



Bagerhat canals in death throes

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

The five recorded canals of Bagerhat municipality have been encroached upon, with illegal permanent structures erected along their banks.

Once navigable and vital for drainage, these canals are now nearly dead due to encroachment, obstruction of tidal flows, and indiscriminate dumping of waste.

Residents are demanding the canals' reclamation and excavation to alleviate the suffering caused by waterlogging.

Municipal authorities admitted that over 500 illegal structures have been built along these canals, and assured that a project is in place to restore them through eviction and re-excavation.

Bagerhat municipality, spanning 15.88 square kilometres, was established on April 1, 1958 and is home to over 125,000 residents.

Situated along the Bhairab river, the municipality consists of nine wards and five recorded canals. These waterways once accommodated large boats but have now turned into waste dumps.

In several areas, illegal occupiers have constructed buildings, making it impossible to recognise them as canals anymore.

The canals in question include Harikhali Canal, Harinkhana Canal, Badar Canal, Nagerbazar Canal, and Wapda Canal.

Residents allege that influential individuals have illegally occupied the canals and built multi-story structures, leading to severe waterlogging during the monsoon. Many locals struggle to rent out their homes as streets remain submerged for weeks after rainfall, with no effective drainage system in place.

Habib Sheikh, a resident of Basabati, recalled a time when large boats traversed these canals, and locals would swim and bathe in them.

Now, the canals are all but extinct. He lamented that the inability of the canals to drain away rainwater causes severe waterlogging during the monsoon, leading to immense hardship.

Abdur Rahman of Nagerbazar said the canals have been filled up due to encroachment and indiscriminate dumping of waste, causing waterlogging in roads and houses during the rainy season.

Assistant Engineer of Bagerhat Municipality, TM Rezaul Haque Rizvi, said the municipality has five canals, many of which have been illegally occupied, with more than 500 structures built along them.

Due to the accumulation of waste, water drainage has become severely obstructed.

Rezaul said, the five canals, stretching approximately 23 kilometres, are set to be excavated under the Coastal Towns Infrastructure Improvement Project. The tendering process will soon commence to restore these canals and eliminate prolonged waterlogging.

This project is expected to cost over Tk 7.5 crore. Once implemented, it is anticipated to alleviate the suffering of municipal residents, he added.



Farmers clear weeds from the base of watermelon seedlings despite the scorching sun to ensure faster growth and better yields in Khulna. This year, watermelon cultivation covered 2,700 hectares in the region, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension. The photo was taken at Katianangla village in Batiyaghata recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Marigold farmers stare at losses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Flower farmers in Kotchandpur upazila of Jhenaidah are facing severe losses as marigold prices have plummeted.

Many farmers are picking flowers from their gardens and giving them away to pedestrians for free, unable to secure any market value.

In this upazila, marigolds are cultivated extensively, particularly in Kushna union, where 45 hectares of land are dedicated to the crop. While the flowers have thrived, farmers have not received the expected prices and are worried about their cultivation costs.

Milan Hossain, a flower farmer from Narayan Bariya village, has been cultivating marigolds for 12-15 years and has invested Tk 60,000 on two bighas of land this year.

He said he sees no signs of an increase in prices. In hopes of salvaging their trees, he and other farmers are removing flowers

despite the losses.

Farmers Amirul Islam, Abdul Hannan, and Abdul Malek are in similar situations, also clearing flowers from their plants to save them.

They mentioned that if they could sell flowers throughout the



season, they could make Tk 2.3 lakh in profit. Typically, they pick flowers and send them to Shahibah Market via Dhaka-bound buses for sale.

Rubel Hossain expressed concern about this being the first major loss

in flower farming, questioning the viability of continuing cultivation in the future.

Abdur Rahim, president of Jashore District Flower Production and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd, stated that marigolds are currently selling for only Tk 100 per thousand, a significant drop from Tk 800 in February.

Many farmers are giving away flowers for free due to the lack of market price.

Zahid Hossain, the Kotchandpur Upazila Agriculture Officer, said all unions in the upazila cultivate flowers to varying extents, with Kushna Union being the most prominent for marigold production.

He said the actual flower season is in January-February, when prices tend to be higher due to increased demand.

The current low demand has resulted in decreased prices for the flowers.

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AHQ, E IN C'S BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE, DHAKA CANTONMENT				
INVITATION FOR TENDERS				
Dated: 24 March 2025.				
MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES				
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence			
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services			
3. Procuring Entity Name	E in C			
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
5. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
6. Budget and source of Funds	GOB			
7. Development Partners (if applicable)	None			
8. Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Construction of Cancer Center at Dhaka (2 nd Phase)			
9. Selling of tender will commence from	06 April 2025 (During Office hour).			
10. Selling of tender will Close on	17 April 2025 (During Office hour).			
11. Last date & time of submission of Tender	20 April 2025 at 1200 hours.			
12. Date & time of opening of Tender	20 April 2025 at 1230 hours.			
13. Name & Address of the Office(s)	- Selling Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. - Receiving Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka - Opening Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	a. On receipt of security clearance, MES approved cement manufacturer organization may apply for tender. b. Having experience of similar work mentioned in Lot No 15(a) amounting Tk. 43,00,000.00 in a single tender during last 05 (Five) years.			
15. Brief Description of Works	Identification of Lot Location Price of Tender Document (Non Refundable) Tender Security in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka) Completion Time in weeks/ Months			
1	2	3	4	5
a.	Supply of 275.00 Metric tons cement in Bulk (OPC) & 328.75 Metric tons cement in Bag (PCC) including loading, unloading, carrying & stacking at construction site and SDO F/S store yard under GE (Army) CMH (2 nd Phase)	Cancer Center Dhaka CMH	2000.00	1,80,000.00
16.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works		
17.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works		
18.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address : www.army.mil.bd		
19.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel No. 9832870	Fax No. 9832882	e-mail- wksdte@army.mil.bd
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

আই এস পি আর /সেনা/১৫৯

XEN E/M
For Director of Works
Works Directorate
Engineer in Chief's Branch
Dhaka Cantonment
Tel: Mili: 8711111 Ext: 2874
Civil: 9832874

GD-815

Woman dies by suicide after poisoning daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman allegedly took her own life after poisoning her six-year-old daughter to death following a family dispute in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur on Thursday night.

The deceased are Bobita Rani Roy, 28, and her daughter Toni Rani Roy. Bobita was wife of Ratan Chandra Roy from Durlabpur village.

Siddique Hossain, a member of Moricha Union Parishad, said an altercation broke out between Bobita and her in-laws on Thursday night. Following the argument, she allegedly fed her daughter a rat-poison tablet before consuming it herself.

Upon discovering the incident, family members rushed them to Birganj Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them both dead.

Abdul Gafur, officer-in-charge of Birganj Police Station, said police sent the bodies to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

3 cops detained over abduction charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Three police personnel and another individual have been detained for allegedly kidnapping two cloth traders in Damudya upazila of Shariatpur early yesterday.

Mohammad Jewel Sardar, 32, and Faisal Sardar, 24, were reportedly abducted by a group of eight, including police members.

A case was filed in this regard at Damudya Police Station by Faisal's brother Swadhin Sardar yesterday.

According to the victims, around 9:30pm on Thursday, a microbus and a motorcycle blocked their way in Darul Amal Bazaar. Four men forced them into the vehicle and demanded a ransom

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Elephant rescued from mud dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

An elephant died yesterday, 22 days after being rescued from a mud trap inside the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary in Banskhali upazila of Chattogram.

The 40-year-old female elephant had been stuck in the mud for 22 hours before being rescued on March 6 by the Forest Department with help from around 35 villagers.

Severely weakened by malnutrition, the elephant also suffered from paralysis in her left leg.

Dipannita Bhattacharya, wildlife officer of the Chattogram Wildlife Division, confirmed that the elephant passed away around 11:00am while receiving treatment.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS E IN C'S BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE DHAKA CANTONMENT				
INVITATION FOR TENDER				
Notice no. 600/15/76/2024-2025/E-6				
Dated: 23 March 2025.				
MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES				
1.	Sponsoring Ministry/Division			
2.	Ministry of Defence			
3.	Military Engineer Services			
4.	E in C			
5.	Procuring Entity Name			
6.	Dhaka			
7.	Procurement Method			
8.	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
9.	Budget and source of Funds			
10.	GOB, Revenue Budget			
11.	Development Partners (if applicable)			
12.	None			
13.	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)			
14.	Construction of Office bldg including ancillary works (14 storey with 14 storied Foundation) for DGFI Office bldg at Kakrail Dhaka (2nd Floor Structure and Basement to 2nd Floor Finishing only- 3rd Phase).			
15.	Selling of Tender will commence from			
16.	07 April 2025 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours in Office Time).			
17.	Selling of Tender will close on			
18.	05 May 2025 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours in Office Time).			
19.	Last date and time of submission of Tender			
20.	06 May 2025 upto 1200 hours.			
21.	Date and time of opening of Tender			
22.	06 May 2025 at 1230 hours.			
23.	Name & Address of the Office(s)			
24.	Tender Selling & Information Centre of Works Directorate at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt.			
25.	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
26.	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
27.	Tender Selling & Information Centre of Works Directorate at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt.			
28.	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
29.	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
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