

7 yrs on, CDA township project yet to take off

Fatehabad sees rise of unauthorised buildings amid approval freeze

SIFAYET ULLAH, City

The Chattogram Development Authority's (CDA) residential project in West Chararkul of Fatehabad has seen at least six buildings constructed since its launch in 2016, but none has design approval from the authority.

Similarly, hundreds of buildings in adjoining areas have also been built without approved designs over the years.

This stems from a longstanding restriction imposed by CDA as part of its plan to develop a township in Fatehabad. The ban has halted all design approvals for new constructions, leaving residents and landowners in limbo.

CDA first unveiled the township plan in 2007 over 4,700 acres between Chattogram Cantonment and Chittagong University in South Pahartali.

Under the Detailed Area Plan of 2013, the project was expanded to 7,000 acres, with implementation scheduled for July that year and completion by June 2018.

But progress stalled. "The area has over 100 plots. The buildings that have been constructed so far could not be approved. The rest remain vacant as approvals are still on hold," said developer Mohammad Nurul Absar.



increased from the mouza rate to three times higher.

"At that rate, developing a housing project in Fatehabad became financially unfeasible, as plots could not be sold at a price high enough to cover the cost," he said.

CDA Chairman Nurul Karim said a committee has been formed to revise the project in line with residents' demands. "The committee has already started field work. We hope they will provide a solution to this longstanding problem," he added.

In localities like Chowdhury Hat, Borodighirpar and West Amanbazar, landowners have gone ahead with unauthorised construction out of desperation.

Abdul Hamid of West Amanbazar said he built a four-storey building in 2019 without permission.

"I contacted several CDA officers, but they told me that plan approval is halted," he said.

Mohammed Solaiman of Chowdhury Hat shared a similar story. "I waited nearly five years for approval. Eventually, I was left with no choice but to build without it," he said.

A CDA superintendent engineer, seeking a n o n y m i t y , said the project faltered when land compensation was



Workers in Khulna mixing stone and bitumen on top of a pickup truck, with black smoke from the burners polluting the surrounding environment. Such scenes are common during road repairs in villages and pose a constant threat to the natural greenery of the countryside. The photo was taken in the Sajira area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Potters struggling to stay afloat

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Pottery artisans in the southern region are struggling to sustain their craft as rising production costs force them to scale back output.

In Bakerganj upazila's Niamati union, Maheshpur and nearby Rammagar and Dhalnagar villages – home to more than 150 pottery families – artisans have been producing traditional clay items such as pitchers, cooking pots, bowls, yoghurt jars, mosquito coil stands and water pots for generations.

But over the last two years, they have been able to produce barely half of the required items due to a lack of capital.

Artisans explained that the price of a boatload of clay (about 100 mounds), once Tk 3,000 two years ago, has now risen to Tk 4,000. Adding labour, wood and firing costs, total expenses reach Tk 11,000 to 12,000 per batch. Yet wholesale buyers rarely pay more than Tk 20,000 for the finished goods.

While costs have gone up by 20-25 percent, sale prices have increased by only around 5

percent, leaving potters unable to cover expenses.

Wholesale trader Madhusudan Paul of Maheshpur said he once sent trollers with pottery worth Tk 7-10 lakh to Dhaka every month. "Now I send one shipment every three months. Even after we pay advances, artisans



struggle to supply the goods because of the soaring costs," he said.

Artisan Juvraj Paul noted that while production costs rose sharply, prices of pottery items increased by only Tk 2-5 each. Another potter, Rupak Pal of Koloskathi village, said,

"Clay, labour, wood and paint – everything has become more expensive. Demand has fallen further because prices had to be raised slightly."

Bauphal Pottery Association President Bishweshwar Paul said the rising costs and falling demand have badly affected artisans.

According to the group Mridhishpi Sammelan O Sammanana, which works for potters' welfare, about 1,200 pottery families live across six southern districts. "Most of them have reduced production, while many have abandoned the craft altogether," said member secretary Tomal Roy.

Artisans such as Rani Bala Pal of Maheshpur said many rely on loans from local NGOs with high interest rates and weekly instalments. "Without low-interest government loans, we cannot survive in this trade," she said.

Nazrul Islam, deputy general manager of BSCIC, said low-interest entrepreneurial loans are available for potters. "But many are not aware of these facilities. Since we do not have monitoring offices at the upazila level, outreach remains limited," he added.

Release voter attendance list, or will move to court
Chhatra Union tells DU authorities

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Union (Tamjid-Shimulfaction) yesterday raised 12 allegations of irregularities and inconsistencies in the recently held Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) and hall union elections.

At a press briefing at Madhur Canteen, Meghmaller Bosu, president of the DU unit of the Chhatra Union faction, urged the university authorities to clarify that the elections were conducted in a transparent manner.

Their allegations include signatures on voter lists without the presence of real voters at the TSC polling centre, pre-distribution of ballots to favoured panels, missing serial numbers on used ballots, and a lack of explanation regarding printed, supplied, cancelled, or returned ballots.

While reading a written statement, Meghmaller also warned that they will move to court if the university administration does not release the signed voter attendance lists and CCTV footage of the elections as soon as possible.

"If there are questions about the election, why are they not disclosing information to clear things up?" he asked.

Bangladesh Bank

Common Services Department-1
(Equipment Section)
Head Office, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka

1	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank
2	Procuring entity code	Not used at present
3	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
4	Invitation for	Procurement of Original HP Black Print Cartridge (CF276A) for HP Laser Jet Pro M404dn Printer of Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
5	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1(Equip)69(9)/2025-33
6	Date	24/09/2025

KEY INFORMATION

7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8	Budget and source of funds	Own source
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9	Tender publication date	24/09/2025
10	Tender last selling date	Not applicable
11	Date	Date
12	Tender closing date and time	15/10/2025 02:15pm
13	Tender opening date and time	15/10/2025 02:30pm
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
15	- Receiving tender document	BB website and hard copy of Tender Security
16	- Opening tender document	Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

14	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 3 (three) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years.
15	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of 300 (Three hundred) PCs Original HP Black Print Cartridge (CF276A) for HP Laser Jet Pro M404dn Printer of Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.

16	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing/Award of Contract
17	1	Original HP Black Print Cartridge (CF276A) for HP Laser Jet Pro M404dn Printer	CSD-1	Tk 1,00,000.00	8 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17	Name of official inviting tender	Swapan Kumar Goswami
18	Designation of official inviting tender	Director
19	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka,
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148, Fax: 9530120, E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings	

DCP: 48/2025-2606

Date: 25-09-2025

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে ইয়ারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Swapan Kumar Goswami
Director
Phone: 9530148
E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 26

Fazr Juma Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-30 4-15 6-00 7-30

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION