

10,000 earthen nests for birds

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

To resist gradual habitat loss of avian species, Cox's Bazar district administration along with an environmental organisation is working to set up 10,000 earthen nests for birds across Cox's Bazar district.

Md Kamal Hossen, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, inaugurated the initiative by setting up 50 of these nests at his bungalow yesterday morning. "We have started with 50 earthen nests today. We will gradually expand to other areas," the DC said.

He told The Daily Star that they they planned to set up the nests primarily at government offices and government officials' residences across the district.

Citing a six month's plan, Kamal said the district administration sourced primary expenditure from its own funds, while the rest will be provided by conservation organisation "Environment People", which also help in setting up the nests.

Rashedul Majid, chief executive of Environment People, told The Daily Star, "Hills, forests, rivers, sea all combined to make Cox's Bazar a unique natural hub once



To bring back our avian friends, Cox's Bazar District Administration and "Environment People" have planned to set up 10,000 earthen nests across the district.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

upon a time. Unfortunately, those days are gone."

"These days, birds are rarely seen as their habitats got shrunk. This is why we have come up with this initiative", he added.

Observance and maintenance will be the key focus of the programme, Majid added.

Moulvibazar road crash kills two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two people were killed and at least five injured yesterday after a car and bus collided head-on in Habiganj's Bahubal upazila.

The deceased were identified as car driver Sanjeet Karmakar (36) from Sreemangal upazila, and Anjali (60), a tea worker from Bahubal.

According to locals, a passenger bus of Habiganj Express collided while overtaking the car, killing the car driver on the spot.

After taking the injured to Sreemangal health complex and Habiganj Sadar Hospital, doctors declared Anjali dead.

Sreemangal Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Sajjad Hossain Chowdhury said conditions of the injured, including a two-year-old child, were critical.

Upon receiving news, Shayestaganj Fire Service and police recovered the body, said Sub-inspector Selim Mia, in-charge of Kamaichhara police outpost.

The bus driver fled the scene after the incident, he said.

Traffic on Dhaka-Sylhet old highway remained halted for half an hour after the accident.

BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER CASE Verdict on Oct 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set October 27 for delivering judgment in a case filed against five members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) over the murder of blogger Oyasiqur Rahman Babu murder in 2015.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka set the date after defence lawyers completed arguments, assistant public prosecutor Md Salahuddin Howlader confirmed to The Daily Star.

Defence told the court the prosecution has failed to prove charges brought against their clients and sought acquittal.

The prosecution on September 21 completed arguments and sought capital punishment for all accused. Twenty-four prosecution witnesses out of 40 gave their depositions before the court so far in the case.

Oyasiqur (27) was attacked by three cleaver-wielding youths in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area on March 30, 2015. Monir Hossain, brother-in-law of the victim, filed a murder case with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station.

On September 1, 2015, Mashir Rahman, an inspector of Detective Branch of police, submitted charge sheet against five people to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, showing 40 people as prosecution witnesses.

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka framed charges against five ABT members on July 20, 2016. Of the accused, Zikrullah alias Hasan, Ariful Islam alias Mushfiq and Md Saiful Islam are now behind bars, while two others -- Akram Hossain Hasib alias Abdullah and Junayed alias Taher -- are on the run.

Cops foil

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Jubo Andolan and Sujoy Biswas, convener of Socialist Student Front (Marxist) of Barisal University.

They were involving workers at Crescent Jute Mill to bring out a coffin procession.

Confirming the detention, police said they did not have permission from Khulna Metropolitan Police to hold the event.

The procession -- organised by Jute Mill Protection Workers-Farmers-Students-Janata Oikya Parishad -- was supposed to be brought out at 4pm yesterday.

Visiting the area around 4pm, a large number of police personnel were seen in Khalishpur industrial area. Police closed the entrance to BIDC Road in Notunrasta area after 12:30pm. Industrial police were deployed at each mill gate.

Niaz Murshid, an activist of the movement, told The Daily Star that a workers' rally was held on October 2 in Crescent Jute Mill area. Yesterday's coffin procession was announced from that rally. On October 3, a letter was given to the KMP headquarters seeking permission for the procession.

Mollah Jahangir Hossain, deputy commissioner of KMP, said none was allowed to hold the procession.

The activist said they attempted to did so as police did not prohibit as well.

Online classes

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we are doing that," Dipu Moni said.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, Secondary and Higher Education Division Secretary Mahbub Hossain, Technical and Madrasa Education Division Secretary Aminul Islam Khan, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director General Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, and Dhaka Education Board Chairman Ziaul Haque among others spoke at the programme.

Officials of the Dhaka board said around 12.50 lakh students have enrolled at colleges across the country and many of them started online classes.

It is not possible to take classes in physical classrooms due to the coronavirus pandemic, and therefore it was decided to conduct classes online for students admitted to Class XI in this academic year, so that their studies are not disrupted, they said.

2 held

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putting more pressure on the victim's father -- a fisherman and a low caste Hindu -- the complainant alleged.

Meanwhile, protesting the rape, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad formed a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, demanding justice.

City Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury, former AL organising secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj, and former president of Sylhet District Bar Association EU Shahidul Islam were present at the human chain, among others.

Cartoonist

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"Ahmed is a cartoonist and activist known to CRNI for over a decade. He campaigned bravely on behalf of the disappeared Sri Lankan cartoonist Prageeth Eknaligoda (2010) and jailed Bangladeshi cartoonist Arifur Rahman (2007) and identified as a CRNI "affiliate leader" in the country," the article said.

"Doing so inevitably made him a target for accusations of aligning with foreign interests. This speaks to his courage, as do his public demonstrations for the human rights not only of cartoonists but also hijra people and in defense of health and consumer rights and the Bengali language," it added.

The Robert Russell Courage in Cartooning Award aims to recognise the plight of a cartoonist experiencing violations of human rights -- and in the organisation's view, that is what has happened to Ahmed.

"2020 has been an extraordinarily,

exceptionally bad year. We could have presented the "Robert Russell" (award) to European cartoonists whose censure was requested by Chinese diplomats, to a Jordanian cartoonist arrested for caricaturing the crown prince of the UAE, Brazilian cartoonists harassed by law enforcement, an Algerian cartoonist detained for "disrespecting" the military or a Palestinian cartoonist subjected to mass internet trolling and death threats over a cartoon to which Saudi Arabians took offense," the organisation stated.

"Ahmed Kabir Kishore's case is emblematic of the times in which we live; his freedom to express skepticism and dissent has been violated and that in itself would be sufficient to attract our attention, but for the last six months his life has been needlessly put at risk by detention in jail -- universally recognised as an environment where corona virus is a higher risk," the article said.

New Indian

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Bangladesh ties!"

After meeting with the Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais, he tweeted that the governor's guidance was most welcome.

"Sustained interest in Tripura in the best possible ties with Bangladesh," the tweet also said.

Meanwhile, outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das left Dhaka for Delhi on Friday after serving one-and-a-half years in Dhaka.

She will join as Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs.

Before leaving Bangladesh, she tweeted, "Good bye Bangladesh. Wish to thank everyone for their cooperation in making it an extremely productive tenure. Taking back many fond memories of the warmth and hospitality."

MA Rashid's death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of MA Rashid, a former secretary, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his second son's residence in Satarkul in the capital after the Maghrib prayers.

Rashid's family members have requested all relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Guests at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Duke of Edinburgh Award ceremony held at Pink City

CITY DESK

The launching ceremony of the first community based award programme under The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award was held on Saturday at the Pink City Model Town in the capital, said a press release.

With this, Pink City Home Owner Co-Operative Society Limited became the first residential community partner of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award-Bangladesh.

In the chief guest's speech, Robert Chatterton Dickson, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, said "As the proud parent of a Gold Award winner I know that The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award does a lot to help young people develop as active leaders and citizens. This will be even more important as young people face new opportunities and challenges in a world

recovering from COVID-19 pandemic."

Special guest The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, "You all should have a dream, the dream to make the world greener and more liveable. I hope this award will help you nurture and shape that dream."

The ceremony was also attended by Rizwan Bin Farouq, Member, Board of Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation Bangladesh; Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; TIM Nurul Kabir, Executive Director of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dr Shaikh Faridul Islam and Abdur Rahman, former and current president of Pink City Home Owner Co-Operative Society Limited respectively; executive committee members and other residents of the co-operative society, and 16 award participants.

Time to

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Regarding laws, she commented, "We do have stringent laws in place that provide for harsh punishments for rape. However, it is now clear that the existing laws have failed to work as deterrent factors for the perpetrators. The deep-seated culture of impunity has almost become a norm and the potential perpetrators are not fearful of the laws or the punishments that such laws provide for, anymore."

"Now it is time to rethink the legal framework; we need to emphasise more on the effective implementation of the existing laws. The Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain of 2000 has introduced stringent punishment for rape; however, the substantive definition of rape is drawn from the Penal Code, 1860, which is a colonial holdover. Lessons need to be learned from different countries in reforming the rape laws and making those suitable for the present times," she said

"The procedural laws also need to be revisited and reformed (for example, it is high time we reformed the provision of Evidence Act, 1872 that makes room for character assassination of a rape victim during trials," she added.

Additionally, she observed, "Gender-sensitivity in dealing with rape cases needs to be ensured at all levels for individuals who are engaged in investigation and justice dispensation. We need to ensure competence, transparency, and sincerity from all criminal justice actors in this regard."

When asked if reforming laws alone will be enough, she opined, "Beyond laws, we also need to think about the societal issues that contribute to the increase in sexual crimes like rape. Gender inequality and misogyny permeating different spheres of the society now need to be addressed with comprehensive plans as well as policy initiatives."

Crumbling before

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He said the academy building was to be handed over in June, 2017. According to the project, an open stage, art gallery and a 500-seat auditorium would be constructed. But the work period was extended repeatedly.

On December 26, 2019, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid visited the under-construction building and asked the project officer and contractor to complete work within February 28, 2020.

"Those instructions were ignored by the contractor; the building is now abandoned as work is halted," he added.

Many components -- fans and air-conditioners, toilets, furniture and elevators -- have not been installed yet.

Khorshed Alam, managing director of project contractor Infinity Engineering Ltd, said due to the pandemic, construction work was disrupted. There were also delays for extra work outside the original project plan. They are quickly repairing the ceiling, he added.

The original cost of the project was Tk 19.86 crore, later increased to Tk 23 crore. Authorities are trying to hand it over as soon as possible, said project director Mainur Rahim.

Kajal Ghosh said Shilpakala Academy is the lifeblood of cultural activities, but construction work was not completed in five years due to negligence. Cultural activities are being disrupted and activists are being deprived, he said.

"The ceiling had collapsed due to poor quality work. We demand an inquiry into this," he added.

SM Ajiar Rahman, deputy commissioner of Barishal, urged authorities to hand over the building immediately.

Virtual

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including Rokeya Kabir, Joyanta Adhikari, Shireen Haque, Shaheen Anam, Morshed Sarker, Rafiqul Islam, and Abdul Awal -- will take part in different sessions.

Around 500 local NGOs and CSOs will participate in the virtual sessions.

Mostafa Kamal Akanda of COAST, a local NGO, said since 2014, Bangladesh local NGOs had participated in UN-led process for World Humanitarian Summit, which ended with Grand Bargain (2016) agreement, envisaging localisation, aid transparency, and participation revolution.

First meeting

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safety movement, where students demonstrated for safe roads following the death of two college students in a road accident in Dhaka on July 29.

On September 9 of that year, a 10-member committee -- comprising of representatives from government bodies, police, transport owners, workers and transportation experts -- was formed, with then DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon as convener.

However, the project faltered again since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, as the committee failed to hold any meetings in the last six months.

Tuesday's meeting will be the first since Taposh took charge as Dhaka South City Corporation mayor in May.

"We have primarily selected 22 routes in Dhaka and its periphery for the plan," Saleh Uddin told this correspondent.

After observing outcomes of the pilot plan, the project will be subjected to some modification after considering demands of other projects like metro rail, he said.

Till July 1, 2019, as per BRTA Route Permit Data, there are 291 active routes with 9,027 buses and minibuses permitted to operate in Dhaka, said a DTCA official.

The study identified 520 locations of existing bus stops, along the 291 existing routes, Saleh said.

According to him, the committee has already prepared proposals for bus bays, bus stoppages, ticket counters for the pilot route, which will be presented at the

meeting.

While the number of major bus companies will be six, some subordinate companies may also come under the six mother companies based on necessity, he added.

Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology said the ongoing delay to adopt the system is not acceptable.

He said this system is already being applied in different countries and Bangladesh can also adopt it quickly. What is needed is political decision for its implementation, but six years have already passed.

"I think it is not possible to implement within six months, but it is also not work of six years," he said.



"To implement the bus route rationalisation system, some important things will have to be followed, and I hope they are doing it," Newaz added.

These include making all buses same coloured, giving drivers uniforms, stopping only at designated stops, drivers appointed based on salary and not trip based, drivers trained on road safety, buses brought under a digital system so that a passenger can easily know about its position and can know when they can get the next bus.

All these ingredients will have to be included in the pilot route, so that they can implement the system properly, he suggested.

সুলাভে গুনগত মানের rt-PCR for Covid-19 পরীক্ষা

□ অত্যাধুনিক মেশিনে, অভিজ্ঞ বিশেষজ্ঞের তত্ত্বাবধানে বিশ্বস্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার নীতিমালা অনুসরণে BSL2 ল্যাবরেটরিতে rt-PCR for Covid-19 পরীক্ষা।



□ দুপুর ২ টার মধ্যে নমুনা দিলে রাত ৯ টার মধ্যে ফলাফল।

□ এপয়েন্টমেন্ট* নিয়ে বাসা থেকে সংগ্রহ করা হয়, তবে চার্জ এক হাজার টাকা।

□ পরীক্ষা বাবদ চার্জ হবে ৩০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা।

□ উদ্বোধন উপলক্ষ্যে প্রথম সপ্তাহে প্রতিদিন প্রথম ৫০টি নমুনা পরীক্ষার চার্জ হবে মাত্র ২৫০০.০০ টাকায়।


* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

গণস্বাস্থ্য আরএনএ মলিকিউলার ডায়াগনস্টিক এন্ড রিসার্চ সেন্টার এর সহযোগিতায়

গণস্বাস্থ্য প্যাথলজী এন্ড ডায়াগনস্টিক সেন্টার

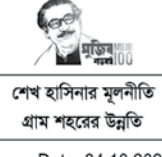
বাড়ী-১৪/ই, রোড-৬, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫।

ফোনঃ ০২-৯৬৭০০৭১-৫, ০১৭০৯৬৬৩৯৯৪, ০৯৬০২১১৯৪০, ০৯৬০২১১৯৪১



Rajshahi City Corporation

Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi



শেখ হাসিনার মুদ্রা
প্রথম শহরের উদ্ভা

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1386

e-Tender Notice

(IFT 04/2020-21)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

Sl No.	ID	Reference No.	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	500644	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1387	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 01, 02 & 03 (Salvage Tk 340,856.33).	12.30pm on 04-Nov-2020
2.	500732	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1388	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 04, 05, 06 & 08 (Salvage Tk 3,927,434.42).	
3.	501114	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1389	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 07, 09, 11, 12 & 13 (Salvage Tk 4,753,770.31).	
4.	501155	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1390	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 10, 14, 15 & 16 (Salvage Tk 43,48,003.77).	
5.	501209	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1391	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 17, 18 & 19 (Salvage Tk 19,73,144.88).	
6.	501482	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1392	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road, Footpath and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24 (Salvage Tk 50,81,870.93).	
7.	501484	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1393	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road, Footpath and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 26, 27 & 28 (Salvage Tk 26,33,853.63).	
8.	501556	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1394	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 25, 29 & 30 (Salvage Tk 30,08,308.98).	

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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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স্বাক্ষর/স্বাক্ষর-৯৮(২০২০-২০২১)
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