



BANSHKHALI IN CTG

Parts of embankment collapse in just 2yrs

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A Tk 293 crore embankment in Chattogram's Banshkhali 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 Banshkhali was approved by Ecneec 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 Khankhanabad 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 Khankhanabad 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.

Mentionable, 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 Jullikar Tareq, superintending engineer of the BWDB, 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 it 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.

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, the bus helper. The accident took place around 1:00pm at Anarpura U-turn.

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 supply.

"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.

16 to 30 age group

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University, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Many people are getting infected at their offices or educational institutions. Since those in the 16 to 30 age group spend most of their time outside, it likely contributes to their higher infection rate."

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 larviciding 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 Maghrib 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

except returning to crime?" he said.

The government currently spends around Tk 250 crore annually just on food for prisoners, with the total budget nearing Tk 1,000 crore. The system processes around 8,00,000 inmates a year.

Officials believe that turning even a fraction of them into a productive workforce would reduce this fiscal burden while promoting rehabilitation.

"Employment must be treated as a right, not a privilege," said Motahar. "If we want to bring better human beings out of prisons, we must invest in their future."

Political stability, democracy

FROM PAGE 3

At the programme, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir called on all political parties to unite in the goal of restoring democracy and ensuring the people's right to vote.

"All political parties need to come together, at least on one issue – that we will return to democracy, empower the people, and restore their right to vote," he said.

In response to comments that the national unity formed during last year's July uprising had broken, Fakhrul said it was more a matter of "differences of opinion" than a breakdown in unity.

The people of Bangladesh have always stood united in defending national security during times of crisis, he said, adding, "If people's sovereignty is ensured, national security will also be protected."

Badiul Alam Majumdar, a member of the National Consensus Commission, stressed that political stability and democratic development are crucial.

However, while voting rights are essential for those, elections alone are not enough, he added, saying, "A permanent and sustainable democratic system must also be established."

"Sheikh Hasina did not come to power riding a tank. She did not abolish the constitution either. But it is the existing procedures,

legal frameworks, and institutions that have turned her into an autocrat," Badiul said.

He said constitutional amendments have worsened the situation, and reforms are needed, particularly in the process of appointing election commissioners, to bring meaningful change.

Jamaat-e-Islami's Naye-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said consensus was needed on four core issues – independence and sovereignty, sustainable democracy, fair elections, and a corruption-free Bangladesh.

He said an elected democratic government could resolve many of the country's problems.

A c k n o w l e d g i n g disagreements over the timing of the next election, he said Jamaat does not oppose the proposal to hold it in February 2026. "But we do not want a substandard election."

Former army chief lieutenant general (retd) Nuruddin Khan said forming a "national army" is now extremely important for national security.

Writer and poet Farhad Mazhar said national security should rely on a mass-based defence system. "We need to involve all citizens in military preparedness – both physically and mentally," he said.

Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful

Haque said national security is now at its most vulnerable and will continue to deteriorate without an elected government in place.

"It is as vulnerable as it is because there is no mainstream discussion about protesting the push-ins from India," he added.

Former Dhaka University political science professor Dilara Chowdhury said determining the national identity is key to building national solidarity.

Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud said a well-functioning state would reduce most of the threats to national security.

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, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, AB Party Chief Mojibur Rahman Monju, former DU professors Mahbub Ullah and Tajmeri S Islam, Khelafat Majlis Secretary General Ahmed Abdul Qader, and Gono Adhikar Parishad president Nurul Haque Nur also attended the programme.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া

তারিখঃ ০৭/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-২৬৭০/১ম খণ্ড

প্রকাশ্য নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০১/২০২৫-২০২৬

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদার, নিলাম ডাককারীদের ও সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া জেলা পুলিশ লাইনের মেটরযান শাখায় নিম্নবর্ণিত জলযান সমূহ নিলামে বিক্রির নিমিত্ত আগামী ২২/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় প্রকাশ্য দিবাশোকে নিলাম ডাক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণকারী ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ নিলামে বিরুদ্ধযোগ্য জলযানসমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরেজমিনে জেলা পুলিশ লাইন, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়ায় পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।

০২টি কান্ট্রি বোট, ০১টি স্পীড বোট এর বিতরিত তথ্যঃঃ-

ক্রম নং	জলযানের নাম	জলযানের ইঞ্জিন নম্বর ও তৈরীর সন	জলযানের মাটেরিয়াসের ধরণ,দৈর্ঘ্য,প্রস্থ ও গভীরতা	জলযানের অংশভক্তি	বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ
১.	কান্ট্রি বোট নং- ০১ (ইঞ্জিন+বডি)	কবুতা,চারনা ইঞ্জিন নং-১১৪৪৮ , তৈরী সন-২০০২	এসএম সীট ও লোহার এঙ্গেল বডি ২৪'x৮'x৪'	১০.৫	২৩/০৭/২০০২ খ্রিঃ
২.	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন+বডি)	ইয়ামাহা,জাপান ইঞ্জিন নং-০৫৪৫৮২ তৈরীর সন-২০০৯	ফাইবার বডি ১৬'x৬'x৩'	৪০	০২/০৩/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ
৩.	কান্ট্রি বোট নং- ০২ (ইঞ্জিন+বডি)	কবুতা,চারনা ইঞ্জিন নং-২০৮০৫০৯০২৫৯ ,তৈরী সন- ২০০৮	এসএম সীট ও লোহার এঙ্গেল বডি ২৪'x৮'x৪'	১০.৫	০৯/১১/২০০৮ খ্রিঃ

নিলাম ডাকের শর্তাবলীঃ

০১। অগ্রদূত নিলাম ডাককারীকে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য জামানত বাবদ (ফেরতযোগ্য) পুলিশ সুপার ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া বরাবরে ৫,০০০/-(পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা বরাদ্দ ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এবং জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ফটোকপি জমা দিয়ে নিলাম ডাকের দিন বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে তালিকাভুক্ত হতে হবে।

০২। সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাককারীকে ডাকমূল্য, ডাকমূল্যের উপর ১০% আয়কর ও ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ সমুদয় অর্থ ০৩ (তিন) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে একসাথে পরিশোধ করে ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে অবশ্যই নিলামকৃত জলযানসমূহ নিয়ে যেতে হবে। অন্যথায় তার ডাক বাতিল পূর্বক ২য় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীকে কার্যদেশ প্রদান করা হবে এবং ১ম সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীর প্রদত্ত জামানতের টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে। এক্ষেত্রে দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী নিলামকৃত জলযানসমূহ নিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।

০৩। ১ম সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী সম্পূর্ণ টাকা জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত ২য় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ফেরত দেয়া হবে না।

০৪। নিলামকৃত জলযানসমূহ নিজ খরচে নিয়ে যেতে হবে।

০৫। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণে অগ্রদূত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধিগণ আরআই এবং ওসি,এমটি, পুলিশ লাইন, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করে আলোচ্য জলযানসমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরেজমিনে দেখতে পারবেন।

০৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বোচ্চ ডাক গ্রহণে বাধ্য নন। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন নিলাম ডাক গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এহতেশামুল হক
বিপি-৮১০৮১২১৫৮১
পুলিশ সুপার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া।
ফোন: ০২৩৩৪৪২৭৬৮০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২৩৩৪৪৩২০২৪
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GD-1538

Release the detained

FROM PAGE 3

including journalist killings, 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.

The journalists expressed alarm over the prolonged incarceration of journalists, many of whom have been denied bail for months in violation of their constitutional rights. They demanded the immediate prosecution of those responsible for journalist killings and assaults, unconditional release of all detained journalists, and an end to politically motivated profiling and harassment of journalists.

The signatories include former president of a faction of DUJ Abu Jafar Surjo, former president and former general secretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity Syed Shukur Ali Shuvo, senior journalist Nazrul Kabir, Editor-in-Chief of Bangla Insider Syed Borhan Kabir, DUJ General Secretary Akhtar Hossain, former president of Dhaka Sub-Editors Council Zakir Hossain Emon, vice president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Journalists Union Mahmudul Alam Nayan, TV Camera-journalist Association President Mohammad Faruk Hossain Tanvir, and former organising secretary of DRU Sheikh Jamal.