



Volunteers from five villages in Nilphamari's Jaldhaka upazila working to make a new bamboo bridge on the Dhum river at Golmunda point. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Villagers build makeshift bridge on turbulent river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

After a makeshift wood bridge on the Dhum river at Golmunda point in Jaldhaka upazila was washed away last month, residents of five villages had to build a bamboo bridge at the site with their own funds.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) last year carried out an extensive excavation work on the river.

School teacher Mominur Rahman, a resident of the area, said as there has been no permanent bridge over the river, villagers on both sides had long been relying

on a wood bridge to cross the river.

But the bridge was swept away last month by strong current in the river, causing immense sufferings to the villagers, he also said.

Locals said that about ten thousand residents of five villages need a bridge at the location to transport patients to and from upazila health complex and to communicate with various offices including that of the upazila nirbahi officer, police station and land registration in the upazila headquarters.

With the wood bridge washed away, they had been risking their lives while crossing the turbulent

river on rafts made of bamboo or other materials.

The authorities concerned had informed of the situation, but to no avail, the locals also said.

Several villagers this correspondent spoke with said local youths raised funds from community members to buy bamboo and other necessary components and volunteers worked for several days to build a new 40-meter-long bridge at the site of the old bridge.

Alimuddin Mia, a senior citizen from the area, said, "The praiseworthy initiative of the youths has given us respite from

the suffering."

"Construction of a permanent bridge [on the river] is a crying need and I informed BWDB and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the matter," said Golmunda Union Parishad Chairman Tofazzal Hossain.

Contacted, BWDB Sub-divisional Engineer Abdul Hannan Prodhan said the BWDB does not build bridges unless it is required under an irrigation project.

Engineer Abdur Rouf of LGED in Jaldhaka upazila, said they would soon visit the area to assess the situation.

## Conspirators of Aug 15 will

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said this while opening a voluntary blood, plasma donation and food distribution programme arranged by the Bangladesh Krishak League in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi-32.

She inaugurated and addressed the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Krishak League arranged the voluntary programme and discussion as part of a month-long programme of Awami League and its associate organisations marking the National Mourning Day commemorating the martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Sheikh Hasina, also the chief of ruling Awami League, said her prime task was to put the killers, involved directly, under trial and materialise the dreams of the Father of the Nation regarding the country and its people.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, said she did not go to the path of digging out who was behind the conspiracy. "My first priority was to change the fate of poor and hungry people, and improve their livelihoods."

The prime minister mentioned that there is nothing beyond her desire except materialising the dreams of her father.

"I want to see smiles on the faces of the people of Bangladesh, and change their fate. I want Bangladesh to prosper as a developed country getting free from hunger and poverty, and for its people to move in the world arena with their heads high as a victorious nation," she said.

Hasina said if the Covid-19 pandemic had not hit Bangladesh the country would have been able to continue its development pace towards prosperity uninterrupted. "This pandemic hit the whole

world but we've been able to run our economy for which we greatly focused on agriculture."

The prime minister briefly described the various steps taken for the betterment of agriculture during the pandemic and before it.

Regarding the killing of August 15, she said that anti-liberation forces had captured state power after the August 15 carnage.

"Their level and nature of thought were aligned with Pakistanis who had assumed Bangladesh would never be able to raise its head. That's why they killed the Father of the Nation, and I wonder how our people got involved in this!" she said.

Hasina mentioned that Bangabandhu had enough trust in the people of Bangladesh and these people gave a huge blow to his trust by killing him brutally.

She said it is clear that there was a link between Khondaker Mostaf

and Ziaur Rahman.

"Through the killing of Bangabandhu, Bangladesh had totally deviated from the ideals and spirit of the Liberation War," she said, adding that the only aim of the killing was to destroy the emergence of Bangladesh and its victory.

Awami League presidium members Matia Chowdhury and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, AL agriculture and cooperatives secretary Faridun Nahar Laily, office secretary and PM's special assistant Barrister Biplob Barua, Krishak League president agriculturist Samir Chanda and general secretary advocate Umme Kulsum Smriti also spoke at the event.

A one-minute silence was observed in the beginning of the programme to show respect to the martyrs of August 15, and munajat was offered seeking divine blessings for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

## Italy's Jacobs wins stunning 100m gold

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lane four, the Anguilla-born Briton not even bothering to question his disqualification.

Dressed in light blue singlet and lycra shorts, the US-born Jacobs, in lane three, made a good start, held his nerve through the drive phase and powered through to the line.

Jacobs joyously ran into the arms of Italian teammate Gianmarco Tamberi, who had just shared gold in the men's high jump and was waiting at the finish line.

The race, run in stifling temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius (84 Fahrenheit), had a distinctly

underwhelming build-up and feel to it as hot favourite Trayvon Bromell bombed out of the semi-finals in which China's Su Bingtian and Jacobs unexpectedly set Asian and European records respectively.

The Tokyo Olympics are the first since Athens in 2004 to take place without Bolt, who went on to win three consecutive Olympic 100m titles in Beijing, London and Rio de Janeiro, as well as three straight 200m crowns.

And for the first time since the 2000 Sydney Games, there was no Jamaican in the final, Bolt's long-time former teammate Yohan Blake failing to qualify from his semi-final

of sprinting hopes. Many have been lauded as the athlete to fill Bolt's spikes, but no one has yet lived up to the considerable weight of expectation.

Added to that, the 68,000-capacity Olympic Stadium in Tokyo had no cheering fans because of coronavirus restrictions in the Japanese capital.

Instead there were sparse pockets of athletes and team officials who did their best to create something of an atmosphere at what is normally one of the most widely anticipated events of the entire Games, commanding a huge worldwide television audience.

## Drives on to arrest gangs

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and lorries and take away the cargoes goods at gunpoint. The highway police will have to play a more assured role in checking such cases, he said.

Since such incidents are considered mere theft, the transport workers, even if they are caught, commit similar offences after coming out on bail in less than six months, he said, while calling for amending the law to ensure harsher punishment.

Against this backdrop, on July 12, leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the sector's apex trade body, met with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and requested beefing up security measures and police surveillance to prevent robbery of the export consignments.

Mostafa Kamal Uddin, senior secretary to the public security division of the ministry; Benazir Ahmed, inspector general of Police; Shafiqul Islam, additional inspector general of Industrial Police; Mallick Faqurul Islam, additional inspector general of Highway Police; AKM Hafiz Akhtar, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch; and other high officials of law enforcement agencies attended the

meeting. When buyers discover rags and other materials filled by thieves in cargoes instead of finished garments, it taints the image of Bangladesh, said BGMEA President Faruque Hassan.

In response, Khan directed the law enforcement agencies to be stricter and assured that the Dhaka-Chattogram highway would be brought under closed-circuit television surveillance.

Following the meeting, the government formed a team, headed by Islam to find ways to stop the theft of export goods on the highway.

The committee also held its first meeting, according to Md Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of the BGMEA.

"The law against theft is weak and that is why perpetrators get away even after being arrested," he added.

Whether Mollah, who was nabbed by detectives two weeks after the incident along with two accomplices from Gazipur and Dhaka's Uttara, gets away easily remains to be seen.

The police recovered 90 clothing rolls, said Harun or Rashid, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch, at a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

"We got information from some

others of this robbery gang," he said, adding that drives will continue to arrest such groups.

## Bangladesh, India

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transported 36.9 lakh tonnes of goods from India, which is more than double that from a year earlier. Subsequently, the railway's income from the cross-border trade hit a record Tk 167.7 crore, up 120 percent year-on-year.

The rail route can open a new horizon of regional trading: Bangladesh can export goods to Nepal through it, said Siddiqui Alam, executive member of Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce.

After the partition in 1947, seven rail links were operational between India and the then East Pakistan up to 1965. Bangladesh and India have committed to reviving all the pre-1965 railway links between the two countries.

The Haldibari-Chilahati rail link will strengthen India-Bangladesh rail connectivity and bilateral trade and enhance rail network access to the main ports and dry ports to support the growth in regional trade and to encourage economic and social development of the region, said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

## Ropa Aman farmers eye better yield, fair price in Jhenidah

1,04171 hectares of land in the district to be brought under Ropa Aman cultivation



Farmers of Raghunathpur village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah planting Ropa Aman paddy at a field.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Hundreds of farmers in the district have started planting Ropa Aman paddy with the hope of getting fair prices. The growers are eager to start Aman farming earlier to get high yield.

In the last Boro season, the growers got good prices. Due to this, farmers have started planting Ropa Aman earlier this year to get fair prices.

In the last season, the farmers sold per maund of rice at Tk 1200-1300, they said.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jhenidah, 1,04171 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district will be brought under Ropa Aman cultivation in 2021-2022 which was 99,956 in 2020-2021.

In 2021-2022, the target of Aman cultivation in Sadar upazila is 25680 hectares, 22340hectares in Shailakupa, 11026 hectares in Harinakundo, 18650 hectares in Moheshpur, 6980hectares in Kotchandpur and 19495 hectares in Kaliganj upazila.

Jalal Uddin of Kaliganj upazila said that he cultivated two bighas Ropa Aman in the last season 2020-21 and got 30 mounds of paddy. He sold per mound at Tk 1000 to 1100 this season. And in the last boro season of 2020-'21 he sold per mound at Tk 1200 to 1300. In the hope of getting better price he has cultivated four bighas of Ropa Aman this year.

Another farmer Sujit Kumar of Belegat village under Shailakupa upazila said that Ropa Aman farming costs little because they do not need any irrigation. After planting seedlings it grows in rain water. "We apply little amount of fertiliser and can harvest bumper production," he added.

Deputy Director (DD) Md Asgar Ali of Jhenidah DAE SAID that farmers got better price by selling boro paddy in the last season.

As a result, they are bringing more land Boro cultivation hoping a good yield.

He added that the target of seedbed of Ropa Aman was 4975 hectares but 5247 hectares of land have been used as seedbed this season. So, the yield of Ropa Aman might exceed the target.



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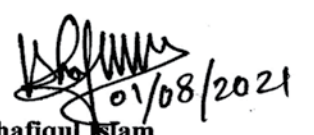
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The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	594234	Supply of General Tools & Equipment	29-Jul-2021	25-Aug-2021 03:30 PM	26-Aug-2021
2	595611	Supply of Cooling Tower Dosing Chemical (through Framework Contract)	1-Aug-2021	22-Aug-2021 03:30 PM	23-Aug-2021

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