



Littered with all sorts of trash all around, no one will now recognise the existence of the government pond in Haatkholra area of Jhenidah town.

PHOTO: STAR

Destruction of Jhenidah town ponds in full swing

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Unplanned urbanisation, absence of civic conscience among townspeople and lack of garbage management services are contributing to destruction of various waterbodies including ponds in Jhenidah town.

With most of the ponds, filled up with garbage, turning into a source of putrid odour, the fire service of the town is having difficulty finding sufficient water to douse fire.

Senior citizens in the town said there used to be over 150 ponds in the town in the '70s. But there are only 20 of those, both government and privately-owned, in existence now.

Indiscriminate dumping of waste has turned most of the waterbodies into landfills and breeding ground for mosquitoes, they also said.

Haatkholra government pond was once a source of fresh water for the townspeople, said Pikul Malitha, a grocer in the neighbourhood.

This also looks like a garbage dump now. Everyone in the vicinity considers this as a place to dispose of any sort of garbage. Fish sellers at the fish market adjacent to the pond have been dumping fish waste in the pond for eight to ten years, causing an unbearable foul odour to hover in the air.

"The water in the pond used to be crystal clear and the beauty of the pond was a sight to behold. Over the years, when people's need for freshwater for household work started to diminish, a cattle market took shape on its banks. Now a goat market has replaced the cattle market there."

The entire area surrounding the pond sometimes becomes so smelly that customers often avoid his grocery store and go to stores in other areas, he added.

The state of the private ponds in the town is no different. Many owners are filling those up to accommodate housing for their family members or to build markets or rental houses for generating income for their families. The others are just being used to dump waste.

Tofajjal Hossain, owner of a pond in Hamdaha area, said he and his siblings inherited a pond from their father who had passed away.

The siblings are living in different areas and the population in the families are growing. With cost of living on the rise, all their family members have been looking for ways to make best use of common family resources as a source of additional income.

Considering the situation, he said he and his family members are now filling up

the pond to build houses on it. Since they cannot afford to buy new land to build houses, the filled-up land will enable each member of the family to own his or her own house.

Besides, no land is available for sale in the town, Tofajjal added.

A Jhenidah fire service station official, Dilip Kumar Sarkar, said the fire service has been facing acute water shortage during fire incidents in the town as most ponds or waterbodies have been filled up.

Lives are endangered and the extent of damage of property increases when they spend crucial time looking for water. Considering this aspect, the town needs to preserve all its ponds, he observed.

Rafikul Islam, associate professor of zoology at Govt KC College, said the remaining ponds in the town are being polluted by dumping of toxic and non-biodegradable waste -- from both houses and factories nearby.

The emission of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide from the waste is giving rise to levels of these harmful elements in the air, thus endangering public health, he said, adding that in order to protect human health, the ponds and waterbodies in the area have to be saved from pollution and encroachment.

Environment and Diversity Preservation Committee President Masud Ahmed Sanju said ponds and marshlands help protect ecological balance in an area by allowing fish and other aquatic animals to survive and by maintaining balance of temperature, humidity and precipitation in the area.

Without sufficient ponds in an area, temperature rises and aquatic animals including fish become scarce in the area. Moreover, not only water for everyday use in households become scarce, population of birds and other animals in the area falls too.

Therefore, the government including municipality authorities need to make serious efforts to save ponds and other waterbodies, he observed.

Jhenidah Deputy Commissioner Saroj Kumar Nath said absence of civic awareness is causing such destruction to the waterbodies and ponds. The district administration will launch campaigns in future to raise awareness on the negative impact of destroying and polluting waterbodies.

They will also take initiatives to clean up the waterbodies as well as protect those from further pollution, he assured this correspondent.

Banana boon for farmers in 10 south-western dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bumper yield and high demand have brought smile to banana farmers in 10 south- western districts under Khulna division.

The districts are Kushtia, Meherpur, Jashore, Khulna, Magura, Narail, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources said 9,978 hectares of land have been brought under banana cultivation in the districts this year. At the same time, the DAE has set a target to produce 15,873 tonnes of banana.

Mentionable, banana was cultivated on 8,912 hectares of land last year and 7913 hectares the previous year.

The DAE sources further said banana cultivation is more profitable than cultivation of any other crops.

Farmers are getting more interested to cultivate banana due to its growing demand and less cultivation cost than other crops like paddy, jute and sugarcane, said Mohammad Ali, additional director of DAE in Jashore region.

Besides, growers usually can sell bananas at the fields and its market price is quite satisfactory.

A DAE official in Kushtia said cultivation of pointed gourd besides banana has become very popular in the region in recent days. Growers are making double cash by this integrated farming.

Though the farmers usually produce this fruit round the year, key season will begin in March and April.

Shaheed Ali of Bhatoai area in Jhenidah said he has cultivated banana on three acres of land this year.

A farmer spends Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 to plant 250 to 300 banana trees on one bigha of land, said Shaheed, adding that the grower can make profit of around Tk one lakh from it.

Farmers in the region plant different varieties of banana, including sagar, sabri, madna, chapa and anupam.

Bahar Uddin of Madhupur in Kushtia Sadar upazila said he has planted banana on two bighas of land by spending around Tk 48,000 this season.

He hopes he will get a profit of Tk 80,000 to Tk 90,000 from the cultivation.

Bahar further said he does not need to spend extra money for transportation as Madhupur banana market in Kushtia, one of the largest banana selling centres in Khulna division, is near to his home.

Five cops among 25 hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 25 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) at Ysufdia village in Saltha upazila on Monday night.

Police arrested Md Wahiduzzaman, former chairman of the upazila parishad, in this connection.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Wahiduzzaman and Md Enayat Hossain, a local AL activist, over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, the men of the two rivals on Monday attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

Five policemen were also injured during the incident, said Subrata Goldar, sub-inspector of Saltha Police Station.

Tornado victims still under open sky

The families in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari waiting for govt help to rebuild houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, LALMONIRHAT

Around fifty families of Badiarchar village of Kamlabari union of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila are still staying under the open sky as the hard-pressed people could not repair their houses damaged by the tornado that lashed the village on Saturday night.

The district administration distributed food items among the tornado victims on the night.

The victims, however, are yet to receive any assistance to repair the damaged houses.

Aklima Bewa, one of the victims, said all the three rooms of her family house were damaged by the storm.

"I along with family members are passing days under the open sky as we don't have the ability to repair the house," she said.

Nazrul Islam, a farm labourer of the village, is also in the same boat.

"The tornado destroyed all three rooms of my house. I and four other family members are staying under the open sky as I have no money to repair the damaged houses," he said.

"Without government's help, it is impossible to repair or build a new house," he added.

Farmer Abdul Mannan said four rooms of his house were damaged by the tornado and he has somehow repaired one of them.

"All the trees around my house got uprooted during the storm. My family is facing hardship due to the disaster," he said.



A woman weeps as she with her family members have to stay under the open sky since a tornado destroyed their house at Badiarchar village under Kamlabari union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila on Saturday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Faruk Imrul Kayes, chairman of Aditmari Upazila Parishad, said most of the families affected by the tornado are ultra-poor and depend on daily income as farm labourers.

"We have appealed to the district and upazila administrations for allocations to repair and rebuild the damaged houses of the tornado

affected families," he said.

Aditmari Upazila Project Implementation Officer Mofizul Islam said, "We have prepared a list of 43 tornado victim families. They will receive government's assistance including corrugated iron sheets and money to rebuild the damaged houses soon."



On the occasion of National Disaster Preparedness Day-2020 yesterday, the Fire Service and Civil Defence organised a fire fighting demonstration for students of Vivekananda School and College in Tangail town.

PHOTO: STAR

<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div><div>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</div><div>College Education Development Project (CEDP)</div><div>College Name: Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj</div><div>College Address: Manikganj</div></div></div><div><div></div><div><div>College Education Development Project (CEDP)</div><div>College Name: Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj</div><div>College Address: Manikganj</div></div></div></div><div>Invitation for Tenders</div></div></div></div>			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.	
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.	
3	Procuring entity name	Md. Nurul Amin, Principal, Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	
4	Procuring entity code	N/A	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	GDC.2020.CEDP-1157/W-01/38	
8	Date	09-03-2020	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).	
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project code	224017200	
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).	
14	Tender package No.	W-01	
15	Tender package name	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).	
16	Tender publication date	09-03-2020	
17	Tender last selling date	28-03-2020	
18	Tender closing date and time	29-03-2020, 1:00pm	
19	Tender opening date and time	29-03-2020, 2:00pm	
20	Name & address of the office	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	
	Selling tender document		
	Receiving tender document		
	Opening tender document		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not Required.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/ extension) and physical services. (2) The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 35 lac only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. (3) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 80,00,000.00 (eighty lac) only over the last 03 years. (4) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderers shall be Tk 25 lac.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).	
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities.	
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).	
26	Lot. Identification No. of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	01 W-01	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj	1,50,000.00
			Completion time in months
			Two months
27	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Nurul Amin, Principal.	
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal	
29	Address of official inviting tender	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-7710404	Fax : 7710040 E-mail : debendracollege@yahoo.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
Md. Nurul Amin Principal Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj			
GD-475			