

SYLHET CITY CORPORATION

Tk 20cr new plan to recover canals, improve drainage

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) has taken up a new two-year project involving Tk 20 crore to resolve the water-logging problem in the city by restoring the nine canals and improving drainage system.

LGRD ministry has okayed the work plan after it got nod from the Planning Commission, SCC sources said yesterday.

All the nine natural canals, locally known as chhara, will be re-excavated and structures will be built to protect them from further encroachment.

The severe drainage congestion in city and its adjoining areas will be removed through 'some immediate interventions', said SCC Chief Executive Officer Kazi Abdul Nur. The project will be funded by he LGRD ministry, he said.

Encroached lands of the canals will be recovered by evicting illegal occupiers and those will be protected from future encroachment by erecting permanent demarcation pillars and walls, he said.

Once a lifeline for the city, most lands of the nine major canals in the city have been encroached. These include Malnichhera, Goolichhera, Monglichhera, Akhalichhera, Bhubichhera, Boloramer Khal, Ratnar Khal, Haldichhera and Basu Khal.

"We hope works on the project will begin in the current financial year (2008-2009)", the official added.

Monsoon brings immense sufferings for the city dwellers. Water remains stagnant in most of the prime roads and areas after an hour's rain as the canals have been



A portion of grabbed and clogged Bagbari canal in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: STAR

squeezed by land grabbers. In many areas, there is no existence of the streams, where small boats used to ply earlier. Allegations have it that some ward commissioners were also directly or indirectly involved in land grabbing.

The department of Environment Engineering at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) in a report last year said the city faces a threat of environmental disaster due to housing projects in low lands in and around the city, built by filling those indiscriminately.

The report suggested reclama-

tion and re-excavation of natural canals.

Repeated attempts to recover the canals in last two decades failed due to alleged inaction by implementing authorities, reportedly influenced by political bigwigs. At times, politically motivated programme were initiated only to bluff the city dwellers, many citizens said while talking to this correspondent.

A cell was formed with city representatives of the elite, officials from the administration and police and NGOs in 2000 to identify causes of the failed attempts and to suggest remedies. But the cell never

worked.

Earlier in January this year, dropping the idea of eviction or demolishing illegal structures, SCC attempted to acquire banks of Basu Khal at a cost of Tk one crore, sanctioned by LGRD ministry. But it could not show any achievement in last six months.

The SCC floated tenders but there was no response from contractors, SCC officials said.

Different organisations on several occasions staged protest rallies and formed human chains to press resolution of the water-logging problem.

Pabna farmers decline to give paddy for irrigation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Farmers of Athoria upazila under the district in a press conference yesterday demanded introducing payment of cash money instead of giving one-fourth of the paddy yield as irrigation charge to the deep tube-well owners.

Athoria unit committee of Bangladesh Krishak Oikyo Parishad arranged the press conference at Pabna Press Club auditorium as part of their campaign for removing the tradition of paying one-fourth portion of paddy to the tube-well owners.

"The deep tube-well owners, who charge one-fourth of the paddy yield, take five to six maunds of paddy worth about Tk 3500 to 4000 for irrigating each bigha of land but they cannot do so according to government rule," speakers said at the press conference.

A recent meeting arranged by the upazila administration fixed Tk 1000 as irrigation charge, they said.

"As per government rule, there is no scope for taking paddy as irrigation charge," said Athoria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Sekhabur Rahman. "We will go for action if tube-well owners continue disregarding the instructions," he said.

'Outlaw' killed in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An activist of an outlawed party was killed by unknown assailants at Mirzapur village in Sadar upazila Saturday night, police said.

The victim was identified as Fazlur Rahman, 45, of the same village, they said.

However, police could not identify the outlawed party which he belonged to.

Fazlur was returning home from a village market when assailants shot him dead at about 10-30 pm. Later, they left the body beside a road.

EC training for polls aspirants in Sylhet tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

For the first time in the country, the Election Commission is going to hold a day-long training workshop tomorrow in Sylhet for aspirants for posts of ward commissioner and mayor.

Rules of local government election and recent amendments will be discussed at the workshop. Deputy Election Commissioner for Sylhet division, Khondker Mizanur Rahman, told The Daily Star yesterday. Such workshops will also be held in Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Chittagong city corporations.

Chief Election commissioner Dr. AIM Shamsul Huda may be chief guest at the Sylhet workshop.

Bomb, grenade recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a powerful bomb and a British-made hand grenade from Khoair Bagan village in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

Acting on tip, a Rab team from Pabna went to the village and recovered the bomb and hand grenade kept under the ground in a nearby field, Rab said, adding that outlaws might have kept the explosives there.

380 fertiliser bags seized, 2 govt staff held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustita

Police on Saturday night seized 380 sacks of fertiliser hoarded by a sub-dealer and arrested two government officials for their alleged involvement with the incident at Madna village in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga district.

The arrestees are Sheikh Sekendar Ali, sub-assistant agricultural officer of Damurhuda agricultural office, and Abdur Razzak, field assistant of Damurhuda upazila fisheries office.

Following allegation from a number of farmers of Madna union, a police team led by Damurhuda Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Iftekhar Ahmed raided the house of Rebeka Khatun, a fertiliser sub-dealer of Madna union, at about 10:30pm and found 380 sacks of fertiliser kept hidden in a room there, police said.

During interrogation, Rebeka told police that her husband Abdur Razzak, a field assistant of Damurhuda upazila fisheries office, and Sheikh Sekendar Ali ran the fertiliser sub-dealership, which is in Rebeka's name.

Afterwards police arrested Razzak and Sekendar from their offices at Damurhuda upazila complex.

A case has been filed against Abdur Razzak, Sekendar Ali, Rebeka Khatun and Hafizur Rahman, a fertiliser dealer in Madna union, Damurhuda OC said.

Earlier on Thursday, joint forces seized 108 sacks of fertiliser from the house of Abdul Mannan, a dealer in Kederganj union in Chuadanga Sadar upazila.

SIRAJGANJ 4-MURDER

'Mastermind' Jamaat leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

CID police yesterday arrested a Jamaat-e-Islami leader and Union Parishad chairman from Ullapara Bazaar in Sirajganj for his alleged involvement in the sensational four-murder case.

Arrested Ziaul Huq Zia of Char Narina village is also a Majlish-e-Shura member of Shahzadpur upazila Jamaat and chairman of Narina Union Parishad.

According to police sources, a gang of miscreants entered the house of cloth trader Rejaul Karim Bhutto at Bachmora village and hacked him to death along with his wife Zinzira Khatun, son Ashik, 5, and daughter Rimi, 3 on the night of June 20, 2004.

Next day, Shahzadpur police recovered the bodies and sent those to Sirajganj Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Shahzadpur police station. The charge of investigation was later handed over to CID.

The CID investigation report



Ziaul Huq Zia

said Ziaul Huq was the mastermind behind the murders. He evaded arrest earlier by using political influence, the report said. Ziaul Huq went into hiding after the 1/11.

Tipped off that he came back home, CID police raided Ullapara Bazaar and arrested him yesterday.

He was being interrogated when the report was filed yesterday evening.

MURDER OF 2 INDIGENOUS BROTHERS Victims' families demand CID probe in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad, a body of indigenous people, at a press conference here yesterday demanded fair investigation by CID (Criminal Investigation Department) into the murder of two indigenous brothers last week.

Families of the victims also spoke at the press conference held at Dinajpur Press Club. Leaders of Adibashi Chhatra Parishad and Dinajpur Adibashi Samaj Unnayan Samity were also present.

Sarker Tudu, 58, and Shom Hasda, 55, of Nawabganj upazila were missing since they went out of home on June 5. Nawabganj police recovered their bodies from a roadside ditch after three days.

Victims' families filed four cases with Nawabganj police station and the Chief Judicial Magistrate court (4) on Thursday accusing 6 people including Montaj Ali and Lokman Hossain. In the cases, the com-

plaints also alleged that Montaj Ali and Lokman Hossain grabbed their lands.

Speaking at the press conference, Jatiya Adibashi Parishad secretary Rabindra Nath Soren alleged that police could not arrest any of the killers. Rather, they are trying to hush up the case while the criminals are threatening the victims' families, he added.

Prof Gonesh Soren President of Dinajpur Zila Adibashi Samaj Unnayan Samity and Horendra Nath Singh, convener of Adibashi Chhatra Parishad, also spoke at the press conference.

They alleged that some local influential who wanted to grab their lands were behind the murders.

The murders were planned, aimed at land grabbing, they alleged.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Nawabganj police station Mirza Shajahan said they are trying to arrest the killers.

Netrakona AL president suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Netrakona district Awami League president Shamsujjaha has been suspended for breaking party discipline, party sources said here yesterday.

The suspension letter signed by acting AL secretary Sayed Ashrafur Islam reached Netrakona AL secretary Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru yesterday evening.

When contacted, Khasru said the expulsion decision was taken at a party Presidium meeting held in Dhaka on May 24.

Talking to this correspondent, Shamsujjaha admitted expulsion but refuted the charge. He hoped the letter would be withdrawn.

'Submit genuine documents for UK visa'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a seminar held here yesterday said that people who intend to go to the United Kingdom (UK) for study or other purpose should abstain from submitting false or forged documents.

The immigration-related seminar was organised to mark the inaugural ceremony of a new office of Immigration Advisory Service (IAS), a UK-based NGO, here.

IAS chief executive Keith Best presented a paper on 'Latest Development in UK Immigration Law'.

Keith Best, former British MP and a senior immigration specialist, said IAS is the lone non-profit organisation providing free service to clients.

Keith informed that there had been major changes in British immigration laws in recent years. He said the online system of visa application for UK has made visa processing faster.

In Bangladesh, more than 50 per cent visa applications are done from Sylhet division where settlement cases are also too high, he said. Every year, IAS serves 3,000 new clients in Sylhet, he disclosed.

IAS representative in Bangladesh Abdul Hasad Chowdhury conducted the programme while general manager of Sylhet branch of Bangladesh Bank Ahsan Ullah and chief of Grameen Janakalyan Sangsad, Jamil Chowdhury addressed.

MAGURA ROAD REPAIR PROJECT

Funds set to go back as 2 govt depts clamour over authority

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Renovation of Arpara-Shalikha road has come to a halt as the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the Roads and Highways (R & H) Department are fighting over management of the road while Tk 70 lakh assistance by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the project is also on way to be returned, official sources said.

Talking to this correspondent LGED Assistant Engineer in Shalikha upazila, Golam Mostafa, said, "According to the government gazette notification (of 2006) the road is under the LGED department after taking up of a project involving Tk 70 lakh for its renovation."

"We had also engaged a contractor, but the fate of the project has now become uncertain as R&H authorities claimed that the road is under their department and sent legal notice to our Executive Engineer asking him to stop the renovation work."

"Taka 70 lakh sanctioned for the project is on way of being returned to ADB as the work could not be completed in the stipulated time", Mostafa said.

LGED-Executive Engineer Mujibur Rahman Sikder said, "Though, following the legal notice, we were forced to stop the renovation work, I have already talked to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and hope it will be removed after the meeting of the District Development Coordination Committee to be held in the last week of June."

Following a directive from the DC, LGED took an initiative to renovate 5 km of the road from Junari village to Hazrahati area under the post-flood rehabilitation project and invited tender, official sources said.

But after winning the bid, when the contractor embarked on the work in April this year, Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE) of R&H Department Zahangir Alam verbally ordered him to stop the work, claiming that the road under their department.

He also threatened of legal step. Later, (on May 28) a legal notice was also sent to the LGED.

In the meantime, R&H department invited a tender for the same work involving Tk 32 lakh and engaged another contractor to

renovate 2.5 km of the road. The contractor also started renovation of about 2.5 km of the road from Dighi village to Rajadapur area. But he also stopped work for unknown causes. The contractor however could not be reached despite several attempts, as he was not available in Magura.

When contacted, R & H Executive Engineer Rezaul Karim said, "Gazette notification of the Planning Commission says the road is under my department and the contractor engaged by the department would complete renovation work within the scheduled time."

Assistant Engineer of Zilla Paishad Anisur Rahman however claimed that although the road was under his department earlier, according to the 'classification' only Zilla Parishad or LGED is entitled to perform construction, re-construction and renovation work of the road.

Local public representatives however opined that considering the importance of the road, immediate initiative should be taken to end the dispute between the departments.

Titgas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
"Titgas Gas Bhaban", 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Fax: 880-2-9120513 Phone: 8119380 PABX: 8112135-42 E-mail: mditgas@dbn-bd.net

Invitation for International Tenders for Procurement of Gas Pipe Line Materials
Date of Issuance of IFT: 11-06-2008

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy Division.
2.	Agency	Petrobangla.
3.	Procuring entity	Titgas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.
4.	Invitation for	Procurement of Gas Pipe Line Materials.
5.	Invitation Ref No. & date	As per group list below.
6.	Procurement method	Open International Tendering Method.
7.	Source of fund	Under Cash Foreign Exchange.
8.	Tender publication date	Not applicable.
9.	Tender last selling date	No document will be sold on respective opening date as per group list.
10.	Tender closing date & time	At 11.00am on the date as per group list below.
11.	Tender opening date & time	At 3.00pm on the date as per group list below.
12.	Name & address of the office(s)	
13.	a) Selling tender document	Tender document will be available from 15-06-2008 on payment of price (non-refundable) as per group list from Accounts Department, Titgas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
14.	b) Receiving tender document	Purchase Department, Titgas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. in above address.
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	All bonafide manufacturers or their authorized agents.
16.	Brief description of goods or works	As per group list below.
17.	Price of tender document	As per group list below.

SL No.	IFT No.	Description of materials	Tender security amount (BDT or equivalent foreign currency)	Delivery time	Price of tender document	Tender closing/opening date
a)	PD-2312/388-MECD/IV	Ball Valves	Tk. 7,76,000.00	90 days	US\$ 72.00 or Tk. 5,000.00	28-07-2008
b)	PD-2312/388-MECD/IV	Gr-A: Polyethylene Tape Gr-B: Synthetic Primer	Gr-A: Tk. 7,55,000.00 Gr-B: Tk. 1,40,000.00	90 days	US\$ 72.00 or Tk. 5,000.00	28-07-2008
c)	PD-2312/388-MECD/IV	Insulating Joint, Thinsulator & End Casing Seal	Tk. 1,55,000.00	75 days	US\$ 56.00 or Tk. 4,000.00	29-07-2008
d)	PD-2312/388-MECD/FITTINGS	Group-A: Weld Neck Flanges Group-B: But Welding fittings and stud bolts & nuts	Gr-A: Tk. 3,00,000.00 Gr-B: Tk. 2,40,000.00	75 days	US\$ 72.00 or Tk. 5,000.00	29-07-2008

a) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day.
b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

গ্যাস অফার নয়। গ্যাসের চুক্তি
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Deputy General Manager (Purchase)
Titgas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.

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