Mongla port getting 4,000-tonne water treatment plant

Town residents will also get water from it

Partha Chakrabortty, *Bagerhat*

A surface water treatment plant, costing Tk 25 crore, is being constructed near Mongla port to supply freshwater to port users as well as the crew members and passengers of ships sailing in and out of the port.

People living or working in areas adjacent to the port will also be benefitted from the plant, said officials of the construction project.

According to data provided by Mongla port authorities, the modern water treatment plant is being built on 33 decimals of land at Digraj intersection on Khulna-Mongla highway, five kilometres away from the port building.

With the tentative completion of the work set by the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022, boundary walls of the plant premises are already near completion.

Availability of freshwater has been scarce at the port since its inception in 1947. The supply of freshwater is also scarce for residents of Mongla municipality due to high level of salinity in local rivers and natural water bodies that are connected to the Bay of Bengal.

Due to the scarcity, most employees of the port and other offices in Mongla had been commuting from Khulna city or Bagerhat town.

While speaking with this correspondent, a number of the employees who commute regularly, said they were relieved after hearing the news of the water treatment facility as it will ease their sufferings immensely.

Mongla port employee Abul Hossain hoped that supply of freshwater from the water treatment plant will improve lifestyle of everyone in and around the port.

Jahirul Haq, chief planning officer of Mongla port, said out of the water to be supplied from the water treatment plant, 50 percent would be consumed by port users and its employees, 10 percent would be sold to subscribers around the port and the remainder would be supplied to ships using the port and factories near the port.

The under construction water treatment plant at Digraj intersection on Khulna-Mongla highway. PHOTO: COLLECTED

The people who had been commuting from Khulna will eventually start moving in Mongla once the supply of freshwater is available there, he also hoped.

Anupam Gain, director of the water treatment plant construction project, said they so far completed 40 percent of the work.

He also said that as opposed to a demand of 3,000 tonnes of freshwater at the port and the ships, the facility will deliver 4,000 tonnes of treated freshwater per day and it might bring in 10 dollars per tonne from sales to the ships.

Rear Admiral M Shahjahan, chairman of Mongla Port Authority, said as a means to facilitate rising number of ships using the port, they have been undertaking various development projects for the port.

As part of the development and to solve the longstanding scarcity of freshwater, they are building the surface water treatment plant, he added.

60 indigenous families in fear of further attack

Mintu Deshwara, *Moulvibazar*

Indigenous people of Ishachhara punjee(village) in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila have started guarding their betel leaf gardens (paan jum) in a bid to resist any attempt to evict their families and grab their land.

General Dhar, headman of the punjee, said a person was injured and a chapel and several houses were ransacked when a gang of 50/60 armed men carried out attack at Ichhachhara on November 9, hours after authorities evicted a man from land. Due to the attack, the Christmas hardly bring any joy for 60 indigenous families.

Rafik Mia, son of Abdus Sattar of Tattiuli village in Karmadha union under Kulaura upazila, who recently lost a legal battle over ownership of a land to an indigenous villager, led the attack, said the headman.

Local priest Father Joseph Gomes OMI said Rafik Mia got angry after the administration evicted him from the land, which he had illegally occupied in the village of Indigenous people.

"This chapel is yet to be repaired. We demand justice for the attack," said Joseph Gomes, also the coordinator of Indigenous Environment Movement of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) in Sylhet division.

Jasper Amlorong inherited Katabari Paan Jum from his family. He has been suffering from cancer for three years.

He said, Rafik grabbed it by force with fake documents. The administration was supportive to him as it is his only income came from the land.

Flora Bably Talang, general secretary of KUBORAJ (Kulaura, Barlekha and Rajnagar upazilas), an organisation working for the rights of indigenous people, said armed with sticks and divided into small groups, the indigenous people now guard their houses and betel leaf gardens night and day.

Robin Arjo, 48, a local of the punjee, said, "We have been living here for generations. Many Indigenous families earn their livelihood by growing crops on the land. Without this land, it would be impossible for them to survive."

Micheal Rangsa, another resident of Punjee, said, "We would like to live and die on this land they way our ancestors did. We will sacrifice our lives but won't move from here."

Jamal Marlia James, a resident of the punjee said, as Rafik continued threatening them to evict them from the land, they are guarding day and night to protect the land.

Contacted, Rafik Mia declined to make any comment about the allegations brought against him.

Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer ATM Farhad Chowdhury said they have kept the matter of Katabari Paan jum under their strict observation.

Indigenous people of Ishachhara punjee(village) in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila guard their betel leaf gardens to resist any attempt to grab their land. PHOTO: STAR

Govt steps confined to talks, committees

FROM PAGE 1

In its first meeting, held on November 24 last year, the taskforce coopted three additional members and assigned four secretaries to recommend and plan how the recommendations can be implemented.

The second meeting of the taskforce was held yesterday. Many of its members attended the meeting virtually.

SAME DISCUSSION, NO ACTION

Noted transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque, also a member of the taskforce, said he joined the meeting but did not take part in the discussion since there was nothing new.

"The same issues, which were discussed after the formation of the NRSC [National Road Safety Council' in late 90's], were discussed again in the meeting. I found I would not be able to add any value [to the discussion]," he said.

Shamsul, also a former director of Accident Research Institute of Buet, said what should have been done is well documented. Still, it has not been done. "Why those [recommendations] could not be implemented? A problem cannot be solved without finding the reasons," he said.

Without strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring accountability and executing time-bound action plans, formation of such taskforce will not yield any results, he added.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud, another member of the taskforce, said instead of forming committees after committees, some concrete steps must be taken since deaths in road accidents are on the rise.

Despite the Covid-19-induced shutdown for two months, 2,891 people were killed in 3,000 accidents till September, according to police figures.

According to organisations working for road safety, the numbers are higher.

Last year, 4,138 lives perished in 4,147 road accidents, says a police report.

Among the 111 recommendations given by the Shajahan Khan-led committee, 50 were supposed to be implemented by 2019, 32 by 2021 and the rest by 2024.

ARI Asst Prof Kazi Shifun Newaz, another taskforce member, said as the 50 recommendations could not be implemented in 2019, those should be implemented within 2021.

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation General Secretary Osman Ali, also a taskforce member, said they urged the authorities to implement the recommendations quickly.

Asked why the taskforce was taking so long to start implementing the recommendations, the home minister said, "We're not taking too much time."

Mentioning that most bikers and pillion riders now wear helmets, he said, "We are implementing those recommendations gradually. We have discussed how those could be implemented quickly."

Road Transport and Highway Division Secretary Nazrul Islam, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation's acting president Shajahan Khan, Mashiur Rahman Ranga and Khondaker Enayet Ullah, who are president and secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, also took part in the meeting.

Digital record room inaugurated

Our Correspondent, *Tangail*

A digital land record room was inaugurated at Tangail deputy commissioner's (DC) office yesterday in an attempt to ease sufferings of the service seekers.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury inaugurated the record room through a video conferencing yesterday noon with Secretary of Land Ministry Md Maksudur Rahman Patwary in the chair.

Tangail DC Dr Ataul Gani and other officials of different government and non-government offices were present among others.

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LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL e-TENDER

Electronic tenders (e-tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. e-Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: etender.spcbl.org . bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on etender.spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. For more details please contact cell: 880- 1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	Names of the items	Nature of e-tender	Date of publishing e-tender	Last date and time for submission of e-tender	Date & time for opening of e-tender	Value/set of e-Tender Schedule (non-refundable)
1.	Supply of 18,400 kgs UV Curing Varnish with Photoinitiator for 100 Taka & 200 Taka Bank Note.	International e-tender	24.12.2020	28.01.2021 upto 11.00 A.M	28.01.2021 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 5000.00
2.	Supply of 3000 kgs Stapling Wire.	Local/Inter-national e-tender	24.12.2020	28.01.2021 upto 11.00 A.M	28.01.2021 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 200.00

Bidder may collect e-tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3 % (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangaldesh) Ltd., Gazipur alongwith the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-tender. In the case of international tender, Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender (s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to be submitted as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at the above website. Offer(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer alongwith earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

(Rashid Ahmed)
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone : 88-02-9205103.

GD- 2050

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Memo No: 87.404.401.02.01.001.2020. 220 Date: 22.12.2020

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The last date of submission of application for the following position is extended till January 02, 2021.

Sl. no.	Name of the post	Advertisement publication date	Name of the newspaper
01.	Executive Director (Technical) [Memo No: 87.404.401.02.01.001. 2020.188; dated: 07.12.2020]	08.12.2020	The Daily Ittefaq and The Financial Express
		09.12.2020	The Daily Star and The Daily Bangladesh Pratidin

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