Polluters back

FROM PAGE 5

Contacted, Shaheda Begum, deputy director of DoE (Dhaka district), did not provide the information instantly. "Submit application under RTI Act, and we will give the list of brick kilns in Savar and Dhamrai."

Similar suggestion came from Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office.

The Daily Star could not reach Savar UNO Parvezur Rahman as he did not respond to phone calls repeatedly made by this correspondent.

However, Abdur Rashid, secretary of Dhamrai Brick Kilns Owners' Association, said there are 170 brick kilns under the association. Majority of them have not been getting DoE clearance for more than a year, he admitted.

Asadur Rahman Khan, former vice president of Bangladesh Brick Manufacturing Owners' Association, could not specify the number in Savar and Dhamrai. He said about 1,200 brick kilns exist in entire Dhaka.

AUTHORITIES' VERSIONS

Begum Rubina Ferdousi, director (monitoring and enforcement) of DoE, said they don't know that all the fined brick kilns have resumed operations. "We acknowledge that several of them are doing so."

"We will conduct mobile court drives again," she said.

When asked it is possible to stop illegal brick kilns by demolishing only 5-20 percent of their bodies, Ferdousi said, "We have manpower and equipment crises. We have to depend on hired excavator to carry out demolition."

Under Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act 2013, an illegal brick kiln owner can be sentenced to maximum two years' imprisonment or fined up to Tk 20 lakh, or both.

In the recent drives, the owners were fined Tk 3-12 lakh. When asked that the conviction could be more than that as there is such a provision in the law, DoE Executive Magistrate Maksudul Islam said, "It is a judicial matter."

HC ORDER

Following a writ petition, the High Court on November 26 ordered the government to conduct drives to shut down illegal brick kilns in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj and Manikganj within 15 days.

Advocate Manzil Morshed, who filed the petition, told The Daily Star that DoE submitted a report to the HC on January 8, mentioning that it shut down around 159 illegal brick kilns in the five districts.

He said if there is any inconsistency between the report and reality, contempt of court allegation will be brought against DoE officials.

Rapid Action Battalion in a raid yesterday found stacks of printed counterfeit notes and note making materials at a flat in the capital's Dhanmondi 7/A. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Fake currency

FROM PAGE 3

The Daily Star that they had information that a fake currency-manufacturing gang was actively circulating counterfeit notes at different parts of the country for a long time.

"On Thursday night, we detained a member of the gang. Following information he provided, a team of Rab-10 carried out a drive at a house in Dhanmondi this [yesterday] morning," said Shahriar.

In a primary investigation, Rab came to know that the gang was manufacturing and circulating those fake notes from the house, situated on road 7/A in West Dhanmondi, for four to five years, he said.

The Rab official also said that they were trying to detain other members of the gang, as some of them are already convicted in fake currency manufacturing cases.

AL will

FROM PAGE 3

Khandker Mosharraf can take part in campaign but AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu and Tofail Ahmed cannot, because they are MPs?" he said.

'BNP PATRONISES COMMUNALISM'

In another event yesterday, Quader said communalism is the main impediment to building a "Sonar Bangla", as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"BNP is a patron of communalism. But we want to root it out from society and build a Sonar Bangla under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he told reporters after placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi-32, marking his Homecoming Day.

Quader said eliminating communalism from the country is a challenge for the ruling Awami League.

"Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu is significant for the Bangalee nation. On this day, our pledge is to build Awami League as a more organised and stronger party," he said.

On January 10, 1972, Bangabandhu returned to independent Bangladesh after over nine and a half months of captivity in a Pakistan jail.

Engineer's

FROM PAGE 5

1pm, said Farid Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station.

Police detected wounds on the victim's legs and forehead, the OC said.

On the day of the incident, Mehedi and Likhon were crossing the Buriganga on a trawler after finishing their work in Baktabali area.

Around 5:30am, a launch hit their trawler, making them fall into the river, family members of the duo informed law enforcers.

Need chakri?

FROM PAGE 3

and told me to go to the depot and rent a basket. I rented one for Tk 10, stood beside a road for trucks to arrive and started unloading and delivering vegetables."

Like Shahin and Sumon, over 2,000 porters with empty baskets roam around the market to unload goods from trucks after they arrive at Karwan Bazar from across the country.

And they all have to rent those for Tk 20 apiece.

Sumon said they carry around 10-50kg of goods in their baskets. "Many come to shop here at night. We carry the produce for them and deliver those to vehicles. For each trip I make around Tk 40-50."

Meanwhile, Rabiul Islam just came back from a delivery. He said he had to cross Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to deliver cauliflowers. "It was not easy, especially with the weight. But the buyer paid me extra," said the 40-year-old native of Jamalpur.

He said he starts working from 10pm and continues till 8am. "I have tried everything, from being a day labourer to rickshaw-puller, but working as a porter helped me take care of my family. I can make around Tk 1,000 on a good night."

While talking to porters, they said many work during the day. But there's more work at night with trucks being able to enter the city unrestricted and vendors getting ready to sell produce in the morning, they added.

The two-storey "Kachamal Arot Bhaban" (dry-goods depot)-- from where they rent tukris -- is situated deep inside the bazaar. After making quite a few bends and turns through damp and labyrinthine alleys and climbing a few flights of stairs without proper wall support, these correspondents finally reached this basket rental place.

The entire floor is filled with stacks of empty tukris. There are also rolled up plastic sheets and sacks. In various corners of the spacious floor, many workers were either sleeping or chatting. They said they can sleep here by paying Tk 20 as well.

These correspondents met a busy Riaj Hossain there, who was jotting down porters' names, phone numbers or addresses in his notebook before handing them baskets.

Riaj has been engaged in this line of work for over 15 years. "People from all over the country come to the capital with a hope to earn some money and support their families back home. But it's not that simple to get a job that will help them sustain," he said, sitting on a chair in front of a row of baskets.

In between conversation, a worker came up to him to rent a tukri. Riaj pulled out his notebook, wrote down his name and asked him questions like where he was from and who referred him.

"People mostly in need come here and we try to help them out. But we're also running a business here. That's why we make sure the baskets or the goods in it do not get lost or stolen," he mentioned.

He said if an unknown person wants to rent a basket then they ask for a deposit of Tk 200 and return the money once they get it back. "But in most cases, they come with references and we write down their names and give it to them for Tk 20," he added.

Riaj said around 13-15 people are involved in this (basket)business at Karwan Bazar. Altogether they have around four to five thousand baskets.

He said by renting out baskets, they make around Tk 40,000 per month. They also have workers who fix the damaged baskets or gather the empty ones.

When asked whether they are in a way forcing workers to rent those from them, Riaj said, "If a porter buys his own tukri, he will have to spend around Tk 300 for one. It may get damaged and would take another Tk 200 to fix that. Also, there's an issue of carrying those with them all the time. They may end up losing those."

"We offer them a better solution, which is hassle-free," he said. "We've been doing this for years, hence when someone new comes here he gets the impression that he has no other option but to rent one from us."

Meanwhile in another building inside the market, Matiur Rahman Mati was busy instructing workers to fix his damaged tukris.

"We mark and number our tukris so that we can collect them easily as many a times workers leave them here and there," he said. "Once in a while, some also get damaged or stolen."

"If a customer complains that his goods were stolen, we sit down with him and try to come up with a solution. Once, we had to pay off a person as his goods got stolen during delivery -- but that was a rare case," Mati added.

"It works out for all of us -- rentors and rentees. We also offer porters a place to sleep [for Tk 20]. After working in this line for so many years, we can tell who wants to rent out a basket for what purpose. Most porters have been with us for a long time. They eventually inform their villagers or family members about the work and vouch for them."

Mati said the rush for renting baskets starts at 8pm and continues till midnight while workers return those between 7am and 10am.

By the time the conversation ended, it was well past 3am. But the night seemed still young at this ever-bustling place with trucks arriving and porters' busy unloading and delivering goods.

Pangolin rescued

FROM PAGE 5

These mammals are covered in large, hardened overlapping scales with ridges. The keratin scales make up a hard shell of sorts, making the animal resemble a rui fish. Because of this resemblance, many locals call Pangolins, Bon Rui.

They are nocturnal creatures, preferring to sleep the day away.

According to experts, these animals do not harm people. They live deep in the forests of Sylhet, the Sundarbans and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Pangolins have been declared protected under the Wildlife Act of 1974.

However, the mammal is being caught and killed indiscriminately as parts of it are used for making traditional medicine or totka, said experts.

Dr M Monirul H Khan of Zoology Department at Jahangirnagar University, said the traditional medicines they are used for are not backed by any scientific fact. These are actually a technique to prey on people who may not know the facts, he added.

Pangolin is currently listed as vulnerable by the International Nature and Natural Resources Conservation Association.

First

FROM PAGE 3

But the authorities will award medals in the future if they are financially able to.

Despite the hiccup, students and teachers were satisfied that their first convocation will be taking place.

"We'll get an opportunity to rejuvenate old memories of the campus after a very long period of waiting for the wonderful event," said Syful Islam, a graduate of JnU's English department.

A total of 18,317 graduates have registered for attending the convocation, said JnU Registrar Md Ohiduzzaman. Among them, some 11,877 are to get their graduation certificates, and 4,829 will receive postgraduate certificates.

Six researchers will be conferred with Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees, and 11 with Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degrees, the registrar said. A total of 1,574 people will receive certificates for evening programmes.

"The authorities will organise convocations regularly from now on. The second one is likely to be held in February next year," Mijanur hoped.

The then Jagannath College was turned to a public university in 2005 through a government gazette notification.

No room

FROM PAGE 3

the instructions of Bangabandhu and disgracing him. "

The Gonoforum president urged all not to defy Bangabandhu.

Recalling Bangabandhu's homecoming event, he said Bangabandhu was honoured as the head of the state at the London airport on his way back home from Pakistan's prison along with him. "British police gave Bangabandhu salute and said 'we prayed for you'."

He said many programmes are being held to pay homage to Bangabandhu on the occasion of his homecoming day. "The way to show respect to Bangabandhu is to completely obey his instructions. "

Dr Kamal urged the country's people to get united so that they can enjoy their basic and constitutional rights.

It's all too loud

FROM PAGE 3

source of sound pollution.

"Vehicles of different government officials do not obey the law regarding sound pollution, so how we could expect that general drivers would follow it?" he questioned.

Matin stressed on enhancing responsible role of all drivers to control sound pollution in the city.

General Secretary of the environment rights body Sharif Jamil said health risks including the number of patients with heart diseases are increasing day by day due to intolerable sound.

"Besides raising public awareness, a long-term plan is needed to eliminate such crisis" Sharif Jamil observed.

An 11-point recommendation was also presented at the press conference. The recommendations include: undertaking scientific research and awareness programmes before declaring a "silent area"; installing signposts in different zones; conducting mobile courts regularly; not transforming residential areas into commercial areas; increasing coordination among all stakeholders; stopping import of hydraulic horns; increasing penalty for noise pollution through horns; issuing licenses after verifying drivers' sound awareness; increasing use of public vehicles instead of private vehicles; increasing greenery on city streets; determining standard level of sound for all types of vehicles and generators; not issuing exemptions in setting up factories without taking steps to reduce noise level; and implementation of proper laws in this regard.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

Memo: 35.02.0000.003.24.001.19-07 Date: 08/01/2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Technical Consultants (Individual)

1. **Background**
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is the Transport Planning and Coordination Authority of greater Dhaka. It has prepared the Transport Master Plan of Dhaka named as Strategic Transport Plan (STP). STP (revised and modified in 2015) is the guiding document for all possible planning and transportation infrastructure development works within Dhaka and adjacent districts. DTCA like to hire Technical Consultants experienced in Urban Public Transport, Traffic Safety, Parking and Management, Clearing House Software Management and Clearing House Network Management.

2. **Scope of Tasks/Service and Qualifications of Technical Consultants**
The Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is hereby requesting proposals for the following 4 (four) positions of Technical Consultants (individual). The consultants will be exposed to a wide range of urban transport issues, traffic safety, parking and management in Dhaka city. Adequate support on Clearing House Software Management and Network Management related issues will be asked to provide to DTCA.

Post	Brief Scope of Tasks/Services	Qualifications
Technical Consultant (Urban Public Transport) (18 Man-months)	• Provide technical Support on urban public transport system. • Technical analysis, mapping, data collection and presentation, report production and related activities to DTCA. • Assist DTCA for Revised STP, Planning and implementing bus route rationalization process, NMT, multimodal hub TOD, Smart City etc. for Dhaka.	• Have at least bachelor degree in Civil Engineering/ Urban Planning or in relevant subjects with at least have general experience of 6 years of which minimum 3 years must be in transport related. • Have an understanding of principal urban transport issues, particularly Urban Public Transport issues of Dhaka and be prepared to work independently to conduct research.
Technical Consultant (Traffic Safety, Parking and Management) (18 Man-months)	• Provide technical Support for traffic safety, parking and management. • Technical analysis, mapping, data collection and presentation, report production and related activities to DTCA. • Assist DTCA for Revised STP, parking policy, necessary action plans in order to improve the traffic safety, innovative measures for traffic management including NMT, pedestrian, informal transport etc.	• Have at least bachelor degree in Civil Engineering/ Urban Planning or in relevant subjects with at least have general experience of 6 years of which minimum 3 years must be in transport related. • Have an understanding of principal urban transport issues, particularly Parking, traffic safety and road traffic management issues of Dhaka and be prepared to work independently to conduct research.
Technical Consultants (Clearing House Network Management) (18 Man-months)	• Ensure smooth operation of Clearing House Network, Implement Security features as per international standard. • Implement new network topology to enhance security when necessary, network and System health monitoring.	• Have at least bachelor degree in Computer Science and/or Engineering/Electrical Engineering/Information Technology/Software Development/Management or in relevant subjects with 5 years general experience and 3 years' experience in software and hardware VPN. • CISCO certified Network Professional (CCNP) will be preferred.
Technical Consultants (Clearing House Software Management) (18 Man-months)	• Enhance clearing house software usability. • Add new features to the current system. • Manage Software code with state of the art software code management. • Training DTCA officers Source code documentations.	• Have at least bachelor degree in Computer Science and/or Engineering/Electrical Engineering/Information Technology/Software Development/Management or in relevant subjects with 5 years general experience and 3 years' experience in C/C++ and Linux software development.

3. The Authority now invites eligible Technical Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms).
4. Interested Applicants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the Application Forms and may obtain the Request for Application document from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours or may obtain through email on request.
5. The consultants will be selected using the selection of Individual Consultants in accordance with PPR 2008.
6. It is expected that the service will commence in **March 2020** at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
7. Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by **29/01/2020** in sealed envelope sent to Traffic Engineer, DTCA and clearly marked Expression of Interest for Individual Technical Consultant.
8. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Traffic Engineer
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Telephone: +8802-9569262 Fax: +8802-9568892
Email: anis89buet96@gmail.com

GD-66

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4 Bedroom @ North Gulshan
01755-607594
01755-607592

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Vacancy Announcement
Published on: 11 January 2020

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications of qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions to be filled under the Emergency Programme based at Cox's Bazar". The Incumbents will be recruited as National Project Personnel:

1. **National Programme Coordinator**
2. **Logistics Assistant**
3. **Driver**

To apply, visit the FAO employment website at **Jobs at FAO** and complete the on-line application. Only applications received through online will be considered.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

United Medical College (UMC) organised a programme to welcome 50 students of its first MBBS batch at United Hospital Seminar Hall on Thursday. Chairperson of both United Group and Governing Body of UMC Hasan Mahmood Raja was chief guest. PHOTO: COLLECTED