

## WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT

### Tk 26 crore project struggling to bring benefits

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole**

The waste-management plant, built at a cost of Tk 26 crore, in Jashore town has failed to bring much productive results, as some of the facilities have not been built even years after the establishment's inauguration.

Although the plant is supposed to produce organic manure, biogas and electricity, it is currently making fertiliser only.

According to Jashore municipality authorities, about 145 tonnes of organic fertiliser have been produced from the plant in the last four years, and the establishment will start producing biogas and generating power soon.

The plant has so far produced 12,760 kg manure in 2019, 20,226 kg in 2020, 28,626 kg in 2021, and 83,626 kg in 2022.

While talking to this correspondent, many townspeople alleged that the integrated plant was established under a good initiative taken by the municipality authorities, but they are not getting proper benefits of the project.



Organic manure is being produced from waste materials at the Waste Management Plant in Hamidpur area of Jashore town.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Although the plant has been producing tonnes of manure for the last few months, biogas production and electricity generation amounts to zero, they said.

The municipality authorities said 14 vehicles collect 60 to 70 tonnes of garbage from different areas of the town every day and deposit it at the plant site.

Initially, a private company was given the responsibility to supervise fertiliser production, but a contract with another private company is currently in process of being signed.

Sources said the waste management and purification centre was built on about 14 acres of land, owned by

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## MYMENSINGH CHEST DISEASE CLINIC

# No X-ray facility for over 20 years



**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

The Chest Disease Clinic in Mymensingh city, the only government facility for treating tuberculosis patients in the division, has been running without a functioning X-ray machine for over 20 years.

The X-ray machine was set up at the clinic during its opening in 1962 for treating TB patients. It rendered services for more than 40 years before finally going beyond repair in early 2000. And it is yet to be replaced by a new one ever since, said clinic sources.

Clinic sources said an X-ray machine was received by the Civil Surgeon's office six years ago, but it has been lying idle at District Reserve Store and is yet to be installed at the facility due to a lack of proper infrastructural support.

This means, patients needing an X-ray have to depend on private facilities, which is cutting a big hole in the wallets of the middle and lower-middle class people, and beyond the reach of the poor.

People from Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur and Sherpur visit the clinic every day.

Only cough examination can be conducted at the clinic. For all the related examinations, if needed, like blood, CT Scan and FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology), patients are referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said Tajul Islam, who came to the clinic with his ailing mother.

Recently, the clinic authorities have managed a free X-ray test facility at a Brac centre in the city's Mashkanda area.

But it is not a good deal for many poor patients coming from faraway

places as it would be better if the tests are available at the clinic, said Amir Uddin, attendant of a patient from Phulbaria upazila.

If tests are available at the clinic, it would be a great relief for all patients belonging to all classes, especially the poor, said Sohrab Uddin, another attendant of Mymensingh Sadar.

Dr Anupam Dutta Roy, consultant of the clinic, echoed them.

Nurul Amin Kalam, secretary of Mymensingh Nagorik Andolon, a citizens' forum, said Mymensingh needs a full-fledged TB hospital.

Dr Md Nazrul Islam, Mymensingh civil surgeon, said they have contacted with the engineers of the Department of Public Works, and Department of Health and Engineering to set up the X-ray machine a few months ago.

## 3 YouTubers held for promoting online gambling

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Detective Branch of police claimed to have arrested three YouTubers for promoting online gambling advertisements in their video contents. The arrestees are Prottoy Heron, 22, Rayhan Sarker Bishal, 22, and Abdul Hamid, 22.

They were arrested from different areas in Narayanganj and Dhaka last week.

They were publicising the gambling content for the last three years, Mohammad Tarek Bin Rashid, cyber and special crime (north) deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star.

For each advertisement, they used to get Tk 70,000 to Tk 1.10 lakh, he added.

Prottoy's YouTube channel "The Ajaira LTD" has 4.64 million subscribers. Some of their videos have views ranging from 5 million to 38 million.

Ajaira LTD has an online web series "Bodmaish Polapain". Online gambling advertisements were being publicised in each episode of season-4 of the web series, said the DB official. Prottoy and Rayhan also acted in the web series.

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## 2 killed, 5 hurt in road accidents

**STAR REPORT**

Two people were killed and five injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Rajshahi, a motorcyclist was killed and his two pillion passengers were injured as a bus ran them over in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi.

The accident took place on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway in Matikata area at 1:00pm when a Dhaka-bound bus from opposite direction hit the Godagari-bound motorcycle, said police.

Sadekul Islam, 35, from Chanduria village in Tanore upazila was declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said Godagari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kamrul Islam.

Police and fire service personnel also took Razzak Ali, 40, and Raihan Ali, 35, from the same upazila to the RMCH.

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After years of struggle, Md Siddiq Fakir's life changed after he saw his neighbour gain profit from rearing ducks. Starting off with 250 ducks by taking out loans, he now has over a thousand ducks in his farm.

PHOTO: STAR

# Rearing duck changes Siddiq's luck

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**

Md Siddiq Fakir's day begins at the break of dawn. The 52-year-old collects eggs from the 1,000 ducks he raises in a pond near his house, feeds them, and then sells the eggs at a local market.

After returning home, his job entails supervising the activities of two employees he hired to look after his farm's ducks.

He built a 25-foot-long, 25-foot-wide house on the bank of the old Padma River at Goalanda upazila of Rajbari as a resting place for the ducks, where he keeps them at night.

He pays Tk 15,000 to each of the workers he hired.

"After all the expenses, I make a profit of Tk 55,000 to Tk 60,000," Siddiq added.

However, things were not going so well for him. He struggled to make ends meet for his family. He even had to take out a total of Tk 10 lakh loan from various people just to put food on his family's table.

His life changed when he saw a neighbouring villager Md Abdul Rahman achieve great success by rearing 1,200 ducks. He requested

that Abdul take him under his wing and teach him the trade.

After a few months, when he thought he could start a farm of his own, he asked Abdul to provide me with 250 ducks. "I took an additional loan of Tk 60,000 and arranged Tk 15,000 more by selling crops, to

secure the initial investment for his farm," said Siddiq.

It turned out to be an initial success when he started earning Tk 900-1,000 every day by selling eggs.

Siddiq went back to Abdul, who by that time settled in Kushtia. He learned duck rearing on a larger scale from him and learned how to

raise them in open water.

He returned home again, this time more confident than ever.

After that, he gradually increased the number of his ducks every year.

"I have also paid off all my loans a long time ago," he said.

Jewel Mridha, a worker at the farm, said, "I could not pursue education due to poverty. I'm the only earning member of my family. I have been working here for three months and get Tk 15,000 per month and free meals."

"I enjoy working here. I give the ducks paddy in the morning and after that, they all go to the river. I just pass time with them on the bank," he added.

Babul Sheikh, 40, another worker said, "I have been working here for three years. This work helps me to run my family."

Nurul Islam Talukdar, training officer of Rajbari District Livestock Office and acting upazila livestock officer of Goalanda, said, "Siddiq is the first person who took duck rearing as a profession in our area. If anyone wants to rear duck like him, we will provide them with all necessary support."

After all the expenses, I make a profit of Tk 55,000 to Tk 60,000. I have also paid off all my loans a long time ago.

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