



Volunteers building a bamboo walk bridge on a shallow channel of the Brahmaputra river in Char Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Volunteers build bamboo bridges over shallow channels

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Volunteers came to the rescue of char residents in Char Rajibpur and Roumari upazilas of Kurigram by building bamboo walk bridges on drying shallow channels of the Brahmaputra river.

Over the last one week, eight walk bridges were built in eight chars (river islands) in Char Rajibpur and Roumari upazilas and another 10 to 12 will be built soon, said Aminur Rahman, who took the primary initiative to help char residents continue communications over the crisscrossing channels in and between the chars.

Aminur, a madrasa teacher from Char Kodalkati of Char Rajibpur upazila, told the Daily Star that with bamboo and rope provided by residents of the chars, around 10 to 12 local volunteers have been working with him every day to construct the bridges.

The volunteers and villagers also make

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financial contributions to bear any additional cost during the construction work, he added.

The Brahmaputra's channels are drying up fast with the monsoon season over and it has become impossible for locals to navigate in the knee to waist-deep water in boats.

Now the walk bridges, each 10 to 15 feet in length, will help the locals immensely in their day-to-day affairs.

It takes about 30 to 40 bamboos, five to

six kilograms of rope and nearly two days of manual labour to build one bridge, Aminur added.

Remote char Kodalkati's elderly resident Abdar Hossain said they have been suffering a lot without being able to use boats in receding water in the channels, but the new bamboo bridges will ease their sufferings a bit.

Atiar Rahman, a farmer from the same area expressed gratitude toward Aminur for taking the initiative that came as a blessing for all residents of the chars in the area.

Boatman Salam Miah, who ferries people and goods to and from Chilmari river dock on the Brahmaputra river, said receding water in the channels of the Brahmaputra in the area has made his job difficult.

Even the main river has become shallow at places and movement on boats there might have to be stopped by the end of the next month, he also said.

106 brick kilns in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat flout rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Only 38 brick kilns out of 144 in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have legal approval from the Department of Environment (DoE). These 106 brick kilns have been operating illegally for years. The topsoil of the farmlands is being ruined for manufacturing bricks in the kilns.

Mezbah-Ul Alam, deputy director (DD) of DoE in Rangpur, said 21 out of 48 brick kilns in Lalmonirhat district have legal approvals but the remaining 27 are being operated illegally. Of the 96 brickfields in Kurigram, only 17 have legal approval but the remaining 79 have no approval.

Illegal brickfields have been built on farmlands in violation of environmental laws, he said.

Nahid Hasan, an environmental activist from Kurigram, said illegal brickfields are causing severe damage to the environment. All the kilns are manufacturing bricks using the topsoil of the cropland. Each brick kiln is using topsoil of 10-15 bighas of fertile cropland every year to manufacture bricks.

He added that each brick field collects topsoil from 10 to 15 bighas of cropland. Due to this, the land is losing its fertility every year.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said topsoil is the upper, usually up to eight inches. It is fertile, which is called the lifeblood of the soil. The brick

kiln owners use the topsoil of the cropland to manufacture bricks.

As a result, the soil lost its fertility and due to this, it is failed to produce the expected crops for 12 to 15 years, he said adding, that even though there is a law to get permission from the DoE before constructing a brickfield on agricultural land, it is not being complied with.

They will take action in this regard if any farmer files a complaint against the brickfields, Shamim added.

Abdul Mazid, 67, a farmer from Dhaikhata village in Kulaghat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, alleged that the farmers have become hostage to these brick kiln owners.

"We cannot stand against the brick kiln owners as they are politically and economically influential. We are silently enduring their torture," he added.

Sahidar Rahman, 60, a farmer from Char Rajibpur in Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram, said no action is being taken against the brick kilns which have been running its operation illegally for years. Their crops are being damaged every year due to construction of the illegal brickfields.

Mezbah-Ul Alam, deputy director of DoE in Rangpur, said the department has been conducting a crackdown against illegally constructed brickfields in collaboration with the local administration.



Brick kilns in Chilmari upazila of Kurigram have been built on farmland, violating rules.

PHOTO: STAR



Sugarcane growers and workers and employees of Pabna Sugar Mill bring out a protest rally in front of the mill gate yesterday morning, demanding to resume sugar cane crashing. The angry protesters also tried to put barricades on the Pabna-Rajshahi highway that disrupted vehicular movement for several times.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was killed allegedly by her dowry greedy husband in Rangpur's Mithapukur upazila on Friday night.

The victim, Nasrin Begum, 30, was wife of Raju Mia of Boiragi village in the upazila.

Victim's family members said Raju often used to torture Nasrin for dowry since their marriage.

At one stage of altercation on Friday night, Raju beat his wife to death and later hanged the body from the ceiling of her room before fleeing the house.

ALTAIRE

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Architecture
Ministry of Housing and Public Works
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.architecture.gov.bd
Phone No-02-9555253

Memo No-G-221/2018/1261/Stha Dated-15-12-2020

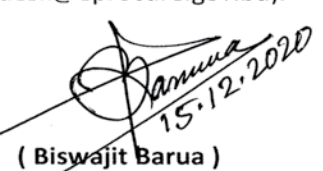
e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following Tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl.No	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Works	Publishing Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01.	528009	Stationary & Others	Procurement of Stationary Goods	20 December, 2020 12:01	10 January 2021 12:30	10 January 2021 13:30

The interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the e-Tender.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<https://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available at the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


(Biswajit Barua)
Superintending Architect
Circle-Co-ordination
Department of Architecture,
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
Telephone-02-9555253.

GD- 2013

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Government College of Commerce, Chattogram
gcomidp@gmail.com, Phone: 031-721900

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.									
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.									
3	Procuring entity name	Principal (Acting), Government College of Commerce, Chattogram.									
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.									
5	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.									
6	Invitation for	Works.									
7	Invitation Ref No.	GCOM/IDP/Works-1/OTM/2020/09									
8	Date	20/12/2020									
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 IDPMT Room, Library, 18 Classroom, Digital Lab, Female Common Room and Toilets.									
16	Tender publication date	20/12/2020.									
17	Tender last selling date	06/01/2021 Time 5.00pm.									
18	Tender closing date and time	07/01/2021 Time 11.00am.									
19	Tender opening date and time	07/01/2021 Time 11.30am.									
20	Name & address of the office	Government College of Commerce, Agrabad, Chattogram.									
	Selling tender document										
	Receiving tender document										
	Opening tender document										
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Shall not be held.									
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER											
22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have a minimum number 03 years general experience in refurbishment activities (construction/renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities (construction/renovation/repair/extension) of minimum BDT 3,000,000 (thirty lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 05 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Taka 45,000,000.00 (forty-five lac) 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 Taka 3,000,000 (thirty lac). 5. Other criteria mentioned in the tender document.									
23	Brief description of goods	Renovation of IDPMT Room, Library, 18 Classroom, Digital Lab, Female Common Room and Toilets.									
24	Brief description of related services	Related services 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	Tender name	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks							
	Renovation of IDPMT Room, Library, 18 Classroom, Digital Lab, Female Common Room and Toilets	Government College of Commerce, Chattogram	80,000.00 (eighty thousand)	04 months							
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Ferdous Ara Begum.									
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal (Acting).									
29	Address of official inviting tender	Government College of Commerce, Chattogram.									
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 031-721900, Ext: 101, 102 Mob: 01741-560226									
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.										
GD-2010											
Professor Ferdous Ara Begum Principal (Acting) Government College of Commerce, Chattogram											