

Locals suffer for collapsed bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Bailey bridge constructed by the Roads and Highways Department over Charalgi Canal in Ishwarganj upazila, Mymensingh, collapsed on August 21 after heavy rains eroded the soil from its base.

Locals reported that the bridge's base had already become vulnerable due to the prolonged use of heavy vehicles, including truckloads of goods, amid insufficient monitoring.

The bridge, which connected Uchakhila-Bottola Balurghat Road with Mymensingh district headquarters and Dhaka, was vital for approximately 30,000 people from Uchakhila, Moricharchar, Charalgi, Taan Molamari,

that alternate routes are both time-consuming and costly.

The suspension of the bridge has also affected around 500 battery-run and CNG-run auto-rickshaws that used to transport passengers daily.

The closure has caused further difficulties for students at educational institutions on both sides of the bridge.

Abul Hashem from Boroikandi village reported that students are forced to use the bamboo bridge, which poses safety risks.

Mumtaz Begum, a ninth-grader from Maizpara village, expressed hope for a swift repair of the Bailey bridge, emphasising that while the bamboo bridge is a temporary solution, a permanent fix is essential.



Nama Molamari, Boroikandi, Maizpara, and Mathpara villages.

Following the collapse, local authorities constructed a temporary bamboo bridge to allow pedestrians to cross the canal. However, vehicular movement remains suspended, causing significant inconvenience for commuters travelling to Mymensingh and Dhaka.

Amjad Ali, a farmer from Charalgi village, highlighted the bridge's impact on local agriculture.

Farmers, who transport large quantities of vegetables to markets in Mymensingh and Dhaka, are now struggling due to the bridge's closure. Sulaiman Mia, another farmer, noted

Sarmina Sattar, the upazila nirbahi officer of Ishwarganj, confirmed that the bamboo bridge is a temporary measure and that repairing the Bailey bridge will take time.

Md Anwarul Hasan Khan Selim, chairman of Uchakhila union parishad, said the RHD had constructed the Bailey bridge last year after heavy rains damaged a culvert previously installed by the Local Government Engineering Department.

KBM Saddam Hossain, executive engineer of RHD in Mymensingh, said a report has been sent to the relevant ministry requesting immediate repairs to the Bailey bridge to alleviate public sufferings.

Three teams emerge

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sustainable agriculture by automating tasks such as sowing seeds, planting, spraying fertilisers, and weeding, while also gathering crucial data on pH levels, temperature, sunlight, and more.

Team Unanimous was recognised for addressing severe waterlogging issues with concrete pavements that allow water to pass through, while Team Swaccha was awarded for proposing a biodegradable toothbrush aimed at reducing plastic use and pollution. The winning teams received crests and cheques of Tk 50,000, while the other finalists received certifications.

Each team pitched their ideas to a jury panel that included Anowarul Amin, director of public affairs, communications, and sustainability at Coca-Cola Bangladesh Beverages; Cezanne Mujibul Hasan, country director of Swisscontact Bangladesh; Galib Bin Mohammad, CMO and senior executive director at Walton; Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, chief legal officer and company secretary at Banglalink Digital Communications Ltd; and Nazmul Ahsan, manager of young people at ActionAid Bangladesh.

Ibrahim Al-Zayad, chair of the executive board at ActionAid International Bangladesh Society, announced plans to develop a "museum of ideas" where the 147 unimplemented concepts could be revisited and advanced by others.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, emphasised in her welcome speech that while many new and innovative ideas emerge

from youth competitions each year, they often fade due to a lack of proper funding and promotion. She urged the corporate sector and media to provide the necessary support to sustain and promote these ideas.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, congratulated all participating teams, emphasising on the large number of entries.

He criticised the government's negligence on climate change, warning that once tipping points are reached, there's no turning back.

"These innovative ideas can bring change, and we will work to bring them more into the public eye," he said of the solutions provided by the 156 participating teams.

Dhaka submits

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"The instrument has been deposited on a very special day, on August 30, which is observed globally as the International Day for Victims of Enforced Disappearance. Our action today manifests our solidarity to the countless victims who have been subjected to such heinous crimes and their families," added Ambassador Muhith while handing over the instrument to the UN.

With the handover of the Instrument of Accession, Bangladesh has now completed all procedures for becoming the 76th party to ICCPED.

According to the provision of the convention, it will enter into force for Bangladesh on September 29, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession.



The participants with guests at a programme marking the 17th Scholarship Awarding Ceremony of the Education Support Programme initiated by Prime Bank Foundation, at Golf Garden, Army Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Foundation, was present as the chief guest and Rasheda K Chowdhury, member, advisory committee, Education Support Programme, was the special guest. Among others, Tanjil Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank PLC; Hassan O Rashid, CEO of Prime Bank PLC; and Maj Gen (retd) Dr Md Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury, CEO of Prime Bank Foundation, attended the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

1.94 lakh sued in 268 Address

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organisations, carried out barbaric attacks on students to suppress the movement.

As the number of casualties continued to increase, government vehicles and property were vandalised and set on fire, to divert attention from the deaths, the rights body said, adding that the victims were accused for such arson and attacks.

The MSF said after the arrest of an accused, it is the responsibility of the members of the law enforcement agencies to protect them, but they are failing to do their responsibility.

Mentioning the attacks on Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, former law minister Anisul Huq and some other accused in the courts, the MSF said such behaviour is undesirable in the courtroom.

In August, at least 204 people were victims of 23 incidents of political violence. Nine of them were killed and 195 were injured. Of the 23 incidents of violence, 12 were due to infighting in BNP, 9 between AL and BNP, one in AL infighting, and one

between Jamaat and BNP. Among the dead, five were BNP and three were AL activists.

The rights body said at least eight cases including three with murder charges were filed against journalists after August 5.

Of the accused, former head of news of Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa have been arrested so far.

Mozammel Haque Babu, managing director and editor-in-chief of Ekattor TV; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, former chief news editor (CNE) of Ekattor TV; Ahmed Jobaer, a director of Somo TV; Munni Saha, former CNE of ATN News; and Nayeemul Islam Khan, the former PM's press secretary, are among the other accused. MSF said the way journalists are being prevented from performing their professional duties is not only undesirable but also an attack on transparency, democracy, freedom of speech, and media freedom, as well as suppressing the voice of objective and honest journalism.

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to various positions within departments or directorates of other cadres.

The council also proposed that events at the upazila, district, and divisional levels should be presided over by representatives from the organising institution to improve the focus on development and monitoring activities.

They also called for granting cadres the authority to conduct mobile courts within their jurisdictions and for the reorganisation of administrative positions to address current inefficiencies.

The council also urged the interim government to take appropriate measures to address these disparities and promote a more people friendly and efficient governance system.

Among others, Mohammad Omar Faruque Dewan, a senior information officer, and ASM Zahid, additional director general (news) of Bangladesh Betar, were present at the programme.

Staff bring accusations of graft

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training has been provided to the children for over three years.

Additionally, there is no effort to reunite the children with their families, essentially keeping them detained unlawfully.

"We have two students who completed their 8th grade this year, but the authorities did not enroll them in school," said Rima Khatun, a teacher providing non-formal education at the Kamlapur centre. "What's the point of educating them if they have to drop out after class 8?" she asked.

Concerns have also been raised about the insufficient provision of essential hygiene supplies.

The accountant reportedly pressures workers to distribute fewer supplies than needed, compromising the children's health and hygiene, the letter mentioned.

"For example, last month, when the toothpaste ran out, the children used sand from the broken floor to brush their teeth, leading to infections. There was also no water supply for almost a month in July, and the children had to use towels to clean bodily waste,"

Rima added.

Furthermore, the rehabilitation centres and outreach schools, which require urgent repairs and maintenance, are reportedly being neglected by the authorities.

"Most of the bathrooms don't even have doors. The fans are not functioning, forcing the children to endure unbearable heat," said Rima.

There are also allegations of severe financial mismanagement, including the embezzlement of funds meant for employee salaries and the manipulation of purchases through a syndicate.

According to the employees, bills processed are subjected to arbitrary surcharges under the pretext of VAT/tax, and the accountant refuses to explain these deductions.

They also alleged nepotism, particularly concerning the appointment of Afroza Akhtar as the manager of the Karwan Bazar Rehabilitation Centre.

"She lacks relevant experience and qualifications but was appointed due to her connections with the former project director Rezaul Kabir," said Ratna. The letter also included

employees facing verbal abuse and threats of dismissal if they protest against these irregularities.

"At least 16 staff members have signed the letter, and as a result, we have been threatened with violence by the quota reform coordinators for raising our concerns," claimed Rima.

The employees called for adequate medical and educational services, proper maintenance of facilities, transparency in fund allocation, an end to all forms of financial irregularities and corruption, and the elimination of nepotism.

They also demanded the prompt removal of the accountant and other individuals involved in corrupt practices.

Md Mahbubur Rahman Bhuiyan, the project director, said he has already met with the employees to address their concerns.

He mentioned that he took charge on July 15 and will now focus on budget utilisation and necessary arrangements.

On the treatment issue, he explained that due to a lack of funds, employees must initially cover treatment costs themselves and submit bills for reimbursement.

Reform constitution

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Akram Hussain, a Dhaka University student and member of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement's liaison committee, proposed that a political party or alliance should only form a government if it secures at least 51 percent of the vote.

Mehedi Sajib, a co-coordinator of the quota reform movement from Rajshahi University, suggested that the constitution should be made more accessible to help people understand their rights and powers.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, underscored the need for both political and constitutional reforms.

He said one of the major reasons for the downfall of Sheikh Hasina is her arrogance.

He thanked students

who were involved in the mass uprising, and said, "You have brought about a great revolution. Let there be no arrogance among you. Humility should be embedded in your character. The nation will always salute you for your contribution."

The discussion, conducted by The Daily Star journalist Imran Mahfuz, also featured contributions from Jahangirnagar University's Prof Shamima Sultana, Prof Mohammad Golam Rabbani, student Maliha Mannan, and academics and students from various institutions including Jagannath University, Prime Asia University, Dhaka College, Rajshahi Medical College, Darun Najat Madrasa, Independent University, United International University, BRAC University, and North South University.

Death anniv

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Juktofront. She played an active role in the six-point movement in 1966 and the mass movement of 1968-69. She won the 1970 election as a candidate of Awami League.

In independent Bangladesh, she was appointed in 1972 as state minister for health and social welfare.

Nurjahan died in Dhaka on September 1, 2003.

She played a significant role in different democratic movements. She was amongst a very small number of Muslim women who entered higher education and obtained her Master's degree in History from Calcutta University in the mid 1940s.

Grabbers erase last

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Contacted, Waheed denied the allegations, claiming the structures collapsed due to recent heavy rains. He stated that he had informed Jitu Mia, a local union parishad member, about the incident.

However, Jitu Mia contradicted Waheed's

claim, saying although the structures were old, they were not on the verge of collapse.

Prabhangshu Shom Mohan, the acting deputy commissioner and district magistrate of Habiganj, assured that legal action will be taken regarding the matter.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
Khaliajuri, Netrakona
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7238.000.99.99.24.253 Date: 29/08/2024

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice: 01/2024-25 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender publication date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing and opening date & time
01	770309	e-Tender/PEDP4/NET/KHA/2022-2023/W14-01778	Construction of Boundary Wall including Gate of Ichhapur Govt. Primary School, Khaliajuri, Netrakona	29-08-2024 1.00pm	23-09-2024 17:00pm	24-09-2024 14:00pm
02	929894	e-Tender/PEDP4/NET/KHA/2022-2023/W17-01365	Major maintenance of Mrittonjoy Permoda, Krishnapur Com Pry & Khaliajuri Model GPS under PEDP4	29-08-2024 1.00pm	23-09-2024 17:00pm	24-09-2024 14:00pm
03	929895	e-Tender/PEDP4/NET/KHA/2022-2023/W2-05296	Construction of additional classroom Najipur GPS under PEDP4	29-08-2024 1.00pm	23-09-2024 17:00pm	24-09-2024 14:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System 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 bank branches up to 24-September-2024, 13:00pm.

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GD- 302

UTTARA BANK PLC.
PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT,
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for **Consultancy, Implementation and Recertification of Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) for Card Operation of Uttara Bank PLC. for next 3 (Three) years.** Please visit www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.

General Manager

Eastern Bank PLC.
HEAD OFFICE, 100 GULSHAN AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

TENDER NOTICE

Eastern Bank PLC. (EBL) invites sealed bids from bona fide/eligible suppliers for the following services/items:

Lot 1: Laptop and Desktop Computers
Lot 2: MS SQL Database Server Licenses
Lot 3: Enterprise Agreement renewal/equivalent subscription-based Microsoft licenses
Lot 4: Microsoft Product Licenses (MS Office, Windows Server CAL, Exchange Server CAL)

Interested bidders are requested to collect the RFP document electronically by sending an email from their official email address to bidit@ebi-bd.com mentioning lot & item names, name of the company and the authorized contact person, mailing address, telephone & mobile phone numbers on or before Thursday, 5 September 2024. Queries to be mailed by Tuesday, 10 September 2024.

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document must be submitted in two separate envelopes, clearly marking 'Technical' and 'Financial' offers on the envelopes to the Office of the Chairman, Purchase Committee, Head Office, Eastern Bank PLC., 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212 on or before Thursday, 12 September 2024.

Tenderers are allowed to bid for all lots or any lot separately. Any bid not submitted separately against each lot will be rejected. However, common documents need not to be submitted for multiple lots, submission with one lot is enough.