

## PATUAKHALI DIALYSIS CENTRE

## A year after completion, facility lies unused

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A 10-bed kidney dialysis centre at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital remains non-operational, despite its construction being completed in June 2024. The centre's delayed opening has forced local kidney patients to travel out of the district for treatment, causing immense financial strain.

The facility is part of a Tk 300 crore project launched in January 2020, aiming to establish dialysis centres in 40 hospitals across the country.

In Patuakhali, the Public Works Department issued a work order in June 2023 for the centre's construction at a cost of Tk 17.16 lakh. Eventually, the building was completed a year later.

However, a fully functional dialysis centre requires more than just doors and windows. From beds to essential equipment such as dialysis machines, water treatment systems, and monitoring devices, all have yet to arrive.



Besides, only six technicians were hired in August 2023, against a need for at least 16.

The recruited technicians are currently working in other hospital departments.

The delay has been particularly difficult for families like that of Suman Halder, whose son has required dialysis since birth. "We've been travelling to Barishal weekly for dialysis and eventually sought treatment in India, costing us Tk 14 lakh. A local dialysis centre would have eased our suffering and saved us from this financial burden," he said.

Dr Ratan Das, project director, acknowledged the delays and said the recruitment of additional staff and procurement of equipment for the first phase of centres are underway.

The hope is to have the Patuakhali centre operational by April or May 2025, but for now, local patients continue to suffer.



Sabita Sarker taking care of a calf on a field near her home in Khulna's Dumuria area yesterday. With winter's chill in the air, she wrapped the animal in a cloth, ensuring it stayed warm and cozy.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## A canal or trash bin?

## Jamal Khan canal choking on plastic

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A sea of non-biodegradable plastic waste has engulfed Jamal Khan canal in Chattogram, threatening the port city with severe waterlogging during monsoon.

Despite a government ban on polythene bags dating back to 2002, the canal serves as a grim reminder of lax enforcement and the pervasive use of single-use plastics.

During a recent visit, the canal appeared more like a landfill, clogged with plastic waste primarily discarded by nearby residents.

Locals alleged that tenants of buildings along the canal

toss household waste, including polythene bags, directly out their windows.

Others reportedly choose the canal as their dumping ground to avoid going to dustbins.

Utpal Barua, resident of Jamal Khan area, said, "The government banned polythene bags in kitchen markets from November 1, but where is the action? People still bring home vegetables and fish in these bags, then dump the waste into the canal."

According to a 2022 study by the Civil Engineering Department of Chattogram University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) produces

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## GUMANI RIVER

## 50,000 Pabna residents struggle without a bridge

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Around 50,000 residents from 10 villages along the Gumani River in Pabna are suffering due to the absence of a connecting bridge.

The river flows through the Chatmohar and Vangura upazilas, but in the absence of a bridge, locals are forced to rely on boats, facing daily commuting challenges.

In 2006, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) initiated a Tk 2.74 crore project to build a 158-metre bridge at Mirzapur Ghat.

However, the contractor abandoned the work after completing just 20 percent of the project, leading to its cancellation the same year. All that remains are a single pillar and a

broken foundation stone.

The bridge would connect residents to vital facilities, including the Nimaichora Union Parishad office, the union land revenue office, Mirzapur Degree College, banks,



and markets on the north bank. On the south bank, farmers and workers rely on the crossing for agricultural and other necessities.

Md Jilur Rahman, a resident of Mirzapur village, said, "During

the dry season, the river dries up, making boat navigation difficult. Makeshift bamboo bridges are often constructed, causing delays, especially for students heading to classes."

Abul Kalam Azad, from Ashtomoni village, said children, the elderly, and patients cross the river by boat with great difficulty and significant risks.

"A bridge would save critical time in transporting patients to hospitals," he added.

Md Sultan Mahamud, upazila engineer of LGED in Chatmohar, said the original project failed due to the contractor abandoning it in 2007.

"We have redesigned a 150-metre bridge with an estimated cost of Tk 8 crore. The proposal awaits approval," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD),  
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Memo No:35.01.9395.474.07.001.24-1077

Date: 23-12-2024

## e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Package.

Tender ID No.	Name of works/Package description	Tender Method	Last Selling & Closing date
1048937	Periodic Maintenance Programme of Nagorpur (Duburia)-Solimabad-Chouiali (Z-4009) Road from 0+000 to 8+000 (Dhuburia to Vuter Mour) & 12+910 to 17+000 (Dewangonj to Bablatola) by providing Strengthening, DBS wearing course & Rigid Pavement under Tangail Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	OTM	22-01-2025 at 17.00 & 23-01-2025 at 12.00
1049069	Periodic Maintenance Programme of Strengthening & DBS wearing course work at Mirzapur (Pakullah)-Delduar-Elasin Road (Z-4007) (Ch: 0+000 to 7+000) (Pakullah to Delduar) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	OTM	22-01-2025 at 17.00 & 23-01-2025 at 12.00

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.

To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01715-777778, 017625528-31)

(Dr Shamsul Azmeri Khan)  
ID No- 602214  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division Tangail.

Acquire legal documents by January 31  
Home ministry asks foreigners working illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Home Affairs in a circular yesterday requested foreign nationals who are staying or working illegally in the country to acquire the necessary documents to stay or work in Bangladesh by January 31.

Signed by Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs, the circular mentions that many foreign nationals are illegally staying or working in Bangladesh.

"In this case, foreign nationals illegally staying or working in Bangladesh are requested to acquire the necessary documents to stay or work in Bangladesh by January 31, 2025," reads the circular.

"In this regard, all departments or institutions concerned are also requested to provide necessary cooperation. After this deadline, legal action will be taken against those staying illegally and the relevant institutions," the circular added.

On December 8, the ministry advised foreign

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MILITARY INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MIST)  
Mirpur Cantonment, Dhaka-1216  
Website: [www.mist.ac.bd](http://www.mist.ac.bd)

## Admission Notice: Undergraduate Programs - 2025

1. Applications are invited from Bangladeshi citizens who have passed HSC/GCE 'A' Level or Equivalent Examination (Science Group) from home and abroad for admission in MIST Undergraduate Programs (Engineering and Architecture).

Online Application Submission Begins	30 Dec 2024 at 11:00 am
Online Application Submission Ends	20 Jan 2025 at 23:59 pm
Shortlist of Examinees to be Published	10 Feb 2025
Admission Test Date	22 Feb 2025
Tentative Admission Start Date	16 Mar 2025
Tentative Class Start Date	08 Jun 2025

2. Admission Test: Two Units - Engineering (Unit A) and Architecture (Unit A+ Unit B). Architecture applicants need to appear in examinations of both units.

## 3. Admission Test Duration:

Engineering - 10:00 am to 01:00 pm.  
Architecture - 10:00 am to 01:00 pm and 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.

## 4. Admission Centre: Dhaka (Details will be circulated on MIST website).

## 5. Qualifications to Apply:

a. SSC or Equivalent: The applicants who passed in 2022 or 2021 in Science Group obtaining a minimum GPA 4.00 (without fourth subject) on a scale of 5.00.

b. HSC or Equivalent: The applicants who passed in 2024 or 2023 obtaining a minimum total Grade Point 18 in four subjects (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English) with a minimum Grade Point of 4.0 in each of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

## c. GCE ('O' and 'A' Levels) or Equivalent:

(1) The applicants who passed in 2022 or 2021 with minimum 'B' grade or equivalent in any five subjects including Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English in GCE 'O' Level.

(2) The applicants who passed in 2024 or 2023 with a minimum of three 'B' grades or equivalent in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in GCE 'A' Level.

d. Applicants interested in Biomedical Engineering, must have Biology in HSC or equivalent level with a minimum grade point of 'A minus' / GCE 'A' or equivalent level with a minimum grade point of 'C' or equivalent.

## 6. Short Listing for Written Test: Two separate short lists of applicants (current year and last year) will be published for selection purposes to appear in the written admission test only.

## 7. Examination and Marks Distribution:

a. Questions will be in both English and Bangla. Applicants may answer either in English or Bangla. The marks distributions for both units are as follows:

Ser	Unit	Subject	Marks	Remarks
1.	Unit A (Engineering and Architecture)	Mathematics	90	Examination Duration: 3 hours Syllabus: Syllabus of HSC 2024/ Equivalent
2.		Physics	70	
3.		Chemistry	30	
4.		English	10	
5.		Total	200	
6.	Unit B (Architecture)	Freehand drawing and Visual-Spatial Intelligence	200	Examination Duration: 2 hours

b. Minimum qualifying mark in the written test is 40% for both Unit A and Unit B separately.

## c. Merit list will be prepared based on:

(1) Total marks obtained in Written Test - 60%,  
(2) Total marks obtained in Higher Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in HSC/ equivalent - 20%,  
(3) Total marks obtained in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in SSC/ equivalent - 20%.

d. Deduction of 5% marks will be made from the written test for the candidates passed HSC in 2023. Thereafter, a Combined Merit List will be prepared for admission and department allocation. For English medium and equivalent similar rules will be applicable.

## 8. Admission Form Fee: Tk 1000 (Engineering), Tk 1200 (Architecture).

9. Application Form Submission: Application to be submitted online through MIST website only. After successful submission of the application, the applicant will receive a USER ID online. With that USER ID, the applicant needs to send an SMS 16222 from Teletalk pre-paid mobile phone with the required balance. On successful completion of payment, the applicant will receive a password through SMS. Using the password, an eligible applicant will be able to download and print the Admit Card. Detail instructions for e-application and fee submission are given on MIST website ([www.mist.ac.bd](http://www.mist.ac.bd)).

## 10. Required Documents for Quota Applicants: Following original or attested documents (hardcopy) must be submitted to the MIST Admission Help Desk Office by 23 January 2025 (2:00 pm) for authentication/verification:-

a. Valiant Freedom Fighters (Children Only): Relationship certificate with the valiant freedom fighter and document downloaded from the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs website (<http://mis.molwa.gov.bd/freedom-fighter-list>).

## b. Military Ward (Children of Military Personnel):

(1) Serving: Certificate from organization head / authorized officials.

(2) Retired:

(a) Officers: Certificate from CORO / Naval Secretariat / Air Secretariat.  
(b) JCO/ OR/ NC(E) of Army/ Navy/ Air Force: Certificate / Service Record Book from respective Arms / Services' Record Offices / BASB/ Drafting Office.

c. Children of Serving Permanent Employees of Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Agargaon, Dhaka only and MIST: Certificate from the appropriate authority of the respective organization.

d. Ethnic Minority: Certificate issued by local Up