



Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan; Housing, Public Works, and Industry Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan; and LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan inaugurated the excavation work on six canals yesterday. The photo was taken at the banks of Baunia Canal in the capital's Mirpur.

PHOTO: PID

REVIVING FOUR DHAKA CANALS

Encroachment justified by time constraints?

DSCC revises plan to dismantle fewer illegal structures; experts skeptical

HELEMUL ALAM

The Dhaka South City Corporation has decided to revive its four-canal development project with a modified demarcation approach. Initially, the project was to follow the Bangladesh Water Act 2013, which requires keeping a 10-metre buffer from water to determine a river's width.

have faced demolition under the original plan.

Under the revised plan, 52 illegal structures will be removed instead of 470 in the Shyampur canal, 10 structures will be removed instead of 266 in the Jirani canal, 10 structures will be removed instead of 581 in the Manda canal, and 77 structures will be removed instead of 271 in the Kalunagar canal.

the restoration of four canals -- Kalunagar, Jirani, Manda, and Shyampur -- spanning a total length of 19.78 km.

DSCC officials argue that implementing the project under the Water Act would have been time-consuming due to extensive encroachments.

"It was practically impossible to follow the act. Demolishing so many structures would have taken a long time," said DSCC Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Safiullah Siddique Bhuiyan.

The Ecnc initially approved the Tk 898.73 crore project on October 21, 2022.

Aimed at reducing Dhaka's waterlogging, the project covers

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Boat Museum demolished in Barguna

BNP, Jubo Dal men 'led the vandalism'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations allegedly demolished the Bangabandhu Boat Museum in Barguna, the country's lone boat museum, on Saturday.

Despite the museum's location near the administrative offices in Barguna town, including the DC office and Sadar Police Station, local authorities did not take any step to prevent the vandalism, alleged locals.

The museum, shaped like a boat measuring 165 feet in length and 30 feet in width, was inaugurated on December 31, 2020 by Mustain Billah, the then deputy commissioner of Barguna.

It was set up on 78 decimals of land adjacent to the Barguna DC office, showcasing replicas of 100 varieties of traditional boats, including many that have gone extinct.



Contacted, Barguna DC Md Shafiqul Alam said he had heard about the incident, adding that it fell under the municipality's jurisdiction to take steps in this connection.

Former BNP district organising secretary Rezbul Kabir, former central Jubo Dal assistant organising secretary Muraduzzaman Khan, and district Jubo Dal organising secretary Muraduzzaman Khan (Tipon), allegedly led the vandalism, deploying local BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal activists.

Rezbul Kabir claimed that the site originally had a municipal library and that the previous administration built the boat museum to please the then ruling AL.

Muraduzzaman said, "The Bangabandhu Boat Museum was demolished due to public outrage over its name. We demand that it be replaced with the Shaheed Zia Memorial Library."

Contacted, Animesh Biswas, additional deputy commissioner (general) and administrator of Barguna municipality, said, "A mob came and dismantled the museum. This land belongs to the municipality and had a public library here once. Later, the then DC set up the museum privately. There was no government allocation for it."

Work begins to restore Dhaka waterways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three advisers of the interim government yesterday inaugurated the excavation work on six canals, in a step towards restoring Dhaka's waterways.

Upon arrival, the advisers walked down the red-carpeted path to board a floating excavator, officially launching the dredging process.

The initiative, led by Dhaka north and south city Corporations, is part of a broader effort to rehabilitate 19 canals and reservoirs across the city. The project aims to improve water flow, reduce pollution, and reclaim canals from decades of neglect, addressing key environmental and urban challenges.

The six canals slated for renovation are Baunia Canal (7.19km), Rupnagar Canal (3.5km), Begunbari Canal (1.69km), Manda Canal (4.37km), Kalunagar

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BNP leader 'assaults' headteacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A BNP leader has been accused of assaulting a high school headteacher in Noakhali for not recommending his son as the president of the school's ad-hoc governing body.

Rezaul Haque, 55, president of BNP ward-1 in Char Kakra union, allegedly attacked ANN Yasin, headteacher of Panditerhat High School in Companiganj. The incident occurred around noon yesterday at Panditerhat Bazar, said Md Zakir Hossain, assistant headteacher.

He said Rezaul wanted his 27-year-old son to be proposed as president in the committee, but due to his young age, other names were submitted instead. Angered, Rezaul stopped the headteacher on his way home and assaulted him, he said.

Following this, the school students vandalised Rezaul's pharmacy and held him captive until police intervened. He later publicly apologised.

Contacted, Rezaul denied the assault but admitted to verbally abusing the headteacher.

Companiganj police OC Fozlul Azim said the issue was settled with no complaints filed.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Police Police Telecommunication Organization Police Telecom Bhabon, Rajarbag, Dhaka. web: telecom.police.gov.bd CORRIGENDUM OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

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