

Illegal resorts endanger ecology of Saint Martin's

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

At least eight new resorts have been built illegally, while eight other existing ones have extended their structures in St Martin's Island between April and September without approval.

The newly built resorts include Sun and Sand Twin Resort, Jalkuti Resort, Dingi Eco Resort, Arannok Eco Resort, Jal Josna Eco Resort, Lujipas Eco Resort and two others are yet to be named.

Among these, only Jalkuti is built of bamboo, wood and tin, while the rest have concrete basement and pillars, said Faijul Kabir, DoE inspector in Cox's Bazar.

Eight more resorts, including Coral Moon Beach, Nongor Beach Resort, Megna Beach View, Tropicana Beach Resort, Jalkabba Beach Resort, Surjiosman Beach Resort, Hotel Royal Beach and Green Beach, extended their structures, said DoE officials.

One of those built their second floor with concrete structures, while others have constructed a concrete basement and pillars, he added.



Most of these resorts are located on the island's west coast and on a narrow stretch.

In 1999, the government declared the island as an Ecologically Critical Area to protect its coral and marine biodiversity.

However, new hotels and resorts are being built every year, right under the nose of the authorities, destroying the island's ecology.

It seems anyone can build structures during the tourist closure period around April-September, while authorities have prepared excuses to shrug off their responsibilities.

With the new ones, 200 illegal structures have been built in the island without approval, said Deputy Director Nurul Amin of DoE in Cox's Bazar.

Sixteen enforcement cases have been filed by the environment department against the law breakers in early November. However, works were almost completed by then, he added.

According to locals, no action was taken during construction of the illegal structures previously.

The Keya Forest on the island was destroyed to open the view of the ocean from the resorts, said a local, wishing anonymity.

Some of the resorts were built beside the DoE rest-house on the island, he said, adding that construction of more illegal structures are underway.

The Chattogram Divisional Office, alongside DoE, district administration, and Cox's Bazar Development Authority are working together to take action against all the illegal structures, Nurul Amin mentioned.

Asked about absence of action when the structures were being built, he said the resort owners were asked to stop construction but did not pay heed to the warnings.

Jashore killing grounds in utter neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Over a dozen killing grounds and mass graves in Jashore, where hundreds of Bangalees were massacred by Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War, are heading towards virtual obliteration.

Besides, the memorials built on the killing fields are lying in a state of neglect.

There are at least 50 killing fields found in Jashore — including Shankarpur Raipara,

allies carried out brutal attacks across entire Jashore district, killing hundreds of innocent civilians, freedom fighters and intellectuals, and burying them en masse in these killing fields.

According to eyewitnesses' accounts, apart from the people from different areas of Jashore, many were brought to the Raipara killing ground by train to be tortured and killed by the Pakistani forces.

At that time, the area was a deserted location surrounded by forests.



Birampur, Dhopakhola, Khyrtala, Horticulture Centre, Jashore General Hospital, Kotwali Thana, Chhattar, Bakchar, Baptist Church, Rupdia, Railway Station Madrasa, and Chougachha Dak Bungalow.

However, except for the occasions of Independence Day, Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day, these memorials and killing fields hardly see any care and maintenance.

During the Liberation War in 1971, the Pakistani forces and their

After the country became independent, thousands of bones and skeletons were recovered from this killing field.

Many freedom loving Bangalees were also killed in Natbar Babu's bamboo plantation in Bakchar area. Massacres were also carried out by the Pakistani forces in Birampur.

Ali Hossain Moni, deputy commander of the freedom fighters in Jashore area, said the killing fields in Bakchar, Kotwali Thana and Railway Station Madrasa areas

have been somewhat maintained as these are protected areas.

However, there is no initiative to preserve the other killing grounds in Jashore, he said.

Many houses are being built on the killing fields, as a result, the evidence of massacre are disappearing, he added.

Rabiul Alam, deputy commander of the Mujib Bahini in Greater Jashore District (Jashore, Jhenidah, Magura and Narail) during the Liberation War, demanded that the authorities concerned take steps to

preserve these killing fields.

Contacted, Mohammad Abrul Hasan Majumdar, deputy commissioner of Jashore, said they have written to the ministry concerned for preserving the killing fields.

"If we get the necessary funding, we will start working to construct war memorials and beautify the areas. For the time being, we are trying to clean up the areas on behalf of the district administration," he added.

MEDICAL COLLEGE ENTRY TEST

Nine held over question leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CID claimed to have arrested nine individuals, including a union parishad chairman and five doctors, for their alleged involvement in leaking admission test question papers of medical colleges.

The arrests were made following a series of raids in Dhaka, Dinajpur, and Nilphamari from December 11 to December 13, said CID in a press release yesterday.

Among the arrestees, Faisal Ahmed Russel, Sohanur Rahman Sohan, Towfiqul Hasan Rocky, Faisal Alam Badsha and Ibrar Alam are doctors, while Sajjad Hossain is the chairman of Singra Union Parishad in Dinajpur, and Abdul Hafiz Happu is a coaching centre's director and a

The arrestees confessed their involvement before courts, following arrests. They disclosed the names of others involved, along with the names of students who got admitted to different medical colleges through dishonest means.

AZAD RAHMAN
Special superintendent of police (media) of CID

private hospital owner.

The other two arrestees are Raihanul Islam and Bakul Roy Sabon.

Azad Rahman, special superintendent of police (Media) of CID said the arrestees confessed

their involvement before courts, following arrests. They disclosed the names of others involved, along with the names of students who got admitted to different medical colleges through dishonest means.

Earlier, CID arrested the gang's mastermind Jasim Uddin Bhuiyan Monnu and recovered a diary that contained names of its members, including chairman Sajjad, spread across the country.

Sajjad has been involved in the question leak racket since 2010 and was accused in another case filed over question paper leakage in 2017.

Two arrested doctors Sohan and Russel got admitted to two medical colleges after getting leaked question papers from Happu and Sajjad, added the CID press release.

Memo No. 46.10.0000.015.07.041.23-490

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e-GP: Re-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender has been published in e-GP Portal:

Sl. No.	Re-Tender ID	Name of works	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	919920	Supply and Installation of office Furniture for different offices of Dhaka North City Corporation in the financial year 2022-2023	24-12-2023 13.00	14-12-2023 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

12-12-23
Ramendra Nath Biswas
(Deputy Secretary)
Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Dhaka North City Corporation
Phone: 02-222260923

GD-1949

Khulna-bound train narrowly escapes accident

Criminals try to unscrew track fishplates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Khulna-bound Simanta Express train narrowly escaped an accident in Domar upazila of Nilphamari on Wednesday night due to locals' intervention.

Unidentified people were caught unscrewing the fishplates on Chilahati-Parbotipur rail tracks in Bagdogra Prodhan para village around 9:45pm, said locals.

Fishplates are flat pieces of metal used to hold two sections of rails together.

Villagers heard the metallic sound and rushed to the spot to find some men unscrewing the clips in the dark, said Boragari Union Parishad Chairman Aminul Islam Rimun.

They chased the criminals away and recovered a sack containing unscrewed fishplates from the spot. Locals reported that 32 fishplates were recovered from the sack and fishplates of half a kilometre of the rail tracks were removed.

After chasing the criminals away, the locals noticed the approaching Simanta Express in the distance.

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EC subservient to AL: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP has accused the Election Commission (EC) of being biased towards the Awami League ahead of the upcoming national polls.

EC has become "subservient to the Awami League" and a "controversial state institution", said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi in a statement yesterday.

He claimed it would not be possible to have a level playing field or fair election under the current EC.

The statement came after the EC on Tuesday asked the government to take measures so that no political programmes, other than electioneering, take place from December 18.

The BNP statement called it "unprecedented" and "anti-people".

Rizvi said that BNP was not against participating in the elections itself.

"If truly free, fair and participatory elections were held, the BNP would register an overwhelming victory," the statement reads.

Meanwhile, at a virtual press briefing, Rizvi said everyone knows that the AL government is involved in oppressing the opposition through murder, torture and persecution.

As of yesterday evening, he said 21,615 BNP leaders and activists have been arrested in 614 cases filed across the country since October 28.

In the 24 hours preceding yesterday evening, 125 BNP leaders and activists were detained, and six cases were filed against 625 named and many unnamed supporters of the party.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NATORE.
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Invitation for e-Tender (IFT) (LTM).

Tender Notice No:- XEN/EED/NAT/REPAIR/4931/2023-2024/e-GP-II

Date:- 14/12/2023

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned as following, date and time under Education Engineering Department (EED), Natore.

Sl. no.	Package no.	Name of Work	Tender ID no.	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01	XEN/EED/N AT/GOVT. REPAIR/4931/02	CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNAL ROAD, REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS OF 3-STORIED SCIENCE BUILDING AT NAWAB SIRAJ-UD-DOWLA GOVT. COLLEGE UNDER SADAR UPZILLA, NATORE.	831543	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
02	XEN/EED/N AT/GOVT. REPAIR/4931/03	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS INCLUDING TILES WORKS OF SHAHID MINAR AT NAWAB SIRAJ-UD-DOWLA GOVT. COLLEGE UNDER SADAR UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	831544	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
03	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/04	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AND 3-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING AT GOL-E-AFROZ GOVT. COLLEGE UNDER SINGRA UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	859657	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
04	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/01	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS (CONSTRUCTION OF SHAHID MINAR) AT SINGRA DAMDAMA GOVT. GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL UNDER SINGRA UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	924857	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
05	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/02	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS (CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL) AT GOL-E-AFROZ GOVT. COLLEGE UNDER SINGRA UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	924858	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
06	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/03	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS (CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL) AT SINGRA DAMDAMA GOVT. GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL UNDER SINGRA UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	924859	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
07	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/04	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS BLOCK-B (2-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION OF MAIN GATE) AT SINGRA DAMDAMA GOVT. GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL UNDER SINGRA UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	924860	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00
08	XEN/EED/N AT/REPAIR/4931/06	REPAIR & RENOVATION WORKS AT ABDULPUR GOVT. COLLEGE UNDER LALPUR UPZILLA, NATORE DISTRICT.	924862	01.01.2024 Time: 16.00	02.01.2024 Time: 12.00

a) Tender Publication date on live: 17/12/2023; 10.00 A.M.
b) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of above packages from the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) System have to be deposited online through any CPTU registered Bank branches up to 16.00 P.M on 01/01/2024.
c) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
d) The procuring entity reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-1950

14.12.23
Executive Engineer
EED, Natore