



BANSHKHALI IN CTG Parts of embankment collapse in just 2yrs

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A Tk 293 crore embankment in Chatogram's Banskhali upazila has partially collapsed just over two years after its completion, raising serious concerns about the quality of construction and oversight.

At least three sections of the structure have already eroded. With the monsoon season approaching, hundreds of coastal residents now fear floods and crop losses.

"I had to rebuild my house four times over the last three decades due to coastal erosion," said Ali Ahmed, a 55-year-old resident of Kadamrasul area. "Now the new embankment, which was supposed to protect us, is already breaking apart."

The embankment, constructed by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB), was inaugurated in late 2022. The 15-kilometre embankment project along the Bay of Bengal and Sangu river in Banskhali was approved by Ecom in May 2015, with a budget of Tk 293.6 crore.

During a recent visit, it was found that several points along the

embankment have been damaged, particularly in Kadamrasul and Khankhanabab areas.

Geo-bags and tubes had been dumped at the damaged embankment sites to prevent tidal and cyclone-driven water from entering nearby communities.

Rafiqul Islam, an assistant teacher at Hamidia Dakhil Madrasah in Kadamrasul, said, "The embankment has started to fail in just over two years. This clearly points to substandard work. The government must take action against those responsible."

The Khankhanabab Union Parishad had a population of over 33,000 people as per the 2022 census.

Sohidul Islam Shikder, acting UP chairman, said several villages have become increasingly vulnerable, especially during high tides and storms.

Notable, a team from BUET identified 3,787 of the 11,036 concrete blocks as substandard and recommended their rejection in 2020. Acting on the recommendation, the WDB later

discarded the faulty blocks. Contacted, KM Julfiqar Tareq, superintending engineer of the BWB, acknowledged the damage.

However, he denied allegations of substandard work. "We had the blocks tested by a team of experts and rejected only those that met the required standards. So, there was no scope for irregularities."

He attributed the collapse to changes in Sangu's course. "The most severe erosion has occurred along an 800-metre stretch near the river's estuary, where newly formed sandbars have altered its course. As a result, strong currents are hitting the embankment directly, causing sections to collapse," he said.

He said the embankment was constructed a few years ago under severe budget constraints.

"At that time, we could only afford to build a basic structure. Now, we are working on a more sustainable embankment, with a focus on integrated river management. The damaged portion will be reinforced under the ongoing project aimed at strengthening the embankment in vulnerable areas," he added.

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Eight killed in road

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The victim is Motiar Rahman, 70, a tea-factory worker, said OC Abdullah Hil Zaman of Panchagarh Police Station.

The injured were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Mymensingh, two persons were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a dump truck and an auto-rickshaw in Gafargaon upazila around noon.

The victims are Md Wasim Mia, 22, a passenger, and Md Iqbal Hossain, 50, the driver of the auto-rickshaw. Police seized the truck and detained its driver, Sohan

Mia.

In Chattogram, Afia, a five-year-old girl, was killed after falling from her mother's lap when a tank-lorry rear-ended their CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Mirsarai upazila.

The driver of the tank-lorry had been arrested.

In Munshiganj, a man was killed and at least six others injured when a bus collided with a goods-laden truck on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Gazaria upazila this afternoon.

The victim is Azgar Ali, bus helper. The accident took place around 1:00pm at Anarpura U-turn.

Release the detained

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including journalists killed, death threats, job terminations, fabricated murder charges, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detentions, asset freezes, travel bans, accreditation revocations, membership suspensions, and attacks on media offices -- has plunged the journalistic profession into a climate of fear and extreme insecurity, it said.

According to statistics from local and international media and human rights organisations, the past 11 months have seen at least 10 journalists killed, 412 journalists detained in "politically motivated or baseless cases," and 39 journalists formally arrested. Additionally, 168 press accreditations were revoked, 101 press club memberships suspended or cancelled, more than 300 journalists subjected to international travel bans, over 100 journalists' bank accounts frozen, over 1,000 journalists terminated from their jobs, and the office of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) has remained forcibly locked for 11 months.

Patient admissions

FROM PAGE 4

of the lowest bidders, but there are others with similar quotes. We are still reviewing the bids to finalise a suitable supplier," said Shafkat Wahid, director of Pabna Mental Hospital.

The director confirmed that no new patients have been admitted since July 3 due to the lack of food support.

"Until the food supply is secured, we cannot admit new patients. However, we expect to resolve the issue within the next one or two

days," he told The Daily Star.

At least 434 patients were receiving treatment at the 500-bed facility yesterday. While new admissions remain halted, the hospital's outdoor services continue to operate.

"More than 100 outdoor patients are treated at the hospital daily. We've admitted some serious cases from outdoor, but no new admissions have been made in recent days," said Dr Masud Rana Sarkar, assistant professor at the hospital.

He recommended wearing full-sleeved shirts, full-length pants, socks, and shoes to reduce exposure to mosquito bites. He also stressed the need for the government to focus on larvicide and eliminating mosquito breeding grounds rather than relying primarily on fogging.

"Fogging should be reserved for hotspot areas with confirmed cases. General fogging is ineffective, yet it continues to be the main method used."

Prof Kabirul urged the people to keep their homes, yards, and workplaces clean and to use mosquito repellent and nets while sleeping.

He also called on the Ministry of Local Government to tell deputy commissioners, municipalities, and city corporations to immediately begin destroying mosquito larvae and breeding sites.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital,

noted that certain high-risk groups, including the elderly, pregnant women, obese individuals, infants, and those with comorbidities, are more susceptible to fatal outcomes from dengue.

He recommended that patients from these high-risk groups be hospitalised immediately upon diagnosis to avoid complications.

Ahsan also advised that symptoms such as severe abdominal pain, difficulty breathing, extreme weakness, bleeding from gums or nose, and vomiting should be treated as warning signs, which require immediate hospitalisation.

"Failure to hospitalise patients after these signs could lead to shock syndrome," he warned.

He further suggested seeking medical attention immediately after developing a fever and performing a Complete Blood Count (CBC) test on the third or fourth day, even if the NSI dengue test result is negative.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 8
Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Tk 2 for a day's work

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The goal is to employ 10,000 inmates in the first phase. "If we can pay even Tk 100 a day, it would be a game changer," said Motahar.

A prisoner could earn Tk 3,000 to Tk 5,000 a month and send money home. That would not only support families but also give inmates hope," he added.

These zones would provide better living conditions and increased mobility, alongside improved food and family contact, while maintaining security protocols. The aim is to replicate a real working environment that restores

dignity and purpose.

Motahar also revealed that steps have been taken to formally convert jails into correctional facilities. A draft Correction Services Act 2025 is in its final stages, developed with help from an international organisation.

The new law aims to replace the outdated jail code and introduce a modern framework for prisoner rehabilitation and employment rights, he added.

The plan has attracted interest from private entrepreneurs and international partners.

While some human

rights groups have expressed concern over possible forced labour, Motahar assured that participation would be voluntary and wages would be fair.

"This is not about exploitation. It's about reform, opportunity, and reintegration," he said.

He said many long-term prisoners, after serving 20 or 25 years, are abandoned by their families and released with nothing.

"We've seen cases where no one comes to receive them. They don't even have clothes to go home in. Without skills or savings, what option do they have

Cops foil

FROM PAGE 3

Bhaban, but the demonstrators broke through and continued towards Kakrail.

As additional police units blocked the road leading to Jamuna, the protesters staged a sit-in at the Kakrail intersection.

Police told them to leave the area, citing a DMP ban on holding rallies or protests there. But the demonstrators said they would continue until their demands were met.

Several scuffles broke out as police tried to push them away. At one stage, law enforcers used water cannons and fired multiple sound grenades to disperse the crowd.

The Daily Star Joint Editor Aasha Mehreen Amin urged political parties to uphold press freedom when they get to power through a democratic transition. "An independent media would help the practice of democracy," she said.

Fazle Elahi Akbar, chairman of the Foundation for Strategic and Development Studies, presided over the seminar.

BNP Standing Committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Nagarik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, AB Party Chief Mojibur Rahman Monju, former DU professors Mahbub Ullah and Tajmeir S Islam, Khelafat Majlis Secretary General Ahmed Abdul Qader, and Gono Adhikar Parishad president Nurul Haque Nur also attended the programme.

"But as they refused to leave even after half an hour, police used water cannons and sound grenades to disperse them," he said. "We refrained from using excessive force as they were members of a disciplined force."

Several police personnel were injured, and several protesters were detained during the incident, he added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া

তারিখঃ ০৭/০৭/২০২৫

প্রকাশ নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০১/২০২৫-২০২৬

তৎকালীন বাংলাদেশের প্রচুর ব্যবসায়ী/টিকানার, নিলাম ভাককারীদের ও সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জামানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়ে জেলা পুলিশ শাখারে মেটেরিয়াল শিখায় নিম্নরূপ নিমিত্ত আগামী ২২/০৭/২০২৫শে তারিখ বেণা ১২:০০ ঘটকির সময় প্রকাশ নিলাম ভাকে অঞ্চলিকরী ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ নিলামে বিক্রয়ে জলবায়নসমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরেজামিনে জেলা পুলিশ লাইস, ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়ায় পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।

০২টি কাপ্তি বেট, ০১টি শ্লোট বেট এবং বিজ্ঞারিত তথ্য ৪-

ক্র. নং	জলবায়ের নাম	জলবায়ের ইচ্ছিন নথি ও তৈরীর সম	জলবায়ের ম্যাটেরিয়ালের ধরণ, দৈর্ঘ্য, প্রস্থ ও গোড়ারতা	জলবায়ের অধিশক্তি	বারাদ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ
১.	কাপ্তি বেট নং-০১ (ইচ্ছিন+বেটি)	কুরুতা, চারলান ইচ্ছিন নং-১১৪৪৮, তৈরী সন-২০০২	এস-এম সৈট ও লোহার এসেল বেটি ২৪'x৪'x৪'	১০.৫	২৩/০৭/২০০২ ঠিঃ
২.	শ্লোট বেট (ইচ্ছিন+বেটি)	ইয়ামাহা, জাপান ইচ্ছিন নং-৩৫৪৮৫২ তৈরীর সন-২০০৯	ফাইবার বেটি ১৬'x৪'x৩'	৮০	০২/০৭/২০০৯ ঠিঃ
৩.	কাপ্তি বেট নং-০২ (ইচ্ছিন+বেটি)	কুরুতা, চারলান ইচ্ছিন নং-২০৮০৮০৫০২০২৯, তৈরী সন-২০০৮	এস-এম সৈট ও লোহার এসেল বেটি ২৪'x৪'x৪'	১০.৫	০৯/১১/২০০৮ ঠিঃ

নিলাম ভাকের শর্তাবলীঃ

০১। অগ্রীম নিলাম ভাককারীকে নিলাম ভাকে অঞ্চলিক বাবদ (ফেরতযোগ্য) পুলিশ সুপার ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া বরাবরে ৫,০০০/- প্রতি হাজার টাকার ব্যাটি/প্রতি ভোর এসেল বেটি ১২:০০ ঘটকির মধ্যে তালিকাভুক্ত হতে হবে। উক্ত নিলাম ভাকে অঞ্চলিক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ নিলামে বিক্রয়ে জলবায়নসমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরেজামিনে জেলা পুলিশ লাইস, ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।

০২। একাধিক নিলাম ভাককারীকে নিলাম ভাকে অঞ্চলিক বাবদ (ফেরতযোগ্য) পুলিশ সুপার ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া বরাবরে ১০% আয়ের ও ১৫% ভাসাস সমূহের অর্ধ ০৩ (তিনি) কর্মদিবস