



Carrying locally-made fish traps on his shoulders, Sumon Biswas heads out to a nearby market to sell those. He sells these traps to fishers for Tk 100-200 each, depending on size, and makes around Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 per month. The photo was taken in Jhalakathi recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

14KM BAJUA-PODDERGANJ ROAD

Unpaved for 50 years

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

The 14 kilometre-long Bajua-Podderganj road of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Khulna's Dacope upazila has been connecting around 8,000 people across several villages in the upazila for around half a century.

Surprisingly, throughout this long time, the road has remained unpaved, with no step to improve it from its earthen condition.

As such, every monsoon, the entire 14-km stretch of the road turns into a muddy ordeal, leaving the people with a harrowing time using the road for commute.

This monsoon, the scenario is no different than it has been in the past 50 years.

The local residents could hardly find answer to the question why the road has not received any attention from public representatives or government agencies over this time.

"There is no alternative to this earthen road for going to my college. When it rains, the road becomes covered by deep mud. No vehicles can ply the road in that condition, and we have to walk through the mud for our commute. It needs urgent renovation," said Imran Sheikh, a student of Bajua Surendranath College and a local resident.

Sakhina Begum of Bhangapara village said elderly people seldom use the road in the monsoon as it becomes very risky.

"To make the matter worse, the social forestry department planted thousands of trees with sharp thorns along this road. As a result,



if one is careless while walking on this muddy road, he might slip and hit a tree, eventually getting injured," Saidul Sheikh of Pashorder Chunkuri village.

"Taking patients to hospital using the road becomes an arduous task," he added.

Mizanur Mirza, local union parishad member of Ward-4, said around 8,000 residents of at least eight villages have been suffering for the road over the years.

"Students of three primary schools, two high schools and two colleges use this road. Often, the younger ones have to skip school as they cannot use the road after it rains. Also, after evening, hardly anyone uses the road to avoid mishaps in darkness," he said.

"Locals complain to me about the road almost every day. However, our

budget from the union parishad is too small to work on the road. Also, Local Government Engineering Department has been very reluctant about doing development work in this upazila. Many other roads in my union are also lying unpaved," said Manosh Roy, chairman of Bajua union parishad.

"I heard that a Tk 798 crore project is awaiting approval of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council, which might solve the problem if approved," he added.

Contacted, M Zahangir Alom, upazila engineer of LGED in Dacope upazila, said they sent a proposal to the higher authorities for renovating 3-km portion of the road with bricks.

"We will start the work after receiving DO letter from the local lawmaker," he added.

ACC sues Sadeeq Agro owner, livestock dept officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against seven people, including Sadeeq Agro owner Imran Hossain and livestock department officials, on charges of irregularities and corruption.

ACC Assistant Director Abul Kalam Azad filed the case with the ACC's Dhaka-1 integrated office, said ACC Public Relations Officer Akhtarul Islam.

Apart from Imran, the six other accused are – Livestock Department's Director (Production) ABM Khaleduzzaman; its Deputy Director ABM Salah Uddin; Central Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm Director Md Monirul Islam; its Buyer Officer Saiful Islam; Upazila Livestock Officer (Leave Reserve) Firoz Ahmed Khan; and Sadeeq Agro's Toudhidul Alam Zenith.

"After a preliminary investigation into Sadeeq Agro's scandal involving American Brahma breed cattle, the ACC has filed the case," said Abul Kalam Azad while talking to reporters.

Confiscate more properties of Matiur, family: court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate more moveable and immovable properties of Matiur Rahman, former National Board of Revenue official, and his family members in connection with corruption allegations against them.

The other family members are Matiur's wife Laila Kaniz Lucky, also upazila parishad chairman of Narsingdi's Raipura, their son Ahmed Taufiqur Rahman, and daughter Farzana Rahman Ipshita, and Matiur's second wife Shammii Akhter Shewly and one of their close relatives MA Kaiyum.

Judge Mohammad Ash Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Md Anwar Hossain, also the enquiry officer applied to the court in this regard.

In the application, the ACC official said Matiur and his family members were attempting to transfer the properties and to launder the money. So, an order was needed to prevent them from making such attempts, said the IO.

The immovable properties are a total of 137.28 decimals in Gazipur's Tongi and a flat (8,070 square feet

total) located in Dhaka's Basundhara residential area.

They also opened 19 beneficiary owner's (BO) accounts of different brokerage houses.

ACC public prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the application on behalf of the watchdog.

Earlier on July 11, the same court ordered confiscation of all moveable and immovable properties of Matiur and his family members.

The immovable properties are a total of 2,212.35 decimals in Dhaka's Savar, Mymensingh's Valuka, Gazipur, Natore's Singra and Narsingdi's Shibpur, and four flats (7,248 square feet total) located in Dhaka's Mirpur.

The moveable properties are Tk 13,44,36,471 deposited at 116 bank accounts in the country.

However, the court also ordered to freeze of all 116 bank accounts.

They also opened 23 beneficiary owner's (BO) accounts of different brokerage houses.

On June 24, the same court issued a travel ban on Matiur Rahman, Laila and Arnob in connection with corruption allegations against them.

Earlier, the ACC formed a three-member committee to enquire into the allegations brought against them over amassing a huge amount of wealth through illegal means.



TK 9.30 LAKH BRIBERY CASE

Bail of 2 HC Division staffers cancelled

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two days after granting the bail, a Dhaka court yesterday cancelled bail of two High Court Division employees, who were arrested for their alleged involvement with taking Tk 9.30 lakh as bribe in a judge's name.

The employees are Md Abdur Rashid, a peon of the HC Division bench, and Md Hafizur Rahman, a peon of the Supreme Court registrar general office.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sultan Sohag Uddin issued the order after Rajib Sheikh, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station and also the

investigation officer of the case, on July 14 submitted an application for cancelling their bail in the case.

In the application, SI Rajib said the two will need to be taken into custody for quizzing about the issue. So their bail should be cancelled, said the IO.

On July 12, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tarikul Islam granted them bail after they were produced before the court with a forwarding report.

In the forwarding report, the IO said both were directly involved in taking bribes in the name of a judge for acquitting death-row convicts in a murder case, which are serious

offences. So they need to be confined to jail until the investigation is completed.

But the magistrate turned down the prosecution pleas and granted them bail, considering the depth of the offences brought against them in the case.

The bail order had created a mixed reaction among people, litigants, and lawyers.

According to the case statement, it was alleged that the two allegedly took Tk 9.30 lakh in bribes from the people of death-row convicts in a murder case, in front of the court No-21 of the Supreme Court's main building around 5:00pm on July 10.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
Secondary and Higher Education Division
International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.imli.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.26.0000.114.23.001.22-499
Date: 16th July 2024

Application/proposal for International Mother Language Award 2025

Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chief Patron of the Institute would kindly present the "International Mother Language National Award 2025" and "International Mother Language International Award 2025" on the Glorious Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2025.

- Following the instructions of International Mother Language Award Guidelines notified (Memo No. 37.00.0000.082.22.005.16.1551; Date: 24 Dec 2019) with the approval of Secondary and Higher Education Division under Ministry of Education, applications or proposals from foreign nationals or institutions/agencies are being invited for "International Mother Language International Award 2025". Applications/proposals shall be sent in prescribed format for 2 (Two) awards in international category. Applicants are requested to download the prescribed formats in the appendices A/B and of the notification for International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019 available on the website: www.imli.gov.bd
- Application/proposal would be processed in the light of Articles 7.0 (Eligibility for receiving the award) and 8.0 (Instructions for processing the applications or proposals) of the aforesaid "International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019". Three hard copies of applications or proposals would be sent to the Director International Mother Language Institute, either by hand or by post or by courier service, within 15 September, 2024. The application/proposal must reach the office on or before 15th September 2024 during Bangladesh office time (office time: 09:00am to 05:00pm). Right at the time of sending the hard copies, soft copy of the same would also be sent to the email address: imli.moebd@gmail.com and cc to imliaward2025@gmail.com

It is to be noted that the performance of the prospective awardee up to December 2024 and in special cases the total contributions of the awardee or institution would be taken into consideration.

- For sending documents by post:
Director
International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani
1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
- Value of Award
An 18 (eighteen) carat Gold Medal of 35 (thirty-five) grams along with a Certificate of Appreciation and USD Dollar equivalent to taka Four Lakhs would be conferred as awards.
- Eligibility for the award
 - Contributions towards the protection, promotion and revitalization of mother languages;
 - Specially proven contributions towards the practice and culture of mother language (Published standard books would be submitted as evidence);
 - Special contributions towards the research of mother language;
 - Special contributions towards the innovation of digital technology with regard to the preservation, protection and revitalization of mother language;
 - Special contributions towards the publicity and spread of mother language and foreign language in the world;
 - Special contributions in the translation of literary works written in mother language and in the translation of original books on other discipline/subjects (Published standard books would be submitted as evidence);
 - Special contributions in the translation of books written in foreign language as well as in translation of books on other subjects into Bengali (Published standard books would be submitted as evidence).
- Instructions to be followed for processing the applications or proposals
 - Three (03) copies of application or proposal filled in duly in prescribed format (available in the appendices A/B of International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019) shall be sent to the Director, International Mother Language Institute, either by hand or by post or by courier service, within the specified time stated above. Soft copy of the same shall also be sent to the email address imli.moebd@gmail.com with a copy to imliaward2025@gmail.com
 - Applications or Proposals shall be 'rejected' in case of providing any false or incomplete information or indistinct/vague statement in the application/proposal, as well as due to the failure of properly enclosing the certificates/testimonials;
 - Conferment of International Mother Language Award in any category (National and International) shall remain 'postponed' for the concerned year unless the competent person/institution is found;
 - The same person or institution/agency shall not be eligible for 'International Mother Language Award' for the second time;
 - This award shall not be conferred posthumously. In case of the death of the person after being nominated for the award, the selected successor among the heirs or heiresses, upon the submission of succession certificate duly countersigned either by Deputy Commissioner or by Ambassador/High Commissioner, or having no heirs or heiresses an appropriate person would receive the award on his/her behalf.
- This notification would be available on the following websites. For unavoidable circumstances, in case of any correction of the notification particular portion shall be uploaded on the following websites.

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