

Emerging Bridge Construction Industry of Bangladesh: Promise and Prosperity

Engr. S. M. Khorshed Alam
Managing Director
Dienco Ltd.
Dhaka, Bangladesh
khorshed@agni.com



Engr. S. M. Khorshed Alam was born in 1962. He graduated from The Rajshahi Engineering College. He is specialized in bridge and road construction. Mr. Alam is a member of the Board of Directors in Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry.

Abu Saleh Md. Nuruzzaman
Executive Engineer
Roads and Highways Department
Dhaka, Bangladesh
asmmunna@yahoo.com



Abu Saleh Md. Nuruzzaman was born in 1962. He received his Bachelor and Masters degree from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology- BUET. Later on he also received another Master degree in Bridge Engineering from the University of Surrey, UK. His areas of specializations are bridge design and construction.

Summary

Bangladesh is a least developed country which is trying to become a middle-income country by 2021. No doubt infrastructure like road network would play a vital role in its economic development. Before the independence in 1971, small span bridges were constructed by the local engineering firms and the long span bridges were built by the foreign engineering firms since they were technologically advanced. Even after the independence most of the large bridges were also constructed by the foreign engineering firms; however, the scenario is gradually changing after the inauguration of Bangabondhu Multipurpose Bridge. Local engineering construction companies started to build box girder bridges of long span, deep water foundation and lowering pile cap at river bed level, etc. These firms are consistently demonstrating their improved capability more confidently. Although foreign engineering companies are still working in Bangladesh but they are working in collaboration with the local engineering firms, which is a clear indication of the capacity development of those local counter parts. This study would high light the gradual improvement of the competency in building complex construction works in Bangladesh and the correspondent impacts over the economic development.

1. Promise and Prosperity

The history of Bangladesh Bridge construction industry is almost 50 years and during this period a good number of remarkable milestones were achieved. Skilled and semi skilled man power grew throughout this time period. Now all sorts of manpower starting from labor to experience



Figure 1: A Barge Mounted Crane is Carrying PC I Girder

bridge construction engineers are available in Bangladesh. Different kinds of bridge construction equipment are now manufactured in Bangladesh too. Good quality cement and high strength reinforcing bar are also produced here. Overall basic capabilities in terms of technology, supporting industry, skilled workers and infrastructure etc. have been developed in Bangladesh and it is enhancing gradually day by day.

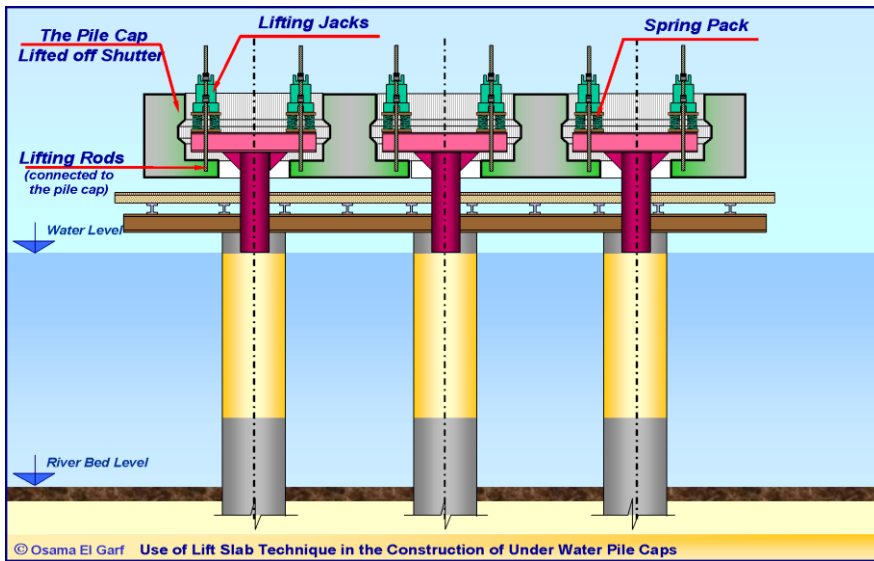


Figure 2: Jack Down Method of Pile Cap Lowering

By the year 2021 Bangladesh is going to be a middle income country. More infrastructures are required to build by the next eight years. Bridges, flyovers and elevated expressways are the vital element of infrastructure. Bridge construction industry of Bangladesh will supplement in constructing this sorts of infrastructure. Now it is in a stage to take all these responsibilities.

2. Conclusion

Bridge construction industry of Bangladesh has taken a clear shape. It has become a vibrant industry from ordinary civil construction activity. Like other industry now it can compete outside Bangladesh and take responsibility of infrastructure development in SARC countries.



Figure 3: Completed Third Karnaphuli Bridge