



The inner brick layer has been exposed after the asphalt layer on top was damaged in a large section of the 100-kilometre-long highway that connects Lalmonirhat with Burimari land port. The unpredictable road, also riddled with huge potholes, has been causing frequent accidents for a long time.

PHOTO: STAR

Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway awaits repair

25 people killed in 15 accidents that occurred over the last twelve months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The highway connecting Lalmonirhat with Burimari land port, the second largest of its kind, has become risky for all.

Potholes have developed and carpeting has worn out on nearly 40 kilometres out of total 100 kilometres of the highway. But thousands of vehicles, especially cargo trucks, have to ply the highway every day, risking accidents and fatalities.

According to police control room, 25 people lost their lives in 15 accidents that took place on the road over the last twelve months.

On January 18, two members of police were killed when a truck carrying stones from Burimari land port ran them over in Khaner Bazar area under Hatibandha upazila.

Truck driver Nur Islam said he has 18 years of trucking experience on all highways in the country and out of all, the condition of Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway is the worst.

"I don't want to drive on this highway," he said, adding that drivers always have to worry about getting killed or killing others while driving on this highway. But there is no other option as this is the only road for transporting goods in and out of the land port.

Not just to drivers and passengers of different vehicles, the road poses risk to pedestrians as well.

Atiar Rahman, a resident of Khaner Bazar area in Hatibandha upazila, said pedestrians use the road with extreme risk as heavy trucks, loaded with stones and other goods, can get into severe accidents and cause fatalities on the road that is riddled with huge potholes.

Shamim Ahmed, who conducts his export and import business through Burimari port, said their cost of transport has been rising as many truck drivers refuse to transport goods to and from the port due to the poor condition of the road.

The highway has been in such a state for a long time, but the authorities concerned do not seem to care, he alleged.

However, Mohammad Mahbub Alam, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Lalmonirhat, claimed that it has not been too long since the highway fell into disrepair. Rather, overloaded trucks frequenting the road have caused it to get damaged in a short period.

They have already been allocated Tk 40 crore for the repair of the dilapidated 40 kilometres of the highway and they were in the process of selecting a contractor firm for the work, he added.

Illegal power crushing now headache for sugar mills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Illegal crushing of sugarcane by power crushers in Natore is going on unabated that may hamper sugar production in achieving the target, much to the worry of the authorities of two state-run sugar mills in the district.

The production target of the North Bengal Sugar Mills (NBSM) and Natore Sugar Mills (NSM) may not be achieved due to possible shortage of sugarcane as the owners of power crushers have already crushed 2.04 lakh tonnes of sugarcane in the mill zone areas of the district.

Managing Director of North Bengal Sugar Mills (NBSM) Md Humayan Kabir said, 445 owners continue crushing by power crushers in the mill zone area. They have crushed about 1.5 lakh tonnes of sugarcane in the mill zone area this year. They will crush around one lakh tonnes more the rest of the days in this season.

The production target of the mill may not be achieved this year because of possible sugarcane shortage and illegal power crushing, he added.

"Normally we start production of the sugar mill from the first week of November but this time we started the production from the first week of December. As a result, the farmers started crushing sugarcane by power crushers in the



A grower using an illegal power crusher to crush sugarcane in Keshabpur area of Natore's Lalpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

mill zone area," said the MD. "Around 243 growers have already crushed about 54,000 tonnes of sugarcane with power crushers and they will crush more 54,000 tonnes in next 30 days at Natore Sugar Mills zone," said Md Rafiqul Islam, managing director (MD) of NSM.

The rate of sugar recovery is decreasing and it is around five percent now, while it was around more than seven percent five to six years ago, he said.

"We have fixed target to crush 1.32 lakh tonnes of sugarcane

but it may not be achieved due to possible shortage of sugarcane. Apart from this, the owners of power crushers are crushing 1.4 lakh tonnes of sugarcane illegally. If the sugar mills could crush the sugarcane, it might have brought profit to the public industry," Rafiqul added.

"I cultivate sugarcane on 10 bighas of land and produce around 102 tonnes of sugarcane. But sugar mill authorities buy only 1.2 tonnes from a grower like me in a week. Then how will I sell my sugarcane to the mills?" said

Masud Rana, a grower of Raypur area in Lalpur upazila.

"When a grower sells the sugarcane to mills, he gets Tk 140 per maund and the mill authority takes times for payment. But when the same grower sells the sugarcane to the crusher owner, he can sell it at Tk 220 per maund and get instant cash," Masud added.

On top of it, it will be completely a hassle-free business when you will handle it with the crusher owner, said another sugarcane grower Majdar Sarker of Keshabpur area in Gopalpur municipality.

They resorted to violence, intimidation

FROM PAGE 1

One of the two centres was designated for 2,176 female voters while the other was for 4,120 male voters.

Supporters of AL-backed councillor candidate for ward-14 Abul Hasnat Md Belal and the party's rebel councillor candidate for the ward, Abul Fazal Kabir Ahmed, locked in a clash outside the centres immediately after the voting opened at 8:00am.

Wielding sticks and iron rods, supporters of the two groups clashed, with pauses, till around 2:00pm. They also threw brick chips at each other.

At least 15 people were injured in the incident.

Apart from this, ruling party men, around 10:00am, swooped with sticks and brickbats on the supporters of Monuara Begum Moni, a BNP-supported female councillor candidate from the reserved seat for women.

Moni's supporters launched a counter attack around 10:30am, leading to a clash, which continued till 1:30pm.

At least 10 people were injured in the incident.

Around noon, AL supporters attacked Moni's house and election office, which was near the voting centres, she told The Daily Star. This newspaper, however, could not verify this claim.

Moni, who has been elected a councillor thrice, sat in front of the polling centres in

protest from 1:45pm to 3:00pm, flanked by her supporters and in the presence of law enforcers. She announced a polls boycott around 2:00pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, at least 10 voters at the two centres, housed in the school, alleged that their votes were cast by AL men.

The correspondent, who was stationed at the centres till 3:15pm, too found many AL men casting votes themselves in the name of helping the original voters.

Asked, Bashir Hossain, presiding officer of the polling centre for women, said he was not aware of such polls irregularities and that nobody informed him about it.

The DS reporter was barred from entering the polling booths multiple times by AL men, who were roaming inside.

Shahin Akther, a supporter of AF Kabir Manik, an independent candidate in the same ward, alleged that they were barred from entering the polling centres.

Amid the sporadic clashes, voter turnout was very thin at the two centres.

At the female voting centre, only 99 out of 2,176 votes were cast till 3:00pm.

BAKALIA GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
The polling atmosphere at Bakalia Government High School was almost peaceful since the four centres there had been "captured" by ruling party men even before the voting kicked off, according

to the DS reporter stationed there.

The centres had a total of 10,536 voters.

The ruling party men drove out all the polling agents of the BNP-nominated mayoral candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain as well as of a BNP-supported ward councillor candidate AKM Ariful Islam Duke.

As the polling formally started at 8:00am, over one hundred AL men adorned with badges of the AL-supported councillor candidate Shahidul Alam stood in a queue obstructing entrance of other voters.

AL men were seen gathering in and around the centres, guiding voters to the polling booths and even entering the secret voting rooms along with the voters in violation of the electoral rules.

In many cases, the ruling party men themselves pressed the EVM button and cast votes for the candidates of their choice, depriving the voters of exercising the right, the voters told The Daily Star.

A housewife, who came along with her baby girl, said, "When I entered the secret polling room, a group of youths came from nowhere and forced me into pressing a button."

Until 3:30pm, only 627 votes out of the total 5,147 were cast at the two centres for male voters. Only 215 votes were cast at the two centres for female voters against a total number of 5,389 voters.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
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Sirajganj
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e-Tender Notice No. 13/EE/EED/sir/2020-21/Vert Ext= 4 Lots
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of stated below:

Tender ID	Description of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Fees for tender documents
538727	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building at Sohagpur SK Pilot High School Belkuchi Sirajganj.	23.2.2021 15.00	24.2.2021 11.00	24.2.2021 10.30
538731	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building at Hamida Pilot High School Ullaparai Sirajganj.	23.2.2021 15.00	24.2.2021 11.30	24.2.2021 11.00
538732	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building at Meghai EUI High School Kazipur Sirajganj.	23.2.2021 15.00	24.2.2021 12.00	24.2.2021 11.30
538733	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building at Tarash Islamia Pilot High School Tarash Sirajganj.	23.2.2021 15.00	24.2.2021 12.30	24.2.2021 12.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies shall be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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5" x 3 Column
GD-178

LATHITILA GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOL IN JURI Tree felling in name of construction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulinbazar

Three giant trees in the compound of Lathitila Government Primary School in Juri upazila are being felled and sold without any permission in the pretext of construction of a new building.

Surprisingly, none of the concerned people knows about the matter!

Locals alleged that although the tree logs were sold at a normal price of Tk 10,000, but its market value would be around Tk 1 lakh.

According to a notification of Ministry of Education, trees of any government or non-governmental organization have to be cut down through a public auction with prior permission from administration.

Legal action will be taken against those involved in felling trees without administration's permission.

During a visit to the spot, this correspondent saw some tree trunks inside the boundary wall of the institution while several pieces of logs are piled up outside the school compound.

Headmaster of Lathitila Government Primary School Misbah Uddin said he was not aware of the matter as was not present at the institution for a few days.

Faizur Rahman, president of the school managing committee (SMC), said he was sick for the last couple of days and he heard that a member of the SMC sold the trees.

Contacted, Juri Upazila Education Officer Monotosh Kumar Debnath said there is no scope to sell government trees without an auction process.

Juri Upazila Nirbahi Officer Al Imran Ruhul Islam said after hearing the matter he asked the local forest department to take action against the headmaster.



PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Govt. M M College, Jashore
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E-mail: principal.mmc.jessore@gmail.com
Memo No. CEDP/GMMC/2020-21/G-09/AC-018
e-Tender Notice 01/2020-21
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	541308	Procurement of Air Conditioner (AC)	15-02-2021 1:00pm	15-02-2021 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 14-02-2021, 4:00pm.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Principal
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GD-175

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College
231, Khan Jahan Ali Road, Khulna
Website: www.gsac.edu.bd
Meno No. GSAC/Goods/CEDP/G-7/2020-2021/04/68
e-Tender Notice 01/2020/2021
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	541311	Procurement of Furniture and Fixtures for Classrooms Laboratories & General Purpose of Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College	15-Feb-2021 1:00pm	15-Feb-2021 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **14-Feb-2021 4.00pm**.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Professor Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman
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GD-176

Bangladesh Krishi Bank
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ICT Systems, Card & Mobile Banking Department
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Website: www.krishibank.org.bd
Tel: 9576653
No. BKB/HO/ICT(Systems)/10(31)/2020-2021/2264
Re-Tender Notice (OTM)
This is to notify all concerned that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package No. and Reference No.	Name of tender	Tender documents last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time	Tender method
01	Re-Tendered ID: 502988, Tender ID 538419 Tender Package No. 03/2020-21, Reference No. BKB/HO/ICT(Systems)/10(31)/2020-2021/2264	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 457 Different Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank for 03 years.	Date: 09-02-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 10-02-2021 Time: 15:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

চর্চা করলে সভ্যতার, দূর হয়ে যায় অসভ্যতার
দুর্ভোগের বল বাড়ে, সোনার পাথে ফল বাড়বে।
-বিপ্লু কবীর

Sd/-
Md. Mamunur Rashid
Deputy General Manager (DGM)

GD-174