



With many lighting fixtures missing from many lamp posts and several of the posts degenerating, the Patuakhali bridge has been without any lights for the past fourteen years. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

No lights for 14 years!

Lightings on Patuakhali bridge, on way to Kuakata sea beach and Payra sea port, went out of order only six months after the bridge opened in 2005

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Patuakhali bridge on the river Patuakhali is crucial for communications with Payra sea port, several ongoing power plants in the region, district headquarters of Patuakhali and Barishal, and Kuakata sea beach.

But unfortunately, the authorities turned a blind eye to the safety of this key installation as well as that of the general public although all 84 street lamps on it had been out of order since 2005, only six months after the bridge was inaugurated.

The foundation stone of Patuakhali bridge was laid on July 8, 2000 by then prime minister Sheikh Hasina and it was inaugurated on November 29, 2005 by Khaleda Zia, the then prime minister.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) spent Tk 40 lakh to install the lighting fixtures along with lamp posts on the 485.20-metre-long bridge. Total cost to construct the bridge was Tk 27.17 crore.

Many drivers and transport workers frequenting the Patuakhali-Barishal highway said curves on both ramps of the bridge, with

a width of only 10 metres, are quite difficult to manoeuvre even in daytime.

At night, soon after passing a curve, it becomes extremely difficult for the drivers to locate and cross the unlit bridge, they also said.

During a visit to the bridge recently, this correspondent came across many lamp posts that were missing lighting fixtures while several of the lamp posts were on the verge of degeneration -- a sign of negligence and a lack of maintenance.

Salim Mia, a driver of bus service 'Roudhro-Turjo', operating on Patuakhali-Kuakata road, said, "Driving on the bridge at night is really hazardous as we can barely see its outline without any street lamps."

Accidents often take place on the curves on way to the bridge, said a driver of 'Mayer Doa' bus service on the same route.

The authorities need to install lightings on the bridge urgently as lots of tourists travel on this road to get to Kuakata beach, he said, adding that due to poor visibility on the bridge at night, a bus collided head-on with a battery-run rickshaw several years ago, resulting in

deaths of a woman and her two children.

The bridge has been seeing a rise in number of travellers not only for the Kuakata beach, but also for a good number of significant ongoing development projects including Payra sea port and several power plants, said Reaz Mridha, owner of a number of buses and a former president of Patuakhali bus owners' association.

He said number of travellers on the road will increase further and lightings on the bridge should be installed as early as possible, taking everyone's safety into consideration.

Like three other bridges on the road between Kalapara and Kuakata, solar lightings could be a good option for this bridge also, Reaz added.

Contacted, Jahidul Islam, sub-assistant engineer of RHD in Patuakhali, said, a non-government organisation was supposed to install lightings on the bridge a couple of years ago, but they backed out.

The bridge is an important one and they were giving serious consideration to resolving the matter, he also said.

FALSE IMPLICATION IN RAPE CASE

Innocent college student gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

After staying in jail for 27 days, innocent college student Babul Hossain Noyon got bail from a Tangail court yesterday.

He was falsely implicated in the case for abduction and rape of a fifth grader girl of Protima Bonki village in Sakhipur upazila, said Sub-Inspector Mohammad Asaduzzaman, investigation officer (IO) of Tangail.

Judicial Magistrate Akramul Islam in Tangail granted the bail after Noyon's lawyer Selim Al Din prayed for the same, said Tanvir Ahmed, court inspector in Tangail.

The girl went missing from adjacent Basail upazila on September 21 and her family members found her in DC Lake area of Tangail town on September 25.

The girl then said that she had returned after visiting Cox's Bazar with a youth named Noyon.

Her mother filed an abduction and rape case against Babul Hossain Noyon, 22, a neighbour, with Sakhipur Police Station on September 26.

Later, police arrested the youth, an undergraduate student of Government Mujib College in Sakhipur, who protested his innocence.

The law enforcers later produced him in front of the girl and the latter said that he had raped her.

Police sent him to jail through a court and following a petition for five days' remand to quiz him in the case, the court permitted the police to quiz him at the jail gate.

During interrogation at the jail gate, Noyon again claimed himself innocent.

Later, following recovery of a visiting card of a residential hotel in Cox's Bazar from the girl, IO Mohammad Asaduzzaman went there.

After checking the footage of the close circuit camera of the hotel and also a mobile phone number from the hotel register, the IO unearthed the mystery of the case.

Using information technology, police arrested the real culprit Noyon Miah, son of Faruk alias Nuhu Miah of Baghil village in Basail upazila, from Basail Bus Stand on October 7.

Later, Noyon Miah gave confessional statement to a Tangail court under Section 164, admitting his involvement with the crime.

Shajahan Ali, father of Babul Hossain Noyon said, "My son could not appear in his degree third year final examinations due to remaining in jail after his arrest in the case. His false implication in the rape case caused damage to our family's image."

He demanded punishment of the plaintiff of the case.

Talking to journalists, the case plaintiff (the girl's mother) said, "My daughter wrongly indicated the innocent Noyon in fear of family members. We are now repentant. We will seek mercy to the youth over the matter."

Amir Hossain, OC of Sakhipur Police Station, said they will take necessary legal steps against the case plaintiff after talking with innocent Noyon.



People of 11 villages in Nilphamari Sadar upazila have to use this shaky makeshift bamboo bridge over the Chandrakura canal at Joichandi village for movement on Darwani Mill Bazar to Khansama road via Darwani rail station as the contractor appointed by the Local Government Engineering Department left the site after doing very little base work one year ago.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

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Un-audited Consolidated financial statements as at and for the period ended 30 September 2019

Consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 September 2019

	30 Sep 2019 Taka	31 Dec 2018 Taka
Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,059,220,870	3,200,651,808
Investment property	683,272,342	691,149,776
Right of use assets	91,800,468	
Intangible assets	8,068,855	11,916,384
Capital work-in-progress	120,258,657	127,781,532
Total non-current assets	3,962,621,192	4,031,499,500
Inventories	2,937,618,948	3,005,616,081
Trade and other receivables	808,762,462	871,791,127
Advances, deposits and prepayments	440,889,498	322,820,432
Advance income tax	3,383,562,657	3,125,317,011
Cash and cash equivalents	895,232,334	829,807,227
Total current assets	8,466,055,899	8,155,351,878
Total assets	12,428,687,091	12,186,851,378
Equity		
Share capital	4,279,687,010	3,890,624,560
Share premium	1,473,647,979	1,473,647,979
Retained earnings	1,370,663,758	1,628,694,442
Equity attributable to equity holders of the company	7,123,998,747	6,992,966,981
Non-controlling interests	1,344	1,546
Total equity	7,124,000,091	6,992,968,527
Liabilities		
Borrowings	1,860,620	88,203,349
Deferred tax liability	188,562,182	197,934,495
Lease liability	90,521,765	-
Total non-current liabilities	280,944,567	286,137,844
Employees benefits payable	18,065,062	-
Borrowings	154,506,639	309,652,416
Lease liability	14,005,256	-
Trade and other payables	582,539,955	528,659,578
Accrued expenses	496,016,873	531,601,160
Provision for income tax	3,758,608,648	3,537,881,853
Total current liabilities	5,023,742,433	4,907,745,007
Total liabilities	5,304,687,000	5,193,882,851
Total equity and liabilities	12,428,687,091	12,186,851,378

Dated: 23 October 2019

Consolidated profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the period ended 30 September 2019

	30 Sep 2019 Taka	30 Sep 2018 Taka	July to Sep 2019 Taka	July to Sep 2018 Taka
Sales	4,947,154,827	5,003,375,972	1,776,836,783	1,704,561,246
Cost of sales	(3,199,087,315)	(3,205,865,417)	(1,188,081,851)	(1,095,023,356)
Gross profit	1,748,067,512	1,797,510,555	588,754,932	609,537,891
Other income	11,700,036	6,494,381	979,339	2,167,493
Administrative expenses	(287,249,757)	(284,013,127)	(90,580,125)	(90,156,796)
Impairment loss on trade receivable	(3,172,584)	-	(1,174,858)	-
Marketing and selling expenses	(678,878,277)	(644,507,871)	(227,835,411)	(220,098,378)
Cash dividends	(957,691,032)	(922,026,617)	(318,611,055)	(308,087,681)
Profit from operating activities	790,466,480	875,483,938	270,143,877	301,450,209
Finance income	18,674,490	32,830,427	7,342,574	6,826,982
Finance expenses	(25,180,514)	(32,545,336)	(5,893,473)	(7,515,375)
Net finance income	(6,506,024)	285,091	1,449,101	(688,393)
Profit before contribution to worker's profit participation and welfare fund	783,960,456	875,769,029	271,592,978	300,761,816
Contribution to worker's profit participation and welfare fund	(38,637,249)	(40,720,592)	(12,213,741)	(12,302,137)
Profit before income tax	745,323,207	835,048,437	259,379,237	288,459,679
Income tax expense	Current tax	(226,776,975)	(221,636,978)	(69,469,571)
	Deferred tax	9,372,313	(13,153,756)	828,373
		(211,404,482)	(234,790,734)	(67,641,198)
		533,918,725	600,257,703	(74,663,330)
Profit for the period	533,918,725	600,257,703	191,738,039	213,796,349
Profit attributable to:				
Equity holders of the company	533,918,527	600,257,369	191,737,990	213,796,223
Non-controlling interests	198	334	49	126
Profit after tax for the period	533,918,725	600,257,703	191,738,039	213,796,349
Basic earnings per share (Par value Tk 10)	1.25	1.40		