

SCC felling trees for beautification

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least eight trees on the bank of Malnichhara canal in Sagardighir Par area of Sylhet city are being felled to facilitate a beautification project.

Sylhet City Corporation officials claimed these trees are too close to the planned guard wall of the canal, where the city corporation is expanding a walkway.

In 2022, while constructing the first part of the walkway there, SCC was praised for preserving all trees on the bank.

After two years, the walkway is being expanded at a cost of around Tk 15 crore; only this time, eight large trees are being sacrificed in the process.

According to an engineer of SCC, the corporation called in a tender for chopping the trees, and the highest bidder, who is also the contractor of the walkway, got the contract for Tk 20,000.

While visiting the spot yesterday, this correspondent spoke to a man who requested anonymity and claimed to have been subcontracted for the job.

The person claimed the estimated value of the timber was at least Tk 5 lakh.

This correspondent also witnessed that the guard wall was being bent to avoid the removal of a police box, which was also located on the canal's bank.



Nur Azizur Rahman, chief engineer of Sylhet City Corporation, said, "These trees are close to the guard wall. If we wished to save them, their roots would have to be cut, and this would eventually weaken the trees."

Asked about the design change to save the police box, which is in a similar position to the trees that are being felled, he said, "I will visit the spot and inspect the situation there."

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Sylhet chapter, said, "Sylhet City Corporation has chopped over 1,000 century-old trees in the last two decades. It is necessary to investigate the reason behind the repetitive felling of trees, even after a new council is in charge."

When everything comes in polybags

Decade old law failing due to lax enforcement

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

In 2002, the government banned thin polythene and plastic bags, making Bangladesh the first country in the world to slap such a restriction.

The law states that, "Manufacturing, importing, marketing, selling, displaying for sale, storing, transporting, polythene shopping bags or any other material, which is harmful to the environment, is prohibited."

Although hailed as a major step towards reducing environmental pollution, the ban, however, was largely unsuccessful due to poor enforcement by the authorities concerned.

Almost 22 years later, the extent to which polythene and plastic materials are being used in marketplaces, one would hardly believe that the material was banned in the country. Polythene is everywhere.

Visiting the 161 small and large markets in nine upazilas of Bagerhat, including Badhal Bazar, Kachua Bazar, Signboard Bazar, Daibaggahati Bazar, Bagerhat Bazar and Khanjahan Ali Mazar Bazar, this correspondent saw all shopkeepers are using polythene bags to sell goods including fruits and vegetables, fish, meat, bakery, groceries, medicine, etc. to the consumers.

Once discarded, these bags eventually accelerate environmental pollution in a myriad of ways.

Packets of candy, biscuits and chips, mini packs of different brands of shampoo, single use poly-bags, and packets of different juices were seen floating in canals,



waterbodies and rivers in Gopalpur, Tangakhali, Sangdia villages under Kachua upazila.

A similar scenario prevails in all nine upazilas of Bagerhat.

"These polythene bags and packets are choking the waterbodies, and harming the fertility of soil," said Gouranga Kumar Some, a teacher of Kachua Degree College.

"Poly-bags are everywhere. It's beyond control in our country. I purchased several items including fish, potato, sugar, and puffed rice. Every item came in a poly-bag," said Abu Bakar Siddique, who was shopping at Badhal Bazar.

"Vendors say net bags or other environment-friendly bags are costly, so they give poly-bags and we have to use these," he added.

A shopkeeper at Badhal Bazar said, "There are more than 400 shops in this market and every

shop uses around 1kg of poly-bags of different sizes daily."

Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, Khulna divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "We are very much concerned about it. BELA filed a case in 2019 regarding single use polythene. It was said during the time that the use of polythene will be controlled gradually within 2023, but the reality is otherwise."

"The Department of Environment said they do not have sufficient manpower to control it. We have sent letters to every government department regarding the issue," he added.

Md Kamruzzaman Sarkar, deputy director of DoE in Bagerhat, said, "We seized 1,304 kg of polythene in January this year during mobile court drives. We are trying to raise public awareness against use of polythene."

Bangabandhu is a source of inspiration: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said that even though Bangabandhu is not alive, he is always a source of inspiration for the people of the country. "Bangabandhu's birth means the birth of Bangladesh's independence," he said.

He expressed his doubt over whether Bangladesh would have become independent if a leader like Bangabandhu had not been born.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after paying homage to the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhaka's Dhanmondi-32, marking the 104th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and National Children's Day-2024.

Deep fake videos of BNP leaders being circulated: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday claimed a speech of the party's acting Chairman Tarique Rahman has been distorted with deep fake technology using artificial intelligence (AI).

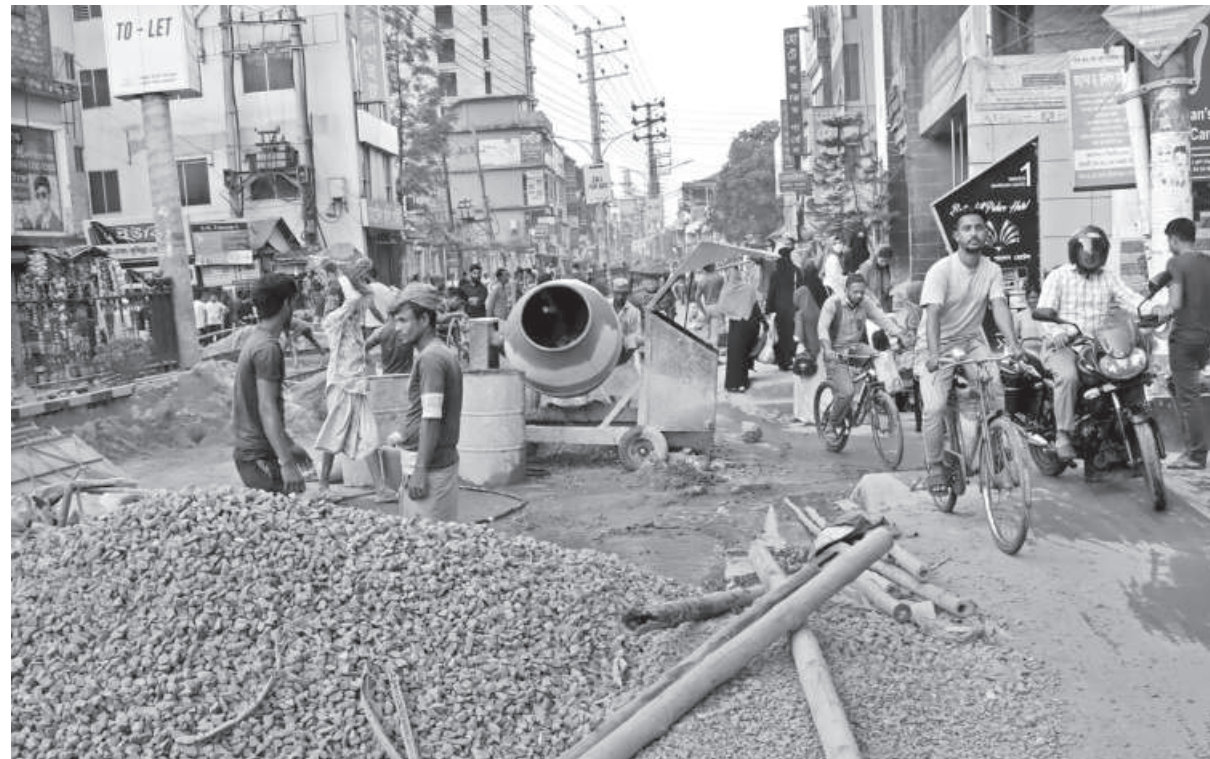
He said the deep fake video is being spread through a few pro-govt online platforms and media outlets and being used for extorting BNP's well-wishers from home and abroad.

A group is also making deep fake videos of BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and other leaders, he added.

He said it in a press briefing held at BNP's Nayapaltan Central Office.

Rizvi said after an investigation done by BNP's IT department, they have found that a man named Nahid Rain, who has been accused of fraud in the past, is involved in making such videos with the help of Awami League.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi demanded the immediate arrest of Nahid Rain.



Pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists take to the footpath as the Ambarkhana-Chouhatta road in Sylhet city remains blocked for road works, obstructing movement for all. Meanwhile, locals continue to use the road amid risks due to the absence of an alternative route. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

4 killed, 6 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Chattogram and Tangail yesterday and on Saturday night, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila, an unidentified vehicle hit a motorcycle on Dhaka-Chattogram highway yesterday, killing Shahidul Islam, 30, and Abhijeet Biswas, 31. Another person, Shantanu Biswas, 30, was injured.

Khokan Chandra Ghosh, OC of Barowalia Highway Police Station, said, "A vehicle hit them from behind when they were going to Chattogram from Sitakunda around 1:00am, killing Abhijeet on the spot."

Police seized the motorcycle and collected CCTV footage to identify the vehicle involved.

Meanwhile, in Tangail, a truck collided with a three-wheeler on Saturday night, killing Tofazzal Hossain, 35, and Sushant Bakali, 33, and injuring five others.

Sub-Inspector Aminul Islam of Gorai Highway Police Station stated, "An earth-laden dump truck hit the three-wheeler from behind around 10:00pm at Gorai Nazirpara, killing the driver of the three-wheeler on the spot and injuring others."

Residents rushed the injured to Kumudini Hospital where one passenger of the three-wheeler died.

ENCROACHMENT ON KUAKATA CANAL

A bad situation to turn worse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Residents of Kuakata Municipality in Patuakhali district have expressed concerns over construction of a new structure that they allege is encroaching on a vital canal. The structure, a large tin-shed house, is reportedly being built by an individual named Ali Haider on a newly-constructed box culvert at Kuakata canal, potentially restricting water flow.

A local gang has already grabbed both banks of the canal, leaving it shrunken over time. The west side of Kuakata canal has been filled up and taken over by some squatters, while a fish enclosure has been made on the east side.

The new structure on the canal will further add to its woes, said locals. The construction work has not stopped even though the Kuakata Municipality authorities, local land officials and upazila administration have been informed of the matter.

Contacted, Ali Haider admitted to have occupied the canal and culvert for building the house.

"There will be no problem with the flow of water. Drainage through culverts will not be affected. The municipal councillors, mayor and land office are aware of the situation," he claimed.

Md Taibur Rahman, councillor of Ward-2 said, "The canal has been encroached by some influential in numerous ways, including construction of this house. Encroachment cannot be prevented as land officials do not take initiative to protect the canal," said Md Taibur Rahman, councillor of Ward-2.

Contacted, ANM Muradul Islam, assistant land officer of Mahipur union, said he was unaware about the matter and higher authorities will be informed of the matter after inquiry.

Kuakata Municipality Mayor Anwar Hossain Howladar also said the same.

"Action will be taken after inquiry into the matter," he added.

Contacted, Kalapara UNO Md Jahangir Hossain said the union land officer has been instructed to take action in this regard.

LP GAS LIMITED		(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)	
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh			
Ref No. 28.27.0000.005.35.001.24-51		Date: 14 th March, 2024	
INVITATION FOR NATIONAL TENDER NOTICE			
1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources / Energy & Mineral Resources Division	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)	
3	Procuring entity Name	LP Gas Limited (LPGL)	
4	Procuring entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.	
5	Invitation for	Supply of Unskilled/Semi-Skilled/Skilled Worker in LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram on Daily Demand/Requisition Basis.	
KEY INFORMATION			
6	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
7	Budget & Source of fund	Own fund of LPGL	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
8	Tender Package No.	28.27.0000.005.35.001.24-51	
9	Tender Publication Date	18/03/2024	
10	Tender Last Selling Time & Date	Up to 1500 hrs. on 17/04/2024	
11	Tender Closing Time & Date	1400 hrs. on 18/04/2024	
12	Tender Opening Time & Date	1430 hrs. on 18/04/2024.	
13	Name & Address of the Office(s)	- Selling Place of Tender Documents: Cash Section of LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204. - Receiving Tender Documents: LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204. - Opening Tender Documents: -Do- - Offer Validity Time: 120 (One hundred twenty) days from the date of tender opening.	
14	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place: LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh Date: 01/04/2024 Time: 1100 hrs	
16	INSTRUCTION TO TENDERER	The Tenderer should submit the technical and financial bid separately. The bids in Sealed Cover-I containing "Technical Offer" and Sealed Cover-II containing "Financial Offer" should be placed in a third sealed cover superscripted "Tender for Supply of Unskilled/Semi-Skilled/Skilled Worker in LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram on Daily Demand/Requisition Basis"	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
17	Major Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(i) The minimum specific experience as a Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least ONE contract of minimum 10,000 Nos. Worker supply in Large Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous/Government owned companies with a value of at least TK. 75,00,000.00 (Seventy-Five Lac) for 01 (one) year at a stretch within last 05 (five) years (years counting backward from the date of publication of tender in newspaper). Summation of different contract period to make 01 (one) year is not acceptable. (ii) The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 25,00,000.00 (Twenty-Five Lac) over the last five years (years counting backward from the date of publication of tender in newspaper). (iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 20,00,000.00 (Twenty Lac). (iv) Attested copy of CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE issued by Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment (form-78 of category A or above). License Should be valid up to June, 2024. Applied (form-77) or expired license will not be acceptable.	
18	Brief Description of Services	Price of Tender Documents	Tender opening Time and Date
	Supply of Unskilled/ Semi-Skilled/ Skilled Worker in LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram on Daily Demand/ Requisition Basis	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) only (Non-refundable)	1430 hrs. on 18 April 2024
19	Identification of Tender	Location	Tender Security
	28.27.0000.005.35.001.24-51	LPGL, Chattogram	Tk. 2,50,000.00 (Two Lac Fifty Thousand) in the form of a Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram
			Contract Period in Years/Days
			02 Years (730 Days) from the date of signing Contract
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Assaduzzaman	
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager (A&P)	
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh	
23	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +880233301218-19, Ext:- 301, Mobile: +88 01329-725793 E-mail: lpgaslimited@gmail.com	
24	Bidder(s) must submit the original money receipt for Tender Document along with their offer and Seal & Sign in every pages of tender documents.		
25	This Tender Notice/Document will be available at LPGL website: www.lpgl.gov.bd		
26	(a) The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in part or in full or annul the tender proceedings without assigning any reason. (b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.		

GD- 423

(Engr. Md. Assaduzzaman)
Deputy General Manager (A&P)