



The Borakhali Bridge that collapsed on May 26. It was built over Borakhali canal in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gone in three days

Three relatively new bridges built for Tk 1.32 crore collapse in Gafargaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thousands of inhabitants of around 20 villages in Gafargaon and surrounding upazilas are facing a sudden breakdown in communications after three bridges, built between 2014 and 2018, collapsed in a span of only three days.

The Department of Disaster Management in Mymensingh constructed the bridges on Borakhali canal, a tributary of the Brahmaputra river.

The three bridges that broke down between May 26 and May 28 are Borakhali Bridge, constructed at a cost of Tk 31 lakh in 2017-2018 fiscal year; Char Mashlanda (Kuratolipara) Bridge, built at a cost of Tk 47 lakh in 2013-2014 fiscal year; and Purbo Tekirchar (Mucharbari) Bridge, built at a cost of Tk 54 lakh in 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Rezaul Karim, project implementation officer (PIO) in Gafargaon, said the Char Mashlanda

(Kuratolipara) Bridge and the Purba Tekirchar (Mucharbari) Bridge were constructed during his tenure while the Borakhali Bridge was constructed during the tenure of Abdul Ali, who is now the PIO in neighbouring upazila of Nandail.

The bridges connected some 20 villages in Gafargaon, Nandail and Hossainpur upazilas, serving about eight thousand people daily, said locals.

Demanding proper investigation into the incident, they alleged that the use of substandard construction materials and negligence and lax monitoring by the authorities concerned might be the cause behind such a disaster.

Abdur Razzaq, a farmer from Hotorkhali village in neighbouring Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj, said thousands in surrounding areas had their hopes up when the bridges were constructed.

"To the delight of the villagers, the new bridges helped invigorate rural economy on both sides of

the bridges. The bridges enabled the farmers send their agricultural goods to nearby towns at affordable transport costs. But their hopes are now dashed," said Siraj Uddin Ahmed, a resident of Borakhali village in Gafargaon.

Rezaul Karim, the PIO in Gafargaon, however denied the allegation of using low-grade materials in the construction of the collapsed bridges.

He said unplanned digging of canals beside the bridges caused those to collapse. "We wrote to the department concerned regarding the issue before, but our concern was ignored."

Mymensingh sub-divisional engineer, Yunus Ali, said they had been carrying out excavation in the Borakhali canal and building embankments on its sides to ensure natural flow of water in the canal round the year.

They were also constructing four regulators and 10 box culverts along the embankments under the

project.

"While excavating earth, we've been maintaining a distance of 10 metres from the bridges and there's no chance of affecting the bridges," he said, claiming that proper design was not followed while building the bridges and existing water level in the canal was not taken into consideration.

Contacted, Gafargaon Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tajul Islam said he already visited the spot and it primarily appeared to them that landslides might have collapsed the bridges.

Mohammad Sanwar Hossain, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Mymensingh, said a five-member probe committee, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md Jahangir Alam, was formed on Tuesday to investigate into the collapse of the three bridges. The committee is due to submit its report within seven working days, he also said.

Teesta turns furious in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion of the Teesta river has taken a serious turn devouring roads, educational and religious establishments, homesteads and cultivable lands at 10 points in four unions of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Many people in erosion-hit areas are busy shifting their houses, assets to safer places. The erosion victims took shelter on nearby highlands and many have migrated to other areas.

According to Kurigram and Lalmonirhat Water Development Board (WDB) sources, onrush of water from upstream has intensified erosion in Bajra union of Ulipur upazila and Gharialdanga union of Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram and Gokunda union of Lalmonirhat Sadar and Mahishkhocha union of Aditumari upazila in Lalmonirhat along the Teesta basin.

Rezaul Karim Amin, the chairman of Bajra Union Parishad (UP) in Ulipur upazila, said that 50 homesteads, more than 100 bighas of cultivable land, part of a road, a government primary

school, a madrasa and a mosque have been devoured by the Teesta River in his union in the last two days. As the erosion by Teesta River continuing, many more homesteads, farmlands and infrastructures are under threat, he said.

"The water of the river Teesta has suddenly risen in the upstream. As the water receded, the erosion has intensified at four places in the union. People in the erosion-hit areas shifting their belongings to safer places," he added.

Ulipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nur-a-Jannat Rumi said she had visited the erosion affected areas and she is closely observing the situation.

A list of the affected families and lost assets is being prepared. The government will provide assistance to the erosion victims, she said.

Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said they were visiting the eroded areas. They will start work to prevent erosion through temporary work in the most vulnerable areas, he said.



Roads, educational institutions, religious institutions, dwellings and cultivable lands are being devoured by the Teesta River at Bajra Union of Ulipur upazila in Kurigram.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

JAP president, 21 others indigenous sued

Panic in community; JAP Dinajpur unit protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Bringing a paddy pillage allegation, a man of Parbatipur Upazila of Dinajpur has filed a case accusing 22 people of the Indigenous community, including the president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) and his son.

JAP is a rights watchdog of ethnic minority in the country.

The incident triggered a wave of panic among the ethnic minority people.

Rabindranath Soren, 60, the President of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) has been made the prime accused in the case while his only son Manik Soren 35, has also been sued in the case.

Mahubur Rahman 55, son of late Abdul Zabbar of Barachandipur village under Parbatipur Upazila of Dinajpur, filed the case with a Senior Judicial Magistrate Court in Dinajpur on May 5.

All the accused in the case are from the Adivasi community.

In the case, the plaintiff has sued them under section 143/447/323/324/354/379/506(2)/114.

He mentioned that these 22 people of Adivasi community led by Rabindranath Soren pillaged 65 maunds of paddy worth Tk 45,000 from his leased land on April 26 morning.

A clash was also taken place at the spot on that day.

Protesting the case, including the president of JAP, the leaders of Dinajpur based Jatiya Adivasi Parishad at a press conference strongly condemned it. Terming the plaintiff as an influential landgrabber, the leaders claimed that the land grabber filed the case intentionally for harassing and humiliating the top leader of JAP like Rabindranath Soren, who has been fighting for the rights of flatland ethnic people in the country.

It is a matter of concern to the leaders, they said.

Shital Mardi, president of Dinajpur unit of JAP readout the written statement at the press conference held at Dinajpur Press Club on Wednesday noon, in presence of other leaders.

So far, Mahubur Rahman has filed 3 cases against the indigenous people since they started a move to recover one acre and 25 decimals of land from his occupation.

Besides, two cases have been filed against Mahubur Rahman.

The disputed land belonged to Suki Mardi. Later, their heir Niren Mardi has been living on the land, which is located at Barokonain Parbatipur Upazila of Dinajpur, an Adivasi dominated area in the

upazila.

Since then Mahubur Rahman, allegedly started conspiring to take the land into his possession since he realised that the land has been included in the land record as an abandoned property.

Finally, he succeeded to get 95 decimals of land as a lease.

When Niren Mardi came to know the matter, he filed applications to different relevant departments seeking help to cancel the lease in July last year, which angered Mahubur Rahman.

As Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, had been involved with the incident as the people of his village were suffering, Mahubur Rahman sued him in a bid to harass him, socially and mentally, alleged the leaders of JAP in Dinajpur.

At the press conference, the leaders of JAP pressed the government 5-charter demands, including cancellation of the lease, withdrawal of case against the indigenous people and punishment of the land grabber Mahubur Rahman.

Besides, the land problem of Indigenous people in the country has to be solved by forming a separate land commission in the country.

Talking with The Daily Star,

Rabindranath Soren, the president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, said it was beyond his understanding why he and his son Manik Soren had been sued in the case.

"I have a right to fight for the people of my community," he said.

Contacted, the plaintiff, Mahubur Rahman, alleged that Rabindranath Soren is a land grabber and said the land has been in his possession for the last 40 years.

They are claiming ownership of the land based on false documents.

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এ নিম্নলিখিত পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল (প্রজেক্টের অধীনে) নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাপাত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স	বেতন	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (নৌ স্থপতি)	০২ (দুই)	ক। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার। খ। সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০। গ। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ডে জাহাজ নির্মাণ/মেরামত কাজে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা ও শিপবিল্ডিং সংক্রান্ত সফটওয়্যার Maxsurf, Rhina-তে পারদর্শী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবলের বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী	সকল জেলা

২। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ নীতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদান করা হবে।
৩। অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সন্তোষজনক প্রতিপাদিত হলে চাকরিতে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।
৪। আত্মহী প্রার্থীদেরকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, সদ্য তোলা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/স্পোরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাপরিকৃত/জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, জন্মনিবন্ধন (যদি থাকে), শিক্ষাপাত যোগ্যতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সকল সনদসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বরাবর আবেদনপত্র "ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ" এর ঠিকানায় আগামী ২০ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
৫। প্রার্থীদেরকে বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
৬। লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ দেওয়া হবে না।
৭। পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।
৮। অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
৯। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
জিডি-১১৩৬ পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক