

KHULNA'S BASTUHARA COLONY

No permanent allotment for residents in 52yrs

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

In 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman allotted 33 acres of land for squatters and displaced people in Muigunni area of Khulna city to reside there.

Back then, the land was largely an abandoned wetland on the outskirts of the city, where the people gradually built settlements over the years. Eventually the area came to be known as Bastuhara Colony.

At present, around 15,000 people from at least three generations are living in the colony. However, they have no permanent land document for their allotments of 450 square feet space for each family.

Apart from the residential establishments, there is a government primary school, an MPO-affiliated secondary school, four mosques, a madrasa and an orphanage in the colony.

Most residents of the colony are low-income people who live hand-to-mouth, working in informal professions such as hawkers, small traders, and day labourers, among others.

Even after more than 50 years, the land has yet to be permanently allotted to the settlers, despite their repeated plea for permanent registration of their plots at nominal value or symbolic value.

Abdur Razzak, a resident of the

colony, said without permanent allotment of land, they are being unable to build the structures as per requirement.

"My seven-member family lives in a shabby tin shed house. In monsoon, almost all belongings get drenched in rain as I could not build any concrete structure while the family continues to grow. If I go to bank for home loan, they want permanent land document, which



I cannot produce," he added.

Sabur Mollah, 76, who came from Bakerganj of Barishal with five family members, have been living in the colony since 1972. The extended family members have grown in number to 23 and are now living in two plots.

"How many people can live in a 10-12 feet room? This is the reality of almost families who live here,

with their allotted lands yet to be registered to their names," he said.

"If we could afford, we would have purchased land or settle anywhere else in the city. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to buy land elsewhere as it is too expensive," he expressed frustration.

On September 12, 1998, the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina announced to initiate the registration of plots to the

Authority pledged to resume the registration process for the colony and rename it as "Bangabandhu Nagar".

Accordingly, an 8-member survey committee consisting of the representatives of the state minister, KCC, deputy commissioner of Khulna, Housing Authority, and Bastuhara Colony Registration Committee was formed to carry out the on-site survey.

The committee prepared a list of 1,502 families living in the colony through field survey and submitted a report. However, no progress was made since then.

Before allotting the land, Bangabandhu had pledged in this regard at an electioneering rally in 1970 at Khulna Circuit House ground.

Under his direction, the process of development and allotment registration of Bastuhara Colony began 1972 onwards, but later stopped after his assassination.

Visiting the colony recently, this correspondent observed that almost all structures are tin shed houses in a congested, shabby, and dilapidated condition, where poor, working class people are living in a precarious state.

Lack of drainage and sewerage facilities turned the environment largely unhygienic, while almost of the area remains submerged under rain water in monsoon.

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75pc telecom towers in Feni still non-functional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 75 percent of the mobile telecom towers in Feni are non-functional as of 5pm yesterday, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

In 11 flood affected districts, approximately 7 percent of the mobile towers are out of service now.

Of the total 14,551 towers, 1,008 are inactive at present in the flood-affected Feni, Noakhali, Lakshimpur, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Chattogram, Khagrachhari, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet and Cox's Bazar.

The BTRC said it is trying to resume operation of the affected mobile towers in coordination with the army.

The commission said two speedboats have been deployed in Fulgazi upazila of Feni in coordination with mobile operator Robi and tower operators Summit and Edotco to expedite network restoration efforts.

Additionally, two speedboats have been

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FLASH FLOOD Eminent citizens urge unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven prominent citizens, including academicians, authors, journalists, and rights activists, have called on the government and the people of Bangladesh to unite and work together to support the victims of the recent devastating floods.

In a statement issued to the media yesterday, they urged civil society, particularly social, cultural, and civic organisations, to take a more proactive role in providing coordinated assistance to those affected.

The statement highlighted that at least 18 people have lost their lives across 12 districts in the floods. It noted that citizens from all walks of life, including students and teachers, have stepped forward to assist flood-hit families.

The interim government has also sent relief items to the affected areas.

The signatories praised the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement for its efforts in crowdfunding and distributing various relief items to those impacted by the floods. They noted that the overwhelming response from the public, with people donating cash and relief materials, demonstrates the deep compassion and commitment of Bangladesh's citizens to support those in need during challenging times.

The statement included a seven-point recommendation, emphasising the importance of encouraging people to assist flood victims according to their capacity by quickly gathering and delivering essential items—such as dry food, drinking water, clothing, emergency medicine, and cash—to nearby relief centres.

It also called for better coordination with local organisations and authorities, suggesting that a coordinated delivery of relief supplies could reduce costs and increase the efficiency of aid distribution.

The signatories urged prioritising aid to remote and hard-to-reach areas, with special attention to

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Red Cross China donates \$100,000 for flood victims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Red Cross Society of China has donated \$100,000 to support victims of the devastating floods that have affected millions in Bangladesh's eastern and southeastern regions.

The donation was handed over by Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Yao Wen, during a meeting with Prof Dr M U Kabir Chowdhury, chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, at their headquarters yesterday.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Yao Wen expressed deep concern and sympathy on behalf of the Chinese government and people for the loss of lives and property in Bangladesh.

"China, which also frequently suffers from natural disasters, extends its sincere sympathies to the people of Bangladesh. Though disasters are ruthless, people are compassionate," he said.

Yao Wen added that China is ready to continue providing assistance based on Bangladesh's needs to aid in disaster relief and reconstruction efforts, further strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

In addition to China's contribution, the UK has announced £33,000 in immediate humanitarian assistance to support over 12,000 people affected by severe flooding in Feni, Khagrachari, and Noakhali.

The aid will be implemented by Start Fund Bangladesh and Save the Children International and will provide search and rescue, food, cash transfers, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies.

Meanwhile, the BCS'81 Forum Bangladesh has announced a donation of

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Illegal sand lifting continues unabated in Chowagachha



MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Residents of Jashore's Chowagachha upazila have alleged that the local administration is yet to take any action against a syndicate that has long been illegally extracting sand from Marjad Bawar area in Patibila union.

Hundreds of truckloads of sand are being lifted from the spot using excavator every day, putting the nearby croplands, river protection dam, roads and other structures and trees at risk, they also alleged.

According to the Sand Quarry and Soil Management Act, 2010, no sand can be extracted from rivers, canals, ponds and other waterbodies within one kilometer of any road, culvert or other structure.

However, some local influential in Patibila union -- Touhid Sheikh, Tito, Farukh Ahmed, Ibrahim Hossain, Liton Hossain, Mithu, Roshan Ali and Ala Uddin -- have been lifting sand without adhering to the law.

Visiting the spot recently, this correspondent observed excavators were engaged in illegal sand extraction on the riverbank.

Ziarul and Kabir Hossain, two workers who were lifting sand using excavator, said Mithu owns the machines.

The extracted sand is sold for different development works including filling up of low-lying lands, and construction works, they also said.

About 100 truckloads of sand are being lifted every day, and each truckload of sand is sold for Tk 2,500-3,000, they added.

Wishing anonymity, a local said sand lifting must be done from a designated sand quarry with the government's approval.

Farooq Hossain, who also owns excavators, said, "We know our activities are illegal. Many others are also running their machines here. We have been lifting and selling sand after managing officials concerned of the administration. We provide sand to different government-run development works at low cost."

Contacted, Chougachha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sushmita Saha said policemen were sent to stop illegal sand lifting after receiving complaint in this regard.

Legal action will be taken against those involved, she added.



Locals fishing in a canal connected to the Bhadra river in Khulna's Paikgachha upazila. After the tidal water recedes from the canal, many kinds of fish can be found there, prompting people to engage in such fishing activities. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

No scope to delay polls

Says Workers Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Workers Party of Bangladesh, a key ally of the recently ousted Awami League government, yesterday said that there is no scope to delay the next election.

They said timely election is mandatory to kick start a new democratic process.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party's politburo responded to the Chief Advisor's address to the nation, highlighting the urgency of holding elections.

"The immediate past government failed to create a fair electoral process. Due to the absence of fair elections, there is now a strong public demand for one," the statement said.

The party stressed that democratic political

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
পুরাতন কোর্ট বিল্ডিং রোড, রাসমাটি-৪৫০০।
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারে (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নির্দিষ্ট দি-পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট ২০০৮ অনুসারে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী, ঠিকাদার, যোগানদার ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০২৪-২০২৫

ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ (টন/কিট/কেজি)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফিসে যোগ্য)	দরপত্র প্রাপ্যতা (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
১।	উন্নত মানের মসুর ডাল(হেটো সানা) সর্বাধিকতম নমুনা মোতাবেক ডাল ক্রয় করা হবে।	চার্হিমা মোতাবেক	৭৫০.০০	১,৫০,০০০.০০	কার্যসম্পন্ন মোতাবেক
২।	সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয়(ডিটমিন "এ" সন্মুখ)।	চার্হিমা মোতাবেক	৭৫০.০০	১,৫০,০০০.০০	কার্যসম্পন্ন মোতাবেক
৩।	চিনি ক্রয় (উন্নত মানের)	চার্হিমা মোতাবেক	৭৫০.০০	১,৫০,০০০.০০	কার্যসম্পন্ন মোতাবেক

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ :-

১৭।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মীর আবু তৌহিদ বিপিএম (বার)
১৮।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাসমাটি জেলা।
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	অফিস ফোন-০৩৫১-৬২২০৪। ফ্যাক্স-০৩৫১-৬৩১২৭।

বিশেষ শর্তাবলী-(ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।
(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(গ) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত হলে কেবল আইটেমের ক্রয়ের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা হ্রাস করার বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।
(ঘ) দরদাতাদেরকে তাদের নিম্নলিখিত প্যাডে আবেদন করে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে। প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/মালিক হাতিয়ার অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

মীর আবু তৌহিদ বিপিএম (বার)
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