

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,



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, 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

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.

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.

Staff bring accusations of graft

FROM PAGE 3
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 Akhter 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 Rima. 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.

Three teams emerge

FROM PAGE 3

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 Bangalink 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

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

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 attack 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

</