Getting paid to do nothing?

BJMC executives retaining positions three years after mill closure, while around 70,000 employees laid off

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Crescent Jute Mills, located at Khalishpur in Khulna district was the second largest jute mills in terms of area and production capacity. Three years ago, the massive 113 acres premises of the mill used to remain vibrant with thousands of workers and officials

However, like all other state-run jute mills, this mill was shut down in 2020, leaving more than 2,000 workers jobless.

Many locals also got affected indirectly by this move. Abdul Malek, owner of a local grocery store, said, "Three years ago, I never imagined that I would not get any customers. The labour quarters are empty now. There are only mill officials here who

When I go to the mill, the officials say our money has been blocked by the ministry and it will be released before Eid. But, that Eid never came for me.

> ABDUR RASHID Ex-worker of Khalishpur Jute Mill

Our officials are protecting more than 1,300 acres of real estate and numerous infrastructure. The claim that they are being paid without any job is baseless.

GOLAM KABIR, BJMC chairman

We have devised a plan to assimilate the skilled and experienced officials into other state-run corporations and leave some officials under the golden handshake scheme. We shall retain only 200-300 officials at BJMC to monitor the leased out mills.

ABDUR ROUF Secretary of ministry of jute and textile



sometimes come to my shop. I have been struggling to run my business.

In fact, the once vibrant neighbourhood has become a deserted place as most of the workers who lost their jobs in 2020 left Khalishpur. However, around 300 of its officials are still living on the factory

Unlike the labourers, they are getting full benefits from the government, such as regular salaries, accommodation in officers' quarters and various other amenities.

Former workers who still live in the area said these officials are getting salary for doing nothing. However, BJMC claimed that these officials are guarding valuable assets of the corporation.

Golam Kabir, chairman of BJMC, said, "We have engaged all of our officials in maintaining the property and monitoring the tender process. So far, we have published four tenders to reopen the

"Our officials are protecting more than 1,300 acres of real estate and numerous infrastructure. The claim that they are being paid without any job is baseless," he

hundreds of workers who, with all the factories closed, apparently do not have

For instance, there are 10 officials estates and machineries.

in the production section at the BJMC headquarters.

When this correspondent visited BJMC headquarters at Motijheel at 11:00am on Monday, six of the officials were absent.

The situation was the same for their marketing department. There are around 25 officials in the department but only a handful of them were present in the

When this was pointed out to the chairman, he said, "As there is no production, our officials mostly do various administrative tasks. Some of us work with the procurement department

At present, BJMC's total manpower is 2,517 officers and employees. When all the factories were closed indefinitely in 2020, BJMC sacked more than 70,000 workers (permanent and temporary) overnight on the grounds of recurring financial loss but retained all of its officers and administrative staff.

Many of them are based in the mills, zonal offices and training centres. The corporation has been spending crores to maintain this massive workforce.

In the last fiscal, BJMC spent Tk 140 In fact, BJMC has been maintaining crore for officials' salaries. BJMC suffered a financial loss of more than Tk 250 crore and most of its budget went into paying off salary, maintaining the closed mills,

PRESENT STATE OF FORMER WORKERS

While the officials are enjoying a wellpaid and carefree life, more than 15,000 workers are yet to receive their due salaries and benefits from BJMC, even three years

BJMC has not paid a single penny to 11,000 temporary workers of five jute mills -- Khalishpur Jute Mill, Daulatpur Jute Mill, Jatio Jute Mill, RR Jute Mill and KFD Jute Mill.

Around 4,000 permanent workers of different jute mills also did not get their due benefits and salaries due to spelling mistakes in their credentials and pending court cases against them.

Many workers are spending miserable lives in the slums near the jute mills with the hope that someday they will get their

Abdur Rashid, one such worker of Khalishpur Jute Mill, said, "I have worked seven years at the mill. I was supposed to become a permanent worker. Now for the last three years, I have been pulling a rented rickshaw-van and sometimes work as a day labourer."

"When I go to the mill, the officials say our money has been blocked by the ministry and it will be released before Eid. But, that Eid never came for me," he said.

Again, many workers are also waiting with the hope that one day the government will reopen the mills and reemploy the former workers as the minister for jute and textile promised in 2020.

Md Nurul Amin, a worker of Daulatpur Jute Mills, said, "Many workers who received money from BJMC spent much of it to survive in this inflation. We have the skills to work in a jute mills; we do not know any other trade."

"The hope that one day the mills will re-open and we shall get back to our work is the only thing that still keeps us alive," added Amin.

CONCERNS OVER BJMC'S ROLE

Experts and labour leaders have expressed concern over BJMC's indifference towards workers and their role in reopening the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

3 years since 'black day'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

On July 2, three years ago, the closure of 26 jute mills operated by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation marked the end of the country's state-run jute sector, leading to the layoff of approximately 25,000 workers.

The day is recognised as Black Day by the Combined Citizen Council, a platform dedicated to protecting the interests of sacked mill workers.

The organisation has been commemorating this day with various programmes since its inception. Yesterday, at 4:00pm, they organised a protest rally in the Khalishpur industrial area, amplifying their demands and concerns.

The leaders of the council expressed their disappointment with the government's unfulfilled promises regarding the payment of dues to the laid-off workers.



Despite assurances that all dues would be settled within two months of the mill closures, numerous workers, including those from Khalishpur Jute Mill in Khulna, Daulatpur Jute Mill, Jatiya Jute Mill in Sirajganj, KFD in Chattogram, and RR Jute Mill, are yet to receive their outstanding amounts, they said.

Kudrat-i-Khuda, convener of the council, said the closure of state-owned jute mills in Bangladesh came at a time when there was an increased global demand for jute and jute products.

"At the time of closing, the government said they would reopen the mills under state ownership soon. But they did not keep their word," he stated.

Joint Convener of Citizens' Council and Khulna District Convener of Bangladesh Socialist Party-Basad Janardan Dutta Nantu, Khulna District Convener of Mass Solidarity Movement Munir Chowdhury Sohail, Khulna District President of Samajtantrik Mahila Forum Kohinur Akter Kona, and labour leaders spoke at the rally.

The events were not limited to Khalishpur alone, as nationwide protest marches and meetings were held in other locations, including in Milgate, Fultala Eastern Gate, and Jessore Rajghat areas.

রেশন টেন্ডার-২০২৩-২০২৪ (১)

Jamuna erosion intensifies in Tangail

Devours homes, schools, croplands; hundreds left homeless

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Erosion by the river Jamuna took a serious turn in the last few days, rendering several hundreds of families homeless, and devouring structures in Tangail's Sadar, Bhuanpur, and Nagarpur upazilas.

The erosion victims are now living under the open sky in neighbouring riverbeds or have moved to safer places with whatever they could salvage.

Solimabad Pashchim Government Primary School in Nagarpur was devoured by the river early yesterday, disrupting the academic activities of over 200 students.

"A couple of months ago, we urged the authorities to take necessary steps to save the school. However, only a few GEO bags were dumped at the eleventh hour, which was not of much help," said Abdus Samad, the school's headmaster.

said the GEO bags left by the Water Development Board could not save the school due to the severity of erosion.

"We are trying to relocate the school temporarily so that it vast tracts of croplands and can resume its activities. I have



discussed the matter with the public representatives," he added.

With the rising water levels, the river has affected four unions in Nagarpur. The worst affected areas are Khash Ghunipara, Paishka

Nagarpur UNO Oahidujjaman Maijhail, Char Solimabad and Bhuter More in Solimabad union; Nishchitpur, Kati Nishchitpur, and Bak Katari under Doptior union; and Marma, Uladab, Shahjani and Balarampur in Dhuburia union.

According to locals, they have been facing this situation for the last few years with the authorities turning a blind eye to this problem. They also demanded an embankment, but to no avail.

Sazzad Hossain, executive engineer of WDB in Tangail, said, "We have plans to resolve the issue permanently under an ongoing project of the WDB in Sirajganj."

Meanwhile, fresh erosion has hit the affected areas hard in Bhuanpur in the last few days.

The most affected ones are Govindasi, Kostapara, Bhalkutia, Chituliapara and Patulipaa, Khanurbari area under Govindasi union; Nikrail Matikata, Sirajkandi,



Erosion victims wait for reliefs and rescue operations under the open sky as the Jamuna swells.

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়

পুনরায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরে ১ম কোয়ার্টারে (জুলাই/২০২৩ হইতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত) রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট এ্যাক্ট/২০০৬ ও দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি/২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীসহ) অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পুনরায় দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।

The state of the s					
২। সংস্থা	:	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
৩। ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম ও জেলা	:	পুলিশ সুপার, মাদারীপুর।			
৪। দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	1	 ০১। পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.৪৩৬.০১.০৬১.২৩/৬০৩ তারিখঃ ২৬/০৬/২০২৩খ্রিঃ। ০২। পুলিশ স্পারের কার্যালয় মাদারীপুর এর স্মারক নং-২৩৭৭/ই, তারিখঃ ২৬/০৬/২০২৩খ্রিঃ। 			
৫। দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	្នះ	উনুক্ত।			
৬। বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	:	রাজস্ব খাত। বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বাজেট			
৭। দরপত্র জারীর তারিখ	1	২৬/০৬/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।			
৮। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	১০/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালিন পর্যন্ত।			
৯। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	১১/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১০। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ः	১১/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
১১। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা		পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর।			
১২। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	1	 (ক) ডিআইজি, ঢাকা রেঞ্জ, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়। (খ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর জেলা। (গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, শরীয়তপুর জেলা। ঘ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ জেলা। 			
১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	:	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর।			
১৪। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ः	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর।			
১৫। দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়		১২/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৬। দরপত্রদাতার প্রাথমিক যোগ্যতা বা দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল তথ্য দাখিল করিতে হইবে	:	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, আয়কর সনদ, ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদ জাতীয়তার সনদ, মালিকানার এফিডেভিট, প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে কালো তালিকাভ্জ ন মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা, প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, সংশ্লিষ্ট সরবরাহ সংক্রা অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি) দাখিল করিতে হইবে।			
১৭। আর্থিক স্বচ্ছপতা	:	দরপত্র জারীর তারিখ হইতে দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ পর্যন্ত সময়ের মধ্যে ব্যাংব হইতে ইস্যুকৃত Liquid Asset (ব্যাংক স্থিতির) বিবরণী দাখিল করিতে হইবে।			

১৯। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

২০। সরকারি সিদ্ধান্তের প্রেক্ষিতে দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত কোন তারিখ সরকারি বন্ধ হইলে নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত তারিখে কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করা

২১। সকল কাজের তৈল/চিনি নমুনা সিডিউলের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

ক্ৰঃ নং	মালামালের/কাজের বিবরণ	মালের পরিমাণ	জামানতের পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	কার্যকাল	
0)	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ সালের ১ম কোয়ার্টারে সয়াবিন তৈল রেশনভোগীদের জন্য (০.৫০০/১/২/৩/৫/৮ লিটারের বোতল সরবরাহ (বিএসটিআই অনুমোদিত) সরবরাহকারী ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ	২৬,৫০০ লিঃ	3,90,000/-	\$000/-	২০২৩-২০২৪ (জুলাই/২০২৩ হইতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৩ পর্যস্ত)	
०२	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ সালের ১ম কোয়ার্টারে চিনি ক্রয়ের জন্য সরবরাহকারী ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ	১৭,৭০০ কেজি	98,000/-	\$000/-		

মোঃ মাসুদ আলম, বিপিএম-বার, পিপিএম বিপি নং-৮১০৮১২১৬৯২ পুলিশ সুপার, মাদারীপুর ফোনঃ ৬১৪৯৪, ফ্যাব্রঃ ৬১১০৮ ই-মেইলঃ spmadaripur@police.gov.bd