

## Dhalai river at the mercy of sand traders

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

An authorised balumahal (sand quarry) leaseholder has been extracting sand from the banks of Dhalai river in Sylhet's Companiganj, posing a serious threat to the environment.

The bordering upazila has been enduring environmental devastation due to illegal stone extraction from hillocks for decades until it came to a halt in 2020.

The trans-boundary river's balumahal was leased out by Sylhet District Administration on August 7 to Pragati Enterprise – against a bid of Tk 2.79 crore – excluding taxes.

The lessee was the sole bidder in the fifth episode of tender for the sand quarry.

The leaseholder has been violating selected terms of "Sand Quarry and Soil Management Act 2010" and "Sand Quarry and Soil Management Rules 2011" since the very beginning of the extraction.

Though residents of the riverbank have protested the extraction attempt outside the leased area, this illegal act continues unabated.

According to section 5 of the act, no bulkhead dredger can be used while extracting sand. Only industrial dredgers can be used, which can dredge while protecting the slope of the river and maintaining the uniform level of the riverbed.

The rules further elaborate the act and obligate the leaseholder to follow a hydrographic survey to extract sand accordingly.

Hydrographic survey is the science of measurement and description of features which affect maritime navigation, marine construction, dredging and related activities.

Meanwhile, section 4 of the act also states that no commercial dredging will be allowed if the dredging has the potential to cause river erosion or damage the river's geology.

While visiting the river and sand extraction area recently, this correspondent witnessed that bulkhead dredgers were being used to extract sand. The dredgers were seen lifting sand from near the bank without maintaining the slope.

"They are trying to extract sand from outside the leased area from the very beginning. They extract from a land very close to the riverbank, making way for river erosion so that they can extract more when it occurs," said Humayun Rashid Humon, a resident of Kalabari village on the riverbank.

"Extraction attempts outside the leased area have already put a public playground in the village under threat," he added.

Locals also alleged that illegal extraction has damaged a river protection dyke near Dhalarpur village.

Abdul Hye Al-Hadi, coordinator of Save the Heritage and Environment, said, "Dhalai lost its natural flow due to stone and sand extraction, but the situation got better after the extraction was stopped a few years back."

"But the administration again leased part of the riverbank, making way for the leaseholder to violate extraction laws."

Contacted, Mojir Uddin, proprietor of Pragati Enterprise and deputy office secretary of Awami League Sylhet district unit, said, "We are not breaking any law. The deed signed with the administration does not mention a prohibition on bulkhead dredgers. We are not extracting

**According to section 5 of the act, no bulkhead dredger can be used while extracting sand. Only industrial dredgers can be used, which can dredge while protecting the slope of the river and maintaining the uniform level of the riverbed.**



Clockwise from left, vessels carry sand extracted from the Dhalai river to dispatch it to traders. As dredgers continue to extract sand illegally outside their designated leased areas, its aftermath is reflected on the riverbank and a playground in Companiganj.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## As if rules do not apply to it

Violating regulations, AL constructing permanent office on Chhoto Jamuna riverbank in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

In a step of blatant violation of relevant rules, a multi-storey office building of the ruling Awami League is being constructed on the bank of the Chhoto Jamuna in Dinajpur.

Officials and locals said once the structure is erected, it will obstruct the normal flow of the river if its water level goes high.

Surprisingly, the local administration is unaware of the building's construction, which began a month ago.

According to the office of Assistant Commissioner (land), around 38 decimals of land is located inside the Chhoto Jamuna flowing through the middle of Phulbari municipality area.

As per the RS and BS records, the land does not belong to the Water Development Board, said WDB officials in Dinajpur.

The land falls under the "Ka" category schedule, which the WDB has no scope to interfere in, said Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of WDB in the district.

But the officials warned that if



PHOTO: STAR

the building is erected it will impede the river water from flowing.

Officials at AC (land) in Phulbari said Haidar Ali Shah, the then president of the upazila AL unit, applied on behalf of the party to the land office to allocate a piece of land in 2020.

Haidar Ali died recently, said party leaders.

In response to the appeal, the land office leased six decimals of land to AL last year, which is located at I20/457 Daag of Gouripur Mouza in Phulbari upazila, according to

the land record book.

As the leased land is under the "Ka" category schedule, the deputy commissioner's office is its ultimate authority, said land officials.

According to the lease condition, AL is not allowed to construct a permanent structure but rather a temporary one on the land, said AC (land) Shamima Akhtar.

On the other hand, the ruling party is defying an official rule of the Roads and Highways Department, the owning authority of a bridge

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## 4 killed as truck hits auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Four people were killed when a truck hit an oncoming CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

Three among the deceased are Salma Khatun (45), Anwarul Islam (25), and Bitu Dhar (40). The fourth victim is yet to be identified, said OC Saiful Alam of Shahpari Highway Police Outpost.

A Teknaf-bound truck hit the Cox's Bazar-bound auto-rickshaw around 9:30am on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway at Hijlia, the OC said.

Three people died on the spot while the fourth victim passed away at Ukhiya Health Complex, said Mohiuddin, its resident medical officer.

One person was injured in the accident. He was sent to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital for treatment. Further details regarding the incident could not be known immediately.

## Ex-army man sued under DSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A case has been filed against former army officer Hasinur Rahman for allegedly spreading false statements about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Army on a YouTube channel.

Lt Col Md Hasinur Rahman (58) from Cumilla's Laksmi upazila was sued under the Digital Security Act. Daulatpur Upazila Awami League general secretary Abdul Quddus filed the case with Daulatpur Police Station in Manikganj on August 26, said police.

According to the case statement, Hasinur made offensive and false statement about the PM, the army and the army's intelligence agency DGI in a talk show called "Bangladesh Talk Show" on YouTube channel named "Life BD24" on August 25.

On August 24, Ilias Ahmed, who is a lawyer at Rangpur Judge's Court and vice-president of the district AL, filed a case with Rangpur Cyber Tribunal under the DSA against Hasinur and Netra News – a news portal – for running a report on the DGI and "tarnishing the country's image".

বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ  
স্বাধীনতা ভবন  
১৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

তাবানি বেভারেজ কোং লিমিটেড (মিরপুর ও তেজগাঁও) সহ ট্রাস্ট আধুনিক হাসপাতালের একেজে মালামাল বিক্রয়ের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি;

০১	১৮ মতিঝিলের জমা বিজ্ঞপ্তি	তারিখ: ২৫/০৮/২০২২
০২	দরপত্র সিস্টেমের মূল্য	১,০০০/- টাকা (অফারের মধ্যে)
০৩	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	অর্থ বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ১৮ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৪	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	আগামী ১৯-০৯-২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় ক্রয় করা যাবে)।
০৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ১৮ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	আগামী ২০-০৯-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ১-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭	দরপত্র ঘোষণার সময়	আগামী ২০-০৯-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের সংক্ষেপে বেদি কেটে উপস্থিত থাকবেন।

সকল দরপত্র আংশিক অথবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।  
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
কোন: ৯৫৬৪১০৩

GD-1624

According to the lease condition, AL is not allowed to construct a permanent structure but rather a temporary one on the land.  
AC (land) Shamima Akhtar

## Remembering the rebel poet



DU CORRESPONDENT

The 46th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed in a befitting manner yesterday.

Different political, socio-cultural and professional bodies observed the death anniversary through various programmes.

The programmes of the day began with recitation of the Quran after Fazr prayers at the Dhaka University Central Mosque adjacent to the grave of the national poet.

Later, teachers, students, officers and employees of the university assembled at the foot of "Aparajeyo Bangla" sculpture from where a procession, led by DU Vice-Chancellor ProfMd Akhtaruzzaman, proceeded towards the grave of the poet at 7:15am.

They paid tributes to the poet by placing wreaths at his grave.

Besides, a discussion and a cultural programme was held with the VC in the chair.

Sylhet City Corporation  
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet  
www.scc.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice-01/2022-23 (Electrical)

Memo No. 46.07.0000.021.99.015.22.1500 Dated: 25.08.22

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.
2	Agency	Sylhet City Corporation
3	Tender ID No.	727646
	Type of method	NCT, OTM (Goods)
	Publishing & opening date of tender submission	28-Aug-2022 10:00:00, 28-Sep-2022 15:00:00
	Brief description of work	Procurement of Amphibious Excavator, Chain Dozer and Pay Loader (Track Loader) for Sylhet City Corporation.
4	727655	NCT, OTM (Goods)
	Publishing & opening date of tender submission	28-Aug-2022 10:01:00, 12-Sep-2022 15:03:00
	Brief description of work	Supply of Electrical goods for repair and Maintenance for street lighting system at Sylhet City Corporation area.
6	Name, designation & address of PE	Md. Ruhul Alam Executive Engineer (Electrical) Sylhet City Corporation, 02-996635045 01911-249699
7	This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.scc.gov.bd	
8	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.	
9	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).	

(SD:-)  
Md. Ruhul Alam  
Executive Engineer (Electrical)  
Sylhet City Corporation

GD-1620

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)  
Matarbari Port Development Project (RHD Component)  
1st Floor, Foreign Aided Projects Office Building  
Road # 27, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka-1213  
Phone: +8801313092129  
E-mail: pdportrhd@gmail.com

Memo No. PD/MPDP/964 Date: 25/08/2022

**Corrigendum No. 01**

Name of the Bid: Invitation for Bids for the Construction of Matarbari Port Access Road under Matarbari Port Development Project (RHD Component) (Civil Works Package No. CW-3a, CW-3b and CW-3c) (JICA Loan Agreement No. BD-P105).  
Tender Package No. MRDP/RHD/01/2022-23  
Invitation Ref. Memo No. PD/MPDP/916 Dated: 05/07/2022

The following amendment is made to the abovementioned bid notice. All other terms and conditions shall remain valid and unchanged.

Serial No.	Reference clause	Page reference	Amended
01	Section II Bid Data Sheet ITB 7.4	PART 1-BIDDING PROCEDURES Section II Page: BDS-2	Delete the item descriptions and replace with the following new description: A Pre-bid meeting will take place at the following date, time and place: Date: <b>07 September 2022</b> Time: <b>11:00hrs. (Bangladesh Standard Time)</b> Place: <b>RHD WBBIP Project Office,</b> Address: <b>5th Floor, RHD Foreign Aided Projects Office Building, Road No. 27, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh.</b> E-mail: <b>pdportrhd@gmail.com</b> Phone: <b>+880-1313 092 129</b> <b>+880-1313 092 130</b> <b>A maximum of 3 (three) representatives of each potential Bidders will be permitted to attend the Pre-Bid Conference.</b> A site visit at the time of the pre-bid meeting conducted by the Employer will not be organized.

Md. Zakir Hossain  
ID No. 005168  
Project Director (ACE), RHD  
Matarbari Port Development Project  
(RHD Component)

GD-1622