



Nothing but a few equipment and some construction materials are seen in Kalakhali village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, at the site of the bridge over the Kaliganga river. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

BRIDGE ON KALIGANGA RIVER IN PIROJPUR

LGED starting process all over again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The wait of thousands -- residents of seven unions in Nesarabad and Kawkhali upazilas -- for a bridge on the Kaliganga river has been prolonged by at least several more years, as the contractor firm assigned with the work failed to construct the bridge in three years' time.

In September this year, nearly 10 months after the firm -- Navana Construction Ltd -- missed the deadline for completing its construction, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) revoked the Tk-115-crore contract with it.

Navana won the tender to construct a 600-metre-long bridge on the river, connecting Kalakhali village of Pirojpur Sadar

Navana won the tender to construct a 600-metre-long bridge on the river and it would have a total of 1,200 metres of approach roads on both sides.

upazila with Chandkathi village of Nesarabad upazila. The width of the bridge would be 10 metres and it would have a total of 1,200 metres of approach roads on both sides.

The work on the bridge started in April, 2018, with a deadline of

November, 2020.

On January 15 this year, when this paper ran a report headlined "Bridge on Kaliganga River in Pirojpur: Two years' deadline over, LGED wants 2 years more", LGED claimed that 15 percent of the work was done.

But later, in September, the LGED said they cancelled the contract with Navana as it completed only eight percent of the work.

Pirojpur LGED Executive Engineer Abdus Sattar Howlader said they officially annulled the contract with Navana Construction Ltd on September 9 this year, as it failed to show progress in the construction work before the deadline.

The land acquisition process on both sides of the proposed bridge

site has already been complete and "we are working on floating a tender again for completing the construction of the bridge," he also said.

However, the delay in the work will result in a rise in the cost of the project by about 15 to 20 percent, said a few LGED officials, requesting anonymity.

Expressing frustration over the news of the bridge's re-tender process, Sheikh Obaidullah, a resident of Chandkathi village in Nesarabad, said, "We were delighted after the construction started", as it would benefit people in five unions of Nesarabad and two unions of Kawkhali upazilas.

Rural economies in the riverine region would develop if the bridge was completed, said Aminul Islam, from the same village.

National emergency declared

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difference to our determination to free our country and to create the kind of society we want."

PAKISTAN DECLARES EMERGENCY

Pakistan President Yahya khan declared a national emergency today. He proclaimed the emergency in view of a "threat of foreign aggression". The declaration followed an alleged four-pronged attack by Indian Army and Mukti Bahini in Chattogram, Sylhet, Jashore and Rangpur. Yahya also charged that Indian forces had seized two villages and some border outposts in East Pakistan.

The declaration of national

emergency did not specify what measures the Pakistan Government intended to take. The government already ruled by martial law and had wide powers. But a spokesman said that the declaration was "an enabling act" that could pave the way for censorship, civilian mobilization and other measures.

Indira Gandhi today held hurried consultations with her aides as the tense situation along the India-Pakistan border became grave with the declaration of national emergency in Pakistan.

Indira Gandhi invited all the opposition parties next day to give her their appraisal of the border developments.

THE WHOLE CONTINENT WILL

HAVE A BLOODBATH: BHUTTO
Pakistan People's Party chief ZA Bhutto, talking to newsmen in Lahore on his way to Rawalpindi, said Pakistan would stake its all in defence of the motherland. He added "the whole continent will have a bloodbath." Bhutto was summoned to Rawalpindi by Yahya Khan.

RUSSIA BLAMES PAKISTAN
The Soviet Communist Party paper Pravda today blamed Pakistan for the escalation of tension in the Indian subcontinent which it feared might develop into military battle.

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

'Democratic erosion'

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The organisation made this classification based on 28 indicators across five broad topics, according to the report titled "Global State of Democracy Report 2021".

According to the indices, Bangladesh's lowest score was in the category of having an impartial administration. It also performed "low" in the categories of having a representative government, and having sufficient checks on the government. Bangladesh had mid-range performance in the categories of access to justice, civil society participation and having civil liberties. The country scored highly in "electoral participation".

The countries mentioned in the report were judged based

on whether or not they have a representative government. To come to conclusions in this regard, the organisation evaluated whether or not the country has clean elections, inclusive suffrage, free political parties and an elected government.

The organisation also evaluated whether there are sufficient checks on the government. They examined whether the parliament is effective and the judiciary is independent, and if there is media integrity.

To decide what type of democracy a country is, IDEA scrutinised whether the administration is impartial, whether there is sufficient civil society members and electoral participation, and what local

democracy is like.

The organisation also looked at whether the country has fundamental rights, which includes access to justice, practice of civil liberties, social rights and equality.

Bangladesh was mentioned in the report for its arrests and harassments of media workers.

"Governments' pandemic responses have sparked additional serious concerns about restrictions on the capacity of media to hold governments accountable," said the report.

In it, it was found that a greater number of countries are sliding towards authoritarianism, while the number of established democracies under threat has never been so high.

Europe faces Covid freeze

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encouraged by the far-right Freedom Party, the third biggest in parliament.

"It's like a luxury prison. It's definitely limited freedom and for me it's not great psychologically," said Sascha Iamkovyi, a 43-year-old entrepreneur in the food sector, describing his return to lockdown on a chilly, overcast day in an unusually quiet Vienna.

"People were promised that if they got vaccinated they would be able to lead a normal life, but now that's not true."

As Europe grapples with new Covid spikes, Australia announced yesterday it will re-open to foreign

students and skilled workers from next month, easing some of the world's most stringent pandemic travel restrictions.

Twenty months after Australia slammed shut its borders, some visa holders -- as well as Japanese and South Korean citizens -- will be able to enter from December 1, reports AFP.

"Australia is re-opening to the world," said Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews as she announced the news, adding it was "yet another step forward for Australia".

In Austria, the return of severe government restrictions had already brought about 40,000 protesters to Vienna's streets on

Saturday, and protests turned to violence in Brussels and across the Netherlands over the weekend.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia banned unvaccinated people from services including pubs from yesterday.

Around a third of Austrians are unvaccinated, one of the highest rates in western Europe, and authorities mainly blame the unvaccinated for the current Covid wave, though protection from vaccines given early this year is also waning. Inoculation greatly reduces the risk of serious illness or death, and reduces but does not prevent viral transmission or re-infection.

15m to get jobs

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disease. It can be good one day, and bad the next. Recently, we have been seeing the Covid-19 situation turning worse, after it was good for a while, in Europe."

To tackle any surge in transmission in the future, he urged doctors to remain prepared.

"We want to keep our country in a good condition [in terms of the pandemic situation]. So, you [doctors] have to always be prepared," he said, adding that his ministry is also working for to ensure it.

Maleque further said the process of appointing of 4,000 new doctors and 8,000 new nurses is underway.

"But we need more human resources for our enormous healthcare sector," he said, adding, "We have taken up a programme to appoint up to 20,000 healthcare assistants and medical technologists."

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Health Services reported two Covid-19 deaths and 264 new cases in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, with a positivity rate of 1.42 percent.

Bangladesh

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second and third deliveries following a dot off the first delivery.

All of a sudden, the crowd were on their feet and sensing a win. Iftikhar then stunned the hosts with a six as the equation came down to two off the last two balls.

Mahmudullah bought Bangladesh back in the game again by removing Iftikhar the next ball. More drama unfolded when Nawaz backed away at the very last moment off which was supposed to be the final delivery. However, Mahmudullah showed great sportsmanship and opted not to review that one before the next one was hoicked for the winning runs.

Despite the late drama, Bangladesh were always behind Pakistan, who were in a commanding position coming into chasing the target, with Mohammad Rizwan (40) and Haider Ali (45) adding 51 runs for the second wicket to lay the foundation.

Earlier, Bangladesh won the toss for the third time in three matches and went in with three changes, but the lack of intensity in their batting cost them dearly. Mohammad Naim top-scored with 47 off 50 balls while 22 from Shamim Hossain and 20 from Afif Hossain were never enough for posting a fighting total.

Despite scoring 33 for one in the Powerplay and at one stage being 80 for two after 14 overs, Bangladesh batters couldn't utilise the momentum in their favour as they added only 44 runs in the last six overs losing five wickets.

Erosion by Padma takes serious turn in Faridpur

Around 200 acres of arable land, portion of road devoured since mid-October

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

With decreasing water level in the Padma river, erosion has taken a serious turn at two villages under Decrirchar union in Sadar upazila, devouring fresh areas including a large portion of an important village road and vast arable land.

Local people said erosion by the Padma river is going on at Pauldangi and Taher Fakirdangi villages, stretching about one and a half kilometres areas under the union.

They said around 200 acres of arable land has already been devoured by the mighty river in the last couple of weeks.

Moreover, about 80-feet portion of the Paldangi road has been washed away by the river, villagers said, adding that more than 4,000 inhabitants of five villages use the road, which is their only means of communication to go the upazila and the district town.

During a visit to the two erosion-hit villages this correspondent saw vast arable lands, a boat terminal and portion of a brick-made road have been devoured by the swelling river.

The fresh erosion is also posing threat to some 20 houses, including 12 houses of an Ashrayan Project of the government.

Zakir Pramanik, 35, a resident of Taher Fakirerdangi village, said the erosion first

Faridpur WDB official said they have nothing to do as the two erosion-hit villages are located in char areas.

started in August, but it took serious turn and started devouring fresh areas since mid-October.

Zahid Pramanik, 33, of the same area said if the authorities concerned do not take any immediate step to check the erosion more croplands and dwelling houses will devour into the river.

Decrirchar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Mehedi Hasan said he urged the Water Development Board (WDB) to take necessary steps in this regard, but to no avail.

Faridpur WDB Executive Engineer Partha Protim Saha said they have nothing to do as the two erosion-hit villages are located in char areas, but WDB conducts its development works only on mainland.

Kazi Razaul Karim, chief scientific officer at Faridpur River Research Institute, said his institute can work to prevent the erosion in the affected areas, using bamboo bundle method, but they do not have funds to do the work.



The Padma river devours vast areas including dwelling houses at Taher Fakirerdangi village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Five hit by bullets in Munshiganj

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trio are followers of Afsar, the police official said.

Meanwhile, a heart patient, Abdul Haque Bepari, 48, of Khaskandi village, and also a supporter of Afsar, died at his home.

His wife Kalpana Begum alleged that supporters of rebel chairman candidate Akhtaruzzaman exploded four-five crude bombs and fired shots at their house. The house was also vandalised.

She said the attackers pinned her husband to the ground and strangled him.

Md Sohag, a physician at Munshiganj General Hospital's emergency department, said Abdul was brought to the hospital around 11:35pm on Sunday. No signs of serious injuries were found on his body. There were no strangulation marks either. The cause of the death could be known after autopsy, he added.

Sumon Dev, additional superintendent (administration and crime) of Munshiganj police, said if Abdul's relatives lodge any complaint, they will investigate it and take legal action.

Clapton guitar tops \$600,000

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sell for \$300,000 to \$500,000.

While outperforming expectations, the price came up well short of the record \$6 million that was paid in 2020 for the acoustic guitar that late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain strummed during a famous "MTV Unplugged" appearance in 1993.

The 76-year-old Englishman Clapton, a rock and blues legend, in recent years has made a very public turn to far-right conservatism, taking ardent stances against Covid-19 vaccination and lockdown measures and facing accusations of racism.

Winter can trigger

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to poor hygiene, keeping our scalp clean can prevent and manage it. People with oily scalp and those who go out in dust and pollution often, should apply shampoo more frequently than others.

Treatments:
1. Using anti-dandruff shampoo
2. Applying anti-fungal cream
3. Applying lemon juice on the affected area
4. Using baking soda which can remove excess dead skin cells and oil on the scalp
5. Taking zinc supplement as its

deficiency can be a potential contributing factor for dandruff

6. Managing stress
7. Using essential oils, like tea tree oil
Dandruff can develop on the eyebrows and eyelashes too. It is pretty common. Sometimes doctors prescribe children's anti-dandruff shampoo for treating the condition on these sensitive areas.

There are plenty of home remedies to try out also. But if your dandruff is unmanageable, seeing a dermatologist is recommended. Underlying skin conditions like eczema or psoriasis may be responsible too.

Acid attack on HSC examinee

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Locals rushed the injured to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka as her condition deteriorated, the police official added.

Police picked up Mahin from Natore on Sunday night.

Early yesterday, the victim's father filed a case with Natore Sadar Police Station accusing Mahin.

Later in the day, a Natore court sent the arrestee to jail after police produced him before it, said OC (investigation) Abu Sadat of the police station.

Meanwhile, Socialist Women's Front

formed a human chain in Old Bus Stand area of Natore town yesterday demanding punishment for acid attackers.

Dilruba Nuri, organising secretary of the platform, and Aleya Begum, president of Natore District Women's Forum, among others, spoke at the programme.

The speakers said the perpetrators of acid attack, rape and harassment of women are getting off the hook due to patronage by politicians.

Blaming the government for "culture of impunity", they said such crimes will increase if the rule of law is not established.