



Part of a bridge on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road in Mohera Union Parishad under Mirzapur upazila of Tangail has recently collapsed, snapping road communication in the area and causing suffering to the commuters. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Villagers suffer as part of bridge collapse snaps road link

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Part of a bridge on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road in Mohera Union Parishad under Mirzapur upazila of Tangail has collapsed, snapping road communication in the area and causing suffering to the villagers.

A part of the guide wall and approach road of the bridge collapsed on October 14, locals said.

As a result, the movement of vehicles has remained suspended on the bridge. People, however, were moving on the damaged bridge on foot taking risks.

Several villagers said that the bridge was constructed on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road about two decades ago for draining out floodwater from the crop fields in the area during the monsoon.

However, floodwater washed away the soil beneath the bridge during the last year's prolonged flood, they said.

The villagers also said that several thousand people of 10 to 12 local villages and several hundred vehicles ply on the bridge every day.

They alleged that although the bridge turned risky a year ago, the authorities concerned did not take any step to protect the bridge. Finally, it collapsed and the commuters have been suffering to go to their destinations, they said.

Jahangir Hossain of Adabari village said the authorities should have taken steps

to protect the bridge after it turned risky during the last year's flood. Now, people are suffering due to their negligence, he said.

Badsa Miah, chairman of Mohera Union Parishad, said he had raised the issue at the meeting of the Upazila Parishad stating that the bridge would collapse if necessary steps were not taken immediately.

"However, it was not repaired despite assurance from the authorities to do so," he said. "Now we demand that a new bridge be constructed in place of the damaged bridge as soon as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, the engineers of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) have already visited the damaged bridge couple of days ago and set up cautionary signboards at the two ends to avoid accidents.

Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, a sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Mirzapur, said they had sent a proposal to the higher authorities to reform the bridge after it turned risky during the last year's flood. "After the collapse of a part of the bridge several days ago, we have sent another proposal in this regard," he said.

Mir Enayet Hossain Montu, chairman of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad, said that a new bridge would be constructed in place of the damaged bridge as early as possible.

BWDB starts work to curb erosion of Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) on October 24 launched a Tk 712-crore project, undertaken by the water resources ministry, to protect houses and agricultural land from erosion of the Tentulia River in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila and Barisal's Bakerganj upazila.

Under the project, concrete blocks and sand-filled geotextile bags will be dumped along 7.5 kilometres of the river's banks to protect areas between Dhulia Launch Ghat in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila and Durgapasha in Barisal's Bakerganj upazila, according to BWDB in Patuakhali.



As part of a project launched recently to contain erosion of the Tentulia river, workers of BWDB dump geotextile bags in Dhulia area under Patuakhali's Baufal upazila. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Executive Engineer Ariful Islam of Patuakhali BWDB said funded entirely by the government, the work of the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

The project also includes 2.83 kilometres of excavation work in the Tentulia river, from where 3.69 lakh cubic metres of silt will be removed, he added.

In Baufal upazila alone, more than 2,000 houses, mosques, educational institutions and over ten thousand acres of croplands were eroded away by the Tentulia river over the last five years.

Near about 300 families who turned destitute after losing their property to the river have been living in inhumane conditions in shanties alongside rural roads.

Several hundred important establishments and houses including the residence of language hero and former lawmaker Syed Ashraf Hossain and the building of NK Government Primary School are now threatened by the river's erosion.

Affected locals had long been urging the authorities to take effective measures for protection from the erosion and they had formed a three-kilometre-long human chain in the area to press home their demand. They also formed a human chain front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The project includes 2.83 kilometres of excavation work in the Tentulia river.



Bandura Fish Landing Station, one of the largest wholesale fish market in Pirojpur, started to buzz with buyers and sellers, after the 22-day ban on Hilsa fishing ended on Monday midnight. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Bullet hit body found near border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered the bullet-hit body of a Bangladeshi national from near the Indian border in Paba upazila yesterday.

The victim, Mohammad Mithun Ali, 25, a day labourer, was son of Manjur Hossain of Char Majhardiar area, said Lt Col Sabbir Ahmed, director at Rajshahi BGB Battalion.

Being informed by locals, a BGB team went to the spot and found the body lying around 200 to 400 metres away from the border fences around 6:00am, he said, adding, the body was handed over to the local police station.

Arrest warrant

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According to the case statement, Iqbal Hossain who is attached to the Khulna District Police had physically tortured his wife Dr Sonia Samad to hand over her residential building and private car to him.

Sonia, on July 25, filed the case with Joraganj Police Station in Chattogram city. Earlier in the day, following a phone call to 999, a team of Joraganj police rescued her from her house.

IUB holds

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A Matin Chowdhury, chairman of Board of Trustees (BoT); Nilufer Zafarullah, chairman of Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT); Tanweer Hasan, PhD, vice chancellor, also delivered their speeches.

Pro-VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan presented a vote of thanks. A total of 2,143 students of Bachelor and Master's degree programmes and disciplines received degrees under five different schools. In the 21st convocation, out of 1,279 graduates, 899 were from the undergraduate programmes while 380 received degrees in Master's programmes. In the 22nd convocation, out of 864 graduates, 670 were from undergraduate programmes, while 194 students received degrees in Master's programmes.

Scientists

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computer to construct coherent signals."

It is the first time intelligence has been "taught" to a robot. The signals passed on environmental information as it moved through the maze.

If the AI (artificial intelligence) vehicle veered in the wrong direction or faced the wrong way, neurons in the cell culture were disturbed by an electric impulse. In a series of trials it was continually fed the signals until it accomplished the task.

India red flags West Bengal's

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health facilities.

Despite the warning by doctors, the Bengal government relaxed Covid-19 curbs during the Durga Puja celebrations and there were major violations of Covid protocols as lakhs of people, many of them without masks, had swarmed thousands of puja pandals without maintaining social distancing.

The spurt in Covid cases in West Bengal comes at a time when the number of Delta AY.4.2 variant of coronavirus, which is spreading rapidly in some countries, has gone up to seven in the southern state of Karnataka.

The new mutant, which has already caused concerns in the UK and Russia, was earlier detected in seven persons in the central Indian city of Indore and around 26 cases in the western state of Maharashtra. Bhushan asked the West Bengal authorities to expedite the administering of the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccines and ensure strict adherence to safety protocols.

PANDEMIC 'FAR FROM FINISHED': WHO The Covid-19 crisis is far from over, said the World Health Organisation's emergency committee on Tuesday as it called for research into the next generation of vaccines for the long-term control of the pandemic, reports AFP.

The 19-member committee meets every three months to discuss the pandemic and make recommendations.

"While progress has been made through increased uptake of Covid-19 vaccines and therapeutics, analysis of the present situation and forecasting models indicate that the pandemic is far from finished," the WHO said in a statement on Friday's four-hour virtual meeting.

The committee called for further research into reusable masks and respirators, and next-generation vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics "for long-term control of the pandemic".

UK envoy for

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matter for the Bangladeshi people to decide."

There is plenty of expertise and talent in Bangladesh to make the election a Bangladesh-driven process reflecting the values of the country's constitution, he said.

The UK would continue to support plural and democratic practice in Bangladesh and support as far as possible, as external friends, a fair electoral process with protections for voters and participants in the next general election.

The British government would watch with interest as preparations were made for institutions like the Election Commission and looked forward to that sending a strong commitment to a free and fair process for the elections when they were next held.

Dickson also expressed concern over the recent violence against minority communities in Bangladesh. "The UK stood with those who supported tolerance

The use of masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and improving the ventilation of indoor spaces remain key to reducing transmission of SARS CoV-2, the statement said.

The committee said the protracted pandemic was making humanitarian emergencies, mass migration and other crises more complex. States should therefore revise their preparedness and response plans.

It raised concerns about Africa's challenges in tackling the pandemic, including access to vaccines, tests and treatments as well as collecting and analysing data to monitor the pandemic's evolution.

The committee first declared on January 30 last year that the virus was a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) -- the highest alarm the WHO can sound.

Urgent UN

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90,000 REFUGEE CHILDREN MAY DIE IN 3 WEEKS

About 90,000 Bangladeshi children who suffered from acute malnutrition in refugee camps might die in the next three weeks unless a crash programme to treat them was taken up immediately, said the Director General of Indian Health Service JB Srivastav. He further informed that of the four million children in the refugee camps, about 200,000 suffered from malnutrition.

ON THE WAR FRONT In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini today engaged Pakistani troops in Goalhat and killed two soldiers.

Freedom fighters today captured two razzakars with rifles in Araihaazar area of Dhaka district.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

and religious freedom."

When asked what steps were taken after Labour MP Tulip Siddiq's car was vandalised, Dickson said he cannot comment on the investigation process but said it has been taken very seriously.

Regarding the allegations of propaganda and conspiracy against Bangladesh from the UK, Dickson said the court has jurisdiction over returning a criminal. However, in the UK, if someone spreads hatred, the UK government takes action.

He called for the implementation of the cross-border higher education rule of Bangladesh that was enacted in 2016 but is yet to be deployed.

As many as nine British universities are keen to come to Bangladesh to cooperate in the areas of higher education, he said, adding that the UK also wants to get highly qualified people from Bangladesh through a point-based migration system.

DCAB President Pantho Rahaman and its General Secretary AKM Moinuddin also spoke at the event.

Confusion

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implemented the flyover project while private company Max Infrastructure constructed it.

The report also recommended imposing a ban on operation of heavy vehicles through the ramp, installed at Bahaddarhat point after the inauguration of the flyover.

Contacted, CDA Executive Engineer Md Mahfuzur Rahman said, "We will open the flyover within two days."

He added, "We will set up height barriers within two days to control operation of heavy vehicles through its ramp," he added.

Earlier on Monday night, authorities concerned suspended vehicular movement over and under the flyover after what looked like cracks appeared on two pillars of the flyover.

It created confusion and panic among people and different media outlets ran reports on this issue.

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) mayor along with top officials and engineers of CCC and CDA have visited the spot since Tuesday morning.

The CCC is the authority responsible for maintenance of the flyover.

On Tuesday evening, the CDA ruled out the report of cracks and said it was a rumour.

The construction of a one-kilometre flyover connecting Shulakbahar and Bahaddarhat began in 2010.

Thirteen people were killed when a girder of the under-construction flyover collapsed in Chandgaon in November 2012.

On October 12, 2013, the prime minister inaugurated the flyover.

In 2017, the 326m long and 6.7m wide ramp was attached to the flyover to facilitate traffic movement.

On Tuesday, CCC's Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam, while visiting the spot with the mayor, told journalists that the ramp was not included in the main design.

Md Mahfuzur Rahman, executive engineer (project) of CDA, said, "The ramp was constructed to eliminate traffic jam in Bahaddarhat area which was not in the main design of the project."

Lawyer Baset Majumder

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League, according to a notification issued by the SC administration.

All trial proceedings of the lower courts in Dhaka were also suspended, Advocate Abdul Baten, president of Dhaka Bar Association, told The Daily Star.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim and Attorney General AM Amin Uddin in separate condolence messages expressed profound shock at the death of Majumder.

They prayed for the eternal peace of his departed soul and expressed deep sympathy for his bereaved family.

With love, respect and grief, people from all walks of life bade farewell to senior counsel Abdul Baset Majumder yesterday evening.

Earlier in the day, his coffin was kept at the National Eidgah Maidan near the Supreme Court premises where SC judges, lawyers, law officers, government high

officials, political leaders, professionals and Majumder's family members paid their last respects.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held there.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim, Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahub Ali, judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Attorney General and SCBA president AM Amin Uddin and its Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, among others, joined the janaza and paid tribute by placing wreaths.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder was born on January 1, 1938, at Laksham, Cumilla, and was enlisted as a lawyer on September 28, 1966 and was enlisted to begin practice at the High Court on February 8, 1967.

A lawyer for 56 years, he was admitted to the hospital on September 30 and then put on life support on October 24, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin told this correspondent.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH Nilphamari Govt. College Nilphamari Nilphamari

Memo No. NGC/CEDP/01/ 2021-22

Date: 27/10/2021

e-Tender Notice 01/2021-2022

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 Package	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	622852	Procurement of Exam Chair for Hall room of Nilphamari Govt. College, Nilphamari	15 November 2021 2.00PM	15 November 2021 2.30PM

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 Banks' Branches upto 14 November 2021 4:00PM.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Signature)
27.10.2021
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