



Tk 9cr water supply centre left unused

MINTU DESHWARA

A municipal water supply centre in Habiganj's Shosanghat area, constructed at a cost of Tk 9 crore, remains non-functional, leaving local residents without its promised benefits.

Although inaugurated on November 11, 2023, the centre has yet to begin operations, with no clear timeline in sight.

The facility, designed to remove iron from water, has been stalled due to delays in completing essential work. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) said the municipal authorities damaged several pipes during site work, further delaying progress.

The project, intended to provide iron-free water to 70 percent of Habiganj municipality's population, has failed to commence its intended service.

The infrastructure is already deteriorating due to a lack of maintenance. Equipment theft and criticisms of poor construction quality have added to the project's woes.

Md Sajedul, a resident of Shosanghat, said, "Although the project was inaugurated, it's not being used. The equipment is already falling apart."

Another resident, Miftaul Islam, said, "The project was launched with great fanfare, but it's clear that it was poorly planned. The people of the municipality are yet to benefit from it."

The project, which began in June 2015 and was scheduled for completion by June 30, 2023, was designed to purify 350 cubic feet of water per hour. Despite repeated correspondence from municipal officials to the DPHE, the issues remain unresolved.

Engineer Abdul Quddus Shamim of Habiganj municipality said, "We have informed the higher officials, but there has been no effective response. Several works remain unfinished, and the project has yet to start functioning."

Habiganj DPHE's Executive Engineer Tahmina Tanvin said, "Due to the damaged pipes, operations have not yet started."

Elephant found dead in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An elephant was found dead in the hills of Hnila union under Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

The Forest Department could not immediately determine the cause of death of the female mammal.

Local villager Sonu Mia said they found the elephant lying in the stream.

Assistant Forest Conservator Md Monirul Islam said the actual cause of death will be determined after receiving the autopsy report.



Large sections of forest in areas of Netrakona, adjacent to the Garo Hills of Mymensingh, have been destroyed due to illegal logging and encroachment over the years. The photo was taken at Gopalpur in Durgapur upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Forests reduced to bare lands

Netrakona woodlands face decades of devastation

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The natural forest cover in Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas of Netrakona, adjacent to the Garo Hills of Mymensingh, is on the verge of disappearing due to decades of illegal logging and encroachment, alleged locals.

Despite the gradual loss of forested areas, no significant actions have been taken by the authorities to address the issue. Instead, a section of forest officials has reportedly been complicit in the actions of those responsible for cutting down trees and clearing forest lands, further accelerating the destruction, they claimed.

Large sections of forest in areas like Bijoypur, Maizpara, Laxmipur, Baromari, Lengura, Gobindapur, Panchgaon, and Mohishkhola have been destroyed over the years.



DECADES OF DEVASTATION

Illegal logging, encroachment continue unabated

Wildlife on brink of extinction

Human-elephant conflicts on rise

Expert warns of ecological, seismic risks

Locals allege authorities indifferent

sightings of wildlife are rare, with only occasional visits by wild elephants crossing the border in search of food," said Rifat Ahmed Rasel, founder president of the animal rights organisation "Save the Animals of Susang".

"Indiscriminate logging, land grabbing, and the planting of harmful exotic species have left the forest barren over the past two decades, damaging its ecology, biodiversity, and geography," Rasel said.

Hillarious Nokrek, a resident of Kamarkhali village, said the destruction of forest land has led to increased human-elephant conflicts as elephants invade local areas due to food shortages, resulting in casualties on both sides.

Suranjana Hajong of Gopalpur expressed similar concerns.

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Three killed in truck-bike collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Three people were killed as a goods-laden truck and a motorcycle collided head-on in Bandarban yesterday.

The incident happened on Alikadam-Lama road at Tarabunia in Chaiyakhayang union under Alikadam upazila, said police.

The deceased are Md Minhaj, 18, Syed Akbar, 40, and Md Belal, 30, all residents of the Bazar Para area in Alikadam Sadar union.

According to police and locals, a motorcycle rider carrying two passengers was traveling from Chakararia to Alikadam.

When it reached Tarabunia, the speeding truck hit it from the opposite direction and sped away. The three died on the spot, said Mirza Zahir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Alikadam Police Station.

The OC said they are trying to arrest the truck driver.

CANAL EXCAVATION 3 advisers slam CCC over delays Project unlikely to be completed before monsoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the road transport and bridges ministry, yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the sluggish progress in canal excavation project in Chattogram city.

Fouzul, accompanied by Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Disaster Management Adviser Faruk-e-Azam, visited the excavation site in Bakalia in the afternoon.

The Chattogram City Corporation began the 2.9-kilometre canal excavation from Bahaddarhat Baroipara to the Karnaphuli river in 2014 as part of a Tk 1,362 crore project aimed at addressing waterlogging in the port city.

The project, initially slated for completion by June 2017, had its deadline extended to June 2024. Despite the six-month lapse since the revised deadline, the project remains incomplete.

Fouzul questioned CCC Chief Engineer Mohammad Abul Kashem about the delays.

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BGB destroys drugs worth Tk 7.42cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday destroyed drugs worth Tk 7.42 crore, which were seized in the last five months in Habiganj.

These drugs were officially destroyed at the BGB-55 Habiganj Battalion camp yesterday afternoon in the presence of officials from various departments.

The destroyed items included 24,756 bottles of foreign liquor, 36 litres of local liquor, 3,448 bottles of Phensedyl, 9,755kg of marijuana, 2,881 yaba tablets, 1,025 cans of beer, 898 bottles of cough syrup, and 20 packets of bidis.

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Construction of the only bridge to Tangragiri Eco Park in Taltoli upazila, Barguna, has been stalled for two and a half years due to design complications. The Local Government Engineering Department began constructing the bridge over Fakirhat canal at a cost of Tk 7 crore in early 2021. Tourists are suffering due to the delay. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Cracked pipeline disrupts Ctg water supply for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Water supply in different areas of the Chattogram city was disrupted for around 10 hours yesterday due to a crack in the pipeline in Najumia Hat area under Hathazari upazila of the district.

The crack in the pipeline, which appeared after being hit by a vehicle, caused water to spill on the roads, causing waterlogging and vehicular congestion.

Water from Chattogram Wasa's Karnaphuli Water Treatment Plant in Rangunia upazila is supplied through the more than 25-kilometre-long pipeline to the port city.

"Water spilled from the pipeline entered many local shops and spoiled goods, causing

damages to traders including me," said Abdul Karim, owner of a stationery shop on the spot.

Ashraf Uddin, inspector of Madunghat Police Investigation Centre, said a private car hit and damaged a portion of the pipeline around 6:00am due to brake failure.

The vehicle has been recovered and its four injured passengers were taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for treatment, he added.

Mamunur Rashid, a resident of Agrabad area, said, "We were unable to complete our household chores as the water supply was cut off."

"Due to the crack, water supply through the pipeline remained suspended for around

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16 including 4 cops hurt in Faridpur clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 16 people -- including four policemen -- were injured, and two shops and a house were vandalised during a clash between the people of two villages in Faridpur's Nagarkanda upazila yesterday.

The injured policemen are Nagarkanda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Sofar Ali, and constables Md Mostafa, Sazzadul, and Mohsin, said police.

Locals and police said there has been a longstanding rivalry between the residents of Solitha and Mirakanda villages over establishing supremacy.

A waz mahfil (Islamic religious gathering) at Solitha Madrasa on Friday night, attended by some Mirakanda

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Invitation of e-GP Tender

Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of Goods and related Services under following Tender ID:

Tender ID	Package no.	Package description	Last selling date and time	Closing date/ Opening date and time
1055816	tsc/rang/1312/01	Supply of Raw materials and spare parts under Financial code: 3256105	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055781	tsc/rang/1312/02	Supply of Cleaning products under Financial code: 3211102	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055707	tsc/rang/1312/03	Supply of Engineering and other equipment under Financial code 4112304	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055367	tsc/rang/1312/04	Supply of Office equipment under Financial code 4112310	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055380	tsc/rang/1312/05	Supply of Teaching & learnin Materials under Financial code 4112312	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055357	tsc/rang/1312/06	Supply of Furniture under Financial code 4112314	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM
1055081	tsc/rang/1312/07	Supply of Other Stationary under Financial code 3256105	02/02/2025 15.00	03/02/2025 12:00 PM

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