

KULaura-SHAHBAJPUR RAIL TRACK REHABILITATION WORK

Date expired again, only 30 percent work done

MINTU DESHWARA

The deadline for rehabilitation work of Kulaura-Shahbajpur railway track in Moulvibazar has expired again but only 30 percent of work has been completed.

According to the railway department, the government took the initiative to rehabilitate the Kulaura-Shahbajpur railway in Moulvibazar to increase the transport of goods and regional trade between India and Bangladesh in 2010.

The project, which started on August 10 in 2016, was scheduled to be completed in December last year.

But due to the lack of supervision of the contractor and the slow pace of work, only 30 percent of the work has been completed on time.

The deadline for the completion of the remaining 30 percent of the work has been extended till June 2022.

However, the concerned people have expressed doubts about the completion of the remaining work within the extended period.

After 2010, the government took the initiative to open the closed line between India and Bangladesh to facilitate the transportation of goods and increase regional trade.

The project was approved at the meeting of Executive Committee of the National



Due to lack of supervision of the contractor, only 30 percent of the Kulaura-Shahbajpur rail track rehabilitation work in Moulvibazar has been completed. However, the deadline for the rehabilitation work has expired in December last year.

PHOTO: STAR

Economic Council (Ecne) on May 28 in 2015.

The project was approved at a cost of Tk 678 crore 50 lakh 79 thousand but it was later revised to Tk 544 crore.

The government borrowed 25 percent of the project cost from Bangladesh and the remaining 75 percent from Exim Bank of India.

The contract for the work was awarded to Kalindi Railway Construction Company, an Indian construction company.

Rehabilitation work started on August 10, 2016, after 17 years of after its closure.

Under this project, a total of 52.54 km of railway line will be laid from Kulaura railway station to Shahbajpur Zero Point with

44.6 km of main line and 6.8 km of loop line.

Apart from broad gauge and meter gauge dual lines, there are six stations and 59 bridge culverts.

The deadline ended again in December last year. During this time, the contractor has completed only 30 percent of the work.

Visiting different places of Kulaura and Juri upazilas, it was seen that the workers were demolishing the old railway bridge. The bricks and stones of the old line were being removed by truck and placed next to the line.

Sajjad Mia, 75, a resident of Joychandi village in Kulaura Upazila said, the railway was

rehabilitated in 1958-60. The Kulaura-Shahbajpur rail link was closed in 2002. As a result of the closure, people of Kulaura, Juri, Baralekha and Beanibazar upazilas of Sylhet are in suffering immensely for communication and transportation of goods.

He said, only 15 percent of the rehabilitation work has so far been completed as workers started work in their area a few months ago.

Kalindi Rail Construction Company Field Supervisor Montaz Ali told this correspondent, that work on the project remained stalled for a long time after the outbreak of the coronavirus. The work has resumed recently.

Asked if the work could be

completed in the extended period, he said it could not be said right now.

However, the number of labourers has been increased to finish the work quickly, he added.

Bangladesh Railway Kulaura section Senior Assistant Engineer (work) Jewel Hossain said, even though the deadline of the project was expired in December, the progress of the work was 30 percent.

Although the job was to be completed by the middle of 2018, things had to be rescheduled till December 2020, he added.

Although an attempt was made to talk with project director Md Sultan Ali but he could not be reached for his comment.

Woman killed in attack 'by UP chairman' in Cumilla

Husband among 3 injured, 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A woman was killed and three others, including her husband, were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by a local union parishad (UP) chairman and his men in Meghna upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Nazma Begum, 55, wife of Abdus Salam.

The injured are Abdus Salam, his elder brother Sirajul Islam and Faruk, a local youth.

Of them, Salam and his brother Sirajul were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday as their condition deteriorated, Officer in Charge of Meghna Police Station Abdul Majid said.

Meanwhile, police detained one of the attackers Delwar Hossain from Raipura area in Munshiganj's Gazaria upazila yesterday noon, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Fazlul Karim said.

Locals said Bhaorkhola Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Faruk Abbasi and his supporters have been extorting money from them and conducting other criminal activities in the area for a long time.

They also alleged that Chairman Faruk and his men attacked the family around 7:30pm on Friday night.

After the attack, police raided the houses of Faruk Abbasi and his brothers Khokon Abbasi, Yar Abbasi and Imran Hossain Titu on Friday night and seized huge amount of locally made lethal weapons from there, the ASP added.

Meghna Upazila Chairman Saifullah Sikder Ratan, also general secretary of the upazila unit Awami League (AL), said there are several allegations, including murder and extortion, against Baharkhola UP chairman.

Land dispute leaves 1 killed, 10 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and at least 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers centring a feud allegedly over a disputed land in Gopalganj's Kotalipara upazila on Friday.

The deceased, Aktar Hossain Gazi, 35, was son of Samsul Haque Gazi of Attabari village in the upazila.

Locals said there had been a longstanding conflict between Ohab Ali Gazi and Sohrab Hossain Gazi of Attabari village over the ownership of a disputed land.

As a sequel to the feud, supporters of both the groups equipped with lethal weapons locked in a fierce clash on Friday. The half an hour long clash left at least 11 people from both sides injured.

The injured were rushed to Kotalipara Upazila Health Complex, from where Aktar was later shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Aktar succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment there around 11:00pm the same night.

Police said victim's brother filed a case with the police station accusing 26 named and 10 to 15 unidentified people yesterday.

Meanwhile, police detained two people yesterday. The arrestees--Rashid Mollah, 50, and Salam Gazi, 68, of neighbouring Titoshi village--were later produced before a court that sent them to jail.

Probable archaeological site on verge of destruction



PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Bhim Er Maayer Chula', in Putimari village of Kishoreganj upazila, is one of the noted tourist attractions in Nilphamari. But the site, recorded as private property, is gradually being destroyed in the hands of locals.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

'Bhim Er Maayer Chula' is mentioned as one of the seven prominent tourist destinations in Nilphamari on the official website of the district, http://www.nilphamari.gov.bd/site/view/tourist_spot.

But the unprotected site, in Putimari village of Kishoreganj upazila, with distinctive geological features is on the verge of destruction.

During a recent visit to the place, this correspondent came to learn that almost two-thirds of the elevated land mass, surrounding the site, was already levelled by local farmers while the remainder of the site lies unrecognisable under a cloak of shrubs and brush.

Anil Chandra, a senior citizen from the area, said when he was very young, the diameter of the furnace area of the stove was around 80 to 100 metres and the surrounding earthen wall was about 10 to 12 metres high.

Aminur Rahman, a local, was

found doing agricultural work at the site. When asked how he could grow crop at a tourist spot recognised by the government, he said he and his brothers have genuine proofs of inheriting the land.

The legend behind the name Bhim Er Maayer Chula, meaning stove of Bhim's mother, is narrated in several books including Rangopurer Itihas, Rangopurer Protno Sampad and Nilphamarir Itihas, published by Bangladesh Academy.

According to the legend, Bhim's mother Kunti set up a massive stove at the site, which is in present-day village of Putimari, to cook rice for her sons. As she poured liquid starch or maar from the boiled rice, the river named Maargala was created in the area.

In an explanation found in the books, during a war with King

Rampal, Bhim started building a fort in a densely forested area of Putimari village under the then Rangopur region, which is now known as the division of Rangpur.

The construction of the fort was later stopped due to a change in the course of the war. With the passage of time, people later on started to call the abandoned structure Bhim Er Maayer Chula.

Contacted, Mehedi Hasan, assistant commissioner (land) in Kishoreganj upazila, said the 2.55-acre land of the site was always recorded as private property in government land surveys.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Roksana Begum said as part of their efforts to protect the site, they issued orders banning removal of earth from the site and they were considering legal action against violators.

Nahid Sultana, regional director of the archaeology department, said she would visit the site soon so necessary steps can be taken to bring the site under government protection.

Man killed, 10 hurt in Madaripur villagers' clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over establishing supremacy in Madaripur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Sayed Bhuiyan, 38, was son of late Nur Sobhan Bhuiyan of Midharkandi village.

Locals said there has been a feud between one Ferdous Talukdar and Rahman Mridha of the village over establishing supremacy in the locality.

On February 15, supporters of Rahman allegedly hacked Ferdous' follower Julhas Talukder while he was returning home from a local market.

Julhas is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, both the groups locked into a clash over the issue yesterday noon that left 11 people including Sayed injured.


Critically injured Sayed was first taken to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex, while the other injured were admitted to Madaripur General Hospital.

Sayed later died on way to a hospital in the capital the same evening.

One of the witnesses of the clash Mirjan Mirdha said a group suddenly attacked Sayed while he was returning home alone.

The gang also stabbed some locals when they tried to save Sayed from the attackers.

Madaripur Superintendent of Police (SP) Mahammad Mahabub Hasan said addition police have been deployed in the area to avoid any untoward incident.



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e-Tender Notice No. 08/2020-21

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Tender ID	Tender/proposal publication date & time	Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time	Remarks
1.	Construction of Anar Member Barrack beside UNO Quarter under Naogaon Sadar Upazila District Naogaon Package No. e-Tender/ADP/Revenue/2020-21/06	549476	23-Feb-2021 10:00	11-Mar-2021 14:00	LTM
2.	Supplying of Medical Instrument at different 31 Nos. Union Community Clinic Upazila Naogaon Sadar District Naogaon Package-INF-2019-20-506480-01	549464	23-Feb-2021 10:00	11-Mar-2021 14:00	OTM (Goods)
3.	Construction of 5 Nos. High School Wash Block with hygiene corner under Naogaon Sadar Upazila District Naogaon Package No. INF-2019-20-506480-02	549468	23-Feb-2021 10:00	11-Mar-2021 14:00	OTM (Goods)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off/ward 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 Tender/Proposal document to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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