



Illegal sand extraction from the Dharla river in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila is posing a threat to the foundations of Dharla Bridge, with the site of the extraction being only 100 metres away from the bridge.

PHOTO: STAR

'AL did it, so why not us?'

BNP leader justifies sand extraction from Dharla river

S DILIP ROY, *Latmonirhat*

Rampant illegal sand extraction from the Dharla river in the Char Sonaikaji and Char Jatin areas of Shimulbari union in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila is posing a threat to the foundations of Dharla Bridge.

Nazrul Islam, president of the Shimulbari union unit of BNP, has allegedly been running the illegal sand trade for the past three months in association with other local BNP members.

The site of sand extraction is barely 100 metres away from the bridge that connects the Latmonirhat-Phulbari road over the river.

Locals alleged that around 150-160 sand-laden tractors extract and transport sand from the site to other places daily as part of an illegal trade operated by local BNP leaders and activists.

Afif Islam, a local BNP activist, was observed counting sand-laden tractors with four other men and taking Tk 300 from each driver.

They collect Tk 45,000-48,000 daily from selling sand and share the money among local BNP members, alleged

locals.

Afif said Nazrul Islam coordinates the sand extraction from the river.

"Sand carried by each tractor is sold for Tk 1,200-1,300. The local BNP members take Tk 300 from each tractor driver. Some 15-20 tractors are engaged in sand extraction on the site daily," said a tractor driver.

Contacted, Nazrul Islam said, "I am not directly involved in sand extraction from the river. Some 20-25 people from our party are involved in it. I am only assisting them."

"Earlier, local Awami League members used to extract sand from the river and sell it. Now we are doing it. When you come to Phulbari, let's meet and have a cup of tea," he told this correspondent.

Mamunur Rahman, the upazila engineer in Phulbari, said rampant sand extraction from the river in the vicinity of the bridge may threaten its foundation by making it vulnerable and risky.

"Steps will be taken to stop the illegal sand lifting after talking to the upazila nicha officer," he added.

Phulbari UNO Rehema Tarannum said a drive will be launched against illegal sand extraction from the river soon.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj District, Manikganj.

Mem No: 88(84)

Date: 30.01.2025

Invitation for e-Tender notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

SL no	e-Tender ID	Work Name	Opening & Closing Date
1	1068707, 1068706, & 1068703	Construction for piped water supply scheme with 02 nos Test Tuberwell, 02 nos Production well, 01 nos Pump House, 01 Nos R.C.C. Over Head Water Tank, Mechanical works, Electrical Works, Pipe Line/water distribution Networks, etc. in manikganj sader & Singair upazila at manikganj district under Safe Water Supply Through Out The Country Project.	24-Feb-2025 15:30 & 24-Feb-2025 15:30

This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submitted e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and form e-GP Help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Gazi Fatima Ferdous)
Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Manikganj District, Manikganj.

GD-342

Mustard cultivation expanding in Narail

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, *Bagerhat*

The cultivation of mustard has been expanding in Narail district in recent years, driven by a surge in demand for mustard oil in the market.

With the price of soybean oil soaring, consumers now consider mustard oil a more cost-effective alternative.

During visits to various areas in Kalia upazila, this correspondent observed mustard being grown not only in croplands but also along roadsides and in home yards.

Farmers reported that mustard seeds are currently fetching between Tk 3,500 and Tk 4,000 per maund in wholesale markets.

"Mustard is a short-duration crop, maturing in about two months. Farmers in this region have cultivated mustard for generations, but its cultivation has expanded in recent years due to the rising demand



for mustard oil amid soaring soybean oil prices," said Apurba Kumar, a farmer from Ghoshpara in Kalia municipality.

"This year, I planted mustard on one acre and 12 decimals of land, expecting a yield of 15-16 maunds. Since mustard requires minimal labour -- just a round of weeding, irrigation, and fertiliser -- it is often regarded as a 'bonus' crop. The oil from our harvest meets our household needs, and we sell the surplus mustard at a good price in the market," he added.

Monir Sheikh from Sarushuna village in Lohagara upazila echoed him.

Saumitra Sarkar, district training officer of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Narail, said mustard cultivation has expanded to 13,350 hectares of land this year, up from 12,888 hectares last year.

"The projected yield this season stands at 17,993 tonnes," he added.

BASIC BANK
Court orders further probe into 17 cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered for further investigation into 17 corruption cases filed over the BASIC Bank loan scams against its former chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu and others.

Judge Abul Kashem of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-1 issued the order after identifying "flaws" in the investigation of the cases, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

The judge also said yesterday's order for further investigation would be effective on 41 other cases relating to BASIC Bank loan scams pending with the court for their disposal.

Meantime, ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Ibrahim, who pressed charges against former BASIC Bank Chairman Bacchu and 46 others in 17 cases, explained why he did not include names of board of directors of the bank.

On January 2, the same court summoned three investigation officers of 20 corruption cases filed over the loan scams, seeking explanations as to whether the board of directors of the bank were involved.

RMG workers block road over unpaid wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Over a thousand workers of Anowara Dress Makers staged a protest by blocking Bayazid Bostami Road in Chattogram yesterday, to demand their unpaid salaries.

The demonstration began around 8:30am, causing severe traffic congestion in the area.

Taslima Akter, an operator at the factory, said workers had not received their wages or overtime payments for the past two months.

"We held a meeting with the company owners, and they assured us that the dues would be paid by January 29. But we still haven't received our salaries, and we don't even know why," she said.

"We will continue our demonstration until the owners pay us," she added.

Halal Hossain, a sub-inspector at Bayazid Police Station, said, "Police are trying to resolve the issue through discussions with both the workers and the owners."

Attempts to contact Anowara Dress Makers' authorities were unsuccessful. The workers called off the protest around 6:30pm following assurances from the owners.

Journo 'assaulted' after writing against BNP leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Latmonirhat*

A local journalist was allegedly assaulted in Char Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram on Sunday night for publishing a report against a local BNP leader.

The journalist, Sujan Mahmud, works as Rajibpur upazila correspondent of the Daily Khola Kagoi.

The injured journalist has received primary treatment at Char Rajibpur Upazila Health Complex, said Dr Hasibur Rahman, resident medical officer.

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এসেন্সিএল জ্বাগসু কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা,

ঢাকা-১২০৮।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলনোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে :-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আর্দ্ধে মাসি	দরপত্র শিল্ডিউল মূল্য (অপ্রক্রিয়াগুরু)	দরপত্র স্থানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খেলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৫/২৪ তারিখ: ০৩/০২/২০২৫ ইং	১৫ (পেনেরো) প্রকার প্রিস্টেড এ্যালু বিস্কুর ফয়েল {15 (fifteen) Kinds of printed Alu blister Foil} (শিল্ডিউল মোতাবেক)	৯,৩০০.০ কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৬০০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার হ্যাশত) মাত্র	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৫/২৫ তারিখ: ০৩/০২/২০২৫ ইং	printed Close Mouth Ampoule (শিল্ডিউল মোতাবেক)	২,০০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ (টাকা সাত শত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৫/২৬ তারিখ: ০৩/০২/২০২৫ ইং	Different kinds of printed Close Mouth Ampoule (শিল্ডিউল মোতাবেক)	৫১,০০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৮৫০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার আট শত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০২/২০২৫ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শৰ্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিল্ডিউল অ্যালু বিস্কুর ফয়েল দ্বারা প্রক্রিয়াজন নাই। দরপত্র খেলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিল্ডিউল বিতরণ করা হবে না। কৃত্ত্বপূর্ণ যে কোন দরপত্র এবং বাটিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপন, প্রক্রিয়াজন (চুটি দায়িত্ব)

পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)
ড. কুমুরাত-এ-খুনা সড়ক, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫

বিসিএসআইআর বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প-প্রযুক্তি মেলা-২০২৫

বিজ্ঞানমন্ত্র জাতি গঠনে স্কুল-কলেজের শিক্ষার্থী, বিভিন্ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনস্থ সংস্থাসমূহ, বিসিএসআইআর-এর ইজারা গ্রাহী এবং বিজ্ঞান ক্লাব, প্রযুক্তিক উচ্চাবকদের দিয়ে বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)-এর কর্তৃত ০৩ (তিনি) দিনব্যাপী বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প-প্রযুক্তি মেলা-২০২৫ এর আয়োজনের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। আয়োজনীয় শিক্ষার্থী, ব্যক্তিপ্রতিষ্ঠানকে