

## Cop found dead at Ctg police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A policeman's body was found hanging inside a bathroom on the third floor of Chawkbazar Police Station in Chattogram yesterday morning.

The deceased, Ahidur Rahman, was an assistant sub-inspector of Chattogram Metropolitan Police and was attached to the police station. He hailed from Noakhali.

He had recently joined CMP after being transferred from Barishal, where his family currently lives.

"Ahidur performed duty on Saturday night and returned to the barrack on Sunday morning. Later, he went to the bathroom. After about an hour, another police member knocked on the door. When Ahidur did not respond, police broke the door and found him inside," said Alamgir Hossain, deputy commissioner of CMP.

"He was pronounced dead at Chattogram Medical College Hospital," he added.

## 2 killed in Ctg road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were killed and one other was injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided with a truck in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The incident took place at Mistrighata around 4:30am, police said.

The deceased are Iftekhar Hasan and Mahmudul Hasan. The injured, Rashed Chowdhury, is undergoing treatment in Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

They were returning to Hathazari from Chattogram on the autorickshaw.

PLOT SALE

A plot is available for sale in the Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Interested and genuine buyers are warmly invited to contact for further details.  
Contact: 01973456904

# CWASA WATER CONNECTIONS

## Rusty pipelines, disrupted supply

### Around 40,000 consumers suffer as decades-old system collapses

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Md Alamgir Hossain, manager of Morium Bhaban in Chattogram's densely populated Akbar Shah area, spends three consecutive nights every week waiting by the motor switch for water from Chattogram Wasa.

As soon as supply starts flowing through the line, usually late at night, he rushes to fill the building's 10,000-litre reservoir before the flow stops after four to five hours.

"The water comes only three days a week, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, that too late at night. So, we stay awake to fill the tank," said Alamgir, who manages the five-storey building housing ten families.

Each family needs at least 500 litres of water every day. With CWasa's irregular supply, residents are forced to spend extra to meet their daily needs.

Documents obtained by this newspaper show why the shortage persists. Ageing uPVC and cement pipelines – many installed 35 to 40 years ago – can no longer handle the pressure required for uninterrupted supply.

CWasa has divided the city

network into six sectors. Of these, five rely on 375 kilometres of outdated pipelines spanning Barik Building to Patenga, Khulshi to AK Khan, Amin Jute Mill to Oxygen, Bahaddarhat to Mohra, and Khaja



Road to Chaktai.

These five sectors serve nearly 40,000 customers, almost half of CWasa's 90,846 billable connections as of June this year.

Only one sector, stretching about 750 kilometres, has been upgraded recently with ductile iron pipelines. The worst disruptions

occur in the Barik Building-to-Patenga sector, affecting roughly 15,000 consumers.

For many, the shortage means having to buy water at high prices. In Patenga, tea stall owner Belal



Uddin said he often buys jars from private sellers to run his business. "Each jar costs Tk 40 to 50. I have no choice," he said.

Despite having official connections, some households have never received a drop through their pipelines. Residents of Mokbul Ali Society in Patenga are among

them. Rokeya Begum has been paying her monthly minimum bill since 2019. "I have not received a single drop. I just keep paying to maintain the connection," she said.

Nazir Hossain, vice-president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said CWasa has failed its basic responsibility. "They have been operating for six decades but still cannot ensure water for their customers," he said.

Contacted, CWasa Executive Engineer Rezaul Ahsan Chowdhury admitted the pipelines are too rusty and leak-prone to sustain pressure. "When we increase pressure, the lines burst. It's impossible to supply water without replacing them," he said.

Against the city's daily demand for 60 crore litres of water, CWasa currently produces around 49.5 crore litres a day, of which 3.3 crore litres come from deep tubewells and the rest from four surface-water treatment plants that draw water from Karnaphuli and Halda rivers.

CWasa Chief Engineer Maksud Alam said they have undertaken a project to replace all old lines by 2029. "We expect to resolve the issue once the new pipelines are installed," he said.



## Rangamati hospital struggling without ICU, dialysis

RIKORS CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rashel Chakma of Kalindipur in Rangamati has been suffering from kidney disease for nearly two years and requires dialysis twice a week. His mother, Usha Chakma, said since Rangamati General Hospital has no dialysis facility, Rashel must travel to a private hospital in Chattogram for treatment.

"In his present condition, it takes a toll on him to travel to Chattogram twice a week for dialysis. It also costs around Tk 50,000 a month for his treatment. If the treatment was available here, it would have been more convenient and less expensive," she said.

Rashel's situation is not unique. Many critically ill patients from remote areas in Rangamati have to endure similar hardship as the hospital, established in 1984 to serve patients from 10 upazilas, still lacks specialised facilities including Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, and dialysis services even after four decades.

In 2009, a five-storey CCU building was constructed at the hospital, but it has remained unused for 16 years. Since 2014, space inside the building has been temporarily used to run activities of Rangamati Medical College.



In 2019, the foundation stone for an 11-storey building was laid with plans to expand the number of beds and launch ICU, CCU and dialysis units. The health directorate and the public works department are responsible for implementing the project. However, only six floors have been constructed so far, and none could be made operational due to shortage of manpower and lack of equipment and furniture.

According to hospital sources, 200 to 250 patients are currently admitted to the 100-bed facility. Due to lack of space, many patients are treated on the floor. Additionally, around 1,000 to 1,200 people visit the hospital daily for outdoor consultations.

Dr Sawkat Akbar, resident doctor at the hospital, said ICU, CCU and dialysis services cannot be launched without required medical equipment, furniture and adequate manpower.

He said the hospital also has a shortage of staff, particularly in 3rd-4th grade posts, while four out of its 31 sanctioned doctor posts remain vacant.

## WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

### ICC Bangladesh holds workshop on capacity building in Ctg



CITY DESK

ICC Bangladesh organised a daylong workshop on capacity building of MSMEs and women entrepreneurs for using ICC rules in international trade in a Chattogram hotel on Saturday, said a press release.

The workshop has been designed for the benefit of MSMEs and women entrepreneurs who are engaged in international trade, in particular in export of non-traditional goods.

It provided the participants the opportunity to learn about ICC rules on international trade and understand the complex global trade finance scenario as well as how to take correct decisions to avoid the risk of settlements of L/Cs.

## LEASING OUT PORT TERMINALS

### SKOP to observe road blockades on Wednesday

#### Left Democratic Alliance extends solidarity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) announced solidarity with the blockade on roads towards Chattogram port called by the Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) to be observed on Wednesday, protesting the government's move to lease out key port facilities to foreign companies.

Leaders of LDA Chattogram district unit made the announcement at a rally held at the Old Railway Station premises in the port city yesterday afternoon.

They also urged all concerned to join the programme to make it successful. The coalition further called for mass mobilisation in favour of its December 4 "Jamuna Gherao" programme in Dhaka.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) District President Ashok Saha, Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB) District In-charge Al Kaderi Joy, and BASAD (Marxist) leader Ahmed Jasim

addressed the rally chaired by LDA district coordinator Advocate Shafi Uddin Kabir Abid.

Speakers at the rally criticised the interim government for leasing out Laldia Char and Pangaon ICT to foreign companies for 48 years and 22 years respectively in its short-term tenure, terming the agreements "non-transparent deals".

Mentioning the act as "betrayal of the spirit of the mass uprising," they said the interim government has no mandate to sign such contracts.

The alliance leaders said 92 percent of the country's export-import trade depends on Chattogram port, making it a strategic national asset.

Decisions regarding such infrastructure, they argued, should factor in long-term economic and security implications rather than short-term financial gains.

After the rally a protest procession was brought out.

## Hill market turns popular in Cox's Bazar



PHOTO: STAR

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Near the Burmese School in Cox's Bazar town, several vendors from indigenous communities, most of them women, were seen on both sides of the road in a simple, modest market setup.

These vendors come on Tuesdays and Saturdays from different hilly areas of neighbouring Bandarban district with leafy vegetables, fruits, sweet potatoes, sticky rice, pumpkins, and hill-style rice cakes.

Tang Tho, a vendor, said the items are either grown in their own fields or collected from their local areas.

Vendors said they arrive at

dawn by CNG-run autorickshaws.

There is very little use of polythene at the market. Items are packaged using banana leaves tied with strips of banana tree bark and kept in bamboo baskets. Buyers bring their own bags.

Here, goods are not sold at any fixed rate based on weight; rather, sellers and buyers bargain to agree on a price. The prices are usually reasonable.

Local Rakhine community members are the main buyers at this market, alongside other hill communities and Bangalees.

"Everything here is organic and chemical-free," said Fazlul Karim, a local resident.

Mache Sing, a woman vendor

from Lama upazila, said they travel long distances, so they cannot reduce the prices too much. "Usually, I earn between Tk 1,000-1,500 on a market day."

Alongside vegetables, the vendors also bring various types of hill-style rice cakes.

Some Bangalee vendors also sell dried fish at the market.

Several vendors, however, complained of occasionally facing harassment on the way.

"A few indigenous women started sitting here around 2022. Gradually this hill market became popular, with around 30-35 vendors coming twice a week," said Mong Wan Rakhine, an employee of Cox's Bazar Municipality.



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**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)**

<b>A. Basic Information (Procuring Entity, Assignment, Procurement Method, Source of Fund, etc) for the Consulting Firms:</b>	
1	Name of the Organization
2	Procuring Entity Name & Designation
3	Expression of Interest for Selection of
4	EOI Ref No and Publishing Date
5	Package No.
6	Procurement Method
7	Source of Fund and Development Partner
8	Project Name
9	EOI submission place, closing date and time.
<b>B. Key Information for the Consulting Firms:</b>	
10	Brief description of the assignment (Experience, resource, and delivery capacity required of the Consulting firm)
11	Experience, resources & Delivery Capacity Required
<b>C. Procurement Entity Details</b>	
12	Name and Designation of the Official Inviting EOI
13	Address of the Official Inviting EOI
14	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI
The Procurement Entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all EOI proposals.	
(Md. Mashiar Rahman) Deputy Managing Director & PE	