CWASA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Total cost Tk 1,856cr
- Built to supply 60m litres daily
- Now produces just 4m
- 3,000 of 15,000 targeted consumers connected
- Only one industrial user
- Monthly operating cost over Tk 1cr
- Revenue Tk 21.6 lakh
- Factories avoiding connections citing high water prices

Big investment LITTLE RETURN

Cwasa plant running at just 7% capacity

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

Even eight months after its inauguration, the Tk 1,856-crore Bhandaljuri Water Treatment Plant of Chattogram Wasa in Boalkhali upazila is operating at only seven percent of its capacity due to a lack of consumer connections.

As a result, the plant's operational costs fall far short of its expected revenue.

The facility is capable of producing 60 million litres of water daily after collection from the Karnaphuli river and subsequent treatment. Of this, 16 million litres were meant for residential use. The remaining 44 million litres, or about 73 percent of the total capacity, were intended for industrial consumers.

However, it currently produces only about four million litres of water a day.

To supply water beyond its main jurisdiction, CWasa built the plant with 133 kilometres of pipelines to deliver water to around 15,000 residential and commercial consumers across four upazilas -- Patiya, Anwara, Boalkhali, and Karnaphuli.

So far, only around 3,000 consumers have taken connections, including just one industrial connection.

The plant's monthly operational expenses exceed Tk 1 crore, while revenue from water sales barely reaches Tk 21.6 lakh per month at CWasa's rate of Tk 18 per 1,000 litres.

Mahbubul Alam, the project director, said the plant's operational costs were Tk 1.38 crore in May, Tk 1.18 crore in June, and Tk 1.16 crore in July. Over these three months, the plant produced an average of four million litres daily, amounting to about 120 million litres per month. The plant currently has 25 people working there.

Muhammad Rashidul Hasan, dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, said the feasibility assessment of the project was inadequate. "Had it been conducted properly, the project would not be struggling to attract consumers today. It serves as a costly lesson -- a reminder that building first and planning later can undermine even the best intentions," he added.

> **If this continues, the groundwater level will decrease, and result in saltwater entering the aquifers, shortage of fresh water, and even sinking of land in the long run.**

Mahbubul Alam, however, said, "We mainly targeted providing water to factories. Each factory's water demand was surveyed to this end. There was no mistake in the feasibility assessment."

He said that residents and industries in Patiya, Karnaphuli, and Anwara upazilas are still using groundwater.

"If this continues, the groundwater level will decrease, and result in saltwater entering the aquifers, shortage of fresh water, and even sinking of land in the long run," he said.

Mahbubul, also superintendent engineer at CWasa, said the factories are not taking water connections, citing higher prices for CWasa's water. "So, we cannot run the plant at its full capacity," he said.

One of the plant's potential major consumers was Chattogram Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL), which requires around 20 million litres of water daily.

However, the company has yet to start purchasing water from CWasa.

CUFL managing director Mizanur Rahman said, "We are not taking CWasa's water as its price is much higher compared to what we produce ourselves. We plan to buy some water from them on a regular basis once our production resumes."

Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury, a citizen rights activist, alleged that the purpose of this project was never genuine development, rather it was designed to waste public money.

The project director, however, claimed that current operational costs are being borne by the plant's construction company under the maintenance contract for one year after completion.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the project in January 2016 with an initial allocation of Tk 1,036 crore. Later, the cost rose by Tk 820 crore and the deadline extended to June 2025. It was inaugurated in February this year.

Of the total cost, the Korean Exim Bank's Economic Development Cooperation Fund provided Tk 1,224 crore, while the rest by the government.

Halt leasing of Ctg port terminals

Workers demand

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Workers under the banner of Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad brought out a torch procession in Chattogram city yesterday evening demanding that the government withdraw its move to lease out Chattogram port's Laldia and New Mooring Container terminals to any foreign or local company.

Several hundred activists of pro-BNP and left leaning workers' organisations joined the procession that started from Nayabazar Intersection at 6:00pm and ended at Boropool Intersection.

Addressing a rally prior to the event, Trade Union Centre's Chattogram district committee president Tapan Dutta said Chattogram Port must remain under the control of dock workers, C&F workers, and the country's working people.

Coastal voices call for urgent climate finance

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

A human chain and sit-in were held yesterday morning on the bank of the Pashur river at Kanainagar in Mongla to mark Climate Action Day.

Speakers warned that urgent climate finance is essential to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities and the Sundarbans.

The programme was organised by Dharitri Rokkhay Amra (Dhora), Waterkeepers Bangladesh, and Pashur River Waterkeeper.

Participants carried banners and placards showcasing climate-related demands and urging global leaders to take urgent steps to protect coastal populations and ensure justice for communities suffering from climate change impacts.

Protected on paper, excluded in reality

FROM PAGE 3

Dr Nafeesur Rahman, a disability development expert, said deputy commissioners chair too many committees to prioritise them. "Despite legal powers, these committees remain largely ineffective," he said.

"Most district committees fail to submit reports, and the NDDF's managing director, who serves as member secretary of the national committees, lacks manpower and resources to analyse them," he added.

Ashrafunnahar Mishti, executive director of the Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, said rare disabilities often go unrecognised and disability cards cannot be issued because committees are inactive.

She said employment discrimination is severe, with recruitment of visually impaired teachers in government schools largely halted since 2014.

"Even worse, remarks like 'Not good-looking, cannot teach' have been reported during interviews -- despite court rulings in favour of 204 candidates with disabilities," she said. "Even at the NDDF, only two persons with disabilities are employed."

Md Jahangir Alam, senior coordinator at the Centre for Disability and Development, called for structural reform: "The social welfare and public administration ministries must make the committees functional. NDDF must be restructured with adequate staff and resources."

Dr Nafeesur said financial constraints are a major barrier: "The National Action Plan has no dedicated budget, and ministries have not integrated disability inclusion into their mandates, since all disability-related issues fall under Social Welfare."

UNCRPD implementation faces similar challenges.

A National Monitoring Committee and 47 ministry focal points were established to coordinate inclusive development, but the committee -- never empowered under the Paris Principles -- has been inactive since 2017.

Bangladesh must report to the UN every four years but has submitted only one report, in 2017.

During the 2022 UN review, the Bangladesh delegation -- led by foreign ministry officials, not social welfare -- struggled to defend the report, as they were not directly involved with disability issues.

"It exaggerated the situation and contradicted information given by organisations of persons with disabilities," said Mishti, one of the delegates. "As a result, state representatives were furious, and I was even threatened for exposing the real situation," she alleged.

In October 2022, the UNCRPD Committee issued Concluding Observations, identifying serious gaps -- inadequate data, stigma, poor accessibility, weak oversight, limited access to justice, and the absence of a Paris Principles-aligned monitoring mechanism.

It recommended aligning laws with the UNCRPD, strengthening monitoring and accessibility, combating discrimination, improving access to justice, promoting inclusive livelihoods, collecting disaggregated disability data, and supporting OPDs to participate meaningfully in policymaking.

Bangladesh was asked to submit its next reports by December 2029, but progress has been minimal.

NDDF Managing Director Bijoy Krishna Debnath acknowledged severe capacity constraints. "I'm holding additional responsibilities, so I only handle urgent tasks. Permanent staff shortages make it impossible to keep committees fully functional," he said.

He also cited budget pressures. "The lump-sum allocation from the finance ministry has to cover 74 schools, 103 service centres, rent, utilities, and assistive devices."

On UNCRPD implementation, he said, "The law is not fully implemented yet, but it will happen gradually, perhaps once a dedicated disability budget is introduced."

Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, president of Disability Rights Watch and a former UNCRPD Committee member, stressed the need for urgent institutional reform.

"The National Monitoring Committee must be reactivated," he said. "The Cabinet Division should empower it under the Paris Principles, and all ministries must reassign joint secretary-level focal points. Immediate action is needed to implement the UN committee's recommendations."

Looking ahead, Dr Susan Vize, Unesco representative to Bangladesh, said effective implementation of disability rights laws and UNCRPD obligations "requires a shift to accountability-driven mechanisms."

She stressed the need for an independent monitoring body, meaningful involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, and disability inclusion across ministries and budgets.

Beyond laws and policies, changing mindsets remains a major challenge, she added.

Dr Vize stressed that shifting societal perceptions requires a multi-faceted approach, combining visibility, participation, education, and accountability, so persons with disabilities are recognised as full-rights citizens.

অফিস ভাড়ার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৮২ মতিঝিল মেট্রোস্টেশন এর সামনে সর্বমোট ২৩,০০০ বর্গফুট, প্রতিটি ১০০০ বর্গফুট থেকে ৩০০০ বর্গফুট এর ফ্লোর ভাড়া হবে। ১০ম তলা আল-হাজ্ব টাওয়ারে বর্তমানে ঃ HSBC Bank, প্রাইম ব্যাংক, লংকা বাংলা, গ্রীন ডেল্টা সহ আরো অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে।

যোগাযোগ ঃ ০১৬৭৮-০৯৭৮১০, ০১৯১৫-৭৯১১৭৭, ০১৭১৩-০১৭৩৬৩

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

উত্তরা প্রিয়াংকা রানওয়ে সিটিতে মেইনরোডে কর্ণার প্লটে ১৫০০/ ১৬৩০/ ১৩৯০ বর্গফুট এবং দক্ষিণখান মাইলস্টোন স্কুলের পাশে ১৩০০ বর্গফুট এর নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়।

০১৭৩০০৬৯৬৪৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
National Disaster Management Research and Training
Institute Construction Project (1st Phase)
Department of Disaster Management
92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212
www.ddm.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Invitation No: 51.01.0000.031.14.18.24-297 Date: 12.11.2025

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	e-GP Published Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
01	1154284	DDM/NDMRTI/2025-2026/W-01	Construction of 3 Storied Academic cum Administrative Building with 10 storied Foundation and 3 Storied Hostel building with 6 Storied Foundation and Boundary wall of National Disaster Management Research & Training Institute (1st Phase) under Gazipur district.	16-Nov-2025 10.00 A.M	Please see the online e-GP Tender Notice

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender Registration in the National portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

12.11.2025
(Md. Rasel Sabrin)
(Join Secretary)
Project Director
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Phone: 880-2222661386
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GD-2441

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Fax: +880-31-2501123, E-mail: drydock.bd@gmail.com, Website: www.cddl.gov.bd

২৩.০২.১৫৬৫.৩৪১.৫৩.০০৩.২৫.২১৪ ১৩ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড (সিডিডিএল) এর প্লেট ১ ও ২ এর মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে, যা বিস্তারিত ওয়েবসাইট (www.cddl.gov.bd/notice) দেখা যাবে।

রবিন উদ্দিন আহমেদ
ক্যাপ্টেন বিএন
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (উৎপাদন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ)

GD-2442

জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ

দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ
০২	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	গরু ও বাছুর মাংস সরবরাহ, ডিম ও মুরগীর মাংস সরবরাহ, মাছ সরবরাহ, শুকনা খেজুর সরবরাহ এবং শাকসবজি, তরিতরকারি, ফলমূল ও অন্যান্য মুদিপণ্য সরবরাহ, গ্যাস সরবরাহ, পুকুরের মুদিপণ্য সরবরাহ এবং কমিটির ও কমিটির স্বাক্ষর সরবরাহ
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০৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫, সময় ১২০০ ঘটিকা, জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ
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