

HSBC - Star CLIMATE AWARDEE 2011 Grameenphone strives for greener tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone won the HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Award in 2011 in Green Operations category for its responsible approach to energy conservation and reduction of carbon footprints.

Widely known as GP, the country's largest mobile operator promises "Kache Thakun" (Stay Close), which, it believes, should not come at the cost of irreparable damage to the environment. As such, it initiated the "Building Greener Network" project in 2007 to explore greener and more efficient alternatives and has been carrying on the scheme.

Its first priority -- as far as its environmental roadmap is concerned -- is to "take responsibility for the excess carbon dioxide generated by its own operation". By 2015, Grameenphone aims to reduce 40 percent of its emission.

"Millions of people in Bangladesh still live in the rural areas that are off-grid [without electricity]. The base stations in these locations are run by diesel generators, which consume a lot of energy," said Nafis Ehtesham, acting head of GP's Climate Project, Technology Division. "Apart from its high cost, a generator affects the environment adversely by emitting carbon dioxide."

In addition to the base stations in remote and off-grid areas, there are more than 1,500 sites that also require considerable diesel usage. Nafis stated that each off-grid site consumes around 11,000 litres of diesel each year, which is equivalent to 30 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

To address this issue, Grameenphone, on an experimental basis, installed its first two solar sites at Ajmiriganj, Sylhet, in December 2007.

"It [experiment] was a huge success," recalled Nafis. "In the two off-grid areas, the generators ran for a total of 20 hours during the whole year, whereas in other off-grid sites diesel generators are run for around nine hours a day," he said.

Inspired by the success, Grameenphone in 2009 set up 12 more solar sites, and currently it has 134 sites run by renewable energy.

According to the largest mobile operator, once 160 sites become "green", some 1.7 million litres of diesel will be saved each year, which is equivalent to reducing emission of 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Grameenphone has also installed DC ventilation systems by replacing air conditioners, which requires 40-50 percent of the site's total energy requirement. The DV ventilation system cuts the operating hours of air conditioners and thus reduces energy consumption as well as carbon dioxide emission.

"We have saved 87,109,440 kWh electricity and over 53 crore taka through implementing this project," said Nafis.

Grameenphone believes that people can live a greener life by adopting 3R principle: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.

"We are encouraging our respective companies and partner organisations to develop and implement a climate and environmental strategy. We also need to inspire and encourage others through our advocacy programmes," Nafis continued as he spoke of the company's overall vision regarding "green business".

Grameenphone will now concentrate on installing solar plants at the grid-connected sites too, thereby eliminating the use of generators altogether in the next phase.

Some other energy-saving initiatives are also being developed to make the network "greener", said Nafis.

Grameenphone hopes that its environment-friendly model can serve as a case study for the telecom industry across the world.

"Climate change and the dangers it poses to our country and the world are real, and we definitely have to shoulder some responsibilities," added Nafis.

The immorality of it all

FROM PAGE 1

As reported in most papers, he was an uninvolved bystander who was suspected by Chhatra League cadres as a Shibir activist and supporter of Sunday's road blockade programme by the opposition. They swooped on him, chased him to a first floor shop, beat him and stabbed him. He then ran down to the street while being chased and beaten, and then finally died without getting any emergency treatment at Mitford Hospital, where he was able to reach all by himself.

The most obvious question is what right do the BCL cadres, or anybody for that matter, have in attacking anybody? Is it a crime to belong to the opposition that ruling party activists will feel that they have a right to attack and even kill? Will AL please answer as to what sort of a mindset is it implanting in its young members that they feel empowered to beat someone to death just because he or she belongs to an opposing camp? Is this the democracy that the prime minister never tires of telling us that she is fighting for?

Isn't the government of the day fully responsible to ensure the life and property of all citizens, including those who belong to the opposition? Or are we going into a culture where dissenters have no rights.

Contrarily, we must also state with equal force and repugnance that the opposition does not have the right to kill, burn, destroy and create mayhem in exercising their democratic right to dissent. The deliberate attack on on-duty police, burning of both private and public vehicles and other violent activities indulged in by BNP and Jamaat cadres that we have seen in the last few days cannot be accepted under any norm of opposition protest.

The tragedy of Bishwajit was that he was just a citi-

zen and not a partisan cadre. As a citizen there were none to mourn his death save his family. If he was a ruling party cadre, by now a whole hoard of people would have been rounded up and the country would have seen no end to condemnation of the brutality. If, on the contrary, he belonged to the opposition, then also there would have been a huge funeral procession -- the whole episode being used for relentless condemnation of the government. The shameful farce enacted around his death is exemplified by a statement by the home minister yesterday morning that eight persons have been arrested with the police saying, around noon, that none were arrested, even though the names and pictures of the killers have been published in many newspapers, including this one, and video footage of the incident has been telecast by most TV channels. Yet, the police are investigating the veracity of the incident and "looking" for the culprits.

In contrast, we have a hyperactive administration that arrested the acting secretary general of BNP for his alleged involvement in setting fire to a garbage truck of Dhaka City Corporation. Allegation was made by the driver and the police felt certain enough to arrest him without "investigating" as it finds it necessary to catch the killers of Bishwajit.

Each day we witness further deterioration of law and order, not only in the hands of those who are calling for the strife but also in the hands of those who are trying to control it. The mindless burning of buses, trucks, cars, and the street fights that we have come to term as "movement" has lost all moral underpinning.

The calls for hartals and all sorts of boycott and

street agitation and even the violent clashes that crippled the country during the autocratic rule of Gen Ershad and caused its demise had a strong moral underpinning as it was for the sake of restoring democracy and representative government.

What is it for today? Governments are duly elected and are no longer an extension of the military. Just because the opposition rejected the polls results -- all our opposition parties have rejected polls results since 1991 -- it does not entitle them to try an overthrow of an elected government. However, one may feel about the government of the day -- and there are numerous reasons to feel outraged and disillusioned -- nobody has the right, in the name of protest, to hold the whole society hostage, create violence, destroy property and strike fear in the hearts and minds of ordinary citizens.

Is this hartal for the rights of ordinary citizens? If so, then what about the rights of the day labourers to feed their own families, of the rickshaw pullers to earn their daily income, of small shop owners to eek out a meagre existence? And what about the rights of the not so poor but ordinary law abiding citizens to go about their personal affairs, work and business?

Most crucially, what about the "right to life" of the critically ill who risk death because they cannot avail medical treatment during emergency.

The truth is today's politics is totally devoid of any moral underpinning and nothing more than a naked power game, with each side finding it acceptable to do anything to overthrow the other. With each passing day the law is flouted by one side to suit its game and bent by the other to suit the contrary.

Judge unaware

FROM PAGE 1

Mujahideen Bangladesh, Jagroto Muslim Janata, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) and Shahadat-e Al Hikma, are accused in these cases, said the HC sources.

Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh coordinator Mohiuddin Ahmed, also an associate professor of Dhaka University, is among the accused. He is now out in bail, the sources added.

The HC on November 12 issued a rule asking Judge Zahirul Haque to explain why he had accepted charges in two cases under the anti-terrorism act without government approval.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Akram Hossain Chowdhury issued the rule at a hearing on two bail petitions filed by four accused in the two cases.

The bench is set to pass an order on the rule today. Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Mohammadpur police filed the two cases in June against some activists of Hizb ut-Tahrir, including the four petitioners.

Nur Mohammad and Shafayet Jamil Sohag,

accused in the case filed with Mohammadpur Police Station, and Ariful Islam and Ariful Karim, accused in the case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, filed the petitions with the HC on October 18 and November 3.

Their counsel, Cumar Debul Dey, moved the petitions, told The Daily Star yesterday the trial court judge had no permission from the government to accept the charges.

The HC can quash all the 117 cases when they will be challenged, he told the court in his argument.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the government would soon issue a gazette notification empowering the trial courts to go ahead with the cases without having to take government permission.

There would be no legal bar to run the 117 cases after the issuance of the notification, he added.

But Debul Dey said any such move by the government at this stage would be illegal and the higher court could still quash all the cases, as the charges were accepted illegally.

Cop action outrageous

FROM PAGE 1

a sub-inspector of Siddhirganj Police Station, was closed to Narayanganj Police Lines for allegedly leading the attack.

The assaulted journalists are Amran Hossain, senior staff photographer of The Daily Star, and Sourav Laskar, staff photographer of the NewAge.

Witnesses said the two went to Sanarpar in Siddhirganj around 11:30am by a CNG-run three-wheeler and saw a tyre was burning on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Disembarking from the vehicle, Amran and Sourav took some photos of the burning tyre.

To their utter surprise, some police personnel led by Mamun reached the scene by a police van and started beating up the journalists for setting fire to the tyre.

The law enforcers repeatedly slapped, punched and kicked the duo, even after the newsmen produced their identity cards.

At one stage, the cops detained the two and dragged them by their collars into the van. They were taken to Shimrail intersection police box, some half a kilometre off the assault scene.

After reaching there, police took the detainees to separate rooms and again beat up the duo. They also took away the mobile phones of the journalists and smashed Sourav's camera.

From the police box, the detainees were taken to Siddhirganj Police Station and handed over to its OC, who later freed them.

Incensed, a group of journalists staged a sit-in before the Siddhirganj Police Station on the Narayanganj-Adamjee-Demra road.

Narayanangaj Superintendent of Police Nazmul Alam arrived on the scene around 2:45pm and announced the SI's withdrawal, prompting the protesters to end the sit-in.

Amran and Sourav lodged a complaint with the police station against SI Mamun.

Meanwhile, leaders of Jatiya Press Club and Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) in separate statements yesterday condemned the attack on the journalists.

Jatiya Press Club President Kamaluddin Sabuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed expressed deep concern at the detention of the newsmen while performing

their duties.

Acting president of BPJA Syed Zakir Hossain and general secretary Nuruddin Ahmed demanded the government mete out exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident.

Don't produce

FROM PAGE 20

yesterday challenging legality of law enforcers' act of producing detainees before the media.

He said in the petition exposing the detained or arrested persons before the media and making them speak are illegal and unconstitutional.

Petitioner's lawyer KM Shafiuddin told the court law enforcers would produce the detainees before the court concerned, but as per law they cannot hold press conference after detaining them.

During hearing, Justice Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik observed that the law enforcers' taking confessional statements from the detainees while exposing them before the media is not only a media trial but also a media conviction.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the government.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For Selection of Consulting Firm to Baseline Survey under "Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiatives (NARI) Project (Contract No. MOLE-S11)

01) Ministry of Labour and Employment along with BEPZA is implementing a World Bank funded project titled "Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiatives (NARI)". This is a pilot operation to develop a managed system to support poor and vulnerable women from the lagging districts of the northern areas, who are willing to migrate to work in garment factories in selected Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

02) The baseline study, which will be completed within the first year of project implementation (during the construction phase), will define the pre-project status of the indicators that will be used to assess achievement of the project objectives and evaluate the project impact. In accordance with the data requirements for the project results framework and impact evaluation (described in the ToR), the baseline study will develop a suitable sampling method to assess the socio-economic status of target populations in the source area and women in the garment sector using a range of indicators. Consequently, the project results framework will be updated with data from the baseline study when this is completed.

03) The consulting firm is expected to have a team of experienced personnel at all levels starting from enumerators to the survey directors as outlined in the ToR.

04) Expression interested consulting firm must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

05) The experts will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011)." Interested applicants may obtain the Terms of Reference (ToR) and further information at the address below from 09:00 to 17:00 hours during regular working days or may be downloaded from MOLE Website www.mole.gov.bd

06) Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 16.00 hours (local time) on 20 December 2012 accompanied by all the necessary documents as applicable.

Md Mojibur Rahman
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Room # 522, Building # 07, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
Tel: +880-2-7165507
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07) Only short-listed consulting firm will be contacted for the selection process. Any persuasion by the applicant will be treated as disqualification.

08) The authority reserves the right to accept any application or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md Mojibur Rahman
Joint Secretary (Admn & Dev) & Project Coordinating Director, PCU
GD-4863 Ministry of Labour and Employment

Office of the Executive Engineer

Field Maintenance Division-1
Dhaka WASA, 29, K M Das Lane
(Hatkola Water Tank Compound), Dhaka-1203

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative/Local Government Division.
2	Agency	Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Superintending Engineer (RPE&M Circle), Dhaka WASA, Authorized Officer, Executive Engineer, Field Maintenance Division-1, Dhaka WASA.
4	Invitation for	Procurement of works & related services.
5	Invitation for tenders Ref. & date	i) 51/FMD-1 date: 10/12/2012 (ii) 52/FMD-1 date: 10/12/2012 (iii) 53/FMD-1 date: 10/12/2012.
KEY INFORMATION		
6	Procurement method	Limited tendering method (LTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
7	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget of Dhaka WASA.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8	Tender package No.	i) W-56 (ii) W-89 (iii) W-37.
9	Tender package name	(i) Repair & maintenance of 10 (ten) Nos. Electrical Sub-Stations and other ancillary works at different pumping stations of MODS Zone-2 under FM Division-1 (Package No. W-56). (ii) Shifting, Reinstallation & Maintenance of Sub-stations and other ancillary works at Kaetuli & Jagannath University Pumping Station under FM Division-1 (Package No. W-89). (iii) Repair & Maintenance of existing 25 (twenty-five) Nos. 200/250 Amps Changeover Switch at different dual source pumping stations of MODS Zone-2 & 3 under FM Division-1 (Package No. W-37).
10	Tender publication date	10/12/2012.
11	Tender last selling date	23/12/2012 up to 2:00pm.
12	Tender closing and opening date & time respectively	24/12/2012 before 12:00 noon and 24/12/2012 at 12:30pm.
13	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s)
	a. Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	1. Office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Accounts Division, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (4th Floor), Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. 2. Janata Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch, Fakirapool Branch. 3. Agrani Bank Ltd, WASA Branch. Interested tenderers may view the documents at the offices selling the tender document during normal working hours.
	b. Name and address of the office receiving tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, FM Division-1, Dhaka WASA, 29, K M Das Lane (Hatkola Water Tank Compound), Dhaka-1203.
	c. Name and address of the office(s) opening tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, FM Division-1, Dhaka WASA, 29, K M Das Lane (Hatkola Water Tank Compound), Dhaka-1203.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
14	Eligibility of tenderer	a) The tenderers shall have Electro-Mechanical License (enlisted contractors) of Dhaka WASA & ABC licence from Electrical Licensing Board. b) The contractor must have minimum 2 (two) years experience in the respective fields.
15	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 300/- (three hundred) only.
16	Identification of lot No.	Location
	3 (three) Package No. W-56 (ii) W-89 (iii) W-37	At different Pumping Stations/FM Division-1
		Tender security amount in (Tk)
		i) 6,500/- ii) 6,000/- iii) 7,500/-
		Completion time in weeks/months
		i) 40 (forty) days ii) 180 (one hundred eighty) days iii) 40 (forty) days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
17	Name of official inviting tender	Bahrul Islam.
18	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, FM Division-1, Dhaka WASA.
19	Address of official inviting tender	29, K M Das Lane, Dhaka-1203.
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9565194.
21	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings or all bids/tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.
Bahrul Islam Executive Engineer FM Division-1 Dhaka WASA		
WASA-PI-532/2012 GD-4874		