



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

At least 54 of the total 75 sluice gates constructed on 11 rivers flowing through Khulna have long been non-operational due to lack of maintenance. As such, the accumulated rainwater is not being drained out properly, leaving vast areas across three upazilas submerged.

Under water for over a month

Waterlogging woes worsen in more than hundred Khulna villages as 54 out of 75 sluice gates remain out of order

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The homestead of Rahman Sheikh, a farmer of Gutudia village in Khulna's Dumuria upazila, has been submerged for the past 45 days.

He also has faced a loss of Tk 3.30 lakh as his aman paddy and vegetables on eight bighas of land got damaged due to waterlogging.

Around 775 families in the village have been facing similar ordeals.

Not just this village, over a hundred villages under Dumuria, Phultala, and Batiaghata upazilas of Khulna have gotten submerged following heavy rains this monsoon.

Dumuria upazila, the largest in Khulna, has been the most affected due to the persistent waterlogging. Of the 237 villages in the upazila, 104 have been inundated for long.

Local fish farmers said fish worth Tk 75 crore

were washed away and crops on 1,045 hectares of land got damaged due to the prevailing situation following heavy rains in August and September this year.

According to fisheries department, at least 80 percent of the 26,570 fish enclosures and 5,630 ponds in Dumuria upazila have been affected.

A total of 510 mm rainfall was recorded in the region in September alone.

Meanwhile, to make the matter worse, 54 of the total 75 sluice gates constructed on 11 rivers flowing through the region have long been non-operational due to lack of maintenance.

As such, the accumulated rainwater is not being drained out properly, leaving vast areas across three upazilas submerged.

With the homes, roads, and croplands under water, around half a million residents of the affected villages have been facing severe

hardships.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board, 75 sluice gates were constructed to control water flow of 11 rivers flowing through the region comprising the three upazilas.

Of those, 23 are now completely out of order, 20 are clogged with silt, and 11 are hardly operational. The remaining 21, while functional, have had their capacity severely diminished by excessive waterlogging in the area.

Debashis Biswas of Rangpur village in Dumuria said, "The water did not recede by a single inch over the past 15 days. The 10 sluice gates on Soilmari river in the upazila cannot drain out the water as those have been clogged by silt for a long time."

ABM Shafiqul Islam, president of Khulna

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Another dies in Sherpur flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

One more person died in Netrokona after being swept away by floodwater, raising the death toll to 11 in the recent floods in three districts — Mymensingh, Sherpur, and Netrokona.

The floating body of a youth, Ruel Recil, 28, was recovered from Farangpar area under Netrokona's Durgapur upazila yesterday morning.

He was a resident of Dahapara village under the same upazila, said police.

Ruel, along with his three friends, went to Farangpar to catch fish in floodwater at around 3:00pm.

Suddenly, he fell in quicksand and was swept away by floodwater, said Md Mahfuz Alam, inspector (investigation) of Durgapur Police Station.

Members of fire service and civil defence recovered his body, said the OC.

On Wednesday, Additional Secretary KM Ali Reza of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief told journalists that ten people have died so far in Sherpur and Mymensingh due to recent floods.

The recent floods in the three districts have affected 2,38,391 people. A total of 13 upazilas were flooded with 73 unions or municipalities affected.

DURGA PUJA

No joy for family of a martyr

MINTU DESHWARA

Ripon Chandra Sheel, a 22-year-old from Poil village in Habiganj, had been looking forward to celebrating Durga Puja with his newborn son.

Instead, his family is passing the festival in tears, mourning Ripon's tragic death during the anti-discrimination student protests in August.

Ripon, the family's sole earning member, was shot dead on August 4 during a clash between protesters and the joined force of police and Awami League supporters.

Just four months after the birth of his son, Swadhin, Ripon's life was cut short. He left behind his widow, Tusti Rani Sheel, and their infant son.



"My husband was taken from us too soon," said Tusti, 19. "We had just begun our journey as parents, and now I am left alone to raise our son. How will I provide for him?"

Ripon's mother, Ruby Rani Sheel, recounted the day her son left home for the protests.

"He told me, 'This movement is important' and then he left. That was the last time I saw him alive," she said.

Ripon's younger brother, Shipon Sheel, who was also injured in the protests, said, "We went to the protests together. I got shot in the leg. At the hospital, I found out my brother was gone. He fought for our country and sacrificed his life. Now we worry for Swadhin's future."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Kamal Hossain's PALM TREES

A farmer's mission to save lives from lightning



SOHRAB HOSSAIN,
Patuakhali

While many seek shelter from the harsh coastal weather, 55-year-old Kamal Hossain of Kumirmara village in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila's Neelganj union can be found planting palm saplings along the roadsides, day in and day out.

Neither the scorching sun nor heavy rain can stop him from his mission to protect the environment and safeguard his community from natural disasters.

Kamal, a paddy farmer, has voluntarily begun planting 100,000 palm (tal) saplings in an effort to restore environmental balance and mitigate the impact of lightning in coastal regions.

His initiative, which has drawn widespread praise from locals, involved

planting saplings along the fallow land beside various roads and highways.

With no external support and relying solely on his own resources,

Kamal has already planted approximately 35,000 palm seeds on the roadside stretch between Alipur Bazar and Chapli Bridge.

He collected these seeds from different areas and has taken it upon himself to transform barren land into lush greenery.

"I started planting palm saplings three months ago after receiving permission from the Kalapara upazila administration," Kamal said.

"Palm trees are vital not just for preventing natural disasters like lightning but also for preventing soil

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Crown of goddess Kali stolen from Satkhira temple

It was gifted by Indian PM

A CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

A crown of goddess Kali at the Jeshoreshwari Temple in Satkhira's Shyamnagar, which was gifted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been stolen.

The incident occurred around 2:30pm yesterday.

According to the temple priest, Dilip Mukherjee, he left the temple after completing the day's worship around 2:00pm. Shortly afterwards, the temple's cleaning staff entered to clean the premises. A while later, they noticed that the crown was missing from the deity's head.

Modi had visited the Jeshoreshwari Temple on March 27, 2021, as part of his trip to Bangladesh.

The temple is one of the 52 Shakti Peeths in Hinduism. On that day, Modi placed the crown on the head of the deity as a symbolic gesture.

Talking to The Daily Star, Inspector of Shyamnagar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Road Transport and Highways Division
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
MRT Section
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No. 35.00.0000.065.19.032.17-297

Date: 09.10.2024

Recruitment Notice

The Government of Bangladesh is seeking to hire a qualified individual with appropriate academic qualifications and professional experience to serve as the Managing Director at Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL). Applications from candidates who meet the specified criteria are invited.

1. Company Profile

The Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) is a fully Government-owned Company that was incorporated under the Companies Act of 1994 on 3 June 2013. Its purpose is to establish, operate, and maintain including the planning, surveying, designing, and financing of a state-of-the-art Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) or Metro Rail Network in Dhaka.

2. Job Description and Responsibilities

As the Chief Executive Officer, the Managing Director (MD) will lead the planning, development, and execution of Dhaka Mass Transit System projects. He will also ensure smooth and efficient operation of the line(s) that provide service.

3. Minimum Educational, Professional Qualifications and Experience

3.1 Education

- The applicant is to be an engineering graduate, preferably in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering, with a strong academic record.
- Post-graduate qualifications in project management, business administration, or transport management will be an added advantage.
- Having a professional membership (Chartered/Professional Engineer) is desirable.

3.2 Experience

- Significant experience in planning, development, and execution of major rail-based mass transit systems or projects is required.
- The candidate should demonstrate the ability to lead and oversee management teams for major transport infrastructure projects, with a comprehensive understanding of industry standards and international best practices.
- Strong commercial acumen and experience in tendering and negotiating contracts of varying complexities are essential.
- The candidate should have significant senior-level management experience in a reputable large organization.
- The candidate should have at least 20 years of service, with at least 3 years in a senior leadership role such as CEO, Director, Project Director or higher Executive Level.
- Preference will be given to candidates with experience in mass transit systems or metro outside Bangladesh, including Non-resident Bangladeshis with such experience.

4. Submission of Applications

Details Recruitment notice is available at the websites of DMTCL (<https://dmtcl.gov.bd>), Road Transport and Highways Division (<https://rthd.gov.bd>), and DTCA (<https://dtca.portal.gov.bd>). Prospective candidates shall send their applications to the Company Secretary of DMTCL through Email (companysecretary@dmtcl.gov.bd) by 14 November 2024. A CV listing academic attainment, key positions held, and achievements and providing other associated information, along with academic and experience certifications, documentation of nationality, and a photograph will accompany the application. The application needs to mention the postal address, email, and mobile number. Short-listed candidates may be called for an interview.

5. The authority reserves the right to cancel or amend the recruitment notice at any time.

Saran Kumar Barua
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone: 55100805
E-mail: mrtl1.sec@rthd.gov.bd



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Nagar Bhaban)

"e-Tender Notice"

Memo No.: egp/dscc/zone-01/02/2024-2025

Date: 09/10/2024

This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tender is invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Zone-1, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of:

Sl. No	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of works	Publishing Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1.	1023866 WR10/Z_1/Unexptd_Dev/ 2024-25	Repairing of potholes created due to excessive rainfall in different wards of zone-1 under Dhaka South City Corporation.	08/10/2024 21:00	23/10/2024 13:34	23/10/2024 17:00

(Saiful Islam Joy)
Executive Engineer
Zone-1

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