

National help line assisting thousands of distressed women

BSS, Dhaka

Amjad Hossain of Mirpur faced a predicament that his granddaughter, whom he accompanied to school, was being threatened with kidnapping.

He called 10921, the National Help Line. The local police responded immediately and the problem was resolved.

Far away in Taraganj, Rangpur, 10th-grader Banya was faced with the humiliating prospect of being shown in a porno film after she had gone to a studio to be photographed.

She, too, called the Help Line and was bailed out.

Similarly, thousands of people, mostly women were being served by the National Help Line.

Project director of the multisectoral programme, Dr Abul Hossain, told the news agency that persecuted women were provided all assistance from the National Help Line, also known as the One-Stop-Crisis-Center (OCC). It provides healthcare, police security, DNA test, social welfare, legal support, mental counseling and shelter to women in need.

The OCC has offices in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur and Faridpur medical college hospitals. Besides, it has 40 centres in as many district headquarters and 20 outlets at the upazila level.

So far, 36,927 people have used the Help Line for information, 394 have sought medical help, 760 for counseling, 713 for police support, and 2,726 for legal assistance, he said.



Materials meant for use during the Secondary School Certificate exam beginning on February 2 being loaded on a vehicle at the office of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Sylhet yesterday for distribution at the exam centres in Sylhet division amidst the ongoing blockade being enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

PHOTO: STAR

SUNDARBANS OIL-SPILL

Rain may wash sludge back into environment

Say experts

UNB, Bagerhat

As the authorities are yet to destroy the huge amount of oil-spill sludge, dumped in bamboo enclosures in Chandpai area of the Sundarbans following the huge oil-spill in December last year, experts and locals raise concerns that rainfalls may spread the waste again.

The remnants of furnace oil in waste, which consist mostly of oil-stained water hyacinth and shrubs, have already taken a dark hue and started seeping into the soil around the bamboo enclosures.

During a visit to Chandpai range of the Sundarbans East Zone on January 25, the UNB correspondent found out that the six enclosures built in the area to contain the oil-stained waste are lying in close proximity with the main

channel of the river Shela with no sign of maintenance.

Anwar Hossain, a resident of the area, said, "The sludge contained so much oil that now the oil is seeping into the soil around the enclosure."

Talking to the news agency, divisional forest officer of the Forest Department Amir Hossain Chowdhury said about 20 tonnes of waste had been dumped in the six bamboo enclosures and the department had decided to burn all those to ashes as per experts' recommendation.

The waste will be taken to a nearby brick kiln very soon for completing the process, he added.

Prof Mahmud Hossain of the Forestry and Wood Technology of Khulna University stressed destroying the waste as quickly as possible to avert another disaster in the area.

Meanwhile, marks of furnace oil are still visible on tree trunks over a vast area lying on both sides of the river.

The oil slicks that managed to rise as high as 20-30 feet above the forest ground due to the tidal waves tainted a great portion of the tree trunks at that height and have created thick black coatings.

Such blackened tree trunks can be noticed even several kilometers away from the banks of the Shela and the people who frequent the areas for their livelihoods, particularly the fishermen, have no idea whether this event can take a serious turn in the coming days.

Kamal Hossain, a forest guard, said the remains of the oil slicks could still be found around the roots of the trees around the area. "I've never seen such a disaster over the last 10 years in this job."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Mosharraf contradicts media reports on MRP

While all stakeholders agree with those

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing concern over distribution of Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) to around 60 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday claimed that migrant workers would get the passports on time.

"There is no problem in issuing MRPs to migrants. They will get their passports on time. The government has already taken necessary measures in this regard," he said at a press briefing at his office in the capital.

With his claim, the minister has refuted recent media reports stating various problems plaguing the MRP issuance process and that an insignificant number of MRPs have been given to migrant workers so far showing that the government may fail to give the passports to all workers before the deadline on November 24 this year.

Officials of Bangladesh missions in major labour receiving countries-- Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Qatar, and Oman -- have also expressed doubt whether the government will be able to provide all migrant workers with MRPs before the deadline set by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

According to the Department of Immigration and Passport, around 12 lakh expatriates out of 70 lakh were given MRPs so far.

"There have been steps taken to speed up the issuance of the passports before the deadline. But the existing manpower is insufficient in ensuring smooth completion of the job," an official at the Bangladesh mission in Riyadh told The Daily Star over phone yesterday. More than 20 lakh Bangladeshis are working in various sectors in Saudi Arabia. But only some four lakh Bangladeshis have obtained MRPs, according to sources at the mission.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 1st death anniversary of Anwarul Karim, a former managing director of Eastern Lubricants Ltd.

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RETIRED ARMED FORCES OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION (RAOWA)

VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206. Contact: 01911218988, 01711054344

Invitation for Tender

Sealed Quotations are invited from the interested firm for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 70RT Multi VRF System Air Cooling Solution For Library, Gymnasium, Ladies Room and Billard Room of level-4 RAOWA Complex" at VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206. Interested firms are requested to visit the site and collect the tender schedule for Tk=2000/- During office hour. Tender closes on or before 12.00 PM 10 February 2015.

Secretary General

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road
Banani, Dhaka-1212.
www.bba.gov.bd

Memo No: 50.00.0000.146.00.001(V-2)12-৫৭ Date: 25/01/2015

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-2

Sub: Repair of cracks inside the box girder and strengthening of the superstructure of the Bangabandhu Bridge
Extension of Tender Submission Date.

Ref: Tender No. 50.00.0000.146.00.001(V-2)12-540, Dated: 09/12/2014.

This is to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) is intended to extend the date for submission of the Tender Document of the above subject on 09 February, 2015 instead of 28 January, 2015. The Last Selling Date of the said tender shall be 08 February, 2015 instead of 27 January, 2015. All other terms and condition will remain same.

(Md. Golam Mortuja)
Executive Engineer (R&B)
Phone: 9855311
Email: exen-road@bba.gov.bd

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Apply to Box No:- A-01, The Daily Star, Chittagong Office, A.S Tower (4th floor), 553, Rd-1, Hill View R/A, Panchlaish, Ctg-4000

বাংলাদেশ প্রবীণ হিতৈষী সংঘ ও জরায়বিক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান

প্রবীণ ভবন, ই-২১০, আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ প্রবীণ হিতৈষী সংঘ পরিচালিত প্রবীণ হাসপাতালের জন্য 4D Color Doppler Ultrasound মেশিন ক্রয় করা হবে। অগ্রহী দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের আগামী ২৬ জানুয়ারি হতে ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রবীণ ভবন, ই-২১০, আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ এ অফিস সময়ে (সকাল ৮:০০ টা হতে দুপুর ২:০০ টার মধ্যে) দরপত্র সংগ্রহের জন্য বলা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের মূল্য ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা। দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ সময়-দুপুর ১২:০০ টার মধ্যে। দরপত্র এই দিন ১২:০০ মিনিটে সকলের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে সিডিউলে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
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