

KHULNA-SATKHIRA HIGHWAY

An important yet problematic route

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

The Khulna-Satkhira Highway, renovated at a cost of Tk 160 crore in 2020, has deteriorated significantly within four years. Some stretches of the road now appear like uneven railway tracks.

Used by over 500 trucks daily, the highway's bitumen has lifted in several areas, creating hazardous ripples and potholes, particularly near Zero Point and Chuknagar in the Khulna district.

Locals blame poor-quality materials for the highway's rapid degradation.

The highway stretches for 64 kilometres with 33 kilometres within Khulna district.

Roads and Highways Department officials, however, attribute the damage to heavy traffic and frequent overloading, citing an increase in vehicles following the Padma Bridge's opening.

Originally designed to handle up to 22.5 tonnes per vehicle, the highway now regularly endures loads exceeding 50 tonnes, particularly from trucks transporting goods from the Bhomra Land Port in Satkhira to Dhaka and other regions.

"This overload has hastened the road's deterioration," said Dewan Md Abdul Kader, executive engineer of Khulna RHD.

He said traffic has nearly doubled since the highway's upgrade to national status in 2023.

Despite being doubled in width from 18 to 36 feet in the 2018-2020 renovation, and reinforced with a three-foot layer of sand and stone, the highway's condition remains dire.

Multiple culverts, drainage systems, and bus stops were added, yet these improvements have not prevented the surface from cracking and forming holes in critical sections like Zero Point, Koiya Bazar, and Dumuria Bazar.

Chittaranjan Sen, an assistant professor at Muktijodha Mohila College, who travels the route regularly, said, "In the last two years, this road has become dreadful. Although the Satkhira section is in better shape, the Khulna part needs urgent repairs."

Asadul Kibria from Kharnia village said the road's poor quality has led to frequent accidents. "The bitumen started lifting within two years, causing small cars and vans to swerve to avoid cracks, often leading to crashes," he said.

Drivers also feel the strain. Rakib Hossain Mollah, who drives for Tungipara Paribahan, shared how passengers often



A boy with a bicycle and other vehicles move through clouds of dust on the deteriorating Khulna-Satkhira Highway near Zero Point in Khulna. Despite a Tk 160 crore renovation, heavy truckloads and alleged low-quality materials have left the road with ripples and potholes, putting daily commuters at serious risk. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

BNP man killed in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A local BNP activist was killed in the Bagerhat Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Sajib Tarfadar, was a former joint convener of Dema union BNP and a former union parishad member.

The killers attacked Sajib on the Bagerhat-Rampal road when he was en route to Bagerhat town from his home.

He was shot and attacked with sharp weapons, said eye-witnesses.

His uncle, Kamal Tarafdar, who was riding with him on a motorcycle, was also injured in the shooting and is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Bagerhat Superintendent of Police Md Touhidul Arif said, "It appears that a shotgun was used in the attack. The killers were wearing masks, and multiple groups coordinated the attack."

The body has been sent for autopsy, and an investigation has been launched to identify the killers, he added.

The deceased's family members claimed that the murder was politically motivated. They suspected local rivals were behind the attack.

Tangail struggles with waste management

MIRZA SHAKIL

The century-old Tangail municipality is facing environmental and public health challenges, as unchecked garbage dumping pollutes waterbodies and fills low-lying areas, increasing the risk of waterlogging.

Waste, including household and hazardous materials, has long been disposed of at the town's entry and exit points, creating a pressing health hazard and causing serious inconveniences for residents.

Locals accuse municipal authorities of allowing the filling of lowlands and waterbodies, often government-owned, as part of an effort by some groups to occupy these lands.

The municipality, however, has stated that it lacks a structured waste management system or designated dumping sites, limiting its capacity to address the issue.

Environmentalists in Tangail report that large amounts of waste are regularly dumped at Kagmari, Baby Stand, Aatpukur, and Rabna bypass by municipal trucks and rickshaw vans, filling nearby roadside lowlands and waterbodies.

This unregulated dumping not only pollutes the environment but also clogs drainage systems, they added.

The situation is compounded by unplanned construction projects, which have reduced the availability of lowlands and waterbodies, leaving the town increasingly vulnerable to flooding.

In areas like Baby Stand and Kagmari along the Tangail-Aricha road, the accumulation of garbage has



led to unbearable odours, and residents report that rain often carries contaminated water onto nearby roads.

"During rains, garbage, including harmful hospital and clinical waste, flows onto the roads," said Selim Miah, a resident of Baby Stand.

Anisur Rahman from Aatpukurpar said municipal authorities have recently filled several ditches in the town that previously helped drain rainwater.

In Sabalia, two canals that once served this purpose have also disappeared over the past two decades, overtaken by unregulated development, he alleged.

Noor Mohammad Rajjo, a local environmental advocate, alleged that vested interests are behind this waste dumping, often paying municipal employees to allow garbage disposal in public lowlands.

He urged the newly appointed municipal officials to take immediate action to prevent further filling of lowlands and waterbodies and establish a permanent dumping site.

Tangail produces around 70 tonnes of garbage daily from its 18 wards.

Contacted, Tangail municipality administrator Shihab Raihan said authorities are actively seeking a location for a recycling plant, which could potentially produce fertiliser, biofuel, and electricity from the waste.

"The matter was also discussed in the last monthly district development coordination meeting," he said.

Molla Jalal arrested in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested Molla Jalal, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), in connection with a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Shahbagh Police Station Officer-in-charge Khaled Mansur told The Daily Star yesterday that Jalal was arrested in the capital's Segunbagicha on Monday. A Dhaka court later sent him to jail.

He further said that a victim had filed a case against Molla Jalal under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Shahbagh Police Station four days ago.

However, the officer-in-charge did not disclose details about the case.



'I look forward to serving you'

Newly-elected Ctg mayor addresses city dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Newly-elected Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Shahadat Hossain yesterday called for unity and cooperation from the citizens of all backgrounds to build a cleaner, greener, and healthier city.

"I look forward to serving you; I want to serve all the citizens of this [Chattogram] city," he said while speaking to a large crowd at a reception programme organised at the old railway station in the port city in the afternoon.


"This city belongs to all of us. Let's build a beautiful city together," he said.

At the event, Shahadat, who previously served as president of the Chattogram city unit of BNP, also acknowledged the hardships of BNP men during the regime of Awami League.

"Countless people have been extrajudicially killed across the country. Over six million people from BNP were accused in one lakh cases nationwide, including Chattogram, but still, you have not deviated from your responsibilities," Shahadat said, addressing his party men.

Earlier, Sheikh Muhammad Tauhidul Islam, chief executive officer of CCC, said in the absence of ward councillors in the CCC at present, the government has formed a 21-member body to serve as the CCC's council. The newly-elected mayor will preside over the council, he said.





INVITATION FOR TENDER

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, MGO'S BRANCH (EME DIRECTORATE)
DHAKA CANTONMENT

1. Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from DGDP/Logistics Area enlisted contractors for purchase of following Mil inventories (A-in-U) items in Local Currency:

Ser	Tender No. & date	Nomenclature	Qty	Technical specification	Last date of selling tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	Mil/Inventories/06 Dt: 04 Nov 2024	Air Compressor	20	Specification will be attached with schedule	11 Nov 2024	18 Nov 2024
2.		Heavy Duty Battery Charger	30			
3.		AC Station	04			
4.	Mil/Inventories/07 Dt: 04 Nov 2024	Tool Box (Large)	45			
5.		Tool Box (Small)	14			

2. Tender schedule will be available during working hours (0800 to 1300 hours) from the date of publication in the daily newspaper at Army Headquarters, Master General of Ordnance Branch (EME Directorate) Dhaka Cantonment. DGDP/Logistics Area enlisted firms may participate in the tender.

3. Tender must be dropped before **1200 hrs on 18 Nov 2024** in the tender box kept at the reception room of AHQ, Agrajatra Gate, Dhaka Cantonment.

4. 2.5% earnest money of the total tendered amount shall be deposited (Minimum one year) Pay Order along with the tender in favour of DEME, Army Headquarters, Master General of Ordnance Branch (EME Directorate) Dhaka Cantonment.

5. Price of tender schedule (non-refundable) is Tk 5,00,000.00-10,00,000.00=500.00, Tk 10,00,000.00- 25,00,000.00=750.00, Tk 25,00,000.00-50,00,000.00=1,000.00 and Tk 50,00,000.00-1,00,00,000.00=2,000.00.

6. Quantity of tender items may be varied.

7. Authority reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the offers of the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

8. Training and other condition: Would be mentioned in schedule.

9. Please visit the website for detail information www.army.mil.bd and CPTU.

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DADEME
AHQ, EME Directorate
Dhaka Cantonment



ASHEKPUR IN TANGAIL

Locals demand proper drainage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Due to the lack of a proper drainage system, several thousand residents of Ashekpur area of Ward 15 in Tangail Municipality have been facing waterlogging issues for a long time.


Water remains stagnant on the road in the area throughout the year, causing immense suffering to them.

The stagnant water also works as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, causing severe health hazards.

In this connection, residents yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Tangail Press Club.

The protesters later went to the Tangail Municipality and submitted a memorandum to the authorities in this regard.

Contacted, Rebeka Sultana, district education officer who oversees three wards of the municipality, said the engineering section of the municipality was directed to find out the problem and take necessary steps to resolve the problem soon.



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Office:
Manager (SF), Maintenance
4th Unit Re-powered CCPP
Ghorashal Power Station
BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi

Invitation for e-Tender

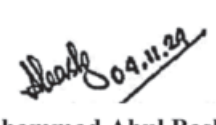
Works Procurement, Open Tendering Method (OTM)

Tender Notice No. 27.11.6863.457.68.338.2024-654; Date: 02.11.2024

Tender/Proposal ID	:	1032048
Description of tender	:	Carrying, Dismantling, Pulling, Loading, Unloading, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132/33KV, 25/41MVA power transformer from JULDA 132/33KV Grid Sub-station, GMD, PGCB, Chattogram (South) to Ghorasal 132/33KV Sub-station site and shifting of damaged 132/33KV, 48/64MVA Power transformer at the safe site of Ghorasal Power Station.
Publication date & time	:	04.11.2024, 11:00 Hrs
Last selling date & time	:	24.11.2024, 16:00 Hrs
Tender closing date & time	:	25.11.2024, 10:00 Hrs

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal is to be deposited online through any registered bank 24.11.2024 at 16:00 Hrs. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৩৭৭(২)/০৫/১১/২৪



Mohammad Abul Basher

ID#1-01606

Executive Engineer (Sub-station)

4th Unit Re-powered CCPP

Ghorashal Power Station

BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi

GD- 883