

Bridge approach road collapses in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The approach road on one end of a newly constructed bridge in Manirampur upazila of Jashore has collapsed, snapping connectivity between two villages.

The 13.20-metre bridge was constructed over a local swamp known as Jhapa Baor in May last year under the supervision of the Upazila Engineering Department at a cost of Tk 1.92 crore.

An additional Tk 35.66 lakh was allocated for the 523-metre herringbone brick (HBB) approach roads on both sides. Nearly 100 metres of the approach road on one end of the bridge caved in on Sunday night.



Locals alleged that the road collapsed even without any rainfall due to substandard work and poor supervision.

Khaledur Rahman Titu, a member of Jhapa Union Parishad, said the road through the swamp was raised by dumping soil, but brick soling was done without properly compacting the soil, leading to the collapse.

Nishit Basu, contractor of the project, denied the allegations. "There was no irregularity in the work. The road collapsed as it could not bear the load due to silt accumulation beneath the roadbed," he claimed.

Echoing him, Khalequzzaman, assistant engineer of the Upazila Engineering Department, said the cause of the collapse had been identified and repair work would begin from next Saturday.

4 of family burnt

FROM PAGE 4

Riad said they were asleep when a loud explosion jolted them awake. Seeing flames inside the room, he rushed out carrying the child.

He said Pinky had gone to the kitchen to prepare sehri when the explosion occurred, suspecting that gas had accumulated due to a leak and ignited when the stove was lit.

Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon at the burn institute, said Noman sustained 25 percent burns, Pinky 75 percent, Maiyan 24 percent and Riad seven percent. Pinky is in critical condition, while Noman and Maiyan have been kept in the High Dependency Unit, the doctor said.

Family members said Noman works at a private company and Pinky is a homemaker. Riad, a first-year degree student from Mohanganj upazila in Netrakona, had arrived in Dhaka the previous day.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Water crisis deepens in Ctg as salinity spikes

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Hundreds of residents in Chattogram are struggling to get enough water as saltwater intrusion in the Halda River and reduced releases from Kaptai Lake have sharply curtailed freshwater production of the Chattogram Water and Sewerage Authority.

The crisis has forced CWasa to shut down its two treatment plants for several hours each day, leaving many households with irregular and insufficient supply.

"We are getting water once or twice a week, which puts us into a severe crisis to complete our household work," said Mahzabin Ahmed, a resident of Kalirhat in Akbarshah.

Mehedi Hasan, a CWasa meter inspector in the area, told The Daily Star, "We have been receiving complaints from consumers about water shortage over the last several days and have already informed our senior officials about the crisis."

According to data obtained from CWasa, the Mohra and Madunghat water treatment plants have been hit hardest by rising salinity. Both plants have a daily production capacity of 90 million litres each.

From February 13 to 16, the Mohra plant remained shut for an average of seven hours a day due to excessive salinity in the raw water. During the four days, salinity in the plant area reached an average of 2,585 mg/l. As a result, the plant's average daily production dropped by around 20 million litres during the period.

At the Madunghat plant, salinity levels averaged 1,735 mg/l between February

13 and 16. The plant had to suspend operations for an average of two hours a day over the same period.

The shortage has put additional pressure on middle- and low-income residents, forcing many to buy water from the local market, said Muminul Hoque, a salesman of a private company and a resident of Kaibalyadham.

The state water supply agency had 1,02,525 registered connections as of October last year.



However, the agency has no official data on the number of consumers affected by the ongoing crisis.

According to CWasa, daily production has fallen to around 44-45 crore litres from 50 crore litres.

Residents in several areas have also complained about high salinity in the supplied water, saying it has become undrinkable.

"We used to drink CWasa water after boiling it. But now, the water has become undrinkable due to the high salinity. For the last several days, we have been

collecting water from a neighbour's deep tubewell," said Md Faruk, a resident of Enamul Hoque Road in Chawkbazar.

Maksud Alam, chief engineer of CWasa, said the increasing salinity in the Halda forced the closure of the two plants daily in the last three weeks, leading to a reduction in production.

"Our water production depends entirely on Kaptai Lake and the Halda River. During the dry season, the Halda's upper reaches dry up, leaving us fully dependent on the Karnaphuli. But with less water in Kaptai Lake, the power plant has reduced its release, and the Karnaphuli's flow has dropped. As a result, saltwater from the Bay of Bengal is entering the Karnaphuli and reaching the Halda, spreading salinity in both rivers," he said.

Consumer rights activists voiced concern over the worsening salinity and water shortage.

Nazer Hossain, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Chattogram division, said, "We informally requested CWasa to take preparations to tackle the crisis during the dry season, as the situation has remained unchecked for the last several years. But the agency failed."

"We are demanding proper water supply for consumers as per their rights, especially during Iftar and Sehri times in Ramadan," he added.

When asked, the CWasa chief engineer said, "As the lake's water is gradually falling, we are now rationing the supply to consumers. This crisis is natural, and it cannot be resolved without rainfall."

Sunflower field BNP leaders at helm of 6 city corporations

FROM PAGE 3

challenges for the farm's staff. Despite the presence of guards, many visitors ignore restrictions, entering the field to take photographs and unintentionally damaging crops, said officials.

They said the farm authorities have deployed guards to tighten security and prevent damage to the flowers.

Officials also warned that constant human presence is deterring bees. Without these natural pollinators, the flowers cannot properly develop seeds.

"If pollination is hampered, many of the seeds will be sterile, and the production may fall short of the target," Sharif said.

FROM PAGE 3 elections are held," he told The Daily Star.

"The government should have avoided such a precedent so soon after a historic national election, which many expected would move away from the 'winner takes all' practice of monopolistic control over the politico-governance ecosystem," he added.

Abdus Salam, the new DSCC administrator, previously served as deputy mayor of the undivided Dhaka City Corporation.

He was the member secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan BNP and currently serves on the advisory council of the BNP chairperson. He also acted

as chief coordinator of the election management committee for BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman in Dhaka-17 during the last election.

Shafiqul Islam Khan, the new DNCC administrator, was a BNP candidate from Dhaka-15 in the last election, where he lost to Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman. He is a former vice-president of the central Jubo Dal committee.

Nazrul Islam Monju, the new KCC administrator, is a central organising secretary of the BNP. He served 28 years as general secretary and president of Khulna Metropolitan BNP. A former MP, he was a BNP candidate in Khulna-2 in the last

election. Reacting to his appointment, Monju said, "The prime minister has given me the responsibility to identify and solve Khulna's problems. I will work on road development, easing traffic congestion at the three city entrances, eliminating mosquitoes, addressing waterlogging, and tackling drugs and extortion."

Shawkat Hossain Sarkar, the new GCC administrator, is president of Gazipur Metropolitan BNP. He served as chairman of Kashimpur Union Parishad for 10 consecutive years until 2021.

Sakhawat Hossain Khan, the new administrator of NCC, is a senior vice-president of Narayanganj Metropolitan BNP.

He gained prominence as a lawyer representing the plaintiff in the widely discussed seven-murder case. He also served as president of the Narayanganj District Bar Association and was a BNP candidate in the 2016 NCC election.

Abdul Quyum Choudhury, the new SCC administrator, is president of Sylhet District BNP. He had sought nomination for Sylhet-3 but did not receive it. During the last election, he served as coordinator for BNP candidates in all constituencies in Sylhet district.

He told The Daily Star, "I will review all aspects of the city corporation, assess its current condition, and then determine future plans. I hope to discharge this responsibility properly with everyone's cooperation."

Meanwhile, following the appointments of the administrators, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain yesterday afternoon announced his candidacy for the DSCC mayoral post.

He had contested the same position in 2020 but was defeated.

On the other hand, on Sunday, the National Citizens' Party (NCP) finalised its preliminary mayoral candidates for the two Dhaka city corporations.

The party decided to nominate former interim government adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan for DSCC and Dhaka-18 constituency candidate Ariful Islam Adib for DNCC. (Our Sylhet correspondent contributed to this report)

COURT CORNER

Close abandoned deep tube-well shafts: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned to fill up or secure abandoned deep tube-well shafts across the country to prevent children from falling into the open holes.

The court also ordered the LGRD ministry and Dhaka Wasa to submit a compliance report within three months. The bench of Justice Ahmed Sohel and Justice Fatema Anwar passed the order after hearing a petition by SC lawyer Md Monir Uddin.

The petitioner attached reports of several incidents in which children died after falling into abandoned tube-well shafts.

Probe Ibn Sina job circular: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to formulate a guideline to ensure non-discriminatory recruitment in government and private offices.

Responding to a petition, the court asked authorities to investigate allegations against Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry PLC over issuing a job circular on January 26 restricting applications for the post of Executive/Senior Executive (Legal Affairs) to "male" and "practising Muslim" candidates only.

The HC ordered regulators to take appropriate measures to withdraw discriminatory conditions and prevent similar practices in future recruitment.

A compliance report must be submitted within three months.

HC questions legality of Village Court Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The HC has questioned the constitutional legality of the village court law which has allegedly vested judicial powers in union parishad chairmen and its members.

In a rule issued yesterday, it asked the government to explain why the Village Court Act, 2006, should not be declared contradictory to the Constitution and made null and void.

The bench of Justice Ahmed Sohel and Justice Fatema Anwar issued the rule following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan on February 15.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭
পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
তারিখঃ ১১ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

আরক নং-৭৪৫৭/এমটি/র‍্যাব-৭/১৭৫
"উন্নত যানবাহন নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

র‍্যাব কোর্সেস সদর দপ্তর আরক নং-৩৩০/৪১/অকেজো/যানবাহন/অপারেশন/৩৫ তারিখ ০২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ মূলে আগামী ০৫ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ (র‍্যাব-৭), পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম হতে সর্বমোট ১৩ টি অকেজো যানবাহন দরপত্র নিলামের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে। নিলামের শর্তসমূহ নিম্নরূপঃ

১. মালিকানা/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
২. নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৩. সঙ্গ্রাহক সত্তা	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি আরক নং ও তারিখ	আরক নং ৭৪৫৭/এমটি/র‍্যাব-৭/১৭৩ তারিখঃ ২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ ইং।
৫. বিষয়	নিশান সানি কার ০১ টি, মিস্‌সুবির্সি মাইক্রোবাস ০১ টি, এঞ্জ কল্লো কার ০১ টি, মিস্‌সুবির্সি ডাকল কেবিন পিকআপ ০১ টি, নিশান ডাকল কেবিন পিকআপ ০১ টি, মোটর সাইকেল হোভা সিঞ্জি ০৮ টি সর্বমোট ১৩ টি বিভিন্ন ধরনের যানবাহন দরপত্র নিলাম।
৬. জামানত/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম বরাবর ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরত যোগ্য) জমা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে নিলামে অংশ গ্রহণ করা যাবে।
৭. দরপত্র তফসিলের (সিডিউল) মূল্য এবং দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সমন্বয়ীমা	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরত যোগ্য) র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এমটি অফিস হতে আগামী ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ০৪ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৫০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৮. জামানত/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা/গ্রহণ এবং দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ০৫ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ব্যাটালিয়ন সদরে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐ দিনই ১২০০ ঘটিকায় নিলাম দরপত্র বাজ খোলা হবে।
৯. নিলাম যোগ্য মাল্যমান প্রদর্শন	নিলাম যোগ্য মাল্যমান প্রদর্শন পূর্বক ব্যাংক ড্রাফট করা যাবে।
১০. নিলাম মূল্য	বিস্মারিটাই কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মূল্যের অধিক মূল্য বাস্তব মাল্যমান নিলাম যোগ্য হবে না।
১১. অন্যান্য শর্ত	I. দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি-২০০৬, রেগুলেশনস-২০২৫ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক নিলাম কার্য পরিচালিত হবে। II. সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতার নিকট নিলামকৃত দ্রব্যাদি হস্তান্তর করা হবে। সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ক্রেতা ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং ১০% আয়কর পরিশোধ করতঃ নিলাম যোগ্য মাল্যমান সমগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। III. নিলামের দিন হতে সর্বোচ্চ ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত মাল্যমান সমগ্রহ করতে হবে। IV. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিলামের সকল কার্যক্রম বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ হাফিজুর রহমান, পিএসসি
লেফ্ট কর্নেল
অধিনায়ক
তারিখঃ ০২/৩৩/২০২৬

Chittagong Port Authority
Marine Engineering Department
e-Tender Notice
Serial No. 03/2026 Dated: -02-2026

Sl No.	Tender ID No. & Ref No.	Contract Package No.	Name of works	Procurement method	Tender closing date & time
1	1220929	18.13.0000.812.07.020.25	Procurement of Different Accessories for Marine Engineering Department.	LTM	16-03-2026, 11:00am
2	1221530	18.13.0000.812.07.019.25	Procurement of Various Paint (Marine Quality) for Marine Engineering Department.	LTM	16-03-2026, 11:00am
3	1221354	18.13.0000.812.07.007.25	Procurement of Electrical Accessories for Marine Engineering Department.	LTM	16-03-2026, 11:00am
4	1221517	18.13.0000.812.07.017.25	Procurement of Various Paint (Marine Quality) for Marine Engineering Department.	LTM	16-03-2026, 11:00am

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit the e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Executive/Engineer (Marine)
Chittagong Port Authority