



People cultivating Boro paddy on Charalkata riverbed in Mohabbat Bazitpara village of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

CHARALKATA RIVER

# Dredged at Tk 130cr, now a cropland

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Within one and a half years into the dredging of the Charalkata river, the riverbed has filled up again at different points as sand and earth kept on the banks of the river got deposited to the riverbed in the rainy season.

The river has a course of 90 kilometres and flows through Nilphamari before entering Rangpur. It was excavated at a cost of Tk 130cr by Nilphamari and Saidpur divisions of the Water Development Board (WDB) under the government's countrywide programme for excavating rivers, canals and water bodies in 64 districts.

However, within a short time after the excavation, the riverbed has filled up again at different points.

Taking the situation as an opportunity, a section of people have taken possession of the newly emerged river land and started cultivating Boro hindering the flow of water and making it a narrow channel.

As per the High Court directive, it is a punishable offence to obstruct the natural flow of a river, informed environmental lawyers.

However, due to a lack of awareness campaign by WDB, most people living beside the river has little knowledge about the directive.

Visiting different spots of the river recently, it was found that the river has shrunk drastically at a number of places while its bed was visible elsewhere.

It was also seen that some people have cultivated Boro paddy in the

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riverbed at Horish Chandrapat, Ambari, Bamunia Barabisha, Baromashi Ghat, Kachukata, Mohabbat Bazitpara, Kalikapur and many other villages.

Local resident Kaltu Mia of adjacent Kalikapur village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila said, "I have cultivated Boro on three bighas of the riverbed as it has resurfaced and it is unwise to keep it fallow."

Another farmer of the same village Sattayapada Roy, 40, said that the

river flows through their land and as the riverbed has emerged again, they deserve the right to cultivate crops.

"At the time of excavation, sand and earth were thrown on river banks indiscriminately, which have found a way to the river again," said Abdul Halim of Bamunia Borobisha village in Domar.

However, farmers cultivating Boro on the riverbed said none from the WDB forbade them to cultivate crops on the riverbed.

Executive Engineer of WDB in Saidpur division Krishana Kamal Chandra Sarker said, "We've manpower shortage to monitor the vast river tract; devastating floods in previous years carried the sand again to the river. If we get a specific complaint of unauthorised cultivation, we'll take legal action."

## Two students drown

### One in the Bay in Cox's Bazar, the other near a confluence in Barguna

STAR REPORT

A college student drowned while bathing in the Bay of Bengal near the Sugandha Beach Point in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sahed Hossain Bappi, 20, a student of Ramu Government Degree College in the district.

Police said six friends, including Bappi, went to the beach city from Techipul area of Ramu upazila. Around 11:00pm yesterday, they went to the sea to bathe. They took floating tubes with them.

At one stage, Bappi and one of the youths named Musa fell off their floating tubes and started floating away into the sea, said Mohammad Mohiuddin Ahmed, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar Tourist Police.

As an on-duty lifeguard was informed of the matter immediately, he managed to rescue Musa. But Bappi could not be found.

As the lifeguards continued the frantic search, Bappi was found, floating, around 40 minutes later. He was rescued and rushed to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, said Osman Ghani, in-charge of the lifeguard operations on the beach.

The hospital's Resident Medical Officer Ashiqur Rahman said Bappi was brought dead.

In a separate incident, in Barguna, police yesterday morning recovered the body of a seventh-grader, who drowned on Thursday while bathing near a confluence in Patharghata upazila.

The victim was identified as Surya Ghosh, 13, a student of Sristee Science School and College and a resident of College Road area in Barguna town.

His family members said the school authorities arranged an annual picnic with 75 students on Thursday in Laldia area near which two rivers – Baleshwar and Bishkhali – meet.


Around noon, the students were taking a bath there. Suddenly, the children saw that Surya was going down under the water. They instantly informed it to their teachers. But they failed to rescue Surya.

Later, they informed the police who rushed to the spot and conducted rescue operations till dusk with the help of fire service members. But they could not trace the boy anywhere.

Yesterday morning, some fishermen found the body floating in the Bishkhali river near Laldia area.

[Our Correspondents in Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali contributed to the report]

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Goalanda, Rajbari.  
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8229.000.14.016.19-79  
**e-Tender Notice No. 02/2021-22**  
Dated. 09.03.2022

Reference No:  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following scheme noted against tender ID.

Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)
<b>GOB Development -</b>				
671658	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/02	Estimate for Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist- Rajbari. Part A: Civil Works (i) Foundation up to Plinth.	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671670	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/03	Estimate for Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist- Rajbari. Part A: Civil Works (ii) Ground Floor.	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671675	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/04	Estimate for Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist- Rajbari. Part B: Plumbing & Sanitary works	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671702	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/05	Estimate for Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist- Rajbari. Part C: Electrical works.	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
<b>ADP Allocation -</b>				
671703	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/06	Improvement of road by BFS from Khobir shop-Iddris house at Gofur Mondalpara road in Ujanchar union, Upazila-Goalanda	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671704	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/07	Part-1) Construction of Drain on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar for Drainage water Daulatdia union, Upazila-Goalanda. Part-2) Construction of Drain culver across the BC road on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar point under Daulatdia union, Upazila – Goalanda	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671705	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/08	Improvement of road by BFS from Munshi bazaar to Momin Sadar Mossid road under Debogram union, Upazila-Goalanda, Rajbari.	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm
671745	INF-2020-21-308229-01	Part-a) Installation of Solar street Light at Ujanchar Natun Bridge area under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari. Part-b) Maintenance work at Labour & Child Word at Upazila Health Complex under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari.	29-03-22 13:00 pm	30-03-2022 12:30 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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GD-489

## Migrant dies in Serbia

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tremendous mental pressure.

He communicated with his recruiters in Bangladesh but they did not help him find another job. Badal lived on the money he took along with him and later borrowed from Bangladesh. He even took shelter at a refugee camp in Belgrade, Saddam said.

Badal had been unemployed for the past few years and had borrowed about Tk 6.5 lakh to pay the migration cost, Saddam said.

The middleman who Badal paid the money for migration to Serbia lured him with another offer

of migration to Italy, this time asking for Tk 5 lakh, Saddam added.

"We want his body back home so that we can ensure his proper burial," he said, adding Badal's family already applied to the expatriates' welfare ministry to bring the body home.

At present, the body is kept at a hospital in Belgrade, he further said.

Badal earlier spent several years in a Middle East country as a migrant worker.

Badal had gone to Serbia legally through obtaining manpower clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, he also said.

## 5 educationists opt out of talks

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Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said during talks the EC would seek advice on how the polls, including the 12th national election, can be held in a free and fair manner.

"We will ask them what will be our role in conducting elections in a free and fair manner... They have some role in the election process. We hope they would play that role," he said.

**WHAT ACADEMICS SAY**  
Dhaka University (DU) Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said he would not join the dialogue due to health grounds. Same university Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said he would not be able to join the discussion as he will need to take important classes at National Defence College and Dhaka University whose routine was fixed much earlier.

North South University Vice-Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam said he is now abroad.

DU Professor Nurul Islam Bepary said he is not going to dialogue as he thinks that "The Election Commission will not be able to hold a free and fair election under the incumbent government. Whatever we say or recommend, it will be like a voice crying in the wilderness."

Jahangirnagar University

Prof Dilara Chowdhury said she would skip the dialogue as it would be "a futile exercise".

DU former VC AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, same university Prof Asif Nazrul and Chattogram University Prof Muhammad Yeahia Akhter said they were yet to decide whether they would join dialogue or not.

DU Profs M. Anwar Hossain, Borhan Uddin Khan and Lailufar Yasmin all said that they would join the dialogue.

EC officials said that they are also planning to hold discussions with civil-society members on March 22, and with journalists on March 30.

EC is holding the dialogue when BNP and several other political parties refrained from taking part in its formation process.

The parties did not join the dialogue with President Abdul Hamid on forming the search committee that recommended names to appoint the CEC and other election commissioners.

They also did not propose any names to the search committee for forming the next EC.

The last EC also held discussions with all stakeholders, including political parties, ahead of the 11th national election held in December 2018, after chalking out their work plans.

## 16-yr-old dies Fleeing horror, finding hope

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conducted an autopsy on the girl's body also found indication that she had been raped before the suicide.

The OC said the girl's father accused Swapan of stalking his 10th grader daughter on the way to school.

On Thursday morning, Swapan must have stopped her when she was walking to her school and forcibly took her to a quiet place and raped her, the officer said.

Later in the afternoon, her parents noticed that her room was locked from inside and there was no response from her, Moydul said, adding that they broke into the room and found her hanging from the ceiling.

Some Bangladeshis also fled from Ukraine to neighbouring Hungary and Romania. Among them is Dr Shuvajit Rakshit who took shelter in the Hungarian capital Budapest.

After completing MBBS in Bangladesh, he went to Ukraine for doing Masters in Ophthalmology at the Uzhhorod National University, which is located

some 30 kilometres off the Ukraine-Hungary border.

Twelve Bangladeshi medical students have been sheltered in Hungary. Semmelweis University in Budapest has provided dormitory accommodation and the Bangladesh embassy in Austria has arranged initial food for them, an official at the embassy said.

"The university has announced that it will provide education facilities to the Bangladeshi medical students."

Those who studied under scholarships in Ukraine will get the same facility in Hungary, the official said.

The Bangladesh embassy in Austria oversees the country's diplomatic relations with Hungary.

Shuvajit said the university authorities in Hungary hinted that Bangladeshi students might be able to continue their studies there.

"I sincerely hope that the Hungarian authorities and the university will grant us the opportunity."

He said there are Bangladeshi MBBS first and second year students in Ukraine and if they have to return home, their dream of becoming doctors will be shattered.

"Education in Ukraine is of European Union standard. This is globally recognised. We badly need to continue our studies, and the Hungarian authorities and the university can save us from being in a disastrous situation," he said.