

SYLHET-AKHAURA ROUTE Encroachment eats up railway land

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Railway land worth around Tk 1,000 crore has been illegally grabbed across 11 stations along the Sylhet-Akhaura route in Moulvibazar. The stations are Sreemangal, Kulaura, Shamshernagar, Bhanugachh, Bhatera, Baramchah, Tilagaon, Sathgaon, Sayestaganj, Manu and Rashidpur.

Numerous illegal establishments and agricultural farms have sprung up on the occupied land. Although the Railway Estate Department carries out occasional eviction drives, it has failed to take decisive action, allowing influential locals to reoccupy the land soon afterwards.



Of the stations, four are currently operational -- Sreemangal, Bhanugachh, Shamshernagar and Kulaura. At these locations, the railway has leased out some land, while a large portion remains illegally occupied for shops, houses and agricultural farms.

The other stations have remained closed for years, and their surrounding land has long been encroached upon.

According to BR, those who take railway land on lease must renew their contracts regularly, and any occupation becomes illegal once a lease expires since no permanent leases are issued.

Construction of permanent structures is prohibited, and agricultural land cannot be used for building. However, lax enforcement has

allowed illegal occupants to bypass the rules for decades, alleged locals.

Land prices near the stations, particularly in Shamshernagar, have surged, with some properties valued at several crores. As more sites fall under illegal occupation, the financial stakes continue to rise.

"Grabbers have long been occupying these railway properties in absence of strict vigilance, and renting out the land for different purposes, depriving Railway authorities of revenue," said Ruhel Ahmed, a resident of Sreemangal.

"Illegal occupation of railway land at Shamshernagar station has pushed prices of nearby properties to Tk 30-50 lakh per 100 decimals. Railway

authorities rarely take action," said Rajib Ahmed of Shamshernagar Bazar.

Several occupiers who built concrete structures on railway land said anonymously that they constructed the buildings with an understanding with Railway authorities, claiming to have long term lease agreements.

"The total value of all illegally occupied railway properties in Moulvibazar is around Tk 1,000 crore," said Ruman Ahmed, station master of Kulaura Railway Station.

Kazi Wali-ul Haque, deputy director of BR's Asset Department, said action would be taken against the grabbers.

"We will direct the officers concerned to recover the occupied lands and take necessary steps against the offenders," he said.

Anwara Begum no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Begum, 61, mother of Manabzamin's diplomatic correspondent Mizanur Rahman, breathed her last at a city hospital on Wednesday night after suffering a stroke.

She leaves behind three sons, three daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held in Mahalal union of Rajnagar in Moulvibazar, and she will be buried at the family graveyard on December 9.

Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh President AKM Moinuddin and General Secretary Md Arifuzzaman Mamun condoled her death.

Jabian Club launched for JU alumni

STAR REPORT

Jabian Club Limited, dedicated to graduates of Jahangirnagar University, was officially launched following its inaugural executive committee meeting on December 5.

Founded through the concerted efforts of former JU students, the club is the first organisation of its kind in the university's history. It was formally incorporated with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) on November 6 after completing all necessary regulatory checks.

The inaugural executive committee meeting was held at the club's Dhaka office and chaired by Mohammad Tahiat Hossain, a retired additional secretary to the government and an alumnus of JU's 9th batch. Dr Fahmida Khatun from the 10th batch has been appointed the club's president, while Group Captain Abu Hena Md Ameerul Ahsan (retd) from the 10th batch has been appointed secretary general.

Many major

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Health experts identified over-prescription, failure to complete antibiotic courses, excessive use of antibiotics in livestock and fisheries, poor infection control in hospitals, inadequate hygiene and sanitation, and the absence of new antibiotics as key drivers of AMR.

Presenting the BMU findings, Associate Professor Shaheda Anwar said 11,108 samples -- 24 percent of the tested 46,279 samples -- contained germs.

The report shows steep increases in multidrug resistance among several Gram-negative bacteria.

Klebsiella, which causes bloodstream infections, saw resistance to Ceftriaxone, Ciprofloxacin, and Gentamicin rise from below 50 percent in 2022 to over 80 percent this year. Acinetobacter showed a similar trend, with resistance to the same drugs rising from below 35 percent to over 60 percent.

In contrast, resistance to Amoxicillin, Ciprofloxacin and Ceftriaxone among E. coli, which causes urinary tract infections, fell slightly compared to 2022. The resistance levels currently remain between 55 and 74 percent, the report shows.

Speaking at the programme, BMU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahinul Alam said the university must play a leading role in addressing this public health challenge. He instructed faculty deans to prepare an antibiotic use guideline within three months.

Online abuse taking toll on women's mental

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emeritus scientist at icddr,b's Maternal and Child Health Division, said although relatively few women and girls in Bangladesh use the internet, online violence against them is already high and likely to rise.

"Many victims do not seek help because of fear, stigma and difficult legal processes. Since most women never report violence, prevention and awareness are more important than services alone," she said, adding that families, schools and communities must play a role in teaching safe online behaviour.

Prof Saria Tasnim of OGSB's Gynaecology and

Obstetrics said prevention begins with awareness and healthy relationships between parents and children.

She said the government, NGOs and professional bodies must work together for effective prevention and response.

Nadia Afroz, assistant professor at the National Institute of Mental Health, described how negative comments online can trigger severe depression and anxiety in children.

She called for immediate support, parental guidance on safe social media use, age-appropriate education and timely professional help to prevent long term trauma.

Kamal Ahmed, consulting editor of The Daily Star, stressed the need for a single, easy-to-remember emergency number, stronger enforcement of laws, better service coordination and pressure on global tech companies to address online harassment.

"The Daily Star continues to take a strong stand against gender-based violence and discrimination and promotes awareness through reporting and campaigns," he said.

Rahat Ara Nur, programme director of Ipas Bangladesh, emphasised the need to strengthen the country's sexual and reproductive

health and rights ecosystem.

She also said the CSO Forum's 23 member organisations, including academic institutions, legal groups and feminist organisations, play a key role in national advocacy.

The session was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star, with representatives from government bodies and NGOs sharing experiences, initiatives and recommendations for creating safer digital spaces for women and girls.

Shaukat Mahmood

FROM PAGE 3

Hasanul Haq Inu and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

SI Shahed Zobayer Laurence told the court the audio was authentic.

Inu is the lone accused in a crimes against humanity case linked to the July uprising.

The prosecution cross-

examined both witnesses,

saying their statements were false, which they denied. The tribunal will record testimony from another defence witness for Arshad today.

In a separate development, ICT-2 recorded testimony from a CID forensic lab sub-

inspector who analysed an audio conversation between JSD president and former minister

government by engaging in conspiracy, providing assistance, and inciting property damage to the Republic through mass protests. This includes holding secret meetings and consultations with leaders of various political parties, high-ranking officials and influential circles to achieve the government's removal".

Inspector Akther Morshed said, "Sufficient evidence has been found about his involvement in the incident of this case."

The report concluded that "in the interest of fair investigation and justice in the case, it is necessary to keep the arrested accused detained in the jail".

Office of the Bandarban Pourashava

Bandarban Hill District

Date : 8/12/2025

Memo No : বাংলাদেশ/ঝুঁটোবি/গৃষ্ণ-চৰা/২০২৫/১১৮
e-Tender Notice no (OTM)-01/2025-2026
e-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under IUGIP Project, LGED. Details are given below.

SL No	Description of the works & package	Tender ID No	Tender Closing &Opening (Date &Time)	Tender Security Submission (Last Date & Time)
1.	Package No: IUGIP/BAND/UT+DR/04/2023 Improvement/Construction of 230.00m Road by RCC in 01 locations, including 01 nos. 2-vent RCC Box Culvert Size (4.5x4.5x5.5m) & Installation of 09 nos. Street Lights and Construction of 1579.00m RCC Drain in 04 Locations, at Bandarban Pourashava, District: Bandarban.	1191831	31/12/2025 Time-14.00	31/12/2025 Time-12.00

- 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 e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches as per TDS.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and From e-Gp help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)

Biraj Barua
Executive Engineer
Bandarban Pourashava.
Bandarban Hill District

GD-2697

Office of the Executive Engineer

Chattogram PWD Division-4

Agrabad CGO Building No-1

Agrabad, Chattogram.

Phone- 02-333326161, Fax-031-720329

Memo No-25.36.1500.220.07.264.22.2327

Date- 08/12/2025

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice

It is hereby notified to all concern that the e-Tender invited in the National e-GP System portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> vide this office memo no- 25.36.1500.220.07.264.22.2174 Dated- 11-11-2025 the following Corrigendum has been made :-

Tender ID No	Description of Works	As Published in Tender Notice	As per Amendment
1171130	Construction of 20 storied Tax Building (3 Basement + 20 Storey) (Foundation, Basement, Super structure, Internal water supply and internal Sewerage, internal Electrification) under the project" Construction of Chattogram Tax Building" at Agrabad, Chattogram. (Package W-1).	Last selling Date and Time 10-December-2025, 16:00	Last selling Date and Time 14- December-2025, 16:00
		Closing Date and Time 11- December-2025, 12:00	Closing Date and Time 15- December-2025, 12:00

This Corrigendum is a part & parcel of the Tender.

Md. Mehedi Hassan
Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-4
Agrabad, Chattogram.
Phone : 02-333326161
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কার্ডের বিবরণ
দরপত্র
দরপত্র আবেদনকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা
মোহাম্মদ ফিলিমুল ইসলাম ডুইর, উপসচিব (জুলাই, ২০২৫)
অনুযায়ী ও প্রতিক্রিয়া দরপত্র নথির নং
১৪৪৭ হিজরি/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ সনে
হজারাতীর বাবহারের জন্ম সিডিউল প্রদানের স্বাক্ষর দরপত্র অনুযায়ী ও প্রতিক্রিয়া দরপত্র কর্তৃত করে।
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