

## Slow bridge work puts train passengers at risk

SDILIP ROY, *Latmonirhat*

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

Trains on the Latmonirhat-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



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



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 Mojiful Islam, a regular commuter.

According to the Latmonirhat 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.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *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.

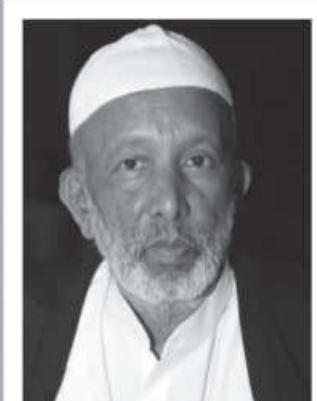
Shahidul Islam, treasurer of Rajbari District Truck-Covered Van Workers' Union, said, "We raised this issue with the authorities, but nothing has been done."

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."

Majhul 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.

## 6<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY!



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

### FEROZ ALAM

on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 its campus at Mohammadpur, Dhaka.



Institute of Architects Bangladesh

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) &amp; Certificate

Second Prize BDT 175,000.00 (Taka One Lakh and Seventy-Five Thousand) &amp; Certificate

Third Prize BDT 100,000.00 (Taka One Lakh) &amp; Certificate

Special Mention (3 Nos.) BDT 25,000.00 (Taka Twenty-Five Thousand) &amp; 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 Bidhikama 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 Firoj Ul Hoque (H-213)

Phone: +8801730797569

email: drmc.competition@gmail.com

Address: IAB CENTRE, Plot-11, Block-E, Sthaptyacharjo 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](http://www.iab.com.bd)

## Teaching roots

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of the hill tracts have been included in textbooks, but for indigenous groups in the plains, that has not happened yet. We want recognition too."

She believes the initiative cannot succeed alone. "No work can be done by one person. If everyone supports and encourages, we can take the Rakhine language and culture further."

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. Whether it is poverty or other problems, nothing should stand in the way of their learning."

**Death Anniversary**  
  
 In remembrance of our beloved Abba Paak, M. A. Rashid, on his 37th death anniversary, a Milad and Doa 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

## 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 Abdul 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.

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

His entire life was a gift to humanity."

Bangla Academy Director General 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."

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 Chattar, 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 Shahajpur village in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila, Rafique spent his early life in different districts, including Narail and Munshiganj.

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](https://www.unhcr.org/erp/).

**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.**

## 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 Gulshan 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.