



One of the tin structures built encroaching on the land belonging to Water Development Board, near Mohipur fish landing station in Patuakhali’s Kalapara upazila. About nine acres of the land, with six buildings on it, have been left in an abandoned state for at least four decades. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: STAR

# WDB in slumber for four decades

While plundering of its valuable property in Kalapara upazila goes on

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

For nearly four decades, encroachers and trespassers have been tightening their grip on about nine acres of lucrative land, belonging to Water Development Board (WDB), near Mohipur fish landing station in Kalapara upazila.

But the WDB, despite preparing a list of 31 encroachers three months ago, has yet to evict the illegal occupants from the property that is worth several crores of taka.

In the 60s, when the land was acquired, six buildings were built for offices of WDB and housing facilities for its staff members. But, with the closing down of WDB’s operations at Mohipur, at least 40 years ago, the entire area including the buildings were left in an abandoned state.

The empty buildings and the large piece of land then gradually started to fall in the clutches of encroachers. In order to keep the possession of the property, many of them rented out rooms in the rundown buildings or portions of the land to landless or low-income families.

During a visit, the occupants were found

living in the decades-old buildings ignoring the risk of collapse any time. Many of the residents made tin fences around parts of the buildings, while others even built tin-roofed houses on the WDB land.

Day labourer Kalam Mridha lives with his family in one of the abandoned buildings. Asked why he was putting lives of his family members in danger by staying there, he said, “We’re landless people. We risk our lives despite knowing that this is government property, as we have nowhere else to go. We’ll leave whenever the government asks us to go.”

When asked, resident of a tin-roofed house said her husband, who is a barber, pays Tk 1,500 monthly rent to the house owner, Berek Talukder.

Berek however did not agree to comment over her claim when this correspondent approached him.

The claim made by Hosne Ara Begum, another resident of one of the buildings, was quite intriguing.

She said the government had acquired five acres of her land for WDB. The land where she

is staying now belongs to her because it has been left in an abandoned state for a while.

Momin Sikder, an elderly resident of Bipinpur, a neighbouring village, said the value of the WDB land rose considerably in recent times -- thanks to an increased business activity in the area centring the Mohipur fish landing station.

In his opinion, that is the reason why many of the greedy locals have their eyes on the property.

Another senior citizen, Mohammad Mostafa, said the WDB needs to put a stop to the squandering of public money and endangerment of lives.

Contacted, Office Surveyor Tariqul Islam at Kalapara office of WDB said illegal occupants enter the property by breaking the barbed wire fences that they had put up around it.

However, a process is under way to evict the encroachers and they already made a list of 31 encroachers for the purpose, he added.

Kalapara WDB’s Executive Engineer Khan Mohammad Waliuzzaman said the eviction drive would begin soon.

# Tomato plants drying due to indiscriminate use of urea

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Tender tomato plants are drying up in the fields due to indiscriminate use of urea fertiliser, much to the worry of farmers in Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

Tomato has cultivated on 750 hectares of land in Bororchar and Poranganj unions this year, said local farmers.

Some 20,000 farmers are engaged in vegetable cultivation in the two uinons. Especially farmers of Jafarkanda, Madhumari, Boithamari, Bagerkanda, Mridhapara, Jaformondol Para, Kustiapara and Poyosree Tarapur villages in Bororchar union are the worst sufferers.

Amir Hossain Khan, a farmer of Madhumari village, said he has cultivated tomato and other vegetables on four acres of land this year, spending Tk 150000 but his tomato pants are being dried up since last week.

“Last year, I also cultivated tomato on two acres of land and got a profit of Tk six lakh but this year I am fearing a huge loss as nearly fifty percent tomato plants have been dried up due to unknown reason”, lamented 60-year-old Amir.

Israfil Mia, 35, of Bagerkanda village, said he has cultivated tomato on 1.50-acre of land this time. He is fearing a serious setback this season.

The farmers also said plants in their green chilly cauliflower fields are also being dried up in many areas of the unions.

Abdul Aziz Sarker, chairman of Bororchar union parishad (UP), said there are some 16000 farmers in his union and of them, 12000 are vegetable farmers.

The farmers have spent most of their cost for growing vegetable including cauliflower. Buyers from different parts of the country including Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet and Rajshahi throng to the area for vegetable.

The chairman also urged the agriculture officials to take immediate steps to save the farmers from losses.

Md Motiuzzaman, deputy director of department of agriculture extension (DAE) in Mymensingh, said the tomato plants are drying up due to plantation of matured saplings, late insistent rainfall and indiscriminate use of urea fertilizer. The farmers used excessive fertilizer with a view to growing up the plants rapidly.

Repeated cultivation of same vegetables on the same field for years could also be responsible for the situation, he said.

They have visited some villages in Bororchar and found that the plants were drying up, said the deputy director.

The field officials are suggesting the farmers to replace the dried up plants with new one, said the deputy director.

The DAE sources said there is a target of vegetable cultivation on 18400-hectare of land in Mymensingh this season but vegetable has been cultivated on 7900-hectare.



The affected tomato farmers at their field in Jaformondol village of Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



As part of their nationwide programme, Bangladesh Collectorate Assistants Association, Tangail district unit, starts a full-day work abstention programme yesterday, demanding changes in designation and upgrade of their salary scale. The programme will continue from 9:00pm to 5:00pm till November 19.

PHOTO: STAR



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom)  
Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-

Date: 15.11.2020

Project Name: Construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line.

Package No. WD 3: Construction of Non-interlocked color light signaling system for all stations (09) including construction of Telecommunication system with optical fiber.

Ref: IFT No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1394,

Dated: 30.7.2020

**Corrigendum No. 3, Dated: 15.11.2020**

Sl. No. of IFT	Subject	Existing Provision of Corrigendum No. 1, (In IFT and Tender Document)	Existing Provision of Corrigendum No. 2, (In IFT and Tender Document)	Amended Provision (In IFT and Tender Document)
17	Tender last selling date	27.10.2020 (During office hour)	16.11.2020 (During office hour)	07.12.2020 (During office hour)
18	Tender closing date and time	28.10.2020, 12.00 hrs BST	17.11.2020, 12.00 hrs BST	08.12.2020, 12.00 hrs BST
19	Tender opening date and time	28.10.2020, 12.30 hrs BST	17.11.2020, 12.30 hrs BST	08.12.2020, 12.30 hrs BST

All other terms and conditions of the above tender will remain unchanged.

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GD-1823

KILLING HEDGEHOG  
2 poachers  
jailed, 7  
fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A mobile court on Saturday night sentenced two poachers to one month imprisonment and fined seven others for killing an endangered hedgehog in Madhabkunda Eco-Park area under Barlekha upazila.

Barlekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shamim Al Imran punished them under Wildlife Conservation Act 2012.

The jail sentence awardees are Subal, 25, and Jag Rabi Chandra, 25, while Ukil, 35, Budhu, 26, Umesh, 30, Ramesh, 32, Kartik, 35, Ram, 30, and Krishna, 35, were fined Tk 10,000 each for assisting the two.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Manikganj

**e-Tender Notice (Limited Tendering Method)**

Memo No. EED-Manikganj-Non-Govt. Revenue-2020-21/09

Date: 15/11/2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for following procurement of the following works.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Last date and time of selling documents	Tender closing date/time	Tender opening date/time
01	505817	Construction of Semipucca Building at Singjury High School Ghior Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
02	505818	Vertical Extension of Existing 2 Classroom Building at Taluknagar Degree College Daulatpur Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
03	505819	Repair and Renovation Works at Oxford Academy Shibaloy Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
04	505820	Vertical Extension of 1 Classroom Building at Taluknagar High School Daulatpur Upazila Manikgaj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
05	505821	Construction of Boundary Wall at Baira High School Singair Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
06	505822	Construction of Boundary Wall at Dholla Union Council High School Singair Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
07	505823	Construction of Semipucca Building at Ramkrishnopur M. A Jailil High School Harirampur Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
08	505824	Repair and Renovation Works at Gorpara Bohumukhi High School Sadar Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
09	505825	Repair and Renovation Works at Daragram Bohumukhi High School Saturia Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am
10	505827	Repair and Renovation Works at Chartilli High School Saturia Upazila Manikganj District.	02-Dec-2020 15:00pm	03-Dec-2020 11:00am	03-Dec-2020 11:00am

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

**The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 15:00pm on 02-Dec-2020.**

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-1824