

Alaikumari river choked by encroachment, siltation

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The Alaikumari river in Rangpur is now on the verge of oblivion, choked by years of encroachment, heavy siltation, and unchecked cultivation.

Once a vibrant waterway, stretching around 26 kilometres across Rangpur district with a width of about 45 metres, the Alaikumari has deteriorated into a 10-15 metre-wide lifeless canal over time.

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board, the "endangered" river originates in Kalyani union under Rangpur Sadar upazila and joins the Ghaghat river in Pirgachha upazila.

Jagadish Chandra Barman, 86, of Kalyani village, recalled, "My childhood memories are tied to Alaikumari. Back then, the river had a strong flow of water all year round. Now it resembles a dead canal. People are cultivating on the riverbed. The river must be saved for our environment, biodiversity, and agriculture."

Local fisherman Subhash Das, 65, said, "Once, the river was full of fish, generating livelihood for many fishermen even two decades back. Now you won't find any fish. The river is gone, and so are the fish."

Nitesh Kumar Sarker, a local river advocate, stressed the need for collaboration between the administration and local communities to revive the

Alaikumari and other rivers in Rangpur. At least 42 rivers in Rangpur district are now facing a similar plight. Experts warn that without immediate state intervention under the National River Conservation Commission; these rivers could disappear completely.

Tuhin Wadud, director of Riverine People, and also a professor of Bangla at Begum Rokeya University Rangpur, said, "To keep the Alaikumari river alive,



encroachments must be removed, and all dams and roads built over it should be cleared. If necessary, scientifically designed bridges can be constructed for communication."

Rabiul Islam, executive engineer of BWDB in Rangpur, said, "We are trying our best to identify and restore the rivers of Rangpur. However, we often face resistance from illegal occupiers. The important rivers must be saved at any cost."

Deported workers call You cannot

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"modern slavery" and instead fostering an environment of retaliation. Nironjon, a former Mediceram worker who was recently fired and deported for protesting non-renewal of work visas, said he went to Malaysia in 2023 and faced irregular and reduced payments.

"We demanded our rights as humans, but were treated like second-class citizens. When we sought legal status and reimbursement, we were threatened and forced onto flights," he said.

Omar Faruq, a former worker of Kawaguchi Manufacturing, said they suffered passport confiscation and unpaid salaries for over seven months.

"Our appeals to authorities brought no help," he said. "The company closed without paying our wages. Thousands of migrant workers in Malaysia face the same situation. Complete reform is needed."

MWN said the Taiwanese owner of Kawaguchi still owes 3 million Malaysian ringgit to 251 migrant workers, while the company has since shut down without clearing its dues -- a failure it described as a "serious lapse" in Malaysia's labour governance system.

According to MWN, Kawaguchi was a major supplier for global brands such as Sony, Panasonic, and Daikin.

Workers reportedly paid high recruitment fees and faced wage irregularities beginning in 2022, with salaries going entirely unpaid for seven months by September 2024.

After months of hardship and strikes, 308 Bangladeshi workers were reimbursed for recruitment fees and compensated for their suffering.

However, their unpaid wages remained unsettled despite a consent order issued by Malaysian authorities following a settlement meeting on December 24, 2024.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque asked Ivy's lawyers to serve the bail orders to the attorney general's office. Meanwhile, police have sought court permission to show Ivy arrested in two more cases. The applications for Ivy to be "shown arrested" were filed on Sunday afternoon with the judicial magistrate courts, said Inspector Kaium Khan, in-charge of the court police outpost. The court fixed November 13 for a hearing on the petitions.

Abu Sayed murder

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Witness Kamrul Hasan, an ASI of DMP's Crime Command and Control Centre, testified that on July 17 last year, the then commissioner issued an order via wireless communication to "use maximum force" and fire from kneeling positions with Chinese rifles.

An audio clip of the instruction, later played in court, was submitted as evidence.

Constable Abdur Rahman testified that on July 19, 2024, while posted at Rampura Police Station, he heard gunfire after then OC Moshirur Rahman and ADC (Khaligaoon Zone) Rashedul Islam arrived in a BGB armoured vehicle from the TV Bhaban area

and ordered police to open fire on protesters. He later learned that a man named Nadim and an elderly woman were killed, and a six-year-old child was injured. He said he later saw a video showing former SI Tariquul Islam Bhuiyan and Chanchal Chandra shooting a man hanging from the ledge of an under-construction building near the station. The witness said the then DMP commissioner later visited the station and gave OC Moshirur Tk 1 lakh in appreciation of the police's actions that day. Defence lawyers cross-examined the three witnesses, alleging their statements were false and tutored. The witnesses denied the allegations.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 11. Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha. AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:22 7:00. JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30. SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SC upholds bail

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said their lawyer Barrister Sara Hossain.

Advocate Zi Khan Panna and Sara Hossain appeared for Latif, while Sara Hossain and Advocate Md Ramzan Ali Sikder represented Panna.

On August 29, a Dhaka court ordered police to send Latif and 17 others to jail in the case filed by Sub-Inspector Md Amirul Islam of Shahbagh Police Station.

Meanwhile, the SC chamber judge yesterday adjourned until tomorrow the hearing of state petitions seeking stay on the HC verdict on November 9 that granted

bail to former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Selina Hayat Ivy in five separate cases.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) COMPANY MATTER NO. 1990 OF 2025. IN THE MATTER OF:

Caterpillar Motoren Rostock GmbH

Falckensteiner Str. 2, 24159 Kiel, Germany, a Shareholder of Caterpillar Power Generation Systems (Bangladesh) Limited.

...PETITIONER.

- Versus -

Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.

...RESPONDENTS.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under sections 81(2), 85(3) and 396(2) of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed by the petitioner before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh praying for condonation of delay and extension of time for holding the Annual General Meetings of the Caterpillar Power Generation Systems (Bangladesh) Limited for the calendar years 2023 and 2024. Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohail of the said Hon'ble Court was pleased vide its order dated 05.11.2025 to admit the application.

Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble High Court Division for hearing either personally or through his duly authorised Advocate. Copy of the aforesaid application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed cost.

(Signature)

(Syed Mohammad Raihan Uddin)

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

For the Petitioner

The Law Counsel

Green City Square, Suite No. A-12

750, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212. Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd. আরবিং ০৯/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক) ১১৬(খ), তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা ঢাকা-১২০৮। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি। শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের পত্র নং- ৩৬.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৭৪.১৪.০০০২.১৪-৫২, তারিখঃ ০৪-১০-২০২৫ মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্র অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক)-এর রাজস্ব স্বাতন্ত্র্য নিশ্চিত করা পদসমূহে অস্থায়ীভাবে নিযুক্ত করা হবে।