

# NEWS

## PHULPUR UPAZILA IN MYMENSINGH Bridge turns perilous due to soil erosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A bridge built over a canal connected to the Maliji River on the Ramsuna-Baishkhania road in Mymensingh's Chhandhara union under Phulpur upazila has become a serious hazard for commuters.

Due to soil erosion beneath the structure, the bridge is now hanging precariously, prompting fears that it could collapse at any moment, said locals.

According to local sources, the 36-foot bridge was constructed under the Disaster Management Department's "Bridge and Culvert Construction Project" during the 2018-2019 fiscal year at a cost of around Tk 25 lakh.

Cracks have developed at both ends of the bridge, and one side of the deck has tilted. Despite the evident danger, hundreds of people, including students, farmers, and light vehicle operators, continue to use the bridge daily. Farmers, however, are unable to carry goods on loaded vehicles due to the bridge's poor condition.

Md Abdul Halim, a local resident, said the soil had eroded so severely that cracks and tilts could not be fixed with cement alone. A new bridge with proper piling is the only real solution, he added.

Abul Monsur, an elderly farmer, said the river current becomes very strong during the monsoon. "No temporary fix will withstand that pressure. The

location and design of the bridge need to be reconsidered," he said.

Contacted, Ashis Karmakar, the upazila project implementation officer (PIO), said the bridge was repaired in May this year with the help of the local Chhandhara Union Parishad at a cost of Tk 1,13,000. However, a flash flood on May 16 damaged the structure again.

"The bridge was first affected due to dredging in the Maliji River. As a result, the riverbed became significantly deeper



than before, eroding the soil beneath the bridge's pillars and deck. The bridge gradually lost ground support," said the PIO.

Describing the bridge as very important, the official said hundreds of people from six villages use it daily, and a new bridge is needed as a permanent solution. For urgent repair work, around Tk 5 lakh is required, and higher authorities have been informed, he added.

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bridge has become a serious hazard for commuters.

Faruk said the government has designed rehabilitation programmes for those affected by the uprising, and the ministry will act accordingly. "Rehabilitation can be done in various ways. Based on individual skills, the government will support them through training or by helping them become self-employed for sustainable livelihoods," he said.

When asked whether the financial assistance given

to the "July fighters" would be made equal to that of the freedom fighters, the adviser said, "Bringing in the comparison with freedom fighters is not appropriate here. Freedom fighters' contribution is undeniable."

Associate Professor Dr Sayem Al Mansur, who led a four-member medical team in one of the critical wards, added, "One patient in our unit has 100 percent burns. Four others have 90 percent. Five have burns exceeding 80 percent, and several others are over 70 percent."

**CROWDS HAMPER EMERGENCY RESPONSE** Outside the emergency gate, a different kind of chaos was unfolding.

By 2:30pm, the corridors of the burn institute were already overwhelmed. Stretchers raced through the emergency gate, doctors shouted instructions, and barefoot relatives ran from ward to ward in panic.

In one corner of the hospital, Akhlima Parvin stood crying in the hallway.

Her son, Tawfiq Hossain, a class five student, had just been admitted.

"He had breakfast with me in the morning. I cooked his favourite meal. He was supposed to come back and eat lunch," she said.

Parvin added, "When I heard the blast, I rushed toward the school I found him injured. He wrapped his arms around me and begged me to save him."

Tawfiq is now undergoing treatment at HDU ward of the institute.

Zahid Hasan, who works as a family driver, formed human chains to keep pathways clear for patients and doctors.

Despite the crowd, moments of humanity emerged. Young volunteers formed human chains to keep pathways clear for patients and doctors.

"I saw the explosion near Afif's classroom," he said, choking back tears.

"He is now admitted to the burn unit. Please pray for him."

**DOCTORS STRUGGLE** Inside the seventh floor of the burn unit, Dr Zakia Sultana Mitali was working in the thick of the emergency

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

## DU launches

FROM PAGE 3

"The martyrs sacrificed their lives to eliminate discrimination. They brought down autocracy and gave birth to a new Bangladesh. When a student visits this gallery, questions will arise in their mind -- why did these young people give their lives? Then they will be able to understand."

The nation is eternally indebted to the martyrs of the July uprising, as they have set us free from all sorts of deprivation, he said.

VC Nazir Ahmed said the museum has been inaugurated in a limited capacity and gradually, it will be developed into a complete museum.

"We must avoid political bickering and hateful attitudes regarding these matters. We will not let these topics be destroyed by political conflicts. The events of 1969, 1971, 1990, and 2024 are part of a historical continuum. We will not allow any evil attempt to set them against each other," said the VC.

Meanwhile, six left-leaning student

organisations at Dhaka University -- Chhatra Union, Biplobi Chhatra Moitree, Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Chhatra Council, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (BASAD) -- did not take part in the inauguration ceremony, protesting the invitation and presence of Chhatra Shibir leaders at the programme.

Each market cost around Tk 2 crore. These were later handed over to the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM).

Due to lack of monitoring,

nearly all of these markets remain either abandoned or under private use.

NM Alomgir Badsha,

deputy director (deputy

secretary) of the Department of Agricultural Extension

Department in Rangpur, said, "If these markets were

operational, we are

now planning to reclaim and

restore them," he said.

Advocate Palash Kanti

Nag, convener of the

Rangpur Krishok Sangram

Parishad, said, "Not a

single agricultural market

in Rangpur division is

functional. The entire

project has gone to waste.

Influential individuals have

taken over buildings meant

for farmers. Meanwhile,

our farmers are left to

sell their produce in

harsh conditions on the

roadsides."

Contacted, Sirajul Islam,

additional director (acting)

of the Regional Agricultural Extension

Department in Rangpur,

said, "The markets were

operational, both farmers

and consumers would

benefit. Farmers would get

fair prices, and consumers

could buy fresh produce at

reasonable rates."

The leaders of the

student bodies criticised the

university administration

for what they termed an

attempt to "normalise"

Shibir's participation

in student activities,

disregarding the historical

consensus that had excluded

anti-liberation forces from

campus platforms.

Shibir was banned from

operating on campus by

Paribesh Parishad -- a

student representative

platform -- following the

fall of the Ershad regime

in 1990. However, Shibir

leaders claim they do not

recognise any decision

made by Paribesh Parishad,

as it is not an official

university body.

Meanwhile, the

approach roads to the

bridge will be constructed

very soon to alleviate the

suffering of the people, she

said.

Contacted, Muhammad

Jakin Hossain, executive

engineer of LGED in Sadar

upazila, said the bridge

was built by the upazila

parishad. The approach

roads were not constructed

due to insufficient

allocation. However, a

demand for allocation has

been submitted. He said

discussions have been held

with the UNO. "I hope we

will get the allocation soon.

The work will start at the

beginning of the new fiscal

year," he added.

Tangail Sadar Upazila

Nirbahi Officer Nahida

Akter said she has already

asked the upazila engineer

(LGED) to conduct an on-

site inspection and submit

a report.

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Another student, Saad

Salahuddin, a third grader

from the Bangla medium

section, is also untraceable.

"His parents have been

searching relentlessly since

the incident. They've gone

to every possible place.

We are extremely worried.

Please, someone help us,"

said his aunt Sajh Rahman.