

Louhajang is dying



The might of Louhajang is almost gone. From a river that once let launches and goods-laden boats pass, it has virtually become a ditch today. PHOTO: STAR



MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Once vigorous and ever-flowing, Tangail's Louhajang river, is almost dead today. Owing to the construction of a sluice gate, siltation and lack of water, the river has almost lost all its natural flow and navigability.

Moreover, illegal encroachment of its banks, dumping waste on its bed and mindless pollution of its water have also reduced the beautiful river to looking like a dirty canal, all within just a few decades.

Originating from Dhaleswari river in Baisnabbari area under the Sadar upazila, the 76 kilometre-long Louhajang flows through the district town and falls into the Bangshai river in Mirzapur upazila of the district.

Till the '80s, launches and load-carrying boats anchored at Tangail. A road at College Para was even named Amghat, as mangoes from Rajshahi were unloaded there, said several senior

citizens of Tangail town.

However, the river started dying after the Water Development Board (WDB) constructed a sluice gate near the confluence of Louhajang and Dhaleswari rivers in 1992 under its Flood Action Plan (FAP)-20.

As the river lost its navigability, large boats stopped plying it. The subsequent years started seeing widespread encroachment on the river bank.

Moreover, sewage and garbage released from homesteads in the municipal area, toxic wastes from several mills and factories of Tangail BSCIC Industrial area at Taratia and a textile mill at Khudirampur in Sadar upazila badly polluted the river over time, sources said.

As a result, its water became unusable for both people and cattle. Aquatic life on the river has also vanished. Moreover, the stench emanating from the stagnant, polluted water made living near the river a nightmare.

Over the years, concerned citizens have held various programmes to urge the authorities concerned to do something about the river.

Finally on November 29, 2016, the then district administration took up an initiative to free the river from the illegal occupation for the one and half kilometre stretch at the municipal area.

The drive was initially successful at removing some illegal structures, but then it was suspended over unknown reasons. On February 25, 2020, the then district administration resumed the drive on the river at the same location.

They detected more than 450 illegal structures only in the area of Sadar upazila. Of these, more than 260 were found within a three kilometre stretch at the river banks in the municipal area.

But after demolishing some of them, this drive too was suspended, this time facing controversy over demarcating the river's area and identifying grabbers.

"Grabbing the river's land and

dumping of garbage on its bed is still ongoing," said Ratan Ahmed Siddique, secretary of the River, Canal and Water Body Protection Committee in Tangail.

He said all the waste from the nearby Park Market, the main kitchen market in the town, is dumped onto the riverbed through a drain.

"We've heard a project is seeking fund to re-excavate the riverbed in the municipal area and border the banks with concrete. But we suspect it'll get nothing done, other than feasting on the public fund," said green activist and poet Masum Ferdous. "The main job is to keep the river flowing," he added.

Contacted, Mohammad Khairul Islam, assistant commissioner (Land) of Sadar upazila, said he has visited the river and saw its poor state. "Necessary measures will be taken in this regard after talking to the deputy commissioner," he said.

Curtain falls on Dhaka Int'l Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Indian film Koozhangal (Pebbles), directed by PS Vinohraj, won the Best Film Award in the Asian Film Competition segment at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival. Organised by Rainbow Film Society, the festival concluded yesterday at the Bangladesh National Museum's main auditorium.

Speaking at the closing ceremony as chief guest, Information minister Hasan Mahmud said, "Heartiest congratulations to Rainbow Film Society for arranging such a wonderful festival. Hopefully, we will be able to screen the next one in a Covid-free environment."

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General (BSA) Liaquat Ali Lucky and Dhaka Club President Khandaker Mashiuzzaman Romel were present as special guests at the ceremony, which was presided over by Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque.

The festival featured 225 films from 70 countries. The films were screened under 10 categories – Asian Cinema Section, Retrospective, Tribute, Wide Angle, Bangladesh Panorama Section, Cinema of the World Section, Children Films Section, Women Filmmakers Section, Short and Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.

In Bangladesh Panorama Section, the Best Film Award by FIPRESCI Jury went to Shabnam Ferdousi's local film "Ajob Karkhana".

The Best Audience Award in the section was jointly won by two films – N Rashed Chowdhury directed film "Chandrabati Kotha (The Tales of Chandrabati)" and Nurul Alam Atique's "Lal Moroger Jhuti (Call of the Red-Rooster)."



PHOTO: STAR



A tourist holding up a dead bird found lying at the Char Bijoy. Poachers are active throughout the area killing these visiting birds with nets and traps. PHOTO: STAR

This is no way to treat guests

'Char Bijoy' proves popular with migrant birds, but hunters are on mission to turn them away

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A new shoal covering about 5,000 acres has sprung up in the deep Bay of Bengal, about 30 km south of Kuakata.

Tourists have dubbed it "Char Bijoy", after discovering it in the month of December in 2017. Due to the free movement of migrant birds and red crabs, the shoal has started attracting seasonal tourists, who mostly come from Kuakata on trawlers and speed boats.

This atmosphere is set to be aided by the Forest Department's plans. Abdullah Al Mamun, an official at the divisional level, said they're planning afforestation drives to make the char more permanent. The freshly planted trees can also provide migrant birds with shelter.

The char has also become a preferred destination for anglers, who flock to it during winter to make a good catch. During their stay, they prop up temporary residences to help with fishing and drying their haul.

Although the char gets submerged during monsoon, it resurfaces in winter. Due to lack of people, migratory birds have started to go there in numbers during the colder months.

But everything isn't rainbows and butterflies.

Talking to this correspondent, tourist Arifur Rahman said he saw around a hundred anglers fishing in the area. However, they were also seen setting up nets with bamboo to catch both native and exotic birds.

They then bring those ashore and sell, he said, mentioning that some of the birds simply die in trap. "I saw a number of dead birds here. They were quite large in size. It seemed like the hunters trapped them but then left them to die," he said.


Meanwhile, Rumman Imtiaz Tushar, president of Kuakata Tour Operators' Association, said tourists' presence may push away the birds as well. "They [tourists] come on loud, engine-driven trawlers, which scare the birds."

He suggested that tourism authorities consider the noise pollution when regulating vessels on the route. During a recent visit, this correspondent tried to talk to some anglers and hunters at the char, but they refused to comment on the issue.

Contacted, Mollah Emdadullah, senior fisheries officer of the district, said they don't allow anglers to fish at the char, let alone trap migratory birds.

Kalapara UNO Abu Hasnat Mohammad Shahidul Haque said he's aware of the developments at the char. "We will soon take steps against illegal bird hunters and anglers."





গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের ১০০টি মিটারগেজ
যাত্রীবাহী গাড়ী পুনর্বাসন শীর্ষক প্রকল্প (২য় পর্যায়)
পাহাড়তলী, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২০২
ফোনঃ +৮৮-০১৭১১-৬৯১৫৪৫, ই-মেইলঃ dicp@railway.gov.bd

নথি নংঃ ৫৪.০১.১৫৪৩.৪৬০.০৭.০০১.২১-১৫ তারিখঃ ২৩/০১/২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

পরিচালক (ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কন্ট্রোল), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, পাহাড়তলী কর্তৃক বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের ১০০টি মিটারগেজ যাত্রীবাহী ক্যারিজ পুনর্বাসন শীর্ষক প্রকল্প (২য় পর্যায়) এর দরপত্রসমূহ National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) এ আবেদন করা হয়েছে।

ক্রমিক নং	টেন্ডার আইডি এবং নথি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরণ ও পণ্যের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
০১	591623, 54.01.1543.460.07.035.21	Procurement of Mechanical Spare Parts etc. 03 (Three) Item Under Package No. GD-137 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	16-Feb-2022 11:00
০২	591557, 54.01.1543.460.07.043.21	Procurement of Mechanical Spare 01 (One) Item Under Package No. GD-145(L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	16-Feb-2022 12:00
০৩	631920, 54.01.1543.460.07.075.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 1 (One) Items Under Package No. GD-25 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	16-Feb-2022 13:00
০৪	575279, 54.01.1543.460.07.026.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 24 (Twenty-Four) Items Under Package No. GD-213 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	17-Feb-2022 11:00
০৫	631921, 54.01.1543.460.07.076.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 04 (Four) Items under Package No. GD-26 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	17-Feb-2022 12:00
০৬	631970, 54.01.1543.460.07.078.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 25 (Twenty-Five) Items Under Package No. GD-210 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	17-Feb-2022 13:00
০৭	631979, 54.01.1543.460.07.086.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 17 (Seventeen) Items Under Package No. GD-221 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	23-Feb-2022 11:00
০৮	631973, 54.01.1543.460.07.082.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 07 (Seven) Items Under Package No. GD-216 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	23-Feb-2022 11:30
০৯	631971, 54.01.1543.460.07.079.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 04 (Four) Items Under Package No. GD-211 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	24-Feb-2022 12:00
১০	631987, 54.01.1543.460.07.074.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 03 (three) Items Under Package No. GD-24 (L)	OTM (NCT)	24-Feb-2022 13:00
১১	631974, 54.01.1543.460.07.083.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 13 (Thirteen) Items Under Package No. GD-217 (L) Phase 2	OTM (NCT)	24-Feb-2022 15:00
১২	591385, 54.01.1543.460.07.014.21	Procurement of Mechanical Goods etc. 04 (Four) Items Under Package No. GD-16(L)	OTM (NCT)	24-Feb-2022 15:30

বিঃ দ্রঃ

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত ও দরপত্রের ইলিজিবিটি শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী সরবরাহকারীগণ ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. নিবন্ধিত ও আত্মসিদ্ধ দরদাতাগণ বিনা খরচে দরপত্র দাখিল দেখতে পারবেন; তবে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

প্রকৌঃ মোঃ আনোয়ারুল ইসলাম
পরিচালক (ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কন্ট্রোল)
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের পক্ষে
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, পাহাড়তলী, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-১৪৪