

Worried, they join EC training

16,000 teachers being trained as polling officials for CCC election

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Amid fear of coronavirus spread, teachers in port city yesterday started participating in a training session to discharge duties at polling centres as presiding, assistant presiding and polling officers for the upcoming Chattogram City Corporation polls.

According to election officials, the training will be conducted in five phases till March 28, which includes training for vote casting official, demonstrators, sessions for demo votes, mock voting on EVM (electronic voting machine) and distribution of election-related materials.

Even though the government has declared shutdown of educational institutions and discouraged social gatherings as precautionary measures against the possible spread of coronavirus in the country, the Election Commission (EC) is planning to hold the polls on March 29.

This correspondent spoke to over 10

teachers of various educational institutions who expressed their concerns, saying such gatherings and interactions with a large number of people may put their lives at risk.

Some of the teachers said they have no other option but to comply with the government order as they are government employees. They urged the authorities concerned to defer the polls date.

"What choice do we have? We have to accept the decision and work amid risk," said a teacher, requesting anonymity.

Munir Hossain, assistant returning officer of Chattogram Regional Election Office, told The Daily Star that the training started yesterday morning and continued till 5pm. "We are going to train up 16,000 teachers of schools and colleges as polling officers in phases," he said.

Asked about fear of coronavirus among teachers, he evaded the question and hung up.



Work together to tackle coronavirus

Info minister urges all Bss, Ctg

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday urged all to stand by people shunning political differences to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country.

"I urge all political parties, including BNP, to combat the deadly coronavirus disease... It will be unfortunate, if anyone does politics over the COVID-19," he said.

The minister made the call at a press briefing after exchanging views with the officials of Bangladesh Television in Chattogram.

General Manager of BT, Chattogram centre

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK Awareness campaign launched in Rajshahi



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

With an aim to aware people on how to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, government officials in Rajshahi launched a campaign yesterday.

As part of the initiative, they went to different areas of the city and handed over leaflets to residents. Wearing masks and hand gloves, the officials also spoke to shop owners and vendors over the issue.

Talking to the journalists, Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Humayun Kabir said though no one was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Abducted teenager rescued

Culprit sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sent a youth to jail after arresting him in the capital on Thursday in connection with abducting a schoolgirl.

The court sent the arrestee, identified as Md Jafarullah (20), of Satrashia village in Muktagacha of Mymensingh, to jail after he was produced before it yesterday, said Officer-in-Charge (investigation) of Muktagacha Police Station Md Jahangir Alam.

Police also rescued the abducted ninth grader from captivity, said the OC.

The girl will be sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for medical test today, added the OC.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sub-inspector Humayun Kabir raided Bangshal area in Dhaka on Thursday. They arrested Jafarullah and rescued the 14-year-old from his captivity, said the OC.

Jafarullah was taken to the police station on Thursday night, the OC said.

The girl's mother lodged a case with Muktagacha Police Station on Sunday accusing six persons including Jafarullah. Police arrested Jafarullah's brother Md Toukir and uncle Babul Mia on the same day. Later, they were sent to jail through the Mymensingh court, said the OC.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Jafarullah had been stalking the girl for a while.

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TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers are specialized birds. They have unusual features and capabilities that work together to achieve one goal: to find insects that are hidden inside the bark of trees or other covered areas such as termite or ant hills.

Here is one example of those special features. Suppose you banged your head against a wall, not once, but several thousand times a day. Chances are you would faint - or worse, suffer brain damage - from the shock. Yet, that is what a woodpecker does every day without any problem as it pecks on trees looking for cavities that may contain insects.

To mitigate the shock of the blows, woodpeckers have evolved skull bones that act like shock absorbers. They also have hard, wedge-shaped tail feathers which they use to support themselves as they climb up a tree trunk. Most woodpecker species have three toes facing forward and one facing back. This helps them climb vertically. Their long, rolled-up tongues are covered with sticky saliva. When a woodpecker opens an insect cavity inside a tree, it unrolls its tongue which reaches deep into the cavity. Insects, larvae and eggs stick to the saliva and the bird rolls back its tongue to extract them.

The flight of woodpecker is also distinctive. It flies slower than many other birds in an undulating, wavy pattern. To find a mate a male woodpecker will drum with its beak and follow up with a display flight and loud calls. Most woodpeckers usually build their homes in tree cavities.

There are 218 species of woodpecker in the world. Nineteen of them can be seen in Bangladesh. They vary in colour and range in



Lesser Yellow-nape, Kalenga Forest, Habiganj.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

size from the tiny White-browed Piculet (9 cm.) to the large Great Slaty Woodpecker (50 cm.)

Incidentally, both are rare and have eluded me. On the other hand, our most common woodpecker is the Black-rumped Flameback sporting a red crown and a yellow back. I see it almost every day in the trees in our local park.

Several other woodpeckers are also common in Bangladesh. In the countryside you can see Fulvous-breasted and Rufous Woodpeckers. My favourite woodpeckers, however, are found in the forests. They are the Greater and Lesser Yellow-nape, their bright yellow crowns standing out

against an olive green body. The rare Streak-Breasted Woodpecker is seen exclusively in Sundarban where I have also seen the tiny Speckled Piculet. The Eurasian Wryneck, whose outward appearance resembles the texture of a snake, can turn its head in awkward angles, earning the Bengali name "Gharbyetha." It is a winter migrant, but the rest of our woodpeckers live here year-round.

Woodpeckers occupy a special place among all birds. In Bangladesh, we are blessed with a diverse selection of woodpeckers.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow ihtishamkabir on Instagram.

Fishing cat gives birth at Sreemangal zoo



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A fishing cat gave birth to two kittens at the zoo of Bangladesh Bonyo Prani Sheba Foundation in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila yesterday morning. The cat gave birth around 6am, said Swapan Deb Sajal, director of the foundation.

The foundation recovered the fishing cat ten years ago from people who caught it in the upazila's Hail Haor area.

She mated with a male fishing cat that is also being kept at the centre. The mother and kittens are healthy, Sajal said. Arrangements have been made for their safety and health.

The foundation is a recovery and recuperation centre for wild animals in

the area, which borders on evergreen forests in the region, home to several endangered species such as the eastern hoolock gibbon and the capped langur.

The fishing cat is classified by International Union for Conservation of Nature as a vulnerable species.

Fishing cats are adept at swimming, and the skill is essential as their diet is mainly fish. The average lifespan of these creatures in captivity is 10-12 years.

Suffering from continuous encroachment on their habitat, wild animals from the region often wander into villages and get attacked and captured by humans. Sheba Foundation recovers such animals and releases them back into the wild.

6 killed, 12 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 12 others were injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondents and two news agencies.

In Mymensingh, a road accident killed two people on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila early yesterday.

The victims were identified as truck driver Jamal Uddin (40) and helper Shakil Ahmed (22), police said.

The accident occurred around 2am at Bhaluka Municipal area when a goods-laden truck hit another Dhaka-bound truck from the back, killing the duo on the spot. They were on the goods-laden truck, quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Bhaluka Highway Police Outpost Al Mahmud Adnan said.

Police and firefighters recovered the bodies and handed them over to the respective families, the official said.

Police seized both the trucks but the other truck's driver fled the scene. A case was lodged in this regard.

In Tangail, a 12-year-old boy was killed and another person was injured in a motorbike accident at Ghatail upazila yesterday.

The deceased is seventh-grader Mohamad Shahin, of Fulmalirchala village under Sagardighi union.

Quoting locals, OC Jakir Hossain of Sagardighi Police Outpost, said the accident occurred at Jordighi area around 11am when Shahin, along with one Jahangir, was going to Koiadi Bazar of adjacent Bhaluka upazila.

Shahin, who was driving the bike, lost control over the vehicle and crashed it onto a roadside tree, leaving the duo hurt, with Shahin incurring a critical head injury.

Locals rescued and rushed them to Ghatail Upazila Health Complex, where on-duty doctors later declared Shahin dead, the official added.

In Habiganj, Noman Ahmed (25) was killed and five were injured after a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Shaistaganj upazila yesterday, reports BSS.

Locals said the accident occurred at Nasrotpur area around noon. The collision left auto-rickshaw passenger Noman critically injured. He later died at a local hospital.

The injured were admitted to a Habiganj hospital. In Narsingdi, two people were killed and six injured after a truck hit a pick-up on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Madhabdi area yesterday, reports UNB.

Identities of the victims could not be known yet. The accident took place around 6am in front of Pakjia Steel Mill.

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Tender Notice No. 12/2019-20 ADP (Revenue)

এতদ্বারা স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের ফরিদপুর অঞ্চলের আওতাধীন জেলাসমূহের (ফরিদপুর, রাজবাড়ী, গোপালগঞ্জ) তালিকাভুক্ত (২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের) স্থানীয় সরকার নবায়নকৃত সকল শ্রেণীর টিকাদার/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের ADP (Revenue) অর্থ এবং ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী (এডিপি) তে গৃহীত ও প্রণীত খাতের আওতায় ০২ (দুই) টি প্যাকেজের প্রকল্পসমূহের কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮" ও তৎপরবর্তী সকল সংশোধনীসমূহের আলোকে সীমিত দরপত্র LTM পদ্ধতি অনুযায়ী যোগ্য টিকাদারের নিকট হতে শর্ত প্রতিপালনপূর্বক নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর, ফরিদপুর বরাবর দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য	বায়নার অর্থের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা
১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬
ADP (Rev)/19-20/01	১ ফরিদপুর সদর উপজেলা পরিষদের দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব সম্মুখীন গেট নির্মাণ কাজ।	২১১৬০০০.০০	৬৩৫০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৬০ দিন
ADP (Rev)/19-20/02	২ ফরিদপুর সদর উপজেলা পরিষদের অভ্যন্তরে সুবিধাজনক স্থানে বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব ম্যুরাল নির্মাণ কাজ।	৬৫০০০০.০০	১৯৫০০.০০	৭৫০.০০	৬০ দিন
২।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	LTM			
৩।	অর্থের উৎস	ADP (Revenue) 2019-20			
৪।	ট্রেন্ডিং নিতি	২৯/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ			
৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ১২/০৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ১। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর। ২। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, মধুখালী, ফরিদপুর। ৩। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর।			
৬।	দরপত্র দলিল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ ০১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ১। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর। ২। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, মধুখালী, ফরিদপুর। ৩। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর।			
৭।	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ ৩:০০ ঘটিকা। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর, ফরিদপুর।			
৮।	দরপত্রের বৈধতার মেয়াদ দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিন।				

শর্তসমূহঃ

- দাখিলকৃত দর প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের চেয়ে ৫% উর্ধ্ব অথবা নিম্নদরের অধিক দর দাখিল করিলে দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- দরপত্রের সাথে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের স্থানীয় সরকার নবায়নকৃত এলজিইডি (ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল) লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- দরপত্রে টিকাদারের স্বাক্ষর ও দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র ভুয়া বা জাল প্রমাণিত হলে, তাহা সরাসরি বাতিল হবে।
- দরপত্রের সাথে বায়নার অর্থ উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর, ফরিদপুর বরাবর বিডি, সিডি ও পে-অর্ডার আকারে যে কোন সরকারি তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে নির্ধারিত হারে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্রে, বিলে ও পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি গ্রহণে অবশ্যই টিকাদারের নাম ও ঠিকানা সফলিত সীল ব্যবহার করতে হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- দরপত্র খামের উপর প্যাকেজ নং ও প্রকল্পের নাম স্পষ্টাক্ষরে উল্লেখ করে উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফরিদপুর সদর, ফরিদপুর বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।

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জিডি-৫৫৫

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