

Roads, housing projects shrinking arable land

Views-exchange meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arable land is shrinking in the country due to construction of new roads and housing projects, posing a threat to the country's food security, speakers observed at a programme yesterday.

They were addressing a views-exchange meeting on the draft of National Agriculture Policy 2013. The programme titled "National Agriculture Conference 2013" was organised by INCIDIN Bangladesh and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the LGED building in the capital.

Every year the area of cultivable land decreases by 0.1% as a result of construction of new and widening of old roads, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.

Now arable land is often advertised through online platforms for sale, said Tofazzal Hossain Manju, convener of the National Agricultural Review Committee. He also suggested formulating a law for protecting cultivable lands.

Most pieces of land in the country are under private ownership which is why the government can hardly conduct any experiment on cultivation in those lands, said the agriculture minister.

She also stressed the need for adopting new technologies in agriculture instead of solely relying on obsolete methods.

Lawmaker Shagufta Yasmin Emily and MJF Director (Rights) Rina Royspoke among others.

ANTI-DRUG REPORTING Prothom Alo awards six journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo Trust and Prothom Alo Bandhusabha yesterday awarded three print media and three electronic media journalists with the best anti-drug reporting award.

From print media, Iqbal Hasan Farid of Bangladesh Shomoy was first, Mostafa Ruhul Quddus of Lokesamas, a local newspaper of Jessore, was second and Rahat Minhaz of Shapthik Kagaj was third.

In the electronic media category, Sajjad Parvez of SA Television was first, Shahnaz Sharmeen, senior reporter of ABC Radio, was second and Dipu Sarwar, senior reporter of Boishakhi Television, clinched the third position.

The award ceremony was held at The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh in the capital.

Speaking at the programme, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said the slow disposal of drug cases is one of the main reasons for the widespread drug supply in the country.

Lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor stressed the need for raising awareness, strengthening family ties and proper enforcement of laws to stop drug peddling.

Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo, Aziz Khan, chairman of Prothom Alo Trust, and Syed Badrul Ahsan, executive editor of The Daily Star, among others, were present at the ceremony.



Winners of Prothom Alo award for best anti-drug reports with guests at the award ceremony held in the auditorium of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SOUTH, SOUTH-WEST ASIA Stronger transport connectivity urged to propel growth

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday called for strengthening transport connectivity among the south and south-west Asian countries to build long-term cooperation for economic development.

They said the south and south-west Asian region, which includes Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, and Syria among others, was less connected in the world and thus lagging behind despite immense potentials to achieve economic growth.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the two-day policy dialogue, "Strengthening Transport Connectivity among the South and South-West Asian Countries", at the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman, who presented a keynote paper at the inaugural session, stressed making the joint communiqué and the framework agreement signed with India in September

2011 operational for the region's development.

He also recommended signing trilateral agreements having India as a common party to replace bilateral deals signed with Bhutan and Nepal for removing trade barriers. "The vision represents a new paradigm of foreign policy based on cooperation for national welfare and co-prosperity abandoning nervous isolation," he added.

PM's Defence Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique highlighted the issue of security as connectivity created the scope of mobility of terrorism. He said transportation security and mobility should get importance on the transit issues.

BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad, BISS Director General Maj Gen Sajjadul Haq, and UNESCAP Chief Economist Nagesh Kumar also spoke at the session.

In his paper, "Connectivity, Economic Welfare and Foreign Policy Paradigm", Mashiur also recommended simplifying and harmonising customs and immigration rules and procedures to enhance efficiency of transit and remove multiple checks and trans-shipments at each border.

Torture in cop custody should be criminalised Say jurists, scholars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of prominent jurists and scholars at an event yesterday said torture in police custody should be criminalised in the Bangladeshi legislation for ensuring justice for victims.

They gave the view after listening to the experiences of relatives of a survivor and of two victims who died in police custody and of a survivor herself.

They were addressing an event titled "People's Tribunal", says a statement of the rights groups Odhikar and Asian Human Rights Commission. Odhikar in collaboration with the European Union organised the programme in the capital.

Among those who told stories of torture in police custody were brother of Shamim Reza, who died on May 22 after being tortured by Sonargaon police in Narayanganj; Moni Begum who survived torture in Sitakunda Police Station in Chittagong; and brother of Rizvi Hasan who was tortured in Chittagong Central Jail but survived.

Dhaka city AL activists slam their lawmakers, ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grassroots level leaders of Awami League's Dhaka city unit yesterday expressed anger and resentment towards ministers and lawmakers for what they said their indulgence in money-making and luxury lifestyle since the government had assumed office.

At an extended meeting of the unit at the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital, they also criticised the lawmakers and top leaders for not holding councils of the unit and different thanas and wards; and for not joining party meetings.

The last council of the city unit was held 10 years ago.

In the face of the outburst State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam left the meeting.

A ward unit leader alleged that Qamrul used to keep contact with party leaders and activists before becoming the state minister and MP, but since then he has become out of reach.

More than 20 leaders from different wards spoke at the meeting which is scheduled to continue today.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 21st death anniversary of educationist Quazi Abul Hossain.

He served as the principal of Dhaka College and Titumir College and also as a professor of Islamic University.

A doa and a milad mahfil will be held at his residence today.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by Social Marketing Company (SMC) from GMP Certified local Pharmaceutical companies for supply of 170 (one hundred seventy) million sachets of ORSaline-N. Product should be produced as per WHO and UNICEF approved formulation. Detail specification, terms & conditions have been mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

Interested bidders will have to apply for tender documents in their letter head. Tender documents will be issued on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (five hundred) only non-refundable on all working days (Sunday through Thursday) during office hours (8.30 hours to 17.15 hours. with a break from 13.15 hours to 14.00 hours, in Ramadan 8.30 hours to 15.15PM) from **27/06/2013 to 24/07/2013**. No tender document will be issued after **24/07/2013**.

Earnest money @ 1% (One percent) of the total quoted value in the form of Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Social Marketing Company must be submitted along with the Tender documents without which the Tender shall be rejected outright.

Signed & sealed Tender should be dropped between 8.30 hours to 11.00 hours on 25/07/2013 in the Tender Box kept in the 1st floor of SMC TOWER and mark "Offer for 170 Million ORSaline -N" on envelope. Tender will be opened on the same day at 11.15 hours in presence of bidders who may like to be present.

Social Marketing Company (SMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Luthfur Rahman
Manager, Procurement
Social Marketing Company
SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka 1213
Phone : 9821074-80



International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

Kingdom of the Netherlands

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

IFC invites eligible firms to indicate their interest in providing their services for in-depth cleaner production assessment by submitting a response to this Request for Expressions of Interest for the project: "Bangladesh Water PaCT".

Interested firms are requested to visit the **"Business Opportunities"** section of <http://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org> and access **Selection #: 1110723** titled **"Consulting Assignment: In Depth Cleaner Production Assessment"** for details.

The deadline for submission of REOI is **"July 15, 2013"**.

Join The Winning Team

RUPAYAN Housing Estate Ltd. One of the sister concerns of **RUPAYAN Group**, a leading national conglomerate engaged in housing and other diversified business requires the services of talented, dynamic, hardworking persons to fill up the following positions:

Director, Marketing & Sales (Head of the Department)-Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd.

Job Location : Dhaka
Major Responsibilities & Requirements:

- Candidates from Sri Lanka or India will get preference.
- To be responsible for the entire Marketing & Sales Department including policy formulation and implementation.
- Directly report to the Chairman for day to day affairs.
- Set up guideline for Marketing & Sales team to develop effective Marketing & Sales strategy.
- Initiate action plan to identify potential market along with new sales opportunities.
- Implement the company business align with the growth for next 3 years
- Should have strong leadership capability and team building efficiency.
- Meet the company revenue and profit target with proper planning & execution with extended standard skill, capability and customer focus.
- Portray effective leadership to ensure positive customer experience through motivating and inspiring team work

Experience: Minimum 9 Years of which 2 years in similar position and candidate from Real Estate background will get additional preference.

Education: Master/MBA from any reputed university

Compensation Benefits: Attractive Salary, Sales Incentive, Fulltime Car Facility, Performance Bonus, Foreign Tour and others as per company policy.

Executive Director, Operations-Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd.

Job Location : Dhaka
Major Responsibilities & Requirements:

- To be responsible for running the overall operations with an emphasis to implement the policy and work program related to administration, construction and other issues.
- Directly report to the Managing Director for day to day affairs.
- Formulate strategic marketing plan to achieve business target as set by the Management time to time.
- Should have strong leadership capability and team building efficiency.
- Initiate action plan to identify potential market along with new sales opportunities.
- Design business policy aiming to achieve the objective(s) of the company.
- Meet the company revenue and profit target with proper planning and execution with extended standard skill, capability and customer focus.

Experience: Minimum 10 Years of which 2 years in similar position. Candidate from Real Estate background will get additional preference.

Education: Master/MBA from any reputed university

Compensation Benefits: Attractive salary, Fulltime Car Facility and other admissible benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Executive Director, Operations (Head of the Company)-Ratul Properties Ltd.

Job Location : Dhaka
Major Responsibilities & Requirements:

- To be responsible for running the overall operations with an emphasis to implement the policy and work program related to purchase and sales secondary flats/lands, administration and other issues.
- Directly report to the Chairman for day to day affairs
- The post is result oriented, challenging and meant for the profit of the Company.
- Implement the company business align with the growth for next 3 years
- Formulate strategic marketing plan to achieve business target as set by the Management time to time.
- Initiate action plan to identify potential market along with new sales opportunities.
- Design business policy aiming to achieve the objective(s) of the company.
- Meet the company revenue and profit target with proper planning and execution with extended standard skill, capability and customer focus.

Experience: Minimum 10 Years of which 2 years in similar position. Candidate from Real Estate background will get additional preference.

Education: Master/MBA from any reputed university

Compensation Benefits: Attractive salary, Fulltime Car Facility and other admissible benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with complete CV and a color photograph to the following address within 10 days of publishing the advertisement.

RUPAYAN Housing Estate Ltd

Human Resources Department
RUPAYAN Centre (Level 13)
72, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212

Grave crimes won't be settled outside court Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of opposition from some judges, lawyers and police officials, the government has backtracked on its plan to add some grave offences as crimes which can be settled outside court in the proposed amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

In a statement, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday that rules for settling serious crimes through compromise outside court would not be incorporated into the amendments aimed at reducing the backlog of 27 lakh cases pending with different courts throughout the country.

The serious offences include extortion, death threat for extortion, theft, bank fraud, torture for dowry, causing death by driving vehicles recklessly or by negligence, and assault in attempted murder.

Sources said the ministry had prepared the draft by adding 20 more offences to the existing 64 as crimes which can be settled outside court in the proposed changes.

The government has moved to amend the CrPC to include a provision for disposing of cases related to petty crimes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system to reduce case backlog, eliminate harassment of litigants, and save their money and time.

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Contact: 01199452223 (Khalil) C-784

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1st Death Anniversary of Advocate SYED AZADUL HUQ



Advocate Syed Azadul Huq passed away on 27th June 2012. He was the 5th son of Late Syed Emadul Huq, former eminent Head Master of Mathbaria K.M. Latif Institution, Pirojpur. Mr. Huq hailed from Khulna.

Mr. Huq is regarded as one of the pioneering HR practitioner of Bangladesh and an authority in the area of Labour Law as well. Mr. Huq started Law practice from 1987, prior to which he was the General Manager (Personnel) of Philips Bangladesh Limited. He was the founder of the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM) and was its President and General Secretary for long also. He was a member of the First and Second Labour Court for over five years. He was also the Vice President and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Labour Court Bar Association.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Azadul Huq has conducted numerous workshops, and training programs and trained thousands of Executives in the field of HR Management, Admin and Labour Laws. He had also served as Legal Adviser to many multinational and local companies. He is the author of eight books in the areas of HR Management and Labour Laws which are being consulted and followed by thousands of Managers working in this field.

Mr. Huq is also the recipient of Ghulam Murtaza Memorial Gold Medal, Rapport Award for Excellence in Human Resource Development and Distinguished Leadership award from IPM, USA for excellence in Human Resource Management.

Mr. Azadul Huq has left behind thousands of his students, followers, well wishers and relatives to mourn his premature death. May almighty Allah grant him eternal peace and rest his soul in Zannah tul Ferdouse.

Saiful, Lucky, Annie and Saleh