

Lalmonirhat–Burimari road turns risky

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The 100-kilometre Lalmonirhat–Burimari highway, the only route to Burimari Land Port, has become risky and unfit for vehicular movement due to numerous potholes and surface bulges.

Although the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) carries out occasional small-scale repairs, these fixes rarely last long, alleged locals.

According to RHD sources, about 9-10km of the highway, filled with potholes and surface bulges, is undergoing temporary repairs. Brick soling is being done on the damaged sections, while the bulging parts are being broken and resurfaced. However, these repairs are expected to last no longer than the next five to six months.

More than 10,000 vehicles, including around 2,000 heavy vehicles, use this route daily.

“While driving heavy vehicles, the sudden jolts from potholes and surface bulges often lead to a loss of control,



causing accidents. I've driven trucks on many highways across the country, but I've never seen a highway as risky as the Lalmonirhat–Burimari road,” said Shafiqul Islam, a truck driver.

Mizanur Rahman, a motorcyclist from the Votmari area, said, “Riding motorcycles on this road at night has become terrifying. Many accidents occur because of the surface bulges. RHD occasionally repairs the road, but it gets damaged again very soon. The use of substandard materials for the road surface is the main reason behind this condition.”

Azaharul Islam, a businessman from the Parulia area, said, “Even though it is one of the busiest highways in the country, no development project has been undertaken to improve it.”

Contacted, Mozammel Haque, sub divisional engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat, said, “The expired bitumen cover of the highway has caused bulges in many places, while the potholes have formed due to the worn-out surface. We are currently doing temporary repairs. A project proposal has been sent to the higher authorities, and once funds are allocated, tenders will be invited for major repair work.”



Defying the ban on slow-moving vehicles on highways, a three-wheeler, locally known as a tomtom, carries a large bundle of straw with two labourers precariously riding on top. The photo was taken on the Barishal-Barguna highway in the Amtali area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

3 years on, no bridge for Taltali locals

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Locals in Behala village under Barguna's Taltali upazila have been suffering in their daily commute for the past three years since the collapse of an iron bridge in the area.

The bridge collapsed in March 2022, cutting off the village from the Amtali-Taltali road. Since then, no initiative has been taken to repair it, forcing villagers to use a makeshift bamboo bridge to cross a canal at great risk.

Residents of Behala are mostly farmers. As there is no market nearby, they have to travel 15 kilometres to the upazila headquarters to sell their produce. With no vehicular access to the village since the bridge's collapse,

farmers face immense difficulty in transporting their goods to markets.

The Local Government Engineering Department constructed the makeshift bamboo



bridge with funding from the Asian Development Bank after the old iron bridge collapsed. The temporary structure now serves as the only link for residents of Behala and nine neighbouring villages to

access the upazila town.

More than a thousand students from Behala High School and three government primary schools use the bridge daily.

“Ambulances cannot reach our village when someone falls seriously ill. Farmers also struggle to transport their crops to markets,” said Anjon Adhikari, a local.

Tapan Adhikari, another villager, said, “When the iron bridge was built, there was no road. Now we have a paved road, but no bridge to connect. It's ironic!”

Contacted, Md Shakhawat Hossain, upazila engineer of LGED in Taltali, said, “At least eight such bridges in Taltali upazila have either collapsed or are in poor condition. We have already sent project proposals to the higher authorities for renovation.”

Misinformation glut a threat

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appear to be engaged in a “digital contest” — shaping public opinion through AI-generated content, organised propaganda networks, and commercially driven content creators, the report said.

Disinformation, the study notes, is no longer limited to political rivalry. It is eroding public trust, fuelling communal division, and silencing women's voices online.

Fabricated videos, synthetic images, and doctored content have already been used to target women candidates and minority communities, raising the risks of harassment, intimidation, and voter suppression.

Despite the severity of these risks, Bangladesh's preparedness remains limited. In a country of over 170 million people, there are only 40 to 50 professional fact-checkers, and most mainstream media outlets lack dedicated verification desks.

Journalists and fact-checkers are under-equipped and poorly coordinated, while election observers and civil society organisations are largely absent from digital

monitoring efforts.

Social media companies rarely engage with stakeholders, and the Election Commission lacks the policy framework, expertise, and institutional capacity to respond effectively. The study warns that “the gap between risk and capacity is now dangerously wide”.

Following the presentation, participants called for urgent collaboration between regulators, media, and technology platforms to strengthen information integrity ahead of the polls.

Shawkat Hossain, head of online at Prothom Alo, said, “Traditional media's traditional approach to fact-checking will not work anymore. They need training to go beyond the traditional approach.”

“We have a great challenge in front of us with all these rapid advances in AI, and it would probably be impossible for fact-checkers to keep up with all this progress,” he added.

Prof Sumon Rahman, head of media studies and journalism at ULAB, said, “Accountability of a platform is crucial to combat disinformation. The government has to negotiate with platforms

and demand accountability. Unfortunately, our government has lost its leverage due to the previous administration's arbitrary use of power.”

Abdullah Titir, head of research at Digitally Right, who presented the findings, said, “We have observed a number of regulatory frameworks being enacted within a very short time with the election in mind, which do not clarify definitions or provide safeguards against misuse.”

“This indicates a lack of sufficient consultation with stakeholders, opening up avenues for arbitrary implementation and crackdowns on legitimate critique and dissent,” she added.

“Regulations should be adopted only after adequate consultation with stakeholders, to assess human rights implications and design necessary safeguards accordingly,” she concluded.

Among others, Ananya Raihan, chairperson of iSocial; Emma Wind, governance adviser at FODO; Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, country representative of The Asia Foundation; and Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Digitally Right, also spoke.

Progress but not

FROM PAGE 3
Integrated Multimodal Transport Sector Master Plan of Bangladesh at the state guest house Jamuna.

The Roads and Highways Department presented a preliminary strategic plan, prepared in coordination with officials from relevant ministries. The plan outlines how all transport modes in the country can be integrated and improved through limited upgrades and additions.

The plan suggests that proper utilisation and slight expansion of the existing rail, road, and waterway

networks could lead to significant improvements.

The chief adviser said the plan should focus on economic growth while ensuring due attention to regional and global connectivity.

“When we consider rivers as a transport mode, we must remember that rivers are our lifeline,” he added.

Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud pointed out that in some areas, constructing a few small roads could connect entire regions to national networks, requiring swift planning.

Govt may not survive

FROM PAGE 3
a wreath at the grave of the party's founder, Ziaur Rahman, in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

He alleged that the government has remained silent on the unresolved issues surrounding the charter and expressed hope that the chief adviser would resolve the disputes before the polls.

“We still have trust in the chief adviser and expect that he will ensure a fair and credible election,” Gayeshwar said.

He said the final printed version of the charter, released two days after it was signed, included changes not in the original agreement.

“This is completely unacceptable,” he said.

Despite the tensions, the BNP leader said the party would continue to exercise restraint. “There may be further unwanted incidents, but we are determined to maintain peace in the country,” he added.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir alleged that efforts were underway to create an anarchic situation in the country.

Speaking at a press briefing following a party meeting, Fakhru announced a 10-day programme to mark National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7.

The observance will begin on November 5 and conclude on November 13.

5 more die of dengue

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provide the best possible service,” he said at a press conference on the current dengue control activities at the DNCC headquarters in Gulshan.

Azaz emphasised that dengue control is achievable through public awareness and the collective efforts of all service-providing institutions.

“At the beginning of the monsoon season this year, we held a meeting with experts. We have tried to implement their recommendations throughout the year,” he added.

Highlighting the manpower shortage, the DNCC administrator noted that international standards require over two health workers per thousand people to ensure adequate public health services.

“However, we have only one worker for every 11,000 people — far below the

required level,” he said.

In response to a question from journalists, Azaz said seven inspectors have been appointed to strengthen field-level services in line with expert recommendations.

Meanwhile, Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said dengue cases tend to rise in waves.

“When mosquito density is high, it becomes very difficult to contain the spread of dengue. Our forecasting model suggests that cases peaked in October, will start to decline in November, but will remain at a significant level until January,” he said.

He stressed that while city corporations must intensify efforts on source reduction, breeding-site management, and hotspot control, community participation is equally crucial.

HM Nazmul Ahsan,

associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said dengue admissions have increased significantly in recent days.

“Many patients arrive with low blood pressure and signs of shock, particularly after the fever subsides,” he said.

“The 48 hours following the end of fever are the most critical and require close monitoring. If intravenous fluids are not administered on time, the condition can worsen — and those who arrive late are often the ones who die.”

He recommended early hospital admission for high-risk groups such as the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Ahsan also advised patients receiving home care to stay well-hydrated by consuming saline, coconut water, rice starch, soups, and fresh fruit juices to prevent dehydration.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়
সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস
"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

১। নিরীক্ষা/সমীক্ষার জন্য গ্রাফিক্স ডিজাইন/কম্পোজ ও বই মুদ্রণ সুবিধা প্রদানসহ প্রকৃত গবেষণাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

২। আগামী ০৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ হতে ০৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কর্মদিবসে ০৯০০ হতে ১৪৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়, সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ এর অভ্যর্থনা কক্ষ হতে ৪০০.০০ (চার শত মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরত যোগ্য) এর বিনিময়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। নিরীক্ষা/সমীক্ষার বিষয়, দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে। দরপত্রের সাথে দরদাতার পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবিসহ ঢাকাস্থ যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাকে হতে হিসাব নম্বর ০০০২-০২১০১৩০৩৮২, ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রিন্সিপাল শাখা, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস" এর অনুসূচী উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫% (ফেরত যোগ্য) হারে জামানত হিসেবে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।

৩। সিডিউল মোতাবেক দরপত্র সীল করা বন্ধ থাকে আগামী ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগের অভ্যর্থনা কেন্দ্রে রক্ষিত দরপত্র ব্যাগে জমা দিতে হবে। একই তারিখে ১২৩০ ঘটিকার দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেই উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র ব্যাগ খোলা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার পর যাচাই/বাছাই ও বিশ্লেষণ শেষে গ্রহণযোগ্য দরপত্র দাখিলকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পত্রের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

৪। সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দাখিলকৃত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

তারিখঃ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

আই এস পি আর/বিখ/৪০৯

GD-2307

সিফাত আহমেদ

কোয়াল্ড্রন ডিরেক্টর

প্রিন্সিপাল স্টাফ অফিসারের পক্ষে

Trust Bank PLC.
A Bank for Financial Inclusion

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1. Sealed Double Envelope tenders are hereby invited by Trust Bank PLC. from bonafide suppliers/vendors/firms for the following tenders:

Supply, Installation and Construction of New Near Datacenter (NDC) with Tier 3 Standard Certifications of NDC and Passive and Active Equipment Migration from the Existing Location to the New Location with AMC.

2. Tender documents containing the details of the terms & conditions and details of the Pre-Bid Meeting may be downloaded from the website: <https://www.tbld.com/tender>. Only schedule purchaser may attend the Pre-Bid Meeting.

Note: Trust Bank PLC. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Department, GSSD

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

নং সংস্থা/ব-৫৯/রে- ৩১২১

তারিখ: ০২ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

আবশ্যিক

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ক্র.	পদের নাম	পদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	পদ সংখ্যা	মেয়াদকাল
১.	সহকারী ইন্সট্রুমেন্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার সর্বসাক্ষ্যে মাসিক বেতন ৳: ৩৫,৬০০/-	(১) কোন বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে কমপক্ষে বি.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। (২) প্রার্থীর শিক্ষাজীবনে কোন পর্যায় তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।	১ টি	১৩ মাস
২.	প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা সর্বসাক্ষ্যে মাসিক বেতন ৳: ৩৫,৬০০/-	(১) কোন বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে কমপক্ষে বি.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রিধারী অথবা কোন বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি এবং কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে অফিসার পদে ১ বছর কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (২) প্রার্থীর শিক্ষাজীবনে কোন পর্যায় তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।	১ টি	১৫ মাস

উল্লিখিত পদের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ: ১৭/১১/২০২৫

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GD-2303

রেজিস্ট্রার