



BURI BHAIRAB RIVER

Crumbling bridge puts 50,000 lives at risk

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY,
from Narail

A wooden bridge over the Buri Bhairab River remains the only route for around 50,000 people commuting between the Afra area of Narail Sadar upazila and the Basundia area of Jashore Sadar upazila.

Built with wooden planks laid across two iron and 14 concrete pillars, the bridge is now in a severe state of disrepair.

Thousands of commuters from 16 villages in the two neighbouring upazilas continue to suffer daily while crossing the dangerously fragile structure.

A recent visit revealed that parts of the wooden planks have collapsed into the river, leaving large gaps. The absence of any guard railings on either side makes the bridge highly risky for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Warning signs at both ends of

the bridge prohibit motorcycles, loaded vans, trolleys, and nasimons. However, in the absence of any alternative route, these restrictions are often ignored.

Rahman Sheikh, a local, was seen pushing his motorcycle across. "You can't ride a bike across the bridge; it has to be pushed amid risk. When one bike is already on the bridge, another has to wait. If both go at once, they might fall into the river," he said.

Residents said eight villages in Sheikhatti union under Narail Sadar and another eight in Basundia union under Jashore Sadar rely on this bridge for their daily commute.

Previously, boats were the only means to cross the river, which posed serious risks, especially for students and workers. In 2012, locals built the bamboo and wooden bridge, about 100 metres long and 10 feet wide, with multiple repairs carried out since.

"The condition has become so dire now that a fatal accident could happen any time. Around 1,500 people cross it daily out of necessity," said Akkas Ali, another resident.

Joydeb Biswas, local fisherman, said, "Loaded vans can't cross the broken bridge. I have to carry fish in a basket on my head to the other side."

Bulbul Ahmed, former chairman of Sheikhatti Union Parishad, said a permanent bridge would greatly improve connectivity in the area.

Contacted, Biswajit Kumar Kundu, executive engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department in Narail, said a new bridge will be constructed under the Narail District Infrastructure Development Project.

"The project's survey work has been completed, and the design is currently in progress. Once the design is finalised, we will float a tender," he added.

Commission

FROM PAGE 3

EMERGENCY HEALTH FUND

The commission also proposed an Emergency Health Fund to allow rapid, coordinated and well-financed responses to any future pandemics or public health emergencies.

This fund would be automatically activated once a predefined risk threshold is crossed, enabling quick release of necessary funds.

Like the other funds, it would be jointly overseen by the health and finance ministries.

The commission cited examples from Vietnam and the African Union, stating that the government must establish such a fund to improve response times during public health crises, reduce deaths and economic losses, and boost the health sector's long-term financial and risk resilience.

DMP bans

FROM PAGE 3

Tribunals 1 and 2, and the area in front of the Judicial Administration Training Institute.

The move comes as students, teachers, and other stakeholders of Jagannath University, under the banner of Jagannath University Oikyo, continued their blockade for the second consecutive day at the Kakrai mosque intersection -- just steps away from the chief justice's residence -- pressing home a four-point demand.

They have vowed to continue their sit-in until the government gives a clear and official response.

Earlier, on May 9, the DMP banned public gatherings, processions, and rallies near the Secretariat, the chief adviser's official residence at the state guest house Jamuna, Kakrai mosque intersection, and nearby areas.

Previously, on March 13 this year, and on August 25 and 29 last year, similar restrictions were imposed around the Secretariat and the chief adviser's residence.

Despite these bans, multiple gatherings have continued to take place in these areas, according to

50 progressive groups extend

FROM PAGE 3

their pivotal involvement. "Women have been systematically sidelined. We are protesting this exclusion and broader discrimination," said Shima.

She added that patriarchal forces are exploiting weak institutions while capitalism commodifies women and denies them social and economic security.

Citing attacks on sex workers last August, Shima alleged government failure to protect them from mob violence. She said women have repeatedly faced assault--including disruption of girls' football matches, harassment for smoking, forced religious conversions, and sexual violence against women and girls from ethnic communities.

"Instead of protecting the victims, the government is sheltering perpetrators," she alleged. Legal action came only

when social media outrage forced attention, she added.

Mushrefa Mishu, president of Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, said certain groups are misusing religion to justify women's oppression. "We will gather on Manik Mia Avenue to demand our rights," she said.

The 50 supporting organisations include:

Bangladesh Student Union, Democratic Student Council, Biplobi Chhatro Moitri, Samajtantrik Chhatro Front, Hill Women's Federation, TSU, CPB Women's Cell, Nari Mukti Kendra, Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, Biplobi Nari Forum, Garments Shromik Mukti Andolon, Bangladesh Garments Sramik Textile Federation, Biplobi, Udiichi, Charon Sanskritik Kendra, Adivasi Union, Cha Shramik Dosh Dofa Bastobayan Committee, Bostibashi Union, Samajtantrik

Mohila Forum, Garments Workers' Union, SPACE - A Foundation for Peace and Care, Doctors' Platform for People's Health, Bangladesh Hawkers' Union, Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra, Shaheed Asad Parishad, Ganosangskriti Kendra, Sanghoti Sanskritik Sangshad, Ronesh Dashgupta Film Society, Women Resource Network (CHT), Biggan Andolon Manch, Bangladesh Theatre, Bangladesh Nari Andolon, Dhaka Drama, Samaj Anushilon Kendra, Progoti Lekhok Sangha, Samaj Chinta Forum, Madol, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani Parishad, Bibortob, Bibortob, Natyagosthi, Songjogar, Dhaboman, Shramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad, Rickshaw Van Easy Bike Workers' Union, Biggan Charcha Kendra, Health Service Forum, Biplobi Nari Mukti, Jonobashya, Biplobi Chhatra Andolon, and Bonhi Shikha.

Patchwork protections fail

FROM PAGE 3

stretches between Muradpur and Bahaddarhat, remain dangerously open and unprotected. The situation is similar on the Muradpur to Sholashahar road as well.

AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF TRAGEDIES

The port city bears a grim tally of at least 10 lives lost to its open drains and unprotected canals since 2017 in a recurring tragedy that intensifies with each monsoon.

Vegetable trader Saleh Ahmed, 50, slipped into the Muradpur Canal's swift current on August 25, 2021, following heavy rain, never to be found despite days of frantic searching by fire service divers.

The same year, on September 27, university student Seherin Mahbub Sadia met a similar fate, falling into an open drain in the Agrabad area.

The pattern repeated on April 18 this year, when six-month-old Sehrish drowned into the Hizra Khal at Kapasgola. Her

body was recovered after a heart-breaking 14-hour search.

Residents stressed that waterlogging during the monsoon heightens the risk of such incidents.

Aiyub Ali, a resident of Bahaddarhat, said, "During monsoon, the roads and drains become indistinguishable for people, and accidents become inevitable."

REPEATED SURVEYS, NO RESULT

Following Seherin's tragic death in 2021, the CCC conducted a survey in October of the same year, identifying a network of death traps".

According to CCC sources, a list of risky drains and canals in the city was compiled afterwards, which included a total of 57 canals (161km) and 765km of drains.

Of this, 19.23km of canal banks were without safety fences, while there were open drains in 5,527 places.

Yet, three and a half years later, comprehensive protection remains elusive.

ACCC-CDA coordination meeting on combating waterlogging was held in 2022, where the two organisations emphasised the construction of safety fences on the banks of canals and drains to prevent accidents.

However, little tangible progress was made three years on.

Meanwhile, the cycle of accidents continued: Md Kamal (2022), Yasin Arafat (2023), and Saidul Islam (2024).

Contacted, CCC Mayor Shahadat Hossain said the CDA is working on 36 canals, while the CCC is handling one canal.

"The projects are progressing rapidly, and we hope to soon install safety barriers along the canals," he added.

"Since the monsoon is coming, temporary protective fences will be provided with bamboo for now. Slabs will be installed over drains as per the survey report," said CCC Chief Engineer Anisur Rahman Sohel.

Sadeq Khan's death anniversary today

CITY DESK

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Sadeq Khan, a Language Movement hero, freedom fighter and senior journalist, said a press release.



Born on January 1, 1933, he passed away at the age of 84. Sadeq Khan was the eldest son of late Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan.

He was an active worker of the then communist party. He was a writer, researcher, and filmmaker. He was also a well-known art critic.

Columnist Sadeq Khan was the contributing editor at Weekly Holiday and chairman of the Gonoshashta Kendra Trust.

Khan was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2002.

Sadeq Khan was the director and producer of a pioneer Bangla art film, "Nodi O Nari". He was also the chairman of the Press Institute of Bangladesh.

DU VC works

FROM PAGE 3

was stabbed to death near Suhrawardy Udyan on Tuesday.

Rizvi claimed that the VC, Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, became irritated and angry when JCD leaders approached him to demand justice for Shammo on the night of the killing.

"You [VC] became irritated, angry, and even addressed them disrespectfully. Why? Just because Shammo was from Chhatra Dal? We already know your political philosophy."

"You and the proctor are both working to implement a particular ideology. The current interim government has appointed such VCs to several universities who are doing this. Their intention is simply to implement the philosophy and ideology they believe in."

"But when he is the head of an administration, he is a teacher, and to him, every student and every student organisation should be treated with equal respect."

He should talk to everyone to maintain peace on campus. But if he becomes rigid, if he starts working to establish his own ideology, then the university will never be peaceful..."

He also said Shammo was killed after he made his position clear over the ongoing debate over the national anthem.

"There was a movement in Shahbagh to ban the national anthem, and Shammo made a Facebook post supporting the anthem. Is that why he was killed?" Rizvi asked.

He said Shammo's killing reminded him of the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad. "Who are the political enemies involved in Shammo's murder? We're getting some hints," he added.

Rizvi also criticised the interim government, saying, "You warmly receive NCP leaders, but you charge batons and throw sound grenades at Jagannath University students when they ask for dormitories."

B-R Powergen Ltd.

(A Government Owned Power Generation Company)
IEB Bhaban (8th Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 27.31.0000.005.23.013.25.187

Date: 15.05.2025

Re-Advertisement CAREER OPPORTUNITY

B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL), a government owned power generation company under Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources is inviting applications for the post of Managing Director from qualified professionals with strong leadership skills and the ability to drive a large organization.

Job Description

Report to the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the Company and accountable for the Company's entire day-to-day operations, profitability and growth. The Managing Director is the Chief Executive of the company. Subject to the supervision and approval of the board, the Managing Director will be responsible for overall management, e.g. administration, corporate planning, business development and ensuring the compliances of law, rules and regulations and for good governance. He is also responsible for supervision of all technical, financial & welfare aspects, negotiation for project financing issues with donors/development partners, government. Moreover, also responsible for listing the company in the stock exchanges and comply all formalities with stock exchanges and securities regulators.

Forge strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders of the Company to win support for the Company's growth initiatives.

Educational Qualification and Requirements

- Graduation degree in Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineering or post-graduation degree in Business Administration/Economics/Management/Finance from reputed universities;
- Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;
- In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector;
- In case of State-owned companies (SOCs) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (Chief Engineer or equivalent & above) in power sector;
- In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organizations in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;
- Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations.
- Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in company law, labor law, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), corporate Governance, etc.;
- Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;
- Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;
- In-depth knowledge of the electricity industry, including regulatory requirements, market dynamics and technical advancements.
- Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.
- Proficiency in project management, including planning, execution and evaluation of large-scale projects. Project Management Professional (PMP) certification will be an advantage.
- Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.

Age

Between 50-62 years of age as on 04/06/2025.

Tenure of Appointment

The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years; it can be extended for two more terms of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.

Salary and Allowances

Basic pay Tk 1,75,000/- (One lac seventy-five thousand) only per month plus house rent 50% of basic pay, 2 (two) festival bonus, Boishakhi allowance (20% of basic) per year, gratuity, contributory Provident Fund, group insurance, leave encashment, reimbursement of medical expenses and other fringe benefits will be admissible as per provisions of the company. He/She will also be entitled to a full-time transport with fuel and driver. Income tax shall be paid by the incumbent

Submission of Application

- Candidates should apply through specific application form (available at www.brpowergen.gov.bd), 3 copies of passport size photographs, national ID, attested copies of all educational certificates and professional/job experience certificates;
- Candidates still serving in GoB/SOEs/Autonomous bodies/SOCs should attach an NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the authority.
- Application (hard copy) must be submitted on or before 04-06-2025 within office hour to the Company Secretary, B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL), IEB Bhaban (8th Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. No fee is required for submitting this application. No TA/DA will be given to participate in the interviews.

The authority of BRPL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.