

# Defiant contractor abandons road work, causing suffering to thousands

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Nabiganj

A contractor abandoned construction of a road that was scheduled to be finished by May this year, under Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj.

As a result, around 25,000 residents of Deopara and Shatak areas in Gajnaipur union are now facing immense sufferings during this monsoon when the 780-meter-long dirt road has become impassable with knee-deep mud all over.

Till date, the contractor ignored three consecutive mails that were sent out by the LGED, asking it to complete the work, said Sabbir Ahmed, the engineer of LGED in Nabiganj upazila.

The work order for the Tk 54.48-lakh project was awarded to Jason Enterprise, which was scheduled to start construction of the road on May 16 last year and finish it on May 21 this year.

It is now a nightmare for anyone who has to use this unpaved road to reach the union parishad (UP) or the upazila headquarters, locals said.

Even lighter vehicles such as rickshaws or auto-rickshaws get stuck in the mud or skid off the road, sometimes resulting in injuries to passengers and drivers alike, said Jibon Mia, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver.

Gajnaipur resident Bishad Datta said this is a vital road for thousands of inhabitants in two unions as this is their only way to communicate with the upazila headquarters.

Retired teacher Jahedur Rahman, a resident of neighbouring Deopara area, alleged that after commencing construction work in November last year, the contractor started to illegally extract reddish soil from hillocks in surrounding areas and dump it on the road in place of an 8-inch layer of coarse sand, approved by the LGED.

When locals protested and the administration raised objections, the contractor stopped the work, he also said.

The road was somewhat usable for a short period of time when an expatriate



The road connecting Deopara and Shatak in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj lie in an impassable state after the LGED contractor left without completing construction of the road.

PHOTO: STAR

worker in Saudi Arabia paid for dumping some sand bags on the road. But the situation worsened again when pouring monsoon rain damaged and washed those away, said Mahmudul Islam, a resident of Shatak village.

While speaking with this correspondent, Gajnaipur UP Chairman Imdadur Rahman Mukul, who is also president of Awami League in the upazila, said thousands of

inhabitants in two unions of the upazila are suffering as the contractor abandoned the work site. "I requested the LGED several times to complete the work. But nothing worked."

Contacted over cell phone, Nurul Amin, proprietor of Jason Enterprise, said they had to stop the work due to Covid-19.

But when this correspondent asked him whether he was using soil from surrounding

hills for the sand layer in the foundation of the road, he disconnected the call.

Sabbir Ahmed, the LGED engineer in the upazila, said the contractor deviated from using materials approved by the LGED and did not comply with their demand of rectifying the flawed work.

They would inform the higher authorities of the anomalies by the contractor and seek necessary action, he added.

## NGO worker gang-raped, 1 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested a man in connection with a case for gang-raping a NGO worker in Fakirhat upazila on Saturday night.

The law enforcers raided Zaria Mithekumra area in the upazila and detained Mamun, 27, a rickshaw-van puller, yesterday noon, Bagerhat Superintendent of Police (SP) Pankaj Chandra Roy said.

Police also seized a mobile phone, containing the video clips of the heinous act, from the arrestee.

The other accused in the case are -- Firoz, 28, Musa, 26, Raju, 29, of the same area.

Police said the four accused in the case entered the victim's room on Saturday night and gang-raped her. The 25-year-old victim filed a case with Fakirhat Police Station accusing four people yesterday evening, the SP said, adding that they were conducting drives to arrest the other accused of case.

## Man kills wife over family feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A woman was killed by her husband allegedly over a family feud in Dhunat upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Shefali Begum, 45, was wife of Ershad Akanda, 55, of Panchthubi village in the upazila.

Meanwhile, police conducted a drive in Chandaikona Bazar area in Sherpur upazila and detained Ershad yesterday afternoon.

Quoting the victim's family members and locals, Bogura Additional Superintendent of Police (Sherpur Circle) Gaziur Rahman said there had been a family feud between the couple after Ershad, a craft artisan of the village, took loan from a local NGO couple of months ago, and was struggling to pay the installment of the loan in time.

The couple took their meal on Saturday night and went to sleep at their room.

Around 12:30am they woke up and started quarreling again over the issue.

At one stage, Ershad killed his wife by slitting her throat with a sharp weapon around 1:00am in and fled the sense.

During primary interrogation, Ershad confessed his involvement in the murder, SP Gaziur said.

Officer in Charge of Dhunat Police Station Kripa Sindhu Bala quoted victim's son Selim Hossain, 25, saying that, hearing screams, he went to his parents' room and found blood was coming out of the room.

Later, when Selim went to call his uncle Ershad managed to flee spot.

## SCIENTISTS AT BWMRI

# No promotion in 17 years

KONGRON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Scientists at Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) in Dinajpur have not got any promotion in the last 17 years although they have been playing a significant role to take advance the wheat farming in the country since long.

Such inaction by the authority has disappointed the scientists. As a result, they do not find any spirit of work.

"It's so unexpected that the scientists, who are playing key role to take advance the wheat and maize cultivation in the country, are being financially deprived", said a scientist.

At present, annual wheat production is around 12.5 lakh tonnes.

The official said Wheat Research Centre (WRC) was founded in Nashipur village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila in 1984. Since then, its scientists have been developing various wheat varieties, which was prevalent among the farmers. WRC has been transformed into Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) in 2017.

The varieties include 'BARI Gom 19' ('Sourav') and 'BARI Gom 20' ('Gourab') released in 1998; 'BARI Gom 21' ('Shatabdi') in 2000; 'BARI Gom 22' ('Sufi'), 'BARI Gom 23' ('Bijoy') and 'BARI Gom 24' ('Prodip') in 2005 (Pandit et al., 2011); and 'BARI Gom 25' and 'BARI Gom 26' in 2010 (BARI, 2012b). In 2012, two varieties, 'BARI Gom 27' and 'BARI Gom 28', were released. Last month, BWMRI developed two more blast tolerant varieties.

There are 20 scientists in the institution.

Sheikh Hasina-led government had taken an initiative to transform the WRC to a full-fledged researching



Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) in Dinajpur.

PHOTO: STAR

institution of wheat and maize when Awami League came to power in 1996. But, it could not be done as BNP came to power in 2001.

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) was the parent organisation of WRC under the agriculture ministry. In 2003, BARI appointed at least 20 scientists to different posts including Scientific Officer (SO), Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) and Principal Scientific Officer (PSO).

BARI was supposed to deal with the promotion of the recruited scientists in consultation with the ministry. But, it failed to give promotion of the scientists due to non-cooperation from the ministry.

"Promotion gives a person spirit of work but we never get such spirit since we have been recruited in 2003", said a scientist.

Many went on retirement at different times, said the official.

There are different departments at BWMRI including wheat and maize breeding department, soil science department, agronomical department and Agri-Engineering department.

Wishing anonymity, the official said there are sufficient posts of scientists to get promotion but it is not happening. As a result, they are losing interest to give their best performance at the workplace.

He has urged the government to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

Israel Hossain, director general of BWMRI in Dinajpur, said no scientist was promoted due to various reasons in the last 17 years but, the problem will no longer exist as the ministry concerned is trying to resolve the problem.



Drivers and owners of battery-run three-wheelers block the Kakina-Rangpur road in Lalmonirhat for nearly two and a half hours yesterday, demanding end to police harassment and smooth plying of their vehicles on Rangpur-Lalmonirhat route.

PHOTO: STAR

## Grocer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police recovered the body of a trader from a graveyard near Boiragi Bazar area in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Nur Islam, 45, a grocery shop owner, was son of Abul Hashem of Ostadpara village.

Quoting the victim's family members, Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Tanvirul Islam said Nur closed his shop at Boiragi Bazar around 10:00pm on Saturday night but did not return home.

Locals spotted his body lying at a local graveyard around 10:00am yesterday and informed the police, who sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

### Bangladesh Bank

Common Services Department-2  
Head Office  
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Bangladesh  
Website: [www.bangladeshbank.org.bd](http://www.bangladeshbank.org.bd)

#### Invitation for Tenders (Through Web)

Tender No. CSD-2(EES): 19/HO/BBTA solar/2020-59	Date: 08/10/2020
Tenders through electronic media (e-Tenders) are invited from the bonafide contractors/firms/reputed suppliers/reputed manufacturers or their local agent/distributor for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 15 Kwp grid-tie solar power system at roof top of Hostel Building, Bangladesh Bank Training Academy, Mirpur, Dhaka. Necessary information are given below:	
01 Procuring entity 02 Source of funds 03 Invitation for Tender No. 04 Method of procurement 05 Qualifications of tenderer	Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. Bangladesh Bank's own fund. CSD-2(EEW):19/HO/BBTA solar/2020-59, Date: 08/10/2020 Open Tendering Method (OTM). a) The tenderer shall have minimum 05 (five) years overall business experience in the supply of electrical & electronic goods and related services. b) The tenderer shall have the experience in supply, installation, testing & commissioning of minimum 10 Kwp solar power system under a single contract in the last 03 (three) years in any govt./semi-govt./autonomous organisation in Bangladesh. The tenderer shall have to furnish certificate in this respect from the officers not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent and shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in tender document. c) Liquid assets/credit facility shall have at least 15.00 lac (Taka fifteen lac) only. d) Tenderer shall have to fulfil the qualification/eligible criteria stipulated in the terms and conditions of the tender documents, failing which the tender may be rejected and considered as non-responsive.
06 Address of the web receiving tender document 07 Name & address of the offices receiving tender security & other documentary evidence 08 Last date and time for submission of tender document through web 09 Last date and time for receiving original tender security and tender submission letter 10 Date, time and place for tender opening	Submit in web: <a href="http://www.bangladeshbank.org">www.bangladeshbank.org</a> (e-Tender) General Manager (Engineering), Common Services Department-2 (6th Floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. 02/11/2020 up to 3:00pm. 02/11/2020 up to 3:15pm. All tenders will be opened at Common Services Department-2 (6th Floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 02/11/2020 at 3:15pm (intending tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).
11 Brief description of the goods and services	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 15 Kwp grid-tie solar power system at roof top of Hostel Building, Bangladesh Bank, Training Academy, Mirpur, Dhaka to be completed on package/turn-key job basis including 02 (two) years warranty obligations. The period of warranty shall be 02 years from the date of official handover of the work.
12 Time for completion of the work 13 Tender security 14 Special instruction	60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of Award of Contract. Tk 50,000.00 (Taka fifty thousand) only. i) The tenderer shall submit tender and scanned copy of documentary evidence with Pdf. format through Bangladesh Bank website (e-Tendering) & must have a valid e-mail address for participation through e-Tendering. To submit e-Tender please register on Bangladesh Bank e-Tender system through Bangladesh Bank website. ii) Tender submission letter (form PG3-1) should be completed and signed by the authorized signatory on the letterhead pad. The original G-1 form shall submit to the General Manager (Engineering), Common Services Department-2 within scheduled time as per TDS. iii) Original PO/BD/Bank Guarantee as tender security along with original tender submission letter (form PG3-1) shall be submitted to the General Manager, Common Services Department-2, within stipulated date and time of TDS. iv) Tenderer shall provide documentary evidence etc. (attested or original whichever necessary) when requested, failing which the tender may be considered as non-responsive. v) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR 2008/Reg 12 of BBRP 2004. vi) Any Corrigendum (if any) will also be a part of the tender and it will be binding upon the tenderer. vii) All sorts of security & safety measure shall be carried out by the contractor during execution of the works. viii) Bangladesh Bank reserves all right to accept or reject any or all tenders without any reason whatever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2020-2755  
Date: 11-10-2020  
GD-1617

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