

Shajahan suspends four Ctg BIWTA officials for absence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday suspended four BIWTA officials who he did not find at the Chittagong office during his scheduled visit.

Executive Engineer Sajidur Rahman, Deputy Director Md Alamgir Kabir, and Assistant Directors Nayan Sheel and Md Selim did not arrive for work when the minister visited the Chittagong branch office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority in Firingibazar at 9:30am.

The four came late but did not inform anyone about it before, said Akkas, adding that their office time starts at 9:00am.

Govt firm on bringing back Bangabandhu's killers: Shahriar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants to go beyond government machineries, if necessary, to mobilise international support for brining back fugitive convicted killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at any cost to execute the death penalty given to those who took shelter in foreign lands, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam yesterday.

It also wants foreign countries to treat the issue of repatriating convicted killers as an "exceptional case" and repatriate those killers by amending their respective laws, if necessary, he said.

The state minister came up with the remarks when government diplomatic efforts over the last few years apparently went in vain regarding repatriation of the convicted killers.

"We respect their laws but they must respect our laws as well. It's an exceptional issue and there're exceptions," Shahriar said while talking to reporters.

He said there would be no legal barriers if the countries where the killers took shelters agreed on the matter. "Principle agreement is urgent."

In January 27, 2010, five condemned killers of Bangabandhu were hanged at Dhaka Central Jail.



Participants at a workshop on "Improving Nutrition through Biofortified Crops: A Cost Effective and Sustainable Approach" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. HarvestPlus, Bangladesh, an NGO which develops nutrient-rich seeds, organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

DSCC receives lower bids

FROM PAGE 3

Golapbagh, the DSCC received a Tk 10 lakh offer compared to Tk 61.6 lakh last year.

DSCC Chief Estate Officer Mohammad Khalid Ahmed said the offers would go to the tender evaluation committee, headed by DSCC Chief Executive Officer Ansar Ali Khan, before the final approval.

They will invite bids again if the committee does not find the offers satisfactory, he said, adding that a total of 113 tender schedules were sold for the cattle markets, but only 39 submitted offers.

Among them, the highest bidder for Rahmatganj playground offered Tk 6.6 lakh, which fetched Tk 6.3 lakh last year, while for

Meradiya Bazar Khilgaon, the highest offer was Tk 56 lakh compared to Tk 26.9 last year.

For Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground, Tk 56 lakh was offered, which was Tk 27 lakh last year, and Tk 5.6 lakh was offered for Moitree Sangha playground adjoining Uttar Shajahanpur Khilgaon rail gate bazar, which was Tk 5.5 lakh last year.

For Dhupkhola East Club field, the highest Tk 10 lakh was offered, which was Tk 9.4 lakh last year, while Tk 25.7 lakh was offered for Balurmath adjoining Brothers Union Club in Gopibagh which was Tk 21 lakh, and Tk 10.2 lakh was offered for the open space adjoining Postogola crematorium, which was Tk 9.6 lakh last year.

Students' fate hangs

FROM PAGE 3

High Court in February upheld the ministry's earlier order after the association filed a petition in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has fixed September 7 for hearing an appeal filed by the school authorities against the HC verdict. Chamber judge of the SC held a brief

hearing on the petition yesterday, and sent the matter to a full bench.

Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, lawyer for the association, told The Daily Star that until further order from the SC, the HC's verdict would remain in force, as the chamber did not pass any order on the HC judgement.

Rajuk evacuates three

FROM PAGE 5

The Rajuk magistrate said they asked for the design of the seven-storey building, and they would invite Buet experts to inspect the cracks soon.

He said Rajuk formed a four-member committee, which would discuss with Buet

experts to ascertain whether the four-storey building should be demolished.

Rajuk engineers will visit the buildings within a day or two, Shahidul added.

The magistrate said, "There are many unplanned buildings in Old Dhaka, which is a big concern for the residents."

BNP plans 13 days

FROM PAGE 3

on August 21 in all cities and district towns to drum up public support for a fresh election under a non-party administration, said Fakhrul.

These programmes were finalised at Khaleda's meetings with her party's standing committee on Sunday night and chiefs

of the 20 allies the following night at her Gulshan office.

Meanwhile, BNP yesterday chalked out a three-day programme to celebrate its 36th founding anniversary next month. Former president Ziaur Rahman founded the party on September 1, 1978.

Biofortified crops can help tackle malnutrition

Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should consider integrating biofortified crops into the food distribution system to make the nutrient-enriched cereals reach targeted people suffering from chronic malnutrition and "hidden hunger", said experts yesterday.

Specialists from home and abroad made the suggestion at a workshop on biofortified crops yesterday.

HarvestPlus, a Washington-based global programme facilitating the development and promotion of biofortified crops, organised the workshop at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Director of HarvestPlus Dr Howarth E Bouis presented the keynote speech. Member of HarvestPlus' Global Program Advisory Committee and Brac Advisor Dr Mahabub Hossain chaired the session.

The HarvestPlus programme is coordinated by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Biofortification is a process where food crops rich in bioavailable micronutrients, such as vitamin A and zinc, are bred. Crop varieties developed through this process are termed biofortified crops. These varieties provide essential micronutrients and help reduce anemia, cognitive impairment, and other malnutrition-related health problems.

People suffering from a lack of essential vitamins and minerals in their diet are often referred to as victims of "hidden hunger". The signs of this form of malnutrition are often hidden. One out of three people in developing countries suffers from hidden hunger.

Last year, Bangladesh rice breeders, with support from HarvestPlus, developed the world's first biofortified rice enriched in zinc. The main breeder behind the zinc-rich rice, Brri Dhan-62, Dr Alamgir Hossain was also present at the workshop.

The workshop informed that seeds of the rice have been widely disseminated among farmers in the current Aman season. Deficiency of zinc, iron and vitamin A hampers children's natural growth and decrease their disease prevention capacity.

In Bangladesh, over 40 percent of children under five are stunted, while an estimated 44 percent of the same age group are at risk of zinc deficiency.

Other biofortified crops in other countries include iron enriched beans and pear millets, and vitamin A enriched cassava, maize and sweet potato.

Dr Howarth E Bouis said 27 countries including Bangladesh have so far grown biofortified crops and more countries will join the bandwagon.

Dr Akhter Ahmed, chief of party of IFPRI's Policy Research and Strategy Support Program in Dhaka, recommended giving growers premium price for zinc-rich and distribute the food among the poor through various safety-net programmes.

Dr Mahabub Hossain noted that although people's income level had risen, poverty was still there and there were people who required the valuable micronutrients. So, targeting the beneficiaries of biofortified crops is very important.

Former finance minister M Sayeduzzaman emphasised the need for giving special attention to food safety.

He along with many other participants stressed removing the misconception that biofortified crops are genetically engineered.

Experts informed the workshop that biofortified crops are bred through conventional breeding process and there is no question of genetic modification in the process.

Dr Md Abdur Razzaque, project director of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), cautioned against banking on one crop for micronutrients.

In response, the organisers said they had never considered biofortified crops a "silver bullet" rather it was just one of the many approaches to fight hidden hunger.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Representative in Bangladesh Dr Paul Fox, ICDDR, B scientist Dr Munirul Islam, and a wide range of stakeholders -- from academics to agronomists, from public sector officials to private seed company representatives -- participated in the workshop.

Govt should carry

FROM PAGE 3

He said people of different sectors, instead of only those from the shipping ministry, should be engaged in the committees to investigate launch disasters.

According to the BIWTA records, 3,736 people died and 151 went missing in 179 vessel accidents across the country in the

last 30 years from 1983 to 2014, said Hussain.

Meanwhile, the shipping ministry investigation team yesterday started recording depositions of witnesses and survivors of the Pinak-6 disaster, reports our Munshiganj correspondent. It took testimonies of 14 people on the first day.



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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders in two envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned for the following groups of works from bidders having experience as given below:

Group A: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Car Parking Lift & Car Parking Solution for "SMC TOWER" of Social Marketing Company at 33, Banani Commercial Area, Dhaka-1213. Tender documents shall be issued only to those firms who have proven experience or at least work(s) in hand for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Lifts and Car Parking Solution at commercial project(s) in Bangladesh.

Group B: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1(one) 2000 kg cargo cum passenger lift with 6 stops for the project of construction of area office and regional warehouse in SMC's premises at Bogra only from bidders who have successful experience in supply, installation, testing and commissioning of minimum 5 (Five) nos. similar or above capacity cargo cum passenger lift at commercial project(s) in Bangladesh.

Interested Bidders are requested to collect Tender documents from **14.08.2014 to 30.08.2014** during office hours (8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday) from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (Five hundred) only nonrefundable for each set of tender document.

- The Tender must be accompanied by Earnest money 2.5% of quoted price in the form of Bank Guarantee /Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank in favor of "Social Marketing Company".
- Tenders must be dropped in Tender Box at 1st floor of Social Marketing Company, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 up to 3:00 PM on **31.08.2014** and only Technical Offers will be opened on the **same day at 3:15 PM** in the presence of the tenderer(s) or their representative if any.
- The SMC authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bidder.

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Today we remember Major General Anis Waiz MBBS, FRCP (UK), FRCPI(I), physician and founding Principal of Bangladesh Medical College. After a distinguished career in the army medical corps as Consultant Physician, Dr. Anis followed his father's (the late Professor and Principal Abu Hena) footsteps and entered academia. During his tenure in the army he was a strong proponent of post-graduate training and mentoring for army physicians. He bought his passion for excellence and credentialing to his leadership of the first private medical college in Bangladesh, attaining significant growth in the infant institution's reputation and accreditation of its facilities and degree. His service to the community and the medical profession included leadership roles in establishing an essential drug list while serving on the National Drug Advisory Council, the Bangladesh Medical Research Council, and the National AIDS Committee. He passed away on the 13th of August 2003, following a brave battle with cancer. His memory is celebrated by his many students, family, friends and well-wishers.

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Foreigners are also eligible to apply.

Remuneration for the deserving candidate will be very competitive. Interested candidates should apply by e-mailing their CV to hrd.dhk@gmail.com by **19th August 2014**.

Procurement Notice

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RFQ-BD-2014-028

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Quotations from interested Companies for **Supply of Oracle Licenses**, Ref: RFQ-BD-2014-028; Deadline for submission of quotation is at **2.30 p.m, 27 August 2014**.

These procurement processes will be conducted through online tendering system of UNDP. Bidders who wish to submit an offer must be registered in the system in order to access the bidding document and submit a proposal. To register please visit the link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration:

Username: event.guest **Password:** why2change

The complete user guide can also be downloaded from the UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>



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