

Unsafe and unrepaired

Pothole-ridden Palbari-Manihar road in Jashore puts lives at risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Days of rainfall have left the Palbari-Manihar road in Jashore riddled with potholes, turning one of the busiest stretches into a hazardous route.

The Palbari-Manihar road is a key link for thousands of commuters travelling daily between Jashore town and other districts like Jhenaidah, Narail, and Khulna.

Mamun Rahman, a local, said, “The road in front of the BRTC office has not been repaired for a long time. With no drainage system in place, the rainwater has made the road almost impassable.”

Others, including Muslimuddin and Mostadjur Rahman, said the situation is even worse in front of the Jashore Education Board office, where large potholes on the northern lane have made it impossible for buses, trucks, and rickshaws to move. Most vehicles now use the southern lane, further worsening the pressure on the already damaged road.

Contacted, Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer Golam Kibria said a Tk 14 crore tender has been floated to repair the road. It has been sent to the ministry for approval.



The Palbari-Manihar road remains riddled with potholes. The road is a key link for commuters between Jashore town and other districts. It is also the primary route for many students and teachers who visit the Jashore Education Board. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

EC flags six

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and Sylhet district offices failed to mention the party's name.

The list of all upazila and thana-level offices with addresses was missing from the application. Furthermore, in 25 upazilas or thanas, the minimum requirement of 200 registered voters as party members was not met.

The EC also noted that the rental agreement for the party's office in Itna upazila, Kishoreganj, did not include the party's name, while the agreement for the Halaughat upazila office in Mymensingh lacked both the party's name and office address.

The EC letter further said the application did not mention the amount of party funds, nor was the fund amount specified in the attached financial source breakdown. The final page of the party's executive committee resolution on registration was also unsigned.

It added that the party's constitution does not include any provision authorising the central parliamentary board to

finalise nominations for parliamentary elections from panels prepared by members of the ward, union, thana, upazila, or district committees.

Lastly, the EC noted that the application lacked a certification confirming that the party's documents and activities do not violate the Constitution. It also did not include confirmation that individuals convicted under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunals) Order, 1972, or the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1972, are not affiliated with the party.

NCP is among 144 political organisations that applied for registration after the EC opened the process on March 10. While the initial deadline was April 20, it was later extended to June 22 following requests from 46 parties, including NCP.

All 144 applicants failed to pass the preliminary scrutiny for registration, the EC said on July 15. The EC granted the new parties an additional 15 days to submit the required documents and information.

ACC probing 15yrs of financial

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during their tenure, all loan policies issued during that period, information on loan disbursements, money laundering, notices regarding US dollar disbursement from reserves to businesses, and copies of any internal investigation reports by BB concerning these matters.

Additionally, the ACC asked for policies issued since 2009 regarding the regularisation of default loans, and details of companies that benefited from these policies, including: Beximco Group, MR Group, Ratanpur Group, Keya Group, Jamuna Group, Thermax Group, Sikder Group, BBS Group, Abdul Monem Ltd, AnonTex Group, and others.

The commission has sought names of these companies and their owners, permanent and current addresses, loan amounts, and current loan statuses.

The ACC also demanded approval-related notices, documents, and circulars for nine banks approved after the AL came to power

in 2009, namely: Meghna Bank, Midland Bank, Madhumati Bank, NRB Bank, NRB Commercial Bank, NRB Global Bank, South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank, Union Bank, and The Farmers Bank, currently named Padma Bank.

In response to a letter from Salman F Rahman, the commission has also asked for the notice and documents related to the 2015 policy on loan restructuring; attested copies of policies issued after 2009 regarding bank inspections; and documents related to the formulation and issuance of those policies.

Furthermore, the ACC has sought attested copies of notices and circulars regarding the acquisition and ownership control of Islami Bank and Social Islami Bank.

If the central bank has conducted any internal investigations on these matters, the commission wants those reports as well.

Contacted, BB spokesperson Arif Hossain Khan said, “Recently, the ACC has issued several

letters requesting various information. We are trying to provide all the required data to the best of our ability.”

One martyr

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The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration and the Coastal Forest Division.

In Bagerhat, trees were planted in memory of nine martyrs – Alamgir, Alif, Mahfuzur, Nuru, Sabbir, Jasim, Shahriar, Biplob, and Shahin – at Circuit House. District Administration and the East Sundarbans Forest Division organised the event.

In Patuakhali, DC Abu Hasnat Mohammad Arifin inaugurated the programme on his office premises.

A total of 24 trees were planted. The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration and the Coastal Forest Division.

Meanwhile, tree plantation programme was also held in Chandpur.

According to BSS, similar programmes were held in Magura, Rajshahi and Khulna.

Misinformation rises

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followed, with 311 instances recorded and a 51 percent rise towards the end of the six-month period.

Misinformation also spread via domestic media outlets. Rumour Scanner fact-checked 90 claims from Bangladeshi media, uncovering false statements, doctored images and misleading videos.

During the same period, 38 pieces of false information about 25 incidents in Bangladesh were shared by 31 Indian news outlets.

Aaj Tak Bangla topped the list with nine confirmed cases.

Common a l misinformation remained a concern, though false claims originating in India declined. There were 78 such cases in the first quarter of 2025, dropping by around 64 percent in the second quarter.

In total, 106 instances were recorded, with 63 traced to Indian-linked social media accounts and pages.

Despite a government ban on its activities in May, the Awami League was the most mentioned political party in disinformation during the first half of 2025, with 241 cases.

Of these, 59 directly named the party, and 86

percent were favourable. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina appeared in 85 cases, 80 percent of which portrayed her positively.

In contrast, misinformation about the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami was largely negative. The BNP was the second-most targeted party with 183 cases, 47 of which directly named the party. Of these, 94 percent were negative. Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir appeared in 24 cases, 88 percent of which were unfavourable. Tarique Rahman was mentioned in 21 cases, just over half of which were positive.

Jamaat was the subject of 142 disinformation cases, including 55 directly involving the party, of which 93 percent were negative. Party Ameer Shafiqur Rahman was the most targeted figure, appearing in 22 cases, 91 percent of which portrayed him unfavourably.

The report also found 114 instances of disinformation targeting Bangladesh's armed forces and police -- a 78 percent increase from the same period last year. Of these, 74 involved the Bangladesh Army, including 25 that directly named Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman.

177 inmates still

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During the four days following the attack, security at the prison was subsequently bolstered. However, challenges remain.

Narsingdi District Jail Superintendent Md Shamim Iqbal said while the damaged buildings have been made temporarily useable, the prison, originally built to house 344 inmates, is currently holding 839.

More than 200 inmates have since been transferred to Kashimpur Central Jail.

He said the destruction of 29,000 case files has led to chaos in legal proceedings.

“We're struggling to determine the charges and sentence duration for many inmates due to the loss of records. Identifying who is convicted of what crime has become difficult,” he said.

He said the prison infrastructure remains fragile, with low walls and poor drainage. As a result, the facility becomes flooded during heavy rainfall.

Narsingdi Superintendent of Police Md Abdul Hannan said the loss of official documents has delayed the identification and arrest of fugitives.

“We are continuing special operations to recapture the remaining fugitives and recover all missing arms and ammunition,” he said.

Assistant Public Prosecutor of Narsingdi Court Md Lokman Hossain said that “these weapons in the hands of criminals pose a threat to national security. They can be used in hijackings, extortion, and killings. Immediate recovery is essential.”

One killed

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repairing the tank when the explosion took place. He was critically injured and was declared dead later at the hospital.

Witnesses and officials said a leak had been detected in the station's main storage tank about a week ago, prompting the closure of the facility pending repairs.

Yesterday, technicians began working on the tank, but around noon, the accumulated pressurised gas inside the chamber caused an explosion.

Mahir Uddin, an eyewitness who was nearby at the time, said, “The explosion was deafening. I was stunned for a while. The station and nearby buildings were heavily damaged. One person died on the spot while several others were seriously injured. It was horrifying.”

Following the explosion, four units of Rangpur Fire Service rushed to the scene to conduct rescue operations.

Authorities halted traffic in the area and asked residents and bystanders to move to a safe distance.

The area was cordoned off by police and army personnel.

“There had been long-standing negligence in the station's gas storage system,” the fire service official said. “Lack of proper maintenance likely led to this tragic incident.”

Senior Warrant Officer of the Rangpur Army Camp, Sobahan Molla, said, “The army has launched an investigation to determine the exact cause. If there is evidence of negligence, the responsible authorities must be held accountable.”

Funding cuts heighten risks

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The funding decline is documented in a new UNHCR report that highlights the consequences of the global humanitarian funding crisis on displaced populations.

In Bangladesh, the report notes, the cuts are weakening an already strained aid response, leaving refugees, who rely entirely on external assistance, more vulnerable in terms of food, health care, education, and shelter.

Jahid Alam, a 45-year-old father of two, said he used to spend his earnings from maintenance work on extra food for his children.

“The amount of food we get every month is limited,” he says quietly. “With the extra work, I could buy some variety for my children. Now, that is no

longer possible.”

Jahid and his wife both have disabilities. Participating in maintenance work not only improved their nutrition but also kept them socially connected.

“[This] was never just a programme, it was a vital lifeline,” said Afruza Sultana, who works in Site Management Support for BRAC, a key partner in the refugee response in Bangladesh. “It gave them more than just a wage -- it gave them purpose, dignity, and the means to feed their families and make alternative arrangements for basic needs.”

The funding shortage is also impacting the maintenance of vital infrastructure, especially during monsoon season when upkeep of roads,

bridges, paths, and latrines is essential.

In early 2024, roughly 5,500 refugees worked on over 500 infrastructure projects. This year, activity has declined by nearly two-thirds, leaving the camps increasingly exposed. Eroded roads, blocked drains, and broken bridges are now common.

Beyond infrastructure, the funding crisis is affecting other essential services.

With more Rohingyas arriving from Myanmar, resources are further stretched.

UNHCR warned at a July 11 press briefing that without additional funding, further disruptions are expected in health services, cooking fuel distribution, food aid, and education for children.

election.

In the morning, many were seen walking from Nawabpur towards Purana Paltan via Zero Point. Alongside Jamaat activists, pedestrians were also making their way on foot.

Traffic Constable Kazi Zaman, stationed near Golap Shah Mazar in Gulistan, said vehicle movement was slow before 1:00pm but completely stalled afterwards.

Around 1:30pm in Gulistan, Md Mohsin Mridha, a driver of a Shadhin Express bus, said, “It took me about 35 minutes to drive from Golap Shah Mazar to Zero Point. Now the bus is completely stuck.”

As his bus, heading to

Mirpur, was at a standstill, many passengers had to get off at Nawabpur.

Traffic was also reported on the Dhaka Chattogram highway, especially in the Jatrabari area, as buses and microbuses carrying rally participants clogged the road. A tailback stretching several kilometres was created there, according to eyewitnesses.

Juliana Ferdous, a resident of Jatrabari, said she was unable to take her son to a coaching centre in Matuail due to the traffic.

Another local, Monirul Haq, noted the unusually high number of microbuses heading to the rally and said the majority of vehicles on the highway were carrying Jamaat supporters.

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০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (অভ্যন্তরীণ)				
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়		
২	এজেন্সি	ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি)		
৩	ক্রয়কারীর নাম	যুগ্ম পরিচালক (অফিস প্রদান), টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ।		
৪	ক্রয়কারীর কোড	প্রয়োজ্য নহে।		
৫	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ।		
৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকৃত পণ্য	০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ।		
৭	আহ্বানকারীর রেফারেন্স নং	২৬.০৫.২২০০.০১১.০০২.১৭.২৫-৩২৮		
৮	তারিখ	১৭-০৭-২০২৫খ্রি.		
মূল তথ্য				
৯	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (অভ্যন্তরীণ)		
তথ্যবিল তথ্য				
১০	বাজেট এবং তথ্যবিলের উৎস	টিসিবি'র নিজস্ব তথ্যবিল		
বিশেষ তথ্য				
১১	প্যাকেজ নং	টিসিবি/ময়মনসিংহ/ভাড়াকৃত গাড়ী ২০২৫-২০২৬		
১২	প্যাকেজের নাম	দাপ্তরিক কাজের প্রয়োজনে ০১টি গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ		
১৩	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২০-০৭-২০২৫খ্রি.		
১৪	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৮-০৮-২০২৫খ্রি.	সময়: বিকাল ০৫:০০টা	
১৫	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউল দাখিল করার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৮-০৮-২০২৫খ্রি.	সময়: বেলা ১২:০০টা	
১৬	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ০৮-০৮-২০২৫খ্রি.	সময়: অপরাহ্ন ১২:১৫টা	
১৭	অফিস (সমূহ)-এর নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঠিকানা (১) অর্থ ও হিসাব শাখা, টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। (২) রূপালী ব্যাংক লি., বাগতহর শাখা, ময়মনসিংহ। (৩) কোন দরদাফা নোটিফিকেশন অব গ্যারান্টি (NOA) পাওয়ার পর যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদান না করতে পারেন তাহলে তার দায়িত্বকৃত দরদাফা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং দরপত্র জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে। (৪) কোন কার্যবশতঃ পূর্বে নোটিফিকেশন অব গ্যারান্টি (NOA) পাওয়ার পর কোন দরদাফা যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদানে ব্যর্থ হলে অথবা পূর্বে কোন দরদাফার পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণরূপে বাজেয়াপ্ত হয়ে থাকলে, তাহলে তিনি দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।		
দরপত্র প্রদানকারীর জন্য তথ্য				
১৮	দরপত্র প্রদানকারীর যোগাযোগ	প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। বিস্তারিত শর্তসমূহ দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা আছে।		
১৯	সেবার সর্বোচ্চ বিবরণ	০১টি ০৭ সীটের MPV গাড়ী (Toyota Noah square/ Mitsubishi Expander/ Hyundai Staria অথবা সমতুল্য)। Model: Minimum 2015 or Newer		
২০	দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলের ক্রয়	প্রতিটি ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা।		
২১	লট নং	লটের শনাক্তকরণ	স্থান	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা) ৩৭,০০০/- (সাতত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা ০১টি ০৭ সীটের (MPV) ময়মনসিংহ ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি) এর নামে জমা পে-অর্ডার করতে হবে।
২২	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর বিবরণ	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর কর্মকর্তার নাম জামাল উদ্দিন আহমেদ		
২৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর পদবি	যুগ্ম পরিচালক (অফিস প্রদান)		
২৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, আবুদা বাইপাস, মারকাস মসজিদের বিপরীতে, ময়মনসিংহ।		
২৫	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগের জন্য	মোবাইল নং-০১৭৫৯২৬৯৭৭৭ ফ্যাক্স নং- ই-মেইল: tcbmym@tcb.gov.bd		
২৬	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) এ দরপত্র পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে। খ) দরপত্র সন্মুক্ত ব্যবসায় শর্তাবলী এবং পেমেন্ট বিবরণ দরপত্র দলিল/সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে। গ) অসম্পূর্ণ, শর্তমুক্ত এবং বিকল্প দরপত্র কোন প্রকার বিবেচনায় আসবে না। ঘ) কোন কারণ দর্শনো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ/আংশিকভাবে গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সতর্কতা করেন। ঙ) কোন দরদাফা নোটিফিকেশন অব গ্যারান্টি (NOA) পাওয়ার পর যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদান না করতে পারেন তাহলে তার দায়িত্বকৃত দরদাফা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং দরপত্র জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে। চ) কোন কার্যবশতঃ পূর্বে নোটিফিকেশন অব গ্যারান্টি (NOA) পাওয়ার পর কোন দরদাফা যথাসময়ে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) প্রদানে ব্যর্থ হলে অথবা পূর্বে কোন দরদাফার পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি (কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত) আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণরূপে বাজেয়াপ্ত হয়ে থাকলে, তাহলে তিনি দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।		

জামাল উদ্দিন আহমেদ
যুগ্ম পরিচালক (অফিস প্রদান)