

# Border people suffer for years for want of bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

People from 102 families at Nakharjan border in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila have been crossing the wooden bridge over the Nilkamal river for years as no initiative was taken to build a concrete bridge there.

The border people use the 50-foot-long and six-foot-wide shaky bridge to reach the mainland amid risk of accident, said locals.

There is international boundary line between border pillars 940 and 941 adjacent to the bridge.

Villagers said although Nilkamal is a small river, it is flooded during high tide in the monsoon. But it is completely dried up during the dry season. People of Nakharjan border village, who depend on agriculture for their livelihood, suffer a lot due to the lack of a concrete bridge over the river.

Farmer Anisur Rahman said there was a wooden bridge over the river till 1987. The wooden bridge was no longer built since it collapsed. Later, they had to cross a bamboo-made bridge on the river for many years.

In 2016, the wooden bridge was rebuilt with the help of the chairman and members of the local union parishad and villagers,

but the authorities concerned are yet to take any initiative to build a concrete bridge there despite repeated pleas, said Anisur.

Another local resident Ashraf Haque, 48, said besides them, Indian people who are living outside the barbed wire fence at the border also use the bridge. At least 600 people live there.

When the gate of the barbed wire fence is closed in the evening, these Indian inhabitants use this wooden bridge to come to Bangladesh's market for buying necessities, he said, adding that it is an example of harmony between Bangladesh and India set by the bridge.

'We can't always travel to the mainland of India through the barbed wire fence's gate. All the people of the Bangladeshi border village Nakharjan are known to us. We also use the wooden bridge to come to the market in Bangladesh and buy the necessary things,' said Abdus Samad Khan, a farmer from the Indian border village Seuti Part-2.

Harunur Rashid, chairman of Phulbari Sadar Union Parishad, said concrete bridge over Nilkamal is not being built as the law prohibits construction of any infrastructure at the border.



People at bordering Nakharjan village in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila cross the Nilkamal river on the shaky wooden bridge amid risk.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Where people proudly live in mud houses

The affordable and all-weather houses are still popular in a village called Deshigram for their natural cooling effect in summer and warmth in winter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Just as its name implies, Deshigram in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj is truly a traditional village as most of its inhabitants are still carrying on a centuries-old tradition of living in mud houses.

The village has a little over four hundred houses, and majority of those, more or less 350, are made of mud.

In not so distant past, mud houses were a common site in rural Bangladesh, especially in the north. Industrialisation and availability of modern construction materials slowly replaced most mud houses with brick or corrugated tin houses elsewhere in the country. But that did not happen in Deshigram.

The village has a little over four hundred houses, and majority of those, more or less 350, are made of mud.

It is not that the inhabitants of Deshigram cannot afford modern materials to build their houses. But they live in mud houses by choice, and for some practical reasons.

'Mud houses are more comfortable [than houses built with other materials] in both hot and cold temperatures and this prompted me to replace my tin-

wall house with a mud house,' said villager Mozammel Haque, a farmer by profession.

When his old house, on four decimals of land, needed restructuring, he decided to make a weather-proof house by tearing down the old one and building a new mud house with four rooms in it.

'During hot summer days it feels cool inside a mud house and in the winter time it's warm. We may not have air conditioners, but we feel quite comfortable in our mud houses,' Mozammel said with a smile.

Most Deshigram residents said they are happily living in mud houses, as they did not need to spend all their lifetimes for a

comfortable home.

Biraj Uddin, another resident of the village, said a brick building with two rooms costs about Tk 2 to 2.5 lakh while a two-room tin structure costs Tk 1 to 1.5 lakh and a mud house, with the same number of rooms, costs only Tk 60 thousand to 80 thousand.

'A mud house provides affordable living and comfort all year round, but one doesn't need to loan money to build a mud house. It's our pride,' he added.

The mud house is so popular in the area that even 48 out of 50 houses, made of corrugated iron sheets, donated by the government to the destitute, have been converted into mud houses.

# Govt now looking for alternatives

FROM PAGE 1

[Bangladesh] embassies in this regard. In the present situation, it is not possible to send labourers temporarily to South East Asian countries, including South Korea and Singapore. However, sending workers to Middle Eastern countries has started at the desired level," she told parliament while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Shameem Haider Patwari.

About alternative labour markets, the PM said 50 Bangladeshi workers obtained Romanian work visas in October last year and another 260 work visas was under process by the Romanian government.

Hasina said 240 skilled workers were sent to Uzbekistan for the first time on November 7 last year. They are working at a project under an engineering company in Qarshi, Uzbekistan.

'Besides, another 648 Bangladeshi workers will be sent to Uzbekistan. Efforts are underway to export manpower to that country in other sectors.'

The leader of the House said there are bright prospects for Bangladesh's labour market in Africa, specially in Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and Libya.

She said the government has taken various measures to send back the Bangladeshi expatriates

who lost their jobs abroad during the pandemic and could not return to their workplace after getting stuck at home. The government is making it happen through creating new employment opportunities for the expatriates.

In this connection, Hasina said the government was communicating with foreign ministers of different manpower recruiting countries.

'Importance is being given on three issues -- ensuring minimum food and health facilities for the sacked expatriates, sending them home after paying six month's salaries and allowances and other benefits, and requesting the destination countries to set up Covid-19 recovery and respond fund to create employment and small industries in those countries,' she added.

**FINANCIAL SETBACK AVOIDED** Responding to another query, Hasina said special measures taken by her government in view of the pandemic to protect people's lives and tackle the economic crisis arising from it have helped Bangladesh avoid the global financial setback.

'The government's special measures for tackling the crisis have kept the country's economy normal,' she added.

The PM said Bangladesh would be the 25th largest economy in

the world by 2035 if its present economic evolution continues, according to the Economic League Table of the British economic research organisation, 'Centre for Economics and Business Research'.

Hasina said Bangladesh last year registered a 5.24 percent GDP growth rate. The previous year, the figure was 8.15 percent, which was the highest in the country's history.

She said the government since the beginning of the outbreak handled the situation cautiously and that is why Bangladesh has witnessed more success than many others countries in terms of number of infected people, death rate and economic losses.

Talking about coronavirus vaccine, the PM said the vaccine procurement process was underway and the vaccination would start soon in the country.

**FISH PRODUCTION**

Responding to a query from Awami League MP Ali Azam, the premier said Bangladesh has attained self-sufficiency in fish production by boosting the production by over 50 percent in the last 11 years due to effective and timely measures taken by her successive governments.

'Bangladesh produced 43.84 lakh tonnes of fish in 2019-20 fiscal year which was 62.31 percent higher than that of fiscal year 2008-

09 [27.01 lakh tonnes].'

Hasina said Bangladesh has improved its ranking to the second place in the world in terms of producing fresh water fish as per the report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Each person in the country now eats 62.25gm of fish daily against the demand of 60gm, she added.

# 8 more die, 656 infected with Covid in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh saw a daily infection rate of 4.26 percent with 656 new cases reported until early yesterday.

The country recorded a daily infection rate of 5.49 percent on January 18, 4.90 percent on January 14, 8.29 percent on January 10, 7.52 percent on January 4, and 8.18 percent on January 1.

Bangladesh has recorded 529,687 cases so far. And the country's fatality number rose to 7,950 and death rate to 1.50 percent, with eight Covid-19 deaths in those 24 hours, since the first fatality was reported on March 18.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director  
Establishment of 100 Technical School and College (TSC) in Upazilla  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
Web: [www.techedu.gov.bd](http://www.techedu.gov.bd)

Memo No. 37.03.0000.070.007.203.020.61 Date: 20 January 2021

**e-Re-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods. Details below in the table.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender ID No. (From e-GP Portal)	Tender description	Publication date and time	Opening date and time
1	37.03.0000.070.007.203.020.308 Date: 13.01.2021	537223	Supply and installation of Welding and Fabrication Trade Equipments for 10 Technical School and College at Different Upazillas.	21-Jan-2021 12:00	08-Feb-2021 12:00
2	37.03.0000.070.07-46 Date: 12.01.2021	536976	Supply and Installation of Office Equipments for 25 Technical School and College at Different Upazillas.	21-Jan-2021 12:00	08-Feb-2021 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-GP tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP System.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).  
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any on all tenders.

**Dr. Md. Serajul Islam**  
Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
Email: [100ts.pd@gmail.com](mailto:100ts.pd@gmail.com)

GD-137

**Laksam Pourashava**  
Dist: Cumilla

Memo No. Laks/Pou/Engg/2021/65 Date: 18/01/2021

**Invitation for Re-Tender (OSTETM)**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
538500	IUIDP-2/ LAKIP-24	1) <b>Part-A:</b> Construction of RCC Road at the North side bank of Dakatia River from College Para Yousuf Master House to Laksam Sreang Road (Ch. 00m-1000.0m), including 01 No. Single Vent Box Culvert (Size 4.0m x 4.0m at Ch. 420.0m) & 100.0m RCC Palisading in Ward No. 6 under Laksam Pourashava, Dist: Cumilla; <b>Part-B:</b> Construction of RCC Road at the North side bank of Dakatia River from College Para Yousuf Master House to Laksam Sreang Road (Ch. 00m-1000.0m), including 01 No. Single Vent Box Culvert (Size 4.0m x 4.0m) at Ch. 420.0m & 100.0m RCC Palisading in Ward No. 6 under Laksam Pourashava, Dist: Cumilla (2) (a) Construction of RCC Road from North side bank of Dakatia River a Near Seru Mia house to Laksam Sreang Road near Anowarul Hoq Shop (Ch. 00-360.0m) (b) Near Mafij Shop to Laksam Sreang Road near Mohammad Ali Shop (Ch. 00-285.0m) (c) To Colony Link Road (Ch. 00-100.0m) (d) Near Kalchand Shop to Laksam Sreang Road near Eshak Mia House (Ch. 00-445.0m), including 100.0m RCC Palisading in Ward No. 6 under Laksam Pourashava Dist: Cumilla.	21-Jan-2021 11:00	10-Feb-2021 14:00

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) also from E-mail: [enr.jasim@yahoo.com](mailto:enr.jasim@yahoo.com).

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GD-136

# Man to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death in connection with a case for killing his wife in 2013.

The convict, Intiaj Hossain alias Diamond, 37, is son of late SM Azim Uddin of Munshipara area in Thakurgaon municipality.

Thakurgaon District and Session Judge Mamunur Rashid also fined the convict Tk 1 lakh.

Moreover, the court sentenced another accused Asad Hossain, 28, to life term imprisonment for assisting Diamond in the killing and fined him Tk 3 lakh.

According to prosecution, Intiaj strangled his wife Faria Akhter Mumu, 24, at their house on August 1, 2013.

Later, he and his accomplice Asad hanged the body from a beam of his room to stage the murder as suicide.

# Tourist dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A young man fell sick while taking bath at Kuakata beach and died yesterday.

The victim, Bablu, was son of late Muslim Miah of Dhopakata village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila, Officer in Charge (OC) of Mohipur Police Station Moniramazzaman said.

Quoting witnesses, police said a group of 55 tourists arrived in Kuakata yesterday morning.

Around 12:00noon, three to four of them, including Bablu, went to the beach to take a bath.

At one stage of bathing, Bablu fell to the ground and went fainted.

Locals rescued Bablu and took him to Kuakata Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead, the OC added.

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**শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চশিক্ষা বিভাগ**  
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**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ/সংস্থা	আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চশিক্ষা বিভাগ, ঢাকা			
০২.	সংস্থাকারী সত্তার জেলা	ঢাকা			
০৩.	কী জন্য আহ্বান	আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা জাতীয় পদক ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা আন্তর্জাতিক পদক ২০২১ প্রদানের নির্মিত স্বর্ণপদক, স্বর্ণধারা ইলেকট্রোনেটের ট্রেড মার্ক রিপ্লিকা, স্বর্ণপদকের বাহুর ও রিপ্লিকার বাহুর সরবরাহ			
০৪.	আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৩৭.২৬.০০০০.১২০.০৭.০০১.২১. ১৩ তারি: ২০ জানুয়ারি ২০২১			
০৫.	সংস্থ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)			
০৬.	বাজেট এবং সোর্স অব ফান্ড	সরকারের বাজেট খাত (GOB)			
০৭.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা জাতীয় পদক ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা আন্তর্জাতিক পদক প্রদানের নির্মিত স্বর্ণপদক ও রিপ্লিকা সরবরাহ			
০৮.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২১.০১.২০২১ তারিখ			
০৯.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৩.০২.২০২১ অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত			
১০.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	০৪.০২.২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ০১:০০ মি.			
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৪.০২.২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ০১:৩০ মি.			
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়কারী	সহকারী পরিচালক (অর্থ), লেভেল-৩, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট			
১৩.	(ক) দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণকারীর দস্তর	উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ), লেভেল-৩, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট			
	(খ) দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার দস্তর	কনসার্বার কম, লেভেল-৩, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট			
১৪.	দরদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	(ক) দরপত্রের সাথে হালদালাদ ট্রেড শাইসেপ, ভাট, আয়কর সনদ ও ব্যাংক থেকে আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদপত্র, জেলা প্রশাসক কর্তৃক ডিগ্রি লাইসেন্স এবং জাতীয় পর্যায়ে কাজ করার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রমানপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। (খ) দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ০৫ বছরের কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত জুয়েলারী ব্যবসায়ী হতে হবে। এ ধরনের পদক তৈরীতে অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অধ্যায়িকর দেয়া হবে। (গ) বিস্তারিত টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট অনুযায়ী হতে হবে।			
১৫.	মালামাল সংগ্রহ ও কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা	ক. রিপ্লিকা ও স্বর্ণপদক নির্ধারিত মান সম্পন্ন হতে হবে এবং উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক টেস্টে অক্ষত থাকতে হবে। খ. আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা জাতীয় পদক ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা আন্তর্জাতিক পদক প্রদানের নির্মিত স্বর্ণপদক ও রিপ্লিকা সরবরাহ			
১৬.	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	অম্লহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নির্ধারিত নম্বর ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা প্রদানপূর্বক প্রতিসেট সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে এবং পরবর্তীতে দরপত্র ক্রয়ের রশিদ টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।			
১৭.	ক্রমিক	সরবরাহযোগ্য মালামাল/ কাজের বর্ণনা	অবস্থান	টেন্ডার সিডিউলটি (টাকা)	সরবরাহের সময় (দিন)
	০১.	১৮ ক্যারেট মানের ৩৫ (পঁয়ত্রিশ) গ্রাম সিলভার স্বর্ণ ধারা নির্মিত ডাবল সাইডের স্বর্ণপদক (রিবনসহ) সরবরাহকৃত ডিজাইন অনুযায়ী প্রস্তুত করে সরবরাহ করতে হবে। স্বর্ণপদকের সংখ্যা ০৪ (চারটি) বা তার কম/বেশী হতে পারে।	উপপরিচালক (উপসচিব) আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট, ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা	৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা, মহাপরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট অন্বেষণ তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংকের পেন-অর্ডার/চেক ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করতে হবে।	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির পর ০৭ (সাত) দিন
	০২.	ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পেনসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী রূপার তৈরি প্রতিটি ০.৩৬ গ্রাম বর্ণের ইলেকট্রোনেটের রিপ্লিকার মোট সংখ্যা ৬টি (৩টি জাতীয় ও ৩টি আন্তর্জাতিক পদক) বা তার কম/বেশী হতে পারে।			
	০৩.	স্বর্ণপদকের বাহুর ০৪ টি			
	০৪.	রিপ্লিকার বাহুর ০৩ টি			
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবি, ঠিকানা ও ফোন/ফ্যাক্স নম্বর	উপপরিচালক (উপসচিব) প্রশাসন ও অর্থ আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট ফোন: ৮-৩৯১৫৯৫			
১৯.	দরপত্রের সাথে ০১ (একটি) স্বর্ণ পদকের এবং ০১ (একটি) রিপ্লিকা নমুনা দাখিল করতে হবে। নমুনা ব্যতিত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।				
২০.	কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোনো বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা ব্যতিলের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বস্বত্ব করে।				

সংস্থার আচার উপপরিচালক (উপসচিব)  
ফোন: ৮৩৯১৫৯৫  
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট  
১/ক সেগুনবাগিচা ঢাকা-১০০০

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