

Stop encroachment of Talma river within 72hrs: HC to govt

Asks Panchagarh DC to prepare list of grabbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned of the government to take necessary steps to stop in 72 hours the encroachment on the Talma River in Panchagarh and the construction of structures in it.

The court asked the upazila nirbahi officer of Panchagarh Sadar and officer-in-charge of its police station to take the steps and to submit separate reports in two weeks to it after complying with the directive.

In response to a writ petition, the HC directed the deputy commissioner of Panchagarh to prepare a list of the grabbers of Talma River in line with the CS and RS records and to submit the list to this court.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why their inaction to protect the river should not be declared illegal and why they should not be ordered to take necessary steps to protect the river.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The HRPB submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on November 10 to the HC following a report published on a Bangla daily on November 3 on the encroachment of Talma and construction of structures in it.

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC that encroachment of river and construction of structures in it is illegal and a violation of the waterbodies and environment protection laws.

He prayed to the HC to pass necessary directives to stop encroachment of the river.



Four people, including two children, were seen commuting on a single motorbike at the capital's Banglamotor yesterday. Although the younger child's head is covered to protect it from the cold as winter is around the corner, the adults, both wearing helmets themselves, didn't protect the little ones from the immediate danger of an accident. At least 1,026 people were killed in 1,011 motorcycle accidents in the country in the last 10 months, according to Road Safety Foundation.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TIB report

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actions against all sorts of irregularities and misdeeds and is bringing all offenders to justice in a self-motivated way not on recommendation or demand of any agency, organisation or party."

Mentioning the government's stance against corruption, he said if TIB gives a list by specifying where irregularities and corruption are taking place, the government would take actions.

Quader said the rising questions in

people's mind about the purpose of conducting the study is quite natural. "People think the research was not conducted under specific structure of social science, rather it was conducted on politically-motivated or other purposes," he said.

Pointing to BNP, he said the party did not do anything for distressed people during the pandemic. As AL leaders and workers stayed beside people, they were infected more by the deadly virus and many have died, he added.

DOPE TEST OF TRANSPORT WORKERS BRTA forms committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) yesterday formed a committee to implement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to bring public transport workers under a dope testing system.

The nine-member committee, led by BRTA's director (administration), was asked to submit a report within seven working days, BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star last night.

The committee would have representatives from Police Headquarters, Highway Police, transport owners, workers, health and narcotics departments, he said.

The decision came at a meeting called yesterday at BRTA head office, with leaders of transport owners and workers, along with police officials.

The committee would determine the methodology to conduct dope tests, places, and relevant issues and next course of action would be set following their report, the BRTA chairman said.

Meanwhile, transport leaders demanded that the authorities conduct the test on transport workers free of cost.

Speaking on October 22 at an event marking National Road Safety Day, PM Hasina directed authorities to bring drivers under dope testing system.

"We need to know whether those who are driving [vehicles] use drugs. They need to undergo dope testing. This test is absolutely essential for each driver. You must do it," she said.

The premier gave several other directives on the occasion. On October 27, the Road Transport and Highway Division held a meeting with chiefs of agencies concerned to discuss how to implement the directives, and BRTA was asked to call a meeting over this issue, sources said.

Experts and transport leaders consider drug addiction one of the major reasons behind road accidents. They say in order to ensure road safety, dope testing is important so no one under influence of narcotics or alcohol can be behind the steering wheel.

Transport leaders Khondaker Enayet Ullah, Osman Ali, Mahbubur Rahman, among others were present at the meeting.

AHNA Chy passes away

CITY DESK



AHNA Chowdhury, an engineer, urban planner and former senior government official, died on November 11 at his Dhaka residence. He was 85, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter-in-law, a grandson and granddaughter, and a host of relatives and admirers.

Special prayers will be offered today after Maghrib prayers at his residence.

He was a founding member and past president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

Azizul Haq no more

CITY DESK



M Azizul Haq, former chairman of the Board of Directors at Pubali Bank and incumbent independent director and chairman of the audit committee, died at CMH in Dhaka yesterday.

The bank's board of directors, executives, officers and employees expressed deep shock at the death.

End violence

FROM PAGE 3

and ensuring the rights of every citizen is the responsibilities of the state and the government. "Why will they think of themselves as second-class citizens?" she asked.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of Associations of Land Reform and Development said time has come to move in an integrated way, as the state, government, civil society organisations and political parties should come forward to put an end to such violence.

Mainstream political parties should also be engaged through discussion and they should promise to stop such issues and their promise must be reflected in their work, he said.

Ain O Salish Kendra's senior deputy director Nina Goswami expressed concern about the silence of responsible authorities, as they did not assure that necessary actions will be taken about the mob lynching incident.

"In a society, where 31 people are killed in mob beating, how can we talk about human rights there?" she asked, demanding a human rights-friendly state.

HRFB steering committee member Ranjan Karmaker, also the executive director of Steps towards Development, expressed grave concern over the increasing incident of violence against women and urged the government to ensure awareness and justice for rape, and criminalise marital rape by reforming the law.

Sanjeeb Drong, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said law enforcement agencies should initiate action against the rape of indigenous women and land grabbing of indigenous minorities.

Transparency International of Bangladesh (TIB) executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, a member of HRFB highlighted that judiciary institutions should remain free from political biases. He also spoke on the importance of ensuring skill development opportunities and appropriate budget allocation for these organisations.

The press conference was moderated by Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), who is also a member of the steering committee of HRFB.

What is it

FROM PAGE 3

"As our Moghbazar community centre has been leased out to Rab for years, people cannot avail its facilities," he added.

Currently, DNCC's Khilgaon, Moghbazar and Mohammadpur centres are leased out to Rab.

In DNCC, Mukti Joddha Murad community centre in Tikatoli, Dhoolpur training centre and Shaheed Nagar Matrisadan are leased out to Rab; Mugdapara Afir Uddin Sarkar community centre in Mugda to Mugda Police Station; Haji Abdur Rahim community centre in Wari to Wari Police Station; Fazlur Karim community centre to Bangshal Police Station and Shaheed Nagar community centre to Lalbagh Police Station.

Meanwhile, those "accessible to people" are not in a pristine condition either, as they lack facilities or are not being maintained properly. Most are being used only for holding social events, said a DNCC official, seeking anonymity.

Besides, three community centres are being used as DNCC zonal offices: Haji Gani Sarder community centre, Azimpur mini community centre and Tilpapa community centre in Khilgaon.

As per officials, DNCC's Rayerbazar and Modhubag community centres are yet to be operational, and the one in Banani is being renovated.

Meanwhile in DNCC, nine community centres are marked as either under construction, abandoned, risky or unused.

"For eight years, Mugdapara Afir Uddin Sarkar community centre is being used as a police station," said councillor Sirajul Islam Bhatti of DNCC ward-6.

"As they had a space crisis, we at first welcomed them to use the four-storied centre," he said.

"But gradually, they occupied most floors... My office is now on the top floor. As they keep their materials on the pathway to my office, people face trouble

while coming to seek services," the councillor said.

Besides, due to the space crisis and risky condition of the building, no social event takes place here," he said.

He said they thought that the police station would shift soon but that did not happen.

Regarding the matter, Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said due to space constraint in the capital, they have been using different community centres, paying a rent fixed by the Public Works Department.

"Based on legal approval from authorities, we took those on rent and still have the authorisation to use those," he said, adding "The situation is different outside the capital as there is no space crisis there. Our battalions have their own arrangements there for running their activities," he said.

Regarding usage of the centres by locals, he said, "Rab

also wants to move from those establishments. We have contacted the city corporations already... if space can be arranged, we will be able to shift there."

Meanwhile, the handful of community centres that are being used by people are closed due to the pandemic situation, said city corporation officials.

About the services and facilities at the community centres, a DNCC official, wishing anonymity, said, "The one at Segun Bagicha is lying unused since the beginning as it doesn't have any lift facility or gas connection."

WHY DO WE NEED COMMUNITY CENTRES?

Talking about the importance of community centres, Bangladesh Institute of Planners President Akter Mahmud said, "These were supposed to be places for gatherings, which help build social cohesion among people. Every ward should have such facilities."

"But the reality is quite different.

We have such few centres and many are not even usable. If those are rented to other organisations, and if buildings are risky, then people will lose interest in using them," he added.

Therefore, these establishments should be maintained properly and made more people-friendly, the BIP president stressed.

WHAT CITY AUTHORITIES SAY? Contacted, DNCC Public Relations Officer Abu Naser said they have already sent a notice to law enforcement agencies to vacate the centres. "We plan to construct modern community centres after a feasibility study," he said.

DNCC Mayor Atiul Islam said, "Because of the coronavirus situation, we have decided to extend Rab's lease for a year."

"However, we will talk to the director general of Rab soon so that they can gradually shift their offices somewhere else. We have also asked them to come up with a plan in this regard."

Auction Notice
Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations from interested parties/individuals who want to purchase old furniture, office equipment, communication equipment, computer etc. Interested bidders are requested to visit IWM website <www.iwmbd.org> for details.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Closing date: 20 November 2020
The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified national candidates to the following vacant positions under FAO Bangladesh Programme to be filled as soon as possible:

• **Position: Horticulture and Agro-Business Specialist (2002574)**
Interested and qualified candidates will find the post descriptions from our website <http://www.fao.org/employment/recruitment-access/en/> then click access, this gets you to Jobs at FAO. Ensure your profile has all the details as outlined in TALEO profile steps.

No hand delivered applications will be accepted, the Vacancy closes on 20 November 2020.

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.

ToR for Consultant/Firm to Conduct FGDs

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will recruit/engage a short term consultant/firm to conduct focus group discussions (FGDs).

For details, please visit: www.cpd.org.bd
Application closing date: 10 December 2020.

গাড়ি ভাড়ার জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান
ট্রান্সপারেন্সি ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ (টিআইবি) এর পরিবহন পুল পরিচালনার জন্য ০৭টি গাড়ি (০৫ সিটের ০৩টি সেজান কার, ১২ সিটের ০১টি এবং ০৮ সিটের ০৩টি মাইক্রোবাস) মাসিক ভিত্তিতে এবং ০৮ সিটের ০২ টি মাইক্রোবাস দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে ভাড়া করা হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা শহরের স্বনামধন্য রেন্ট-এ-কার কোম্পানিগুলোর কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় বিবরণ টিআইবি জফিস থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে অথবা টিআইবি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.ti-bangladesh.org থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।
দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ দিন: ২৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০;
সময়: দুপুর ০৯:০০ টা; স্থান: টিআইবি জফিস (মাইডাস সেন্টার, ৫ম তলা, বাড়ি-০৫, রোড-২৭ পুরাতন, ১৬ নতুন, শানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯)

Zoynul Abedin dies of Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zoynul Abedin, proprietor of Hanif Paribahan, died of Covid-19 on Wednesday night at the age of 87.

He breathed his last at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in the capital, Mosharraf Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, said yesterday.

He was buried at his village home in Hija of Amin Bazar yesterday. Zoynul started Hanif Paribahan in 1984. It is now one of the largest bus services in the country.

HC asks

FROM PAGE 3

The bench also adjourned hearing on the petition for a month, petitioner's lawyer Md Ekram Uddin Khan Chowdhury said.

Earlier in the day, ACC's lawyer Nawsher Ali Mollah told the bench that ACC has taken allegations against Fazlullah seriously and initiated an inquiry.

Md Hasan Ali, a port city resident, filed the petition on September 20,

PLOT FOR SALE
A south-facing 5,00 katha plot at Sector-04, Uttara. Near Park, Airport, Railway Station, Rab Battalion, School, Collage, Mosque, is ready for sale.
01712-619908
01998-085637

RETIRED ARMED FORCES OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION (RAOWA)
Notice Inviting Expression Of Interest (Eoi) For Enlisting Catering Service Provider For Raowa Convention Halls
Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA), VIP Road, Mohakhali, is going to enlist 04 (four) new catering service providers for its 3 Convention Halls (Helmet, Eagle & Anchor with capacity of 1000, 500 & 250 respectively) for a term of 3 years, extendable by another term on mutual agreement with refundable security deposit of Tk. 1,25,00,000.00 (One crore twenty five lac). EOI on official pad are invited from all interested reputed catering service providers.
Schedule will be available at the front desk of RAOWA from 09:00 am to 05:00 pm from 14 to 17 Nov 2020, on cash payment of Tk 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) only which is non-refundable.
EOI along with all supporting documents, in sealed envelope is to be dropped at RAOWA front desk latest by 02:00 pm on 26 Nov 2020. The EOI will be opened by the committee at 03:00 pm on the same date (26 Nov 2020) in presence of the representatives (if present) of the vendors.
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 20 Nov 2020 at RAOWA Secretariat at 03:00 pm. RAOWA reserves the right to cancel any EOI without assigning any reason.
For details please contact GM (FM), RAOWA.
Mob no-01711-289944 or Email: raowa.office@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE
Noakhali Division, Noakhali
Memo No. 46.03.7500.061.19.01-20/2363 Date: 12/11/2020
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Closing date & time
1	513297	Construction of 4000 Nos. House Connection Different dia in Noakhali Pourashava under Expansion and Development of Water Supply and Sanitation in Noakhali Pourashava.	06-Dec-2020 14:15

This is online tender where only e-Tenders 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. Further information & guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Palash Chandra Das
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Noakhali Division, Noakhali
ee.noakhali@dphe.gov.bd
GD-1813

VACANCY NOTICE
United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a post of **Economist (ICS-11 equivalent to NO-D)** for UNDP Country Office.
The duration of the Fixed Term Appointment (FTA) is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.
For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=33690>
Applications should be received no later than **Thursday, 26 November 2020**.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female and people living with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.