

Slow bridge work puts train passengers at risk

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The reconstruction of a railway bridge over the Dudhkhawa canal near Singardabri Railway Station in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram is progressing at a snail's pace, raising serious safety concerns.

Trains on the Lalmonirhat–Kurigram–Ramna route are forced to stop before the bridge and then crawl across at no more than two kilometres per hour.

Locomotive driver Abdus Salam said, "On the Teesta-Kurigram route, trains normally run at 55-60 kmph, but here we can't go faster than two kmph. We follow orders from the authorities to avoid accidents."

The 40-foot "Four-J" bridge was damaged during floods in August 2023 and later declared risky. Since then, train drivers have been instructed to halt, wait nearly a minute, and then cross slowly.

Locals say this delay, though necessary for safety, has turned Pachgachhi village under Gharialdanga Union into an unofficial stop where trains have been



halting daily for the past year. Passengers board and alight here, even though there is no designated station.

"The work has been going on for a year without much progress," said Majibur Rahman, 67, a local. "Earlier, sacks of sand were placed to protect the bridge's pillars. While we're glad trains stop in our village, the risk of an accident always hangs over us."

Passengers also express frustration. "When trains stop here at night, it feels unsafe. We've been watching the reconstruction drag on for months," said Mojibul Islam, a regular commuter.

According to the Lalmonirhat Railway's engineering division, the bridge is being rebuilt by a Rajshahi-based contractor at a cost of Tk 4.66 crore. The work order was issued in September 2024, but construction began in January 2025.

Assistant Engineer Abdur Razzak said about 75 percent of the work has been completed. "The agreement is to finish by December this year. Since trains are still running, reconstruction is being carried out with extra caution, which is taking longer," he said.



Craftswomen from the Malakar family make garlands using Styrofoam at South Shialkathi village in Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur. These beautiful and lightweight flowers are sold as large or small garlands, priced between Tk 50 and Tk 200. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Rajbari bus terminal lies idle for 30 years

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

The central bus terminal in Rajbari, built around three decades ago at a cost of around Tk 2 crore, has remained largely unused since its inauguration, with its infrastructure decaying due to years of neglect.

After the terminal was inaugurated on April 19, 1994, it was used briefly before being shut down. Rajbari municipality took over its operation in 2000, reopened it during the caretaker government in 2007, and closed it again in 2009. It has remained non-operational since.

Locals say the terminal was built too far from the town centre without considering the needs of passengers or transport owners. As a result, bus operators refused to use it, and several attempts to revive it failed.

Instead, buses began operating from an open space in the Murgi Farm area, nearly four kilometres

from the terminal. Buses there pay Tk 50 per trip for parking, and a Tk 30 lakh lease was reportedly allocated to the general secretary of the transport owners' association, sources said.

The abandoned terminal, which has 10 ticket counters and 15 rooms, now lies in ruins. Walls, plaster, doors and furniture are crumbling after years of disuse.

"The terminal is too far, with no local transport to reach it easily. People wait by the roadside near Boropool or Murgi Farm to board buses," said Khalilur Rahman, a town resident.



Shahidul Islam, treasurer of Rajbari District Truck-Covered Van Workers' Union, said, "We raised this issue with the authorities, but nothing has been done."

Bus owner Abdur Razzak Liton said, "Three-wheelers bypass the terminal and operate directly from town, so we are forced to do the same."

Rajbari Bus Owners' Association President Mahmudul Haque said, "When the terminal was built, we protested its remote location, but the authorities didn't listen. Most passengers get on or off at Boropool or Murgi Farm, so we operate accordingly."

Majharul Islam, deputy director of the Local Government Division and acting administrator of Rajbari municipality, said the issue has been raised at the monthly development meeting. "We will discuss with the bus owners' association how the problem can be solved," he said.

Cops hurt in mob attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A mob attacked police personnel and snatched away two suspected extortionists after they were caught red-handed in Narsingdi Sadar upazila yesterday.

The incident occurred around 10:30am at Arshinagar intersection in Narsingdi municipal area. An eight-member police team led by Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Md Anwar Hossain intercepted several men while extorting money from CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers at the intersection.

When police detained two suspects on the spot, the remaining members of the extortionists' gang formed a mob and launched an attack on the policemen and snatched away the detainees.

ASP Anwar, along with several other policemen, suffered injuries in the incident. They were rescued by locals and taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Anwar was later referred to Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital in Dhaka for advanced medical treatment, said Dr Farida Gulshana Kabir, resident medical officer of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

The ASP alleged that the attackers were associates of Alamgir Hossain, the lessee of a CNG station at Arshinagar intersection.

Alamgir, however, denied any involvement of him or his men in the incident.

Contacted, Narsingdi District Superintendent of Police Md Menhajul Alam said he was trying to gather information regarding the incident.

1 killed, 16 injured in Sitakunda clash

UNB, Ctg

One person was killed and 16 others injured in a clash between two criminal gangs over territory in the hilly area of Jungle Salimpur in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The incident took place around 6:00pm. The identity of the deceased has not yet been confirmed.

Jungle Salimpur is a large hilly area where low-income people from different parts of the country have settled over the years, forming informal communities.

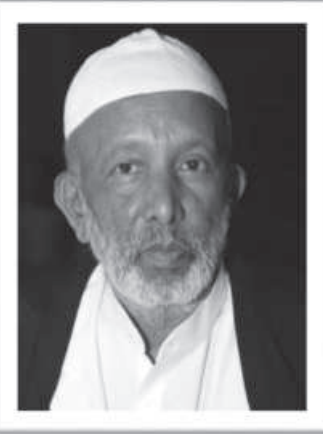
Conflicts over land, extortion, and control of the area have led to the rise of several criminal groups. The area is listed by the authorities as crime-prone.

Local sources said around 15 to 20 armed criminals, led by top city gangster Sarwar Babla, tried to seize land in the area yesterday evening.

Hundreds of local residents of the settlement resisted and attacked the intruders. One criminal was killed on the spot, while at least 16 others, including Gang member Javed, were injured.

Mujibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said, "We heard that one person died and several others were injured in the clash. The injured have been taken to the hospital. The matter is under investigation."

6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY!



It's been 6 years we lost our honorable former Director, Veteran Industrialist

FEROZ ALAM

on 5th of October 2019.

We remember him on this day.

We all pray to Almighty Allah for granting him Jannat.

Directors and All Employees of



AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Open Architectural Design Competition for the Design of Ten Storied Academic Building for Dhaka Residential Model College (DRMC) within It's campus at Mohammadpur, Dhaka.



CRITERIA	This competition calls for an innovative architectural design for a contemporary academic building that fosters learning, collaboration, and community. The project should respond to the evolving needs of higher education by integrating flexible learning spaces, faculty offices, research zones, and communal areas. Emphasis is placed on climate-responsive design, sustainability, and the intelligent use of natural light and ventilation. Participants are encouraged to explore creative spatial arrangements that promote interaction, inclusivity, and academic excellence. The building should reflect the institution's identity while engaging with its urban or campus context. Proposals must consider circulation, accessibility, structural feasibility, and the integration of technology in education. The competition seeks visionary solutions that balance functionality, aesthetic value, and long-term adaptability—setting a benchmark for future academic environments.
SITE	Site: Dhaka Residential Model College, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
PRIZES	First Prize: BDT 2,50,000.00 (Taka Two Lakh and fifty thousand) and Certificate Second Prize: BDT 175,000.00 (Taka One Lakh and Seventy-Five Thousand) & Certificate Third Prize: BDT 100,000.00 (Taka One Lakh) & Certificate Special Mention (3 Nos.): BDT 25,000.00 (Taka Twenty-Five Thousand) & Certificate for each
ELIGIBILITY	The eligibility of the Team Leader will be a 'Regular Member' of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) with eight years of professional experience and meeting the conditions outlined in the "Dhaka Mohanagar Imarat Nirman Bidhimala 2008".
REGISTRATION	1. The registration number and competition brief have to be collected from the IAB office from 05.10.2025 to 11.10.2025 by 8:00 PM by paying a one-time registration fee of Tk.2000 (Taka Two thousand only). 2. The registration form has to be filled-up, signed and emailed to (drmc.competition@gmail.com) in PDF format by 12.10.2025 by 8:00 PM with R-registration no. attached as subject line.
SITE VISIT	All registered teams are invited to attend the site visit on 13 October 2025, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
QUERIES	Queries will be answered after the site visit at the DRMC premises on 13th October.
DEADLINE	Registration: October 05, 2025, to October 11, 2025, by 8:00 PM Site VISIT: 13 October 2025, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM Queries: 13 October 2025, from 1:00 PM Submission: November 20, 2025, 6:00 PM at IAB Center Jury: November 22, 2025, to December 09, 2025.
CONTACT	Ar. Ahmed Firoz Ull Hoque (H-213) Phone: +8801730797569 email: drmc.competition@gmail.com Address: IAB CENTRE, Plot-11, Block-E, Shaptachyari Muzharul Islam Soroni (Old Road no-7), Agargaon, Sher E Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

This advertisement is also available on the IAB website: www.iab.com.bd

At Shaheed Minar, one last time

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flowers. The tribute was organised by the Language Movement Veteran Ahmad Rafique Foundation.

The official ceremony began with a wreath placed by Additional Secretary Abul Faiz Md Alauddin Khan on behalf of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

More than a hundred organisations followed, including political parties, cultural groups, student bodies and academic institutions.

"Although best known as a Language Movement veteran, Ahmad Rafique was one of our most significant writers," said

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.

"He wrote both poetry and prose, edited literary journals, and his Rabindra research was highly regarded on both sides of Bengal. His life and ideals were tied to social transformation. His death is an irreparable loss," Prof Serajul said.

Mofidul Hoque, trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said, "He upheld ideals rooted in justice and freedom. The partition of Bengal pained him deeply. He devoted his life to building a society free from communal divisions.

His entire life was a gift to humanity."

Bangla Academy Director Mohammad Azam also laid a wreath on behalf of the academy.

Rafique's niece Rehana Akter said the family was overwhelmed by the turnout. "So many people came to honour him. We are deeply moved," she said.

Munir Siraj, president of Ahmad Rafique Foundation, said, "He spent his last days in solitude. But today, there is no loneliness. So many people have come to stand by him."

Among the organisations that paid

tribute were Dhaka University, Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, Nazrul Institute, Copyright Office, Chhayanaut, Udichi Shilpigoshthi, Prothom Alo, Pragati Lekhok Sangha, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bhasani Anusari Parishad, Bangladesher JASAD, BASAD (Marxist), Ganosambhati Andolon, Gonoforum, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and several others.

The tribute session ended around 1:00pm. As per his wishes, Ahmad

Rafique's body was donated to Ibrahim Medical College Hospital for medical education and research.

A procession of mourners accompanied the hearse from Shaheed Minar through Doel Chatter, Shishu Academy, National Eidgah and Kadam Fountain to Segunbagicha, where the body was formally handed over to hospital authorities.

Born on September 12, 1929, at Shahbajpur village in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila, Rafique spent his early life in different districts, including Narail and Munshiganj.

Teaching

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managed to bring them from Myanmar," she said.

One of her students, Ja Then U, said, "Earlier, we could not read or write in Rakhine. After this academy started, now we can. I feel very happy that I can finally read books written in my own language."

"Just as Bangla is important for our country, I want our Rakhine language to be valued in the same way," Nila said.

Currently, classes are run almost free of cost, but financial constraints remain. "We want to create a platform where children can study for free. They should get quality education without barriers. Nothing should stand in the way of their learning," Nila said.

Death Anniversary



In remembrance of our beloved Abba Paak, M. A. Rashid, on his 37th death anniversary, a Milad and Daa Mahfil will be held on Sunday, 5th October 2025, after Maghreb prayer at the Unity Club, United House. We kindly invite all relatives, friends, and well-wishers to join us in this gathering to offer prayers for his Maghferat and eternal peace.

Contact: 01951155077



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR ITB 1732- Furniture	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF FURNITURE FOR UNHCR OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Invitation to Bid (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from the **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Please confirm your participation for **BGD - UNHCR ITB 1732- Furniture** by using the **"Acknowledge Participation"** functionality in the Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe (Acknowledge Participation) to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in, as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:

UNHCR will organize an online supplier **pre-bid conference on 12 October 2025 at 10:00 am BST via Microsoft Teams**. Bidders may also join the meeting by scanning the QR Code:

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guidelines: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to log in with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on **Forgot Password** to reset your password.

Bid submission deadline: Sunday, 26 October 2025 – 05:00 PM Bangladesh time.

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer must be submitted only through the Cloud ERP portal.



Scan above QR Code to join