

Toxic textile wastes pollute Louhajang River in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Untreated toxic waste released from dyeing and printing units of a textile mill and a yarn dyeing mill in Tangail Sadar upazila is polluting Louhajang River.

The pollution that goes on unabated for several years, now threatens fish, crops and greenery in the area, locals said.

The local administration cannot take action against the authorities of the mills for pollution as the mills managed permission from the Directorate of Environment (DoE).

Universal Yarn Dyeing was set up in BSCIC Industrial Area in Tangail Sadar upazila in 2003. According to Factory Act, the mill authorities have to dispose of the chemical waste in a pond or pit on its compound.

But they released the dying unit toxic waste into adjacent Louhajang river through several pipelines since the mills operation began, locals said.

Although the yarn dyeing mill has been polluting the river for last five years but the authorities concerned did not take any action against its authorities, they alleged.

Sources in Tangail district administration, however, claimed the mill authorities were given reminders on several occasions to install its own waste treatment facilities.

"No action, however, has been taken as the owners influential people," they added.

When contacted, Masduzzaman Talukdar, deputy manager (Production) of Universal Yarn Dyeing told The Daily Star that they are constructing a treatment plant in the factory compound. "The construction works of the treatment plant will end soon," he added.

Mentionable, all waters, used in 75 small and big mills and factories in Tangail BSCIC, have also been falling into the Louhajang river through several drains for long.

Badiuzzaman Khan, extension officer of BSCIC, however, claimed



Untreated toxic wastes from Alauddin Textile Mills being released to Louhajang River at Kudirampur in Tangail Sadar upazila.

that the waste water of BSCIC, except Universal Yarn Dyeing, is not so harmful.

Alauddin Textile Mills, set up at Khudirampur in Tangail Sadar upazila in 1995 on three acres of land beside Dhaka-Tangail road, has continued releasing huge untreated toxic wastes from its dyeing and printing units into the Louhajang River, defying Factory Act.

In 2007, the mill authorities set up an effluent treatment plant (ETP) on the factory compound.

Abdur Rahim, a medicine shop owner adjacent to the mill, however, alleged that the mill authorities keep suspended the operation

of the treatment plant most of the time just to save costs, he said. This correspondent recently saw untreated red coloured toxic waste releasing into the river from the mill through pipelines.

However, Mohammad Masud, manager (Administration) of Alauddin Textile Mill, denied the allegation of polluting river and blamed Tangail BSCIC responsible for the pollution.

Skin disease specialist Dr Azharul Islam, also a resident of Gosaibari Kumulli village adjacent to the mill, said diseases are spreading fast in the villages on Louhajang River banks as they use the toxic water.

Fishes have almost gone lost in the river and lands using water from the river and its tributaries are becoming barren day by day due to pollution, said fisherman and farmers.

"Mindless pollution and grabbing continues despite appeal to the Tangail district administration for saving the Louhajang River, said SM Helal Uddin, a retired district and sessions judge, now a resident of Gosaibari Kumulli village adjacent to the mill.

When contacted, Tangail Deputy Commissioner Akhter Ali Sarkar said he has already sent his representatives to inquire into the matter.

COAL IMPORT THRU' TAMABIL Importers, chamber leaders sit with BDR officials today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Coal importers and Sylhet Chamber leaders will sit at a joint meeting with the officials of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at the Sector Commander's office here today in a bid to resume coal import through Tamabil land customs station.

Coal import through Tamabil remained stopped for the last 35 days due to 'unwanted interference' by BDR Bangladesh border guards allegedly harass Indian truck drivers and helpers frequently in name of collecting information although Customs officials are there to do the job, coal importers alleged.

As a result, the government is losing at least Tk 22 lakh revenue daily, Custom officials said.

The meeting was arranged following coal importers call to government to take immediate measure to resume coal import through Tamabil border.

BDR strengthened their monitoring and intelligence along the border weeks ago. Indians alleged Bangladesh border guards had been doing excess in name of security checking. Some things happened by BSF months ago. Coal importers and exporters stopped work for days together as a mark of protest, they said.

On contact, BDR Sector Commander here Colonel Obaidul Ahsan said the border guards are doing their job. However, he said things can be resolved through discussion.

2 traders killed in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two businessmen were killed in two separate incidents at Phulbari and Gondogram areas in the district Monday night.

The businessmen are Manin of Karigarpara area in Phulbari and Anisur Rahman of Gondogram area.

Police said a gang of criminals called out Manin from his Phulbari Madhyapara house and stabbed indiscriminately following previous enmity. Manin succumbed to his injuries at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital.

In another incident, assailants stabbed Anisur to death in Chalkjora Hindupara area in Shahjahanpur upazila while he was returning home from his business establishment.

Cases were filed but police could not arrest anyone in this regard till 6:30pm yesterday.

Patuakhali town protection embankment work begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Work on Patuakhali town protection embankment project began here on Tuesday.

Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC) AGM Mir Moshir Alam inaugurated the work in Katpatti area here.

Earlier, Finance and Planning Advisor AB Mirza Azizul Islam approved the project involving Tk 22.29 crore on December 26. Initially, he allotted Tk 2 crore to start work on the project on emergency basis.

During approval of the project, the finance and planning advisor considered the issue of cyclone Sidr.

The project titled, 'Patuakhali Town Protection Embankment-cum-Drainage Project' has been

designed to protect the district town from flash flood, erosion and stagnant water.

The project includes construction of 850 kilometre flood control embankment, 25 pipe culverts, nine box culverts, six water drainage-cum-flashing regulator, 315-metre road-cum-embankment, 600 metre flood wall, 17 outlets, four ferry boats and ghat as well as re-excavation of five kilometre channel.

Among others, district level officials, journalists, pourasabha officials and local elite were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Because of lack of dam, Patuakhali town was flooded with 8 to 10 feet tidal water during cyclone Sidr on November 15 last year.

On contact, Bangladesh Water

Development Board (BWDB) executive engineer here Zahir Uddin Ahmed said, "We got Tk 2 crore for beginning of the work. The entire work will finish within two years. The government will bear the total cost from its fund," he said.

A project was also undertaken in the sixties to protect Patuakhali town and coastal upazilas of Baufal, Dashmina, Galachipa, Kalapara and Mirzagonj from flood and saline water. Later, the town was excluded from the project.

Patuakhali town is surrounded by the Lawkathi river in the North and Lohalia river in the East. Water from the rivers roll down the town during high tide. Two-thirds of the town is always submerged by 2 to 5 feet floodwater or rainwater.

Road sinks the day after its repair in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

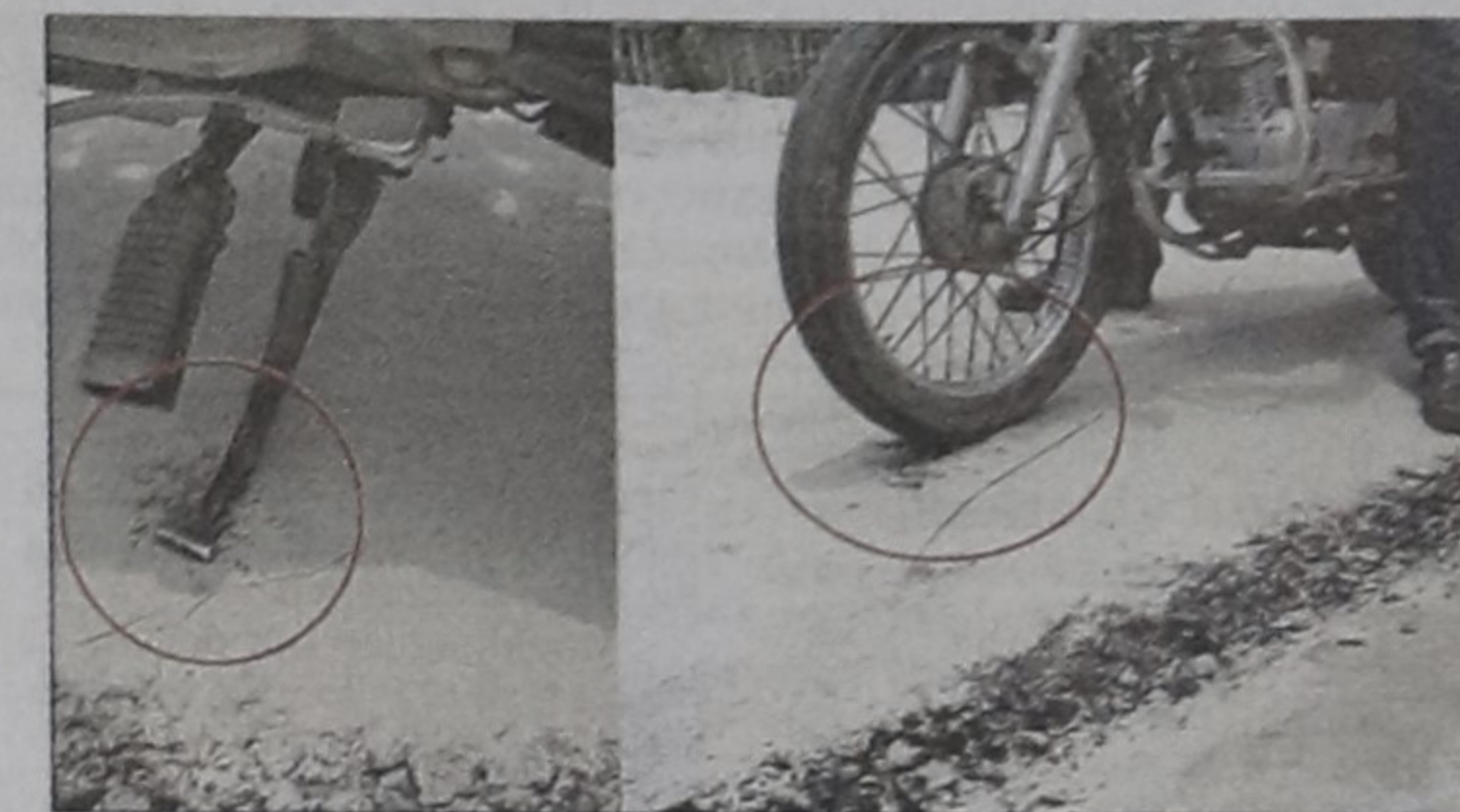
Concerned contractor firm allegedly in connivance with Road and Highways Department (RHD) officials is using low quality materials for repairing 36 km road on Rajshahi-Natore highway.

The authorities are flouting conditions mentioned in the schedule of works, said locals and witnesses.

Instead of cleaning the road before repair works, they are just spraying bitumen, carpeting with mix of stones and bitumen, rolling and completing seal-coating by spraying sand on the roads within a short time, witnesses said, said locals and witnesses.

For covering the potholes and craters, low quality bricks are being used instead of class one quality that was mentioned in the schedule.

The repair work on 0.5 km road in front of Boalia Police Station intersection was completed in only five hours from 11:00pm on Monday night but even movement of light vehicles like motorcycles caused sinking on the road yesterday morning.



Repaired on Monday night, the road near Boalia Police Station intersection gets damaged by plying of light vehicles yesterday.

The road will start eroding with start of raining, said an engineer wishing anonymity. He said no measures were taken to protect the road sides that might start creating potholes anytime.

Denying any irregularities, RHD sub divisional engineer Shahidul Islam said, "Started a week ago, the work is scheduled to be completed

by 75 days. But we are trying to complete it before the next budget fearing further price spiral of construction materials."

He said the work was awarded to Don Enterprise of Rajshahi following tender proceedings.

Rakib Hasan, an officer of Don Enterprise, told newsmen at the site that they were working in presence of RHD officials.



With starting of late Boro harvesting in Beelkuralia in Pabna district on Monday, jobless people thronged there to get the work of labourers in the field.



PHOTO: STAR

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Gazipur

Local/International Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the competent supplier/ manufacturers for supply of the following items as per under noted schedule. Tender paper showing terms and conditions with specification will be available from the office of The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur and its liaison office at Annex Building-1, 6th floor, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka-1000 during Sunday to Thursday between 9:00am to 4:00pm against an application in the letterhead pad from the respective firm.

Sl. no.	Name of the item(s)	Nature of tender	Date of selling of tender schedule	Deadline for dropping of offer(s)	Date & time for opening of tender	Value (non-refundable) schedule per set
01.	300pcs. Calibrated Presspan for Packing Board	Local/International tender	From 21.05.2008 to 08.06.2008	25.06.2008 up to 3:30pm	26.06.2008 at 11:05am	Tk. 100.00
02.	300pcs. Sheet Film and 120 Litres Film Developer	Local/International re-tender	From 21.05.2008 to 08.06.2008	25.06.2008 up to 3:30pm	26.06.2008 at 11:05am	Tk. 100.00
03.	Parts/Tools for Rastelli Grinding Machine	Local/International tender	From 21.05.2008 to 08.06.2008	25.06.2008 up to 3:30pm	26.06.2008 at 11:05am	Tk 200.00
04.	Modutrol Motor, Demand Switch, Oil Thermostat and Pipe Thermometer for Chiller	Local/International tender	From 21.05.2008 to 08.06.2008	25.06.2008 up to 3:30pm	26.06.2008 at 11:05am	Tk. 100.00

Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total tendered amount shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/irrevocable Bank Guarantee along with the tender in favour of "Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur." Tender without earnest money shall not be acceptable. The tender addressed to the Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd, Gazipur shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept in Corporation's Office at Gazipur and its above addressed liaison office but all the tender(s) to be received will be opened together at Corporation's office, Gazipur in presence of tenderer(s), if any. Tender may also be sent through postal/courier services which must be reached on or before the scheduled deadline. 1 (one) tender schedule is applicable only for one principal/manufacturer/local or international supplier for submitting one offer. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Zeauddin Ahmed
General Manager
Phone: 88-02-9205103

GD-2423

TEXTBOOK SCAM 3 education staff suspended in Lalmonirhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three staff of Lalmonirhat primary education officials, who are accused in a case for illegal shifting of 50,000 primary textbooks, were suspended yesterday.

They are -- ABM Saifur Rahaman, assistant monitoring officer of Lalmonirhat district primary education office, Motiur Rahman, treasurer of the same office, and Shahidul Islam, office assistant of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education office. Shahidul Islam is now in jail and the two others are in bail.

The suspension letter ordered by director general of primary education Khandkar Mohammad

Asaduzzaman reached Lalmonirhat district primary education office on Sunday, official sources said.

The office of director general of primary education has already sent a letter to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education for issuing suspension letter against arrested Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila primary education officer, Lalmonirhat district Primary Education Officer Riaz Uddin Sarkar said.

Joint forces arrested red handed office assistant Shahidul Islam and a truck driver as they were trying to illegally shift about 50 thousand primary textbooks from the store room of primary education office at Noyarhat in Lalmonirhat town on April 11.

DEBI CHOUDHURANI COLLEGE Teachers demand 'illegal' principal's quit, observe hunger strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Wearing black badges, teachers and staff of Debi Choudhuran College yesterday observed hunger strike for six hours on the college campus demanding resignation of Principal Nazrul Islam who is now on 'illegal extension', one year after expiry of his regular tenure.

College teachers and employees, who have been on movement against the college principal, said they would continue such hunger strike programme until their demand is met.

Meanwhile, the college principal yesterday suspended Islamic studies lecturer Shafiqul Islam, political science lecturer Aminul Islam, accounting lecturer Abdul Kader, Islamic history lecturer

Hafizur Rahman and librarian Abdul Hamid on charge of 'violation discipline'.

Terminating the suspension order as illegal, the teachers and employees held a protest meeting on the college premises.

The principal did not get approval of the governing body chairman to suspend them, said suspended teacher Shafiqul Islam.

Raising voice against corruption is not a violation of discipline, he added.

The teachers and employees of the college, who have been on movement against the principal for a month, said regular tenure of the college principal expired about one year ago and his extended stay in the post is illegal as he faces allegation of corruption.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chief Adviser's Office
Privatization Commission
Transport Pool Bhaban (8th-10th Floor)
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice No. 962/09/2008/450 Date: 15 May 2008

Sub: International Tender Notice for Sale of State Owned Enterprise

International tenders are hereby invited from both local & foreign buyers (individual, company, co-operative body, employees' association) for the sale of the following state owned enterprises on 'as is where is' basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the enterprise	Particulars	Comments
1.	Handloom Service Centre (HSC), Amirgonj, Raipura, Narsindhi (Under the Control of Bangladesh Handloom Board)	The mill has 1.46 acres of land (more or less). It provides dyeing and screen printing facilities to the weaver	The mill was established in 1980. Present status: closed

Terms and conditions:

- The buyer shall submit Demand Draft/Pay-Order equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted price either in BDT or in US dollar or in British pound issued in favour of the Secretary, Privatization Commission (Account No. STD-004001487, Janata Bank, Nabab Abdul Gani Road Branch, Dhaka), encashable in any schedule bank located in Dhaka city. Earnest money shall not be received in any other mode of payment;
- The buyer shall not be required to inherit any liability regardless of any long term loan or restructured loan in case of jute mills and short-term or current liability of the enterprise under sale, if any;
- Tender shall be submitted strictly based on the tender documents. Intending buyers shall submit tender in prescribed forms, duly filled-in along with the requisite tender documents;
- The successful bidder shall pay 32.50% of the sale price (quoted price) as down payment plus 2.5% of the quoted price as earnest money totalling 35% (thereby meaning total down payment = 32.5% + 2.5% = 35%) within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the issuance of the letter of intent (LOI);
- 15% rebate on the total sale price (quoted price) shall be granted if the buyer pays off the 75% of the selling price within 30 days from the date of the issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI). Similarly, a rebate of 20% on the total sale price (quoted price) shall be allowed if the buyer makes the full amount 'at a time' within 30 days from the date of the issuance of the Letter of Intent (LOI). An extra 5% rebate on the total sale price i.e. a rebate of 25% of the quoted sale price shall be granted as rebate if the buyer pays off the price 'at a time' within the specified time in a freely convertible foreign currency;
- The land of the enterprise or any part belonging to it thereof, may be used for the establishment of industry or for its expansion. The buyer shall not use such land for any commercial purpose viz the establishment of real state, making of commercial/residential plots for sale.

Tender submission and acceptance:

- After the publication of the 'tender notice,' interested foreigners, Bangladeshi citizens living abroad and overseas commercial firms etc. willing to procure the tender forms or relevant particulars, may contact Bangladesh High Commissions/Embassies in London, Washington, Ottawa, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Islamabad, New Delhi, Tokyo, Singapore, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Seoul and Consulate General at New York and Jeddah.
- Bangladeshi citizens living abroad or foreigners may procure tender forms and tender conditions downloading them from the website of the Privatization Commission (www.pc.gov.bd), or from any other country of their choice and submit it duly filled-in. But the payment-receipt of US\$ 100 (one hundred) or E70 (seventy) collecting it from the website of the Privatization Commission (www.pc.gov.bd) shall be submitted along with the tender.
- Each set of tender form, tender conditions and enterprise-profile etc can be procured from the office of the Secretary, Privatization Commission in all working days during office hours on non-refundable cash payment of Tk. 5,000/- (five thousand) only or US\$ 100 (one hundred) or E70 (seventy).
- Tenders shall be dropped in the tender boxes placed at the office premises of the Privatization Commission, Transport Pool Bhaban (8th & 9th Floor), Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000 and office of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Federation Bhaban, 60, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 within the specified date and time. However, the tenderer may, also at his own responsibility, send the tender to the Secretary, Privatization Commission by post. If the said tender reaches before the specified date and time that will be dropped in the tender box. If it does not reach within the specified time, it will not be accepted;
- Based on the terms & conditions specified herein, intending buyers & their representatives shall be able to collect tender form, tender conditions, enterprise-profile & other relevant papers etc till 18 June, 2008 and submit the tender latest by 19 June, 2008 within 12.00 noon. The tender shall be opened on the same day at 1:30pm in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if they are present) at the conference room of the Privatization Commission. The tenders dropped by any bidder living abroad must reach the Commission within the deadline set forth.
- Incomplete and erratic tenders shall be considered 'cancelled';
- The Privatization Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all of the tenders dropped, without assigning any reason, whatsoever;
- An introductory brief necessary to get understanding about the industrial enterprise, enterprise profile, tender conditions and tender circulars etc can be checked, visiting the Website of the Privatization Commission: www.pc.gov.bd
- Bidders are free to consult the concerned officials of the Privatization Commission for any clarification or narrations of the tender they need for clarity.

Md Shawkat Akbar
Secretary
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GD-2435