



Shyamasundari canal in peril

Once vital, the waterbody suffers from pollution, encroachment

S DILIP ROY, *Latmonirhat*

Once a lifeline for local fishermen, the Shyamasundari canal in Rangpur city now lies on its deathbed, choked by pollution.

Stretching 16 kilometres in its prime, the canal was once a vibrant waterway with clear waters and an abundant fish population. Today, it is a shadow of its former self, its water now pitch-black and foul-smelling due to the unchecked discharge of household and sewage waste directly into it.

Rampant encroachment has also caused the canal to shrink drastically, from a width of 60-120 feet to a mere 15 feet.

The canal was excavated in 1890 under the patronage of Maharaja Janaki Ballav Sen. Once serving as the city's main drainage channel and adding to the city's scenic beauty, it has now been abandoned to years of encroachment, pollution, and poor urban planning.

Illegal structures, including houses and shops, have sprung up along both banks, while

sewage lines discharge wastewater directly into the canal. Household waste and plastic garbage are thrown in every day, further choking its flow. The water now emits an unbearable stench, while the city struggles with frequent waterlogging as the canal can no longer drain excess water.

"Even a few years ago, the canal's water was somewhat clear. People used to bathe in it and use its water for household purposes. But now, it is so filthy that the water can't be used for anything. Fish can no longer survive in it. If you cast a net, you won't find any fish," said Khobir Uddin, 65, a resident of the Modern area.

Khalilur Rahman, 60, echoed him.

Palash Kanti Nag, a local environmental activist, stressed the need for dredging to save the canal.

Contacted, Robiul Islam, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Rangpur, said, "The government has allocated Tk 15 crore to restore the canal. Dredging will begin soon, and both banks will be planted with trees to restore its beauty."

Fakhrul dismisses *Ei Samay* interview

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had sought 30 seats from the BNP for the upcoming national election, but the BNP showed "little interest."

The report further cited him as saying, "We offered a much smaller number, which they found unacceptable. I assure you:

we will not allow Jamaat to overstep its bounds. We've unnecessarily given them more priority than they deserve as a political force."

In a statement issued yesterday, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, "It is difficult for us to believe that such completely

false, disrespectful, and

vengeful comments have been made by a senior politician like Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. The comments could not be further from the truth and lack decency. If these comments are indeed his, then we are forced to protest and condemn

them."

On BNP's official Facebook page, the party reiterated Fakhrul's denial. "The remarks attributed to him in the interview published in the Indian newspaper *Ei Samay* were never made by him."

Meanwhile, *Ei Samay* posted two photocards

on its verified Facebook page, captioned, "At the Gulshan office of Khaleda Zia, chairperson of BNP, the largest political party in Bangladesh at this moment. Anamitra Chatterjee with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on the 4th of this month."

Locals suffer for dilapidated

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on rainy days," said Nazmul Huda, senior assistant teacher at Barwari High School.

Contacted, Md Shoaib Imran, upazila engineer of Netrakona Sadar, said, "Due to insufficient allocations, the road could not be properly renovated in previous years. Some temporary repairs were made but did not last due to the rains. A proposal has been submitted for rebuilding and widening



seeking a higher allocation has been sent under RTIP-3 to repair the remaining portion. Once funds are allocated, the work will proceed."

Md Rafiqul Islam, senior assistant engineer at Netrakona LGED, said 2 km of the 13.9-km road has been repaired.

"A project proposal

for the road."

"The issue will be raised at the next district coordination meeting. We will work with LGED to ensure quick repair work. I will personally monitor the progress."

Mostakur

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"Perhaps we cannot solve everything in a year, but we will prepare a roadmap showing how many years it will take and seek approval from the administration," he added.

"Whenever a party comes to power, its student wing wants to keep Rucsu shut. But it is the right of students to have it regularly, as it is a platform for taking initiatives to solve their problems. We will work to ensure that Rucsu elections become regular," said Mostakur, president of Shibir's RU unit.

On the election environment, he alleged that "a group" wants to foil the election, which does not want students to be empowered. "We must remain alert," he said.

Mostakur concluded,

"If elected, I will not be VP of Chhatra Shibir but of all students. My highest priority will be Rucsu, and I look forward to working with all."

Mother, two children found dead in house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

A woman and her two children were found dead in their rented flat at West Bandutia in Manikganj yesterday.

The deceased are Shikha Akhter, 29, her son Arafat Islam Alvi, 9, and daughter Saifa Akter, 2. Police recovered the bodies after neighbours reported no response from inside the flat.

Manikganj Superintendent of Police Mosammam Yasin Khutun said aluminum phosphide was found at the scene, suggesting the mother might have poisoned the children before taking her own life. The exact cause will be confirmed after autopsies.

Shikha's husband Shahin Ahmed, 42, left for Malaysia two months ago, said locals.

His uncle Aman Ansari said Shahin had divorced his first wife before marrying Shikha and had moved her and the children into the flat before his departure.

Neighbour Alamgir Hossain said he called 999 after repeated knocks by him and the flat owner went unanswered, leading to the discovery.

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

ASHWIN 9, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

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Irregularities alleged in Tk 5.24cr road project

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

Widespread irregularities have been alleged in the construction of a 2.5-kilometre road from Uttar Kajir Hawla Mohsenia Dakhil Madrasa to Khalgora Bazar in Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali.

Residents have complained that muddy sand and stones are being mixed with clotted cement during the casting for the project, which is being implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department.

According to the upazila engineer's office, the road is being built under the Important Upazila and Union Road Widening and Strengthening project in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Tenders were invited for the construction of a 2.5km RCC road from Kachibunia (Khalgora) Launch Ghat Bazar to Baherchar Bazar (Uttar Kajir Hawla Mohsenia Madrasa). Rajshahi-based Barendra Construction Limited secured the contract for Tk 5.24 crore and began work late last year.

During an on-site visit, this correspondent found casting underway with muddy sand and stones being fed directly into the mixing machine, alongside hardened cement.



"The contractor was supposed to inform us before starting the casting, but on Monday they began without notice. Upon hearing this, I sent my representative to stop the work. We will test the materials before allowing them to continue," he said.

Rangabali UNO Rajib Das Purkayastha said, "I have already instructed the upazila engineer to speak with the contractor and warn them. No irregularities in development works will be tolerated."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Eden Bhaban PWD Division
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

Date: 23/09/2025

Memo No: 1542

1	Name of Procuring Entity	Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Physical Services
3	Invitation Reference No. with Date	Eden/ACE2738/2025-26/Outsourcing/PSN-02, Date-25/08/2025
4	Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
5	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/ National Competitive Tendering (NCT)
6	Tender/Package No.	Eden/ACE2738/2025-26/Outsourcing/PSN-02
7	Tender/Package Name	Supplying of 123 nos. manpower (forash jamadar, forash, cleaner jamadar, cleaner, plumber, plumber helper, carpenter, helper, glass technician, glass technician helper, pump operator, gardener, assistant gardener, supervisor) for newly constructed 20-storied office building, 6-storied utility building and 6-storied mosque at Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
8	Tender Publication Date	23/09/2025
9	Tender Last Selling Date	21/10/2025, during Office Hours
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	22/10/2025, 12:00 PM
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	22/10/2025, 03:00 PM
12	Name & Address of the office (s)	<p>Selling of Tender Documents (Principal)</p> <p>Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.</p> <p>Selling of Tender Documents (Others)</p> <p>1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-3, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.</p> <p>2. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-4, 15 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.</p>
13	Receiving of Tender Documents	<p>1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.</p> <p>2. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.</p> <p>3. Office of the Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 36 Captain Mansoor Ali sonori, Dhaka.</p> <p>4. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-3, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.</p> <p>5. Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-4, 15 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.</p>
14	Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
15	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting	Start Date: 24/09/2025, 09:00 AM End Date: 13/10/2025, 05:00 PM
16	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	<p>(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years.</p> <p>(b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-consultant service of at least ONE contract of manpower supply through out-sourcing in any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization, with a contract value of at least BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs under a single contract, successfully completed within 01 (One) year over a period of last 05 (Five) years shall be required.</p> <p>(c) The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of BDT 100.00 (One Hundred) Lacs over the last 05 (Five) years.</p> <p>(d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be BDT 95.00 (Ninety-Five) Lacs only.</p> <p>(e) Personnel proposed by Tenderer must have relevant educational qualification and experience as mentioned in Clause ITT 40.7 of Section 2: Tender Data Sheet.</p>
17	Price of Tender Document (non-refundable)	BDT 4000 (Four Thousand) only.
18	Tender Security (refundable)	Tenderer must submit Bank draft/ Pay Order of BDT 08 (Eight) Lacs from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favor of Executive Engineer, Eden Bhaban PWD Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka with the tender documents.
19	Completion time	12 (Twelve) months After Satisfactory completion of Contract for 12 (Twelve) months, it will be Extended for another 12 (Twelve) month.
20	Special Instructions	<p>(a) Tenderer must submit up-to-date Trade License, along with the tender.</p> <p>(b) Tenderer must submit up-to-date VAT Certificate and Income Tax Clearance Certificate as per prescribed format mentioned in the tender schedule along with the tender, otherwise tenderer will be non-responsive.</p> <p>(c) The Tenderer must submit up-to-date License/Registration Document as manpower provider firm issued by Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in compliance of Section 3Ka (1) of Bangladesh Labor Act 2006. Failure in submitting of such document shall lead to the non-responsiveness of the concerned bidder/tenderer.</p> <p>(d) When quoting the price of each item in the tender, up to two digits after decimal are acceptable.</p> <p>(e) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR-2008.</p> <p>(f) Tenderer must follow the following guidelines- Outsourcing Service Acceptance Policy 2025: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Memo No-07.00.00000.001.153.99.0001.21-178, Date: 15/04/2025.</p> <p>(g) Tenderer must submit original tender documents and one set photocopy in separate sealed envelope (mentioning 'Original' and 'Photocopy' respectively) with clearly written name and address of the Company on the top.</p> <p>(h) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.</p> <p>(i) All sorts of Security and Safety measures shall be carried out by the firm during execution of the work.</p> <p>(j) All other Terms and Conditions mentioned in the Tender Schedule must be followed by the tenderer, otherwise tenderer will be non-responsive.</p>

Memo No. 25.45.0000.002.07.026.17

e-GP Tender Notice

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

SI. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date and time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date and time
01	Supplying & Installation of Multimedia Smart Board With Necessary goods for Urban Development Directorate.	1151257	05-Oct-2025 16:15	05-Oct-2025 16:40

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the 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.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any branch of the registered bank.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Maqsud Hashem
Deputy Director, R&C (Addl Charge)
Urban Development Directorate (UDD)