A terminal in ruins

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

"The terminal is full of potholes, all of which transform into ditches following drizzles. Speeding vehicles often spill that water on our clothes," shared Abdul Halim, a local who frequently commutes through the Patuakhali central bus terminal.

Despite earning around Tk 20 lakh annually from leasing the terminal, the district's municipality has failed to address the pressing issues transport workers and commuters have to face on a daily basis due to a lack of maintenance.

Built in 2003 by Local Government Engineering Department on a stretch of two acres in Kalikapur spending Tk 1.65 crore, the terminal's sanitary system collapsed within just a year of its establishment.

The terminal was later handed over to the municipality. However, they have never cared to fix the toilets which have been unusable since the very beginning, claimed locals.

"The absence of a drainage system worsens the situation. The stench is unbearable while the terminal mostly remains inundated during monsoon," informed Ruhul Amin, a passenger.

The boundary walls were also damaged, giving way for security concerns, informed Abdus Sattar, a local.

"A big pothole in front of the ticket counter causes a lot of trouble for the passengers. A similar pothole, which is filled with dirty water most of the time, also causes inconveniences, especially for women and children," said Badrul Haque, counter-in-charge of Sakura Paribahan.

Most passengers avoid entering the terminal due to the puddles and potholes. They prefer boarding and getting off buses on the road but it is not safe, mentioned Uzzal Mridha, a bus owner.

Reaz Uddin Mridha, president of the district's bus owners' association, blamed the lack of a proper drainage system for this situation.

During a recent meeting, Shariful Islam, deputy commissioner of the district,

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PHOTO: STAR

Sand is being lifted from beneath Moulvibazar's Rajapur PC bridge over the Manu river flouting relevant laws. This illegal act has already put the Tk 100 crore bridge at risk. PHOTO: STAR

ILLEGAL SAND EXTRACTION

Bridge under threat, even before opening

MINTU DESHWARA

Residents of Moulvibazar's Hajipur and Sharifpur unions have long been demanding a bridge over the Manu River, and finally, authorities decided to construct one at a cost of Tk 100 crore.

However, before its inauguration, the bridge faces a critical danger of collapsing due to illegal sand lifting.

Numerous pillars of the Rajapur PC bridge have become vulnerable as sand is excavated haphazardly with several dredger machines near its vicinity, alleged locals.

Disturbingly, the prevention dam was also cut for soil extraction, putting at least seven unions of Kulaura Upazila at risk of flood and erosion.

Local allegations point towards Kibria Hossain Khokon, a member of Pritimpasha Union Parishad and a local Awami League leader, as the one responsible for sand extraction.

WHY SANDLIFTING IS RISKY

According to the Balu Mohal O Mati Babosthapona Ain, 2010 (Sand Fields and Soil Management Act, 2010), sand lifting is not allowed within 500 metres of any bridge area, said Abdul Karim Kim, executive member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon.

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NATORE CUSTODIAL TORTURE

Court order to sue cops stayed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Natore District and Sessions Judge Court yesterday stayed a lower court order that directed the district superintendent of police to file a case against five policemen for torturing three men in custody.

Judge Md Sharif Uddin issued the temporary stay order after a revision petition was filed in this regard by Natore Court Public Prosecutor Md Sirajul Islam.

The PP said the judge has fixed September 26 as the next date for revision hearing.

On July 12, police sent four people -- Md Sohag Hossain, Shamim Molla, Md Salam and Md Rakibul Islam -- to court for allegedly stealing a three-wheeler.

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5 killed, 12 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 12 injured in road accidents in two districts during the last two days.

In Dinajpur, a bus and a truck collided head-on in Sadar upazila yesterday, leaving a man dead and 10 injured. The deceased, Abu Bakkar, 30, was the helper of the bus driver.

In Chirirbandar upazila, a motorcyclist was killed after a microbus hit his bike from behind in Champatoli area yesterday.

Ruhul Amin, 38, died on the spot, said OC Siddique Hossain of Doshmile Highway Police Station.

In Birampur upazila, a man was killed and his wife injured after a pickup hit their motorcycle at Tatakpur village, said police.

Abdul Malek Mondal, 46, from Phulbari upazila died on the way to Rangpur Medical College

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Over 80 clay pots, similar to the one in the photo, were installed as nests to shelter local birds about a year ago in the additional police superintendent's office in Moulvibazar Sadar circle. With time, these pots started to home numerous local birds, including shalik, bulbuli, tuntuni, robins, doves, and most frequently, sparrows. This photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

A 'Bhalobashar Neer' for birds

Cop, journo, trader join hands to build sanctuary for feathered friends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The chirping sound of baby birds waiting in nests made out of earthen pots -- this is what people are welcomed to when they visit the additional police superintendent's office in Moulvibazar Sadar circle.

These nests were set up by Ziaur Rahman, former ASP of the district, local journalist Hasanat Kamal, and Zaheed Ahmed Chowdhury, a young trader from the area, under their initiative "Bhalobashar Neer" (a house of love).

Aiming to ensure safe habitats for birds, the three had planned the initiative about three years ago. However, their plans were put on hold indefinitely due to Covid-19.

After the pandemic, over 80 clay pots were installed as bird nests to shelter local birds about a year ago.

Upon visiting the ASP's office in the town's M Saifur Rahman road, this correspondent came across two boards that read -- let's all create a safe environment for the birds.

He also came across various pots tied to mango, mahogany, litchi, and arjuna trees which serve as a home to many birds in the area.

"I had seen such nests in Rajshahi and it really inspired me. This area is home to numerous birds, and we wanted to build a sanctuary for them," said Ziaur, who is currently posted as ASP (crime) in Pabna.

Bird nests often fall off as they fail to endure rains and storms, informed Hasanat, the editor of online portal Eye News.

"Hatchlings usually die when they fall off the nests. It's difficult to save them even if we rescue them swiftly. Thus, we came up with this solution -- a permanent and ecofriendly substitute," he said.

We want to preserve these local varieties through this initiative. We look to place more pots and also hope that we will inspire others to take up similar initiatives. The set up is not expensive but it is very rewarding when it comes to sheltering and saving these little wing flappers

JOURNALIST HASANAT KAMAL

After considering the pros and cons, the team started collecting clay pots with just a small hole fit for the birds to move. With time, these pots started to home numerous local birds, including shalik, bulbuli, tuntuni, robins, doves, and most frequently, sparrows.

"We want to preserve these local varieties through this initiative. We look to place more pots and also hope that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'THREAT TO PM'

HC orders trial of all cases in one court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to bring all the cases filed against a BNP leader for issuing a "death threat" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before a single court in Rajshahi for trial.

A total of 17 cases have been filed in 12 districts against Abu Sayeed Chand after he made a political speech in Rajshahi.

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury issued the order following a petition filed by Chand's daughter challenging the filing and initiation of cases against him in connection with a single issue.

Petitioner's lawyer Kayser Kamal said filing more than one case in connection with a single incident is contradictory to Article 35 (2) of the constitution.

Chand, BNP's Rajshahi district convener, in a rally on Shibpur High School premises in Puthia, Rajshahi, on May 19, allegedly made a "death threat" to the PM.

During the hearing, the HC bench told the deputy attorney general that cases have been lodged in many places for a single offence, which can cause sufferings.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Food
Ministry of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.001.23-243 Date: 16/07/2023

International Tender Notice to Import Milling Wheat
(Package-01) under 2023-2024

International tenders in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders to supply 50,000 (fifty thousand) (±5%) Metric Tone of Milling Wheat. The particulars and terms & conditions are given below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Food.
2.	Agency	:	Not applicable.
3.	Procuring entity name	:	Director Procurement.
4.	Procuring entity code	:	Not applicable.
5.	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka.
6.	Invitation for	:	Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat.
7.	Invitation Ref. No. and date	:	13.01.0000.093.46.001.23-243; Date: 16/07/2023.
KEY INFORMATION			
8.	Procuring method	:	International Open Tender Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9.	Budget and source of fund	:	GoB.
10.	Development partners	:	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11.	Project/programme/code	:	Not applicable.
12.	Project/programme name	:	Not applicable.
13.	Package No.	:	Package-01.
14	Package name	:	Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat.
15.	Notice publication date	:	17/07/2023.
16.	Document selling date	:	17/07/2023 to 31/07/2023 Time: 4.00pm (BST).
17.	Closing date and time of submission of tender	:	01/08/2023, upto 1.00pm (BST).
18.	Tender opening date and time	:	01/08/2023, Time: 2.30pm (BST).
19.	Name and address of the office(s):		
	Selling tender documents	:	Office of the Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
	Receiving place of tender	:	1) Office of the Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. 2) Office of the Joint Secretary, Room No. 114 (1st Floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
	Opening place of tender	:	Office of the Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
20.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (Optional)	:	Not applicable.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21.	Eligibility of tender	:	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender document.
22.	Brief description of goods or works	:	50,000 (±5%) (Fifty thousand) MT. of Milling Wheat at **Chattogram** and Mongla port on CIF Liner Out term at both ends (Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring and Overside Handling are on seller's account Lighterage, if any, is also on seller's account). **Single price per MT is to be quoted in US$.** *Quantity must be supplied 60% for* Chattogram *port & 40% for Mongla port.*
23.	Brief description of related services	:	Not applicable.
24.	(i) Price of tender document (Tk.)	:	Tk. 5,000 (Five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.
	(ii) Mode of payment	:	Through Letter of Credit (L/C).
	(iii) Crop year	:	2023 or latest.
	(iv) Validity of the offer	:	Up to BST 16.00pm, 16/08/2023.

25. Quality & specification:
A)

Quality parameters	Specification	Rejection
i) Test weight (minimum)	76 Kg/hl	below 76 Kg/hl
ii) Damaged kernels (maximum)	3%	above 3%
iii) Foreign material (maximum)	0.7%	above 0.7%
(iv) Shrunken & broken kernels (maximum)	4%	above 4%
(v) Wheat of other classes	4% (including maximum 2% contrasting classes)	above 4% (including maximum 2% contrasting classes)
(vi) Protein content (minimum)	11.5% (at Dry Matter Basis)	below 11.5% (at Dry Matter Basis)
(vii) Moisture content (maximum)	13.5%	above 13.5%
(viii) Dockage (maximum)	1% (All dockage shall be deductible from the value)	above 1%
(ix) Radioactivity (maximum)	50 Bq/Kg of ^{137}Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC & South-East Asian Countries).	above 50 Bq/Kg of ^{137}Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC & South-East Asian Countries).

B) Organoleptic properties: Bright, clear appearance, natural smell and color.

Pack No.	Identification of shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US$)	Shipment period
Pack-01	50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat on CIF Liner out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Chattogram Port-60% and Mongla Port-40%	US$ 3,00,000 in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Milling Wheat (±5%) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order. (No Bank Guarantee is allowed).	40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26.	Name of official inviting tender	Reza Mohammad Mohasin.
27.	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Procurement).
28.	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
29.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-41050178, E-mail: dproc@dgfood.gov.bd
30.	(i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. (ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) awaiting signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sailed for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender; (iii) Tenderer who had been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders; (iv) Tenderer whose bid-bonds had been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the government treasury or not; (v) Tenderer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the government treasury or not.	

16-7-23
Reza Mohammad Mohasin
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GD-1120