



THE FAULT IN OUR BRIDGES

Not repaired for over a year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A wooden bridge over the Navaganga river in Narail collapsed almost one and a half years ago, yet there has not been any initiative to repair it, causing suffering to thousands of residents in the area.

The wooden bridge under Lohagara municipality also does not have a connecting road. Before the collapse, town dwellers had to cross the bridge amid risk, and carrying goods across it was even more difficult.

After the collapse, the residents are going through massive struggles with their commute, as it is costing them extra time, money, and effort.

In 2006, Lohagara Municipality built the bridge to connect ward-1 and 8 under Kashipur union to facilitate movement of villagers across the river.

However, even a decade after the construction of the wooden bridge, the connecting road was not built, preventing residents from having the full benefit of the bridge.

Last June, the bridge collapsed at night after being hit by a dredger machine used in sand lifting, said Vishwanath Das, councillor of ward-1.

People, including students and office goers, now have to use alternative routes and travel five kilometres more to reach their destinations, said Shyam Sundar Pal of Kachubaria village.

The municipality authorities did not even come to see the damaged bridge, locals complained.

Mayor Syed Masiur Rahman of Lohagara Municipality said he is aware of the issue. However, he also said repairing the bridge is not in his consideration at the moment.

Contacted, Mashrafe Mortaza, lawmaker of the constituency (Narail-2), said they are considering building a permanent concrete bridge.



Inaccessible for lack of approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A bridge that the ministry of relief constructed in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila over 16 months ago remains unused due to the lack of a connecting road.

The 50-foot-long and 14-foot-wide bridge was constructed at a cost of Tk 68,68,703 in the Etapota Chararpar area of Moghalhat union in the upazila to make commuting easy for villagers from Etapota, Bangram, Chararpar, Kharua, and Bumka villages.

But without a connecting road, villagers are unable to transport goods across the bridge and have to cross it using wooden and bamboo makeshift structures.

The construction of the bridge was completed in May 2022, and as per an agreement with the contractor.

The contractor, Liton Islam has yet to hand the bridge over as the connecting road has not been constructed. Meanwhile, 80 percent of the bill has been paid to him, said sources.

Liton said the construction of the bridge's connecting road is being delayed due to flood and a shortage of soil, but they have a plan to bring soil from elsewhere and start the road's construction soon.

Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila PIO Mashiur Rahman said they will take legal action against the contractor if the connecting road is not completed by this month.

Damaged and neglected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A key bridge over Dhalai River, connecting Chaitraghat area with Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar, has long been in a dilapidated state and eventually collapsed on September 26.

The bridge connected to Moulvibazar Sadar through the Moulvibazar Shamshernagar-Chatlapur road, but the connection has been severed as the Roads and Highways Department moved to halt traffic movement on the bridge since September 26 afternoon, causing much suffering to thousands of commuters of Kamalganj, Kulaura, and Rajnagar upazilas.

Locals complained that due to constant sand lifting from the river by dredger machines, a pillar in the middle of the Dhalai bridge was leaning for around 15 days, making traffic movement on the bridge extremely risky, before it collapsed.

Kaishar Mia, a commuter on the route, said they have to travel several extra kilometres to reach Moulvibazar Sadar via Kalenga, using a dilapidated road.

Nurul Mohaimen Milton, general secretary of Environment Journalists' Forum, said the broken bridge has also had a negative impact on tourism in the district.

Zia Uddin, executive engineer of RHD in Moulvibazar, said they have taken steps for renovation work.

'Don't set up landfill in Sandwip colony' Locals urge authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Locals have urged the authorities concerned to refrain from setting up a landfill site for waste disposal at Fatehabad Sandwip Colony in Dakshin Pahartali under ward-1 of Chattogram.

They made the demand at a rally organised on Fatehabad City Corporation Degree College grounds yesterday afternoon.

CCC purchased five acres of land in the colony last month to set up a landfill while purchase of another 45 acres in the area was underway for the same purpose. According to CCC, at least 3,000 tonnes of waste is produced in the city's 41 wards daily.

Speakers at the rally said Sandwip Colony, located at the foot of the hill, has a scenic natural beauty with the Institute of Forestry and Environment of Chittagong University in the north, and the Chattogram Cantonment in the south.

Setting up a landfill site there will pollute the environment and jeopardise road communication to south Chattogram as waste is usually transported in open trucks, they said.

Former ward councillor Zafar Alam Chowdhury, CU Professor Ali Arshad Chowdhury and Ward-1 Awami League general secretary Tanveer Ahmed were present at the event.

DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD Shaathi, Gold Kinen hold art competition

STAR REPORT

Shaathi, a social organisation, in collaboration with Gold Kinen Technologies organised an art competition for 50 students of JAAGO Foundation School in Karail yesterday.

The International Day of the Girl Child Art Competition showcased the creative talents of young girls and served as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and girls' empowerment, said a press release.

Six young artists were awarded certificates and gift hampers at the competition.

Port city gears up

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Brothers Lane, Hazari Lane, Pathorghata and Nalpara areas.

According to artisans, the task begins with the construction of a body-shaped structure with bamboo and straws. Once done, clay is applied on the structure and polished to give it the shape before it is left for drying. Once dry, the process of painting and decorating the idols begin.

This year, Durga Puja will be celebrated in over 2,000 mandaps in the district, including 278 mandaps in the city alone, said Shyamal Kumar Palit, president of Chattogram District Puja Uddipan Committee.

Meanwhile, CMP Commissioner Krishna Pada Roy, in a press briefing, said four-tier security measures would be taken in the city during the puja to thwart any untoward situation.



VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- NPO (Water, Sanitation, Health, and Environment) / Fixed term
- Driver / Fixed term

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>

<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

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Delwar, who used to live adjacent to their house. Mosharrif first shared his robbery plan with Delwar.

Mosharrif knew that his brother's business finances were often managed by his grandson Nayan. On the day of the incident, he contacted SI Delwar to inform him that Nayan would be heading to Janata Bank in Motijheel with some money, although he

Man robs brother

was unaware of the exact amount involved.

Subsequently, SI Delwar, along with constable Sayem, driver Baten, and another individual named Hanif, carried out the robbery.

Meanwhile, Baten said Hanif called him a day before the incident, saying SI Delwar would carry out a raid and needed a vehicle.

He said SI Delwar provided him with Tk 50,000 for this.

7, houses restaurants, offices, buying houses, and shops for digital devices and accessories. There was a restaurant named Cafe Rio on the eighth floor.

Everything in the restaurant was burned to

ashes, said the restaurant manager, Akram Hossain Tito.

The building authorities were notified multiple times regarding the lack of fire safety measures, but they did not pay heed to it, said fire official Tajul.

PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Description	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time
884564	Procurement of Training and Recording Equipment (1 Set Conference System, 3 Nos. Online UPS, 2 Nos. Portable Loudspeaker and 1 Set DVR for CCTV Camera with accessories) under RMTD of PKSF	11-10-2023 & 12:30 PM	02-11-2023 & 12:30 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A.T.M. Hemayet-Ur-Rahman
Deputy General Manager (Admin)

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In a broader context, Bangladesh is actively working to expand its overseas labour market in Europe, aiming to reduce its reliance on the main labour markets in the Middle East, says the report.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Warbe Development Foundation, said the rise in workers' outflow to smaller markets is positive for the sector.

However, workers are heading to smaller markets mainly through government arrangements, he said, adding, private recruiting agencies should be involved in the process to increase outflow.

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