

Unfit bridge not replaced in 9 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The officials of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) finished their duty by only declaring a 65-metre-long bridge unfit for use. But after nine long years passed by, they are yet to replace the bridge that is vital for lives and livelihoods of thousands.

Around ten thousand residents of Chhoto Baishdia union in Rangabali upazila extensively use the bridge, on Gohinkhali canal, as it is their only means of communication for reaching the upazila headquarters and Baherchar Bazar -- the largest market in not just Rangabali union, but in the entire upazila.

The bridge on Gohinkhali canal is especially crucial for over two hundred students who have to use it every day to and from their educational institutions in Rangabali town.

Locals said they had to use logs of wood to replace most of the dilapidated iron pillars of the two-metre-wide bridge that was made with concrete slabs on iron structure in 1990.

As most parts of the concrete slabs already broke down, locals have been laying planks of wood on the holes to be able to cross the canal.

According to data from LGED office in the upazila, they declared the bridge unfit for use in 2012.

But the locals are still using the bridge as they do not have any other option crossing the canal.

During a visit to the area recently, this correspondent observed that the bridge is absolutely unsafe for crossing on foot, let alone by any sort of vehicle. A major accident can happen any time as the bridge sways while people walk on it.

Salahuddin Bayati, a grocer at Baherchar

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Bazar, said lots of people from distant places, including from Chhoto Baishdia union, used to throng the weekly market on Mondays and Thursdays.

But now their businesses are on the wane as fewer people, living on the other side of the canal, are willing to take the hassle of reaching the market after a 1.5-kilometre detour.

Rangabali Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Saiduzzaman Mamun said he made repeated calls to the authorities for building a new bridge on the canal, but to no avail.

ABM Abdul Mannan, chairman of Chhoto Baishdia UP, said he already informed the LGED about the state of the bridge in writing, but they are yet to build a bridge that is vital for agriculture, trade and education of people living on both sides of Gohinkhali canal.

Contacted, engineer Mizanul Kabir of LGED in Rangabali upazila said they already submitted a project proposal to their higher authorities for a new bridge on the canal and construction would commence once the project is approved.



A man walks precariously on the edge of the bridge, on Gohinkhali canal in Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila, which was declared unfit by the LGED in 2012. However, the LGED is still awaiting approval for replacing this risky bridge with a new one.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Sand extraction from Meghna river causes erosion in Bhola

MD ABBAS

Massive erosion has occurred in the Meghna river due to sand extraction in Bhola, forcing at least 20,000 people to be displaced.

The erosion could not be averted, despite several steps undertaken by the Water Development Board of Bhola.



At least 20,000 people have been displaced in Bhola due to the erosion of the Meghna river. The photo was taken from Char Mohammad Ali point in Rajapur union of Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

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Locals said though the government has been spending crores to build embankment while a quarter is extracting sand near the embankments posing threat to various establishments including the embankments.

Mohabbat Ali, a resident of Ilisha union under Bhola Sadar upazila, said the influential people

have been extracting sand every day from the banks, adjacent to the Meghna river, through dredgers.

On top of that, erosion has occurred in Rajapur union of Bhola Sadar upazila next to Ilisha dam for extracting sand from the river for a long. The riverbank eroded due to the strong currents in the river.

Erosion is taking place in an area of four kilometres from Jhorkhal point to Char Mohammad Ali Point of Rajapur union. In the meantime, an area of 700 meters has already disappeared.

More than hundreds of houses were washed away and hundreds of houses had to be shifted elsewhere. Two big mosques and two schools and several establishments are still

at risk. As sand extraction is going on from the area, the whole union is under threat now, locals claimed.

Rawshan Begum (55) of the area said her family was displaced four times. "How will we build our house now? Where will we go?", she asked.

People of Char Mohammad Ali Point are suffering the most due to erosion. At least 100 houses, croplands and roads were devoured by the Meghna river recently.

A contractor of WDB wishing not to be named said they have spent Tk 500 crore for CC block to protect Ilisha union from erosion.

"But due to the unplanned and uninterrupted sand extraction from the river, the blocks are under

threat. Apart from the sinking of the blocks, most of the blocks have been destroyed resulting in the damage of embankments," he said.

Mizanur Rahman of Rajapur Union Parishad said the way erosion is taking place, the whole union may disappear anytime. Even the embankment is at the risk.

Officials of WDB said erosion has increased due to changes in the course of the river, strong currents and rising upstream water. Additionally, sand extraction has intensified erosion.

To prevent erosion, the WDB has dumped geo bags and tubes in the 480-meter area.

Contacted, Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, executive Engineer of WDB said they are taking prompt action to protect the people from erosion.

He added that four kilometres river bank conservation work has already started to tame the erosion.

Apart from stopping sand extraction from the river, the district administration is taking steps to identify the people behind the sand extraction, said Md Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Bhola district.

We are working to stop sand extraction permanently, he added.

DU students reunite after 18 months

FROM PAGE 1

Students of other academic

years can be back to their respective halls soon, hopes Abdul Bashir, convener of provost standing committee.

Ferdous Alam, a resident student of Bijoy Ekattor Hall, left Jhalakathi for Dhaka on Monday night in a launch after a long stay at home. After his arrival in the morning, he was waiting in the queue at the hall gate.

As the clock struck 8:00am and gates were opened, Ferdous entered his hall with others. Provost and resident teachers checked his temperature and greeted him with a mask, flowers and chocolates. He then walked towards his room with a smile on his face.

"I came from Cox's Bazar at night," said Faruqul Islam, another student of the hall. "It feels really good to be back in my hall after so long."

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Students maintaining Covid-19 rules.

The Jagannath Hall authorities welcomed students with music.

Banners, containing the health safety rules, were seen hung in front of the halls. Sinks were also installed with soaps for students to wash their hands before entering.

A day before reopening the dorms, the DU authorities started vaccinating students, teachers and employees.

In another development, the provost standing committee has recommended resuming in-person classes on October 16.

It also suggested allowing students from first to third years to their dormitories from October 10, said Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal.

These recommendations came from yesterday evening's provost standing committee meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman. Pro-VCs and different hall provosts were present there.

Meanwhile, VC Prof Md

Akhtaruzzaman has sought help from all student organisations to end the "gono room" culture at halls as "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not like it".

He made the comments after visiting Bijoy Ekattor Hall as all DU halls reopened yesterday after an 18-month closure during the pandemic.

"Gono room" is the result of an accommodation crisis -- many students are crammed into one room.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not like the "gono room" culture. She does not want the students' living standards compromised. She has advised me on several occasions to address the issue Now, we need help from everyone [to end this culture]," the VC said.

He said, "It feels like Eid today [yesterday] as students are returning to halls. All students were disciplined when they were entering the dorms ... our next goal is to accommodate students of all sessions in the halls as soon as possible."

Bangladesh Bank

Common Services Department-1
Head Office
Dhaka

Website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Tender for Identification, Verification, Valuation and Recording of 114.1773 acres land of Bangladesh Bank (Head Office and 10 (Ten) Branch Offices), 66.52 acres land and 539 Non-Financial Assets such as Buildings, Mechanical Equipments, Electrical Equipments etc. of The Security Printing Corporation (BD) Ltd. (SPCBL) Gazipur.

01	Procuring entity	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
02	Source of funds	Bangladesh Bank's own fund and SPCBL's own fund.
03	Invitation for Tender No.	Tender No. CSD-1 (NFA&IMS)102/2021-35 date: 05/10/2021
04	Method of procurement	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (National).
05	Bidders' eligibility	a) Valid license/membership as a Chartered Accountant Firm from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh. b) General business experiences as Chartered Accountant Firm for minimum 5 (five) years. c) At least 02 works completion of similar nature of service valuing minimum Tk 6 (six) lac within last five years. d) Availability of liquid asset or working capital or credit facilities from any schedule bank: Minimum 8 (eight) lac. e) Up-to date trade license. f) Up-to date income tax certificate. g) Vat registration certificate.
06	Tender receiving system	Through web (e-tendering).
07	Address of web receiving tender document	www.bb.org.bd ; www.etender.bb.org.bd
08	Name & address of the offices receiving documentary evidence	General Manager, Common Services Department-1 (6th Floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
09	Last date & time for submission of tender document through web	27/10/2021 up to 3:00pm.
10	Date, time & place of tender opening	All tenders will be opened at Common Services Department-1 (6th Floor or 30-Storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 24/10/2021 at 03:30pm.
11	Pre-tender meeting	Pre-tender meeting will be held at Common Services Department-1 (6th Floor of 30-Storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka at 11:30am on 14/10/2021.
12	Time for completion of the work	2 months from the date of issue of Award of Contract.
13	Tender security	No tender security will be required.
	Special instructions	Bangladesh Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning reason whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩১৩৯

তারিখঃ ০৫-১০-২০২১

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

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Ferry service resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Ferry services on Shimulia-Banglabazar route resumed, commercially, yesterday morning, after 48 days of suspension since August 18.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Director (commercial) SM Atiquzzaman said they the services around 6:00am.

Five 'K-type' ferries, carrying only light vehicles like cars, SUVs, minibuses, and ambulances, will operate every day.

On August 18, BIWTC authorities suspended the ferry services on the route after four ferries hit pillars and a span of the under-construction Padma Bridge.

One gets life term for rape, murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing a woman after rape.

The convict is Ripon Molla, 39.

Judge Prodip Kumar Roy also fine him Tk 1 lakh.

The court also acquitted eight other accused in the case as charges brought against them were not proved.

According to the case statement, Boalmari police recovered the body woman on July 12, 2019.

Later, victim's father filed a case accusing Ripon and others.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No. 1661

Dated: 04.10.2021

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Patuakali Road Division for the procurement of:

e-Tender details can be downloaded e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for pursue.

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of works	Invitation date & time	Last selling/downloading date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
1	616881	10/e-GP/PATRD/Goods/2021-2022	Supplying of 1st Class P.J Bricks at RHD Stackyard Patuakhali for repairing of different Roads & Ferry Ghat under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 2021-2022	03-Oct-2021 14:45	20-Oct-2021 17:00	21-Oct-2021 12:15
2	616882	11/e-GP/PATRD/Goods/2021-2022	Supplying of Stone Chips, Pea-Gravels, Local Sand, Fire Wood, Cement & Reinforcement at RHD Stackyard Patuakhali for repairing of different Roads & Ferry Ghat under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 2021-2022	03-Oct-2021 14:45	20-Oct-2021 17:00	21-Oct-2021 12:15
3	616883	12/e-GP/PATRD/Goods/2021-2022	Supplying of Skilled Semi-Skilled Unskilled Labour, Painter, Painter Helper & Asphalt Mistry for routine maintenance work at different Roads, Bridges, Ferry Ghat under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 2021-2022	03-Oct-2021 14:45	20-Oct-2021 17:00	21-Oct-2021 12:15

GD- 1777

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