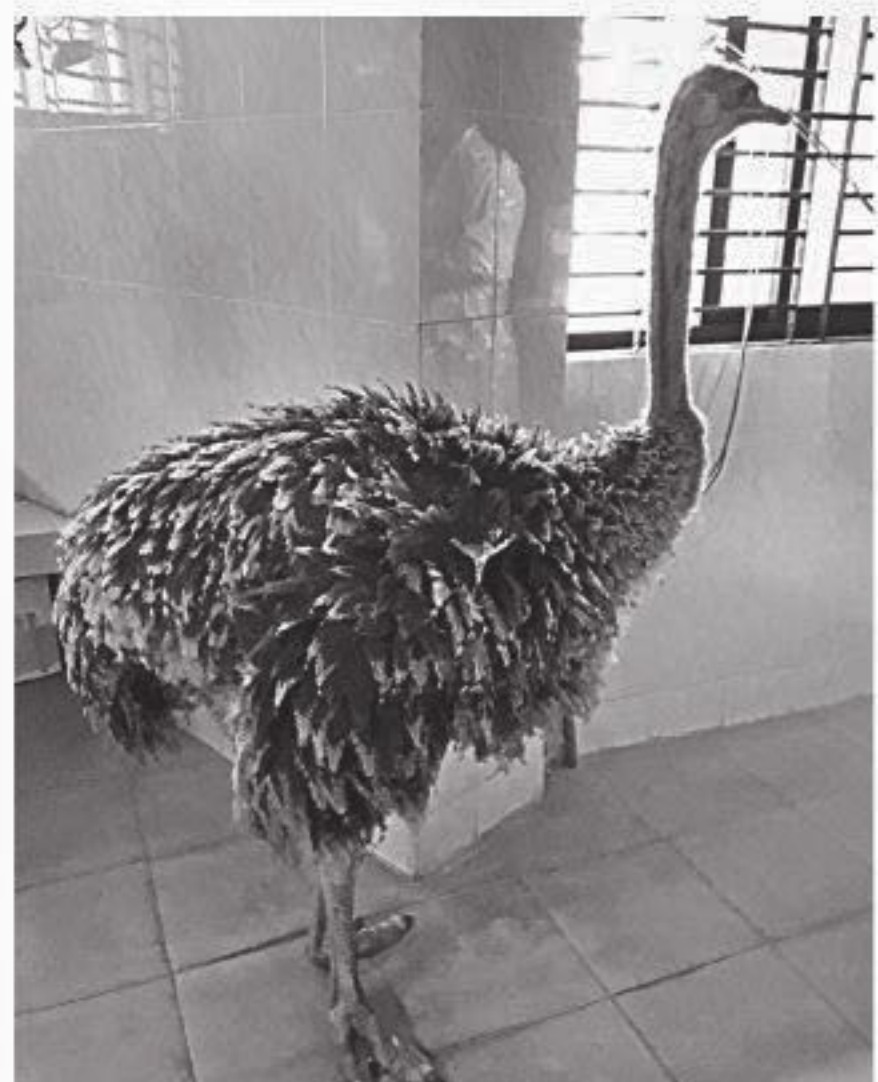
The clash left one Chinese worker, Zang Jon Seng, 26, dead and seven others injured seriously. Five among the injured were Chinese. Police arrested 16 people after two separate cases were filed with Kalapara Police, accusing 1,200 unnamed individuals.

Meanwhile, on June 29, BCPCL authorities handed over a cheque of Tk 15 lakh to Shukla Das, wife of Sabindra Das, who died at the plant on June 18.



Veterinary surgeons at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh have removed these metal and plastic objects, weighing around two kilograms, from the stomach of an ostrich in two separate operations with the latest conducted on July 1. The swallowed objects include spoon, plastic syringe, keys, coins, screw, chocolate packs, brick chips, glass and stone. Inset, this eight-month-old bird was taken to Veterinary Teaching Hospital at BAU by the caretaker of a private zoo in Netrakona.

PHOTO: MD AMINUL ISLAM



Large cracks have developed on the flood control embankment along the Manu river at Hashimpur village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Sand lifting threatens Kulaura town protection dyke

Cracks develop due to the illegal act near Manu railway bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 50-foot-long crack has developed on the flood control embankment near the Manu river at Hashimpur village in Kulaura upazila due to unabated sand extraction from the riverbed, threatening vast tract of croplands and several adjacent villages.

Locals claimed that due to mindless extraction of sand, portion of the town protection embankment might go under water anytime.

As a result, vehicles and pedestrians were crossing the area amid risk of accident.

According to the upazila administration and locals one Badrul Islam of Dakkhin Bazar area in upazila took the lease from the district administration for Tk 1.20 crore. But defying the law, the lessee has been extracting sand from Kotarkona, Salon, Dhundalpur, Jalalpur,

Hashimpur, Tukoli and Matabpur areas near Kotarkona Bridge and Manu Rail Bridge, locals alleged.

Meanwhile, demanding a stop to the heinous act, locals said the embankment might go into the riverbed anytime if water level in the Manu river sees a rise due to sudden rainfall during this time of the year.

While visiting the area this correspondent found labourers were extracting sand using six extraction machines in Salon and Kotarkona areas.

Of the two areas, one is very close to Kotarkona Bridge on Kulaura-Shamshernagar road while the other is some 500 meters far from the Manu Railway Bridge on Sylhet-Akhaura rail route.

Kutub Uddin, a resident of Hashimpur area, said, "Due to unabated lifting of sand a large crack has developed on the flood control embankment on June 26."

Hazipur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Abdul Bashit said a 50-foot-long crack has developed on the Manu river due to unabated sand lifting.

According to the law, one cannot lift sand from one kilometre radius of any railway bridge, but the lessee is not paying heed, he said, adding that the embankment might collapse anytime due to the mindless sand lifting.

Lessee Badrul told this correspondent over phone that sand is being lifted as per the conditions of the lease.

Kulaura Assistant Commissioner (Land) Sadi Ur Rahim Zaidid said earlier sand was being lifted from different points along the embankment on Kotarkona road, threatening the two nearby bridges.

The lessee was asked not to extract sand from within one kilometre area of the two bridges, he said.



World Health Organization
Bangladesh

WANTED OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

The World Health Organization (WHO) requires a suitable and highly secured office building with 20,000 square ft (approximate) for net internal usable space and parking space for 20 to 25 Station Wagon type vehicles on a rental basis (for multiple years) in Gulshan-1, Gulshan-2 or Baridhara areas. Preference will be given to Standalone/individual building premises or shared premises with individual entrance.

Proposed spaces/building must be in "ready to use" condition with all required amenities such as Electricity, Gas, Water and Sewerage, emergency exits, guard posts and provision for cafeteria, drivers room etc.

Interested Property Owners/Real Estate Companies meeting the above basic requirements are requested to submit their proposals as per the Expression of Interest (EOI) template, which can be collected from the Reception desk of WHO Country office for Bangladesh or downloaded from website <http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/procurement/tender/en/>. The deadline for submission of proposals along with duly completed EOI template in sealed envelopes is 14:00hrs 28 August, 2019 in the Tender box addressing to **WHO Representative to Bangladesh** in the following address:

**The World Health Organization
United House (ground floor to 3rd Floor)
10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212**

Please note that only shortlisted proposals will be called for price quotations after the review of the EOIs applications by WHO. Any Interested Property Owner or Real Estate Company may submit applications for more than one property. In such cases, they shall use separate application for each property.

Any attempt to persuade any WHO Official/any unauthorized negotiation with WHO or any type of canvassing will lead to disqualification of the submission from the bidding process.