



Once vibrant with activities, DC Hill now wears a deserted look. With its open stage, the place has a long tradition of holding cultural programmes as it is located in the centre of the port city. Due to a recent announcement made by Housing and Public Works Minister Eng Mosharraf Hossain that only three programmes -- Pahela Baishakh, Rabindra Jayanti, and Nazrul Jayanti -- will be allowed on the spot since organisers dump rubbish during programmes and make the place dirty, it now remains off limit. However, no formal declaration has yet been made regarding the decision. But, the authorities concerned have stopped giving permission to hold events there. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Govt 'inaction' behind spread of polythene bags: Greens

UNB, Dhaka

Green activists yesterday alleged that the law banning polythene shopping bags has become ineffective due to "inaction" by the government.

At a human chain, they also said the widespread use of polythene bags from shopping malls to kitchen markets gives an impression that the government has forgotten that it has a responsibility to implement the law and check the production and use of non-biodegradable polythene bags.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and 16 other environmental and social organisations formed the human chain before Jatiya Press Club demanding proper implementation of the law.

Poba General Secretary Abdus Sobhan said around 1,200 factories in the country are regularly producing the banned polythene bags. "There are over 300 factories in Old Dhaka alone."

He also alleged that a number of influential syndicates are involved in polythene bag trading and marketing. Sobhan said the production and use of polythene bags are growing alarmingly for a lack of the government's strong political will. Citing a study, he said over two crores of polythene bags are used only in Dhaka city daily.

The other speakers made a call for alternative bags like jute, paper and clothes-made ones and encouraging people to use those.

In 2002, the then government enacted the law banning the production, supply, sale and use of polythene as shopping bags.

However, under the Bangladesh Environment Protection (Amendment 2002) Act 1995, the government in 2007 allowed the production of 55-micron thick polythene for the packaging of garment products, medicine, fish fry, sapling and some other goods and products which virtually contributed to the rise in production and the use of the harmful object.

CONSTITUENCY DELIMITATION

EC struggling to complete process in due time

UNB, Dhaka

Though the Election Commission was supposed to complete the delimitation process by December last year as per its roadmap prepared for the next national polls, the commission could not yet publish the draft delimitation of the country's 300 constituencies.

Now the commission wants to complete the delimitation process at least six months before the election as it faces difficulties to do so due to a court order over the Comilla-10 constituency.

As per the roadmap unveiled in July 2017, it was supposed to publish the draft delimitation of constituencies in November 2017 and arrange public hearings on complaints regarding the draft in November and December 2017.

This time the boundaries of some constituencies will be redrawn as a routine work as the commission does not have enough time to go for massive changes in delimitation of constituencies ahead of the 11th national election likely to be held in December this year.

"The process of demarcating constituencies will have to be completed at least six months before the polls," said Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam who is the head of EC's committee over delimitation of constituencies.

The High Court in March 2017 passed an order to take steps for restoration of the constituency comprising only Nangalkot upazila in Comilla following a writ petition filed challenging the existing delimitation of Comilla-10 constituency.

In December last year, the High Court also issued a contempt of court against the EC for not taking steps in this regard.

The EC has recently filed a leave to appeal petition with the Appellate Division challenging the High Court order over the Comilla-10 constituency. Rafiqul Islam told the news agency that they face difficulties following the court order as they cannot increase the number of constituencies to 301 from the existing 300 as fixed by the constitution.

"So, they're waiting for the disposal of the case and will follow the

The process of demarcation will have to be completed at least six months before the polls, but EC faces difficulties due to a court order regarding Comilla-10 constituency, says Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam

court's judgement finally in this regard," he said.

If the case is not disposed of soon, the commission will take some alternative plans to complete the demarcation of constituencies at least six months before the national polls, Rafiqul Islam added.

EC officials said the draft delimitation of 300 constituencies may be published in February or early March to complete the process by May following arrangement of a public hearing over claims, complaints and suggestions in this regard.

In July 2017, the EC initiated its move to prepare a new policy and enact a new law to replace the existing "Delimitation of Constituencies Ordinance 1976" with some changes. But it has yet to complete the process.

The EC framed a draft delimitation of constituencies bill in 2017 incorporating provisions to consider the voter and population sizes. The redrawing must not split an upazila as well, according to the bill.

But it has yet to finalise it as the proposed law may lead to massive changes in the existing demarcation of constituency.

So, the commission is now thinking to re-demarcate the constituencies following the old law due to time constraint as the schedule for the 11th national election is likely to be announced in November, the EC officials said.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda at a recent programme in Satkhira said they will redraw the boundaries of some 60 constituencies.

Joining the EC's dialogue last year, some registered political parties proposed not to change the boundaries of the constituencies ahead of the next polls as it will invite controversies and complexities.

But some other parties, including BNP, suggested restoration of the pre-2008 delimitation of the constituencies.

The then ATM Shamsul Huda-led commission brought massive changes in 133 constituencies prioritising the population size in 2008.

The previous commission, headed by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, redrew the boundaries of 87 constituencies in 2013 ahead of the 10th parliamentary elections.

Teach in mother tongue

Prothom Alo roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acquiring reading skills in native language helps boost children's brain development, said speakers at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

They stressed the need for promoting literacy using children's first language and also urged the primary and mass education ministry to improve teachers' training programmes and introduce new interactive teaching methods.

The Prothom Alo with the help of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and Save the Children, Bangladesh organised the roundtable on "Reading Skills in Mother Tongue: Foundation of Quality Education" at the newspaper's office.

Prof Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed of Brac University said learning in mother tongue allows children flourish their talents.

Iffat Ara Nasrin Majid, director, Institute of Modern Language, Dhaka University, said primary school teachers have to be

knowledgeable as they are responsible for building strong foundation for kids.

Teaching and learning materials, mainly books, have to be interesting and colourful to make children enthusiastic about reading, she added.

Prof Jinnat Imtiaz Ali, director general, International Mother Language Institute, said the authorities must work to develop the competency of teachers as they play a vital role in nurturing the future nation builders.

Afzal Hossain Sarwar, policy expert, Access to Information project of UNDP, said the purpose of learning will not be fulfilled if students cannot relate real-life objects with the ones they read about in books.

Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, director general, Directorate of Primary Education, who chaired the roundtable, mentioned that the country has around 1.3 lakh educational institutions and the government regularly arranges training programmes for teachers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Tourism village

FROM PAGE 3

in two phases during the five years of construction to build the facility, he said. The contract is expected to be signed soon.

Contacted, Orion Group Chairman Md Obaidul Karim said they went through a rigorous bidding process over a period of three years to become the winning bidder for the project.

"Our vision is to build an international standard hospitality service and an amusement park among other facilities at the site now limping with a dilapidated 22-room motel accommodation," he said.

Cox's Bazar is going to be Bangladesh's iconic tourism destination for locals and foreign tourists alike in near future and their investment effort is laid out in that line, he added.

As per a conceptual design, of the total land area, only 16 acres will be occupied with structures and the rest will have amusement facilities and remain as an open space. The amusement facilities would remain open free of cost for the underprivileged children once a week.

District Awami League's general secretary Mujibur Rahman and president of district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Naimul Haq Chowdhury Tutul also spoke.

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Asset DEVELOPMENTS



Idols of Goddess Saraswati being taken to various temples ahead of Saraswati Puja, which will take place tomorrow. As Saraswati is considered the goddess of wisdom and knowledge, Hindu devotees, especially students, celebrate the Saraswati Puja at different educational institutions and temples. The photo was taken in the capital's Bijoy Nagar area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Eastern Cables Limited

North Patenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh

Invitation for International Tender Notice (OTM)

for following items

01.	Ministry	Ministry of Industries.				
02.	Name of agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, Dhaka.				
03.	Procuring entity name	Eastern Cables Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong.				
04.	S/L	Name of procurement	Reference No. & date	Cost of tender documents	Tender security	Tender receiving and opening date and time
	1.	Aluminium Wire, Size: 9.5mm, Quantity: 500 MT	EC/PUR/F-210, 17.01.2018	Tk. 5,000.00	USD-16,770	Date: 27.02.2018 Received on 11.30am Opened on 11.45am (Serial No. 1-5)
	2.	Calced Clay, Quantity: 6 MT	EC/PUR/F-211, 17.01.2018	Tk. 800.00	USD-250	
	3.	Magnet Servo Motor, Type: T4C 3B, R0029 Quantity: 1 No.	EC/PUR/F-212, 17.01.2018	Tk. 700.00	USD-150	
	4.	DC Servo Motor, Quantity: 1 No.	EC/PUR/F-213, 17.01.2018	Tk. 700.00	USD-150	
	5.	Steel Flat Wire, Size: 4x1.2mm Quantity: 10 MT	EC/PUR/F-208@, 17.01.2018	Tk. 750.00	USD-375	
	6.	Fork Lift Truck, Capacity: 3 MT Quantity: No.	EC/PUR/F-204@, 17.01.2018	Tk. 2,000.00	USD-840	
05.	Budget and source of funds	Own				
06.	Tendering method	One stage two envelope system (for Serial No. 6 only).				
07.	Tender last selling date	06.02.2018 (tender Serial No. 6) and 26.02.2018 (Tender Serial No. 1-5).				
08.	Selling of tender documents	1. Cash Section, Controller of Accounts, BSEC, BSEC Bhaban, Dhaka-1215. 2. Cash Section, Chief Accounts Officer, ECL, Patenga, Chittagong.				
09.	Place of receiving & opening tender document	Purchase Department, Eastern Cables Limited, Patenga, Chittagong.				
10.	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender documents.				
11.	Brief description of goods	As per tender documents specification.				
12.	Location of delivery	CFR(C) Chittagong.				
13.	Name of official inviting tender	Head of Purchase Department.				
14.	Designation of official inviting tender	Senior Purchase Officer.				
15.	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Cables Limited, Patenga, Chittagong.				
16.	NB: S/L No: 01, Aluminium Wire	Price will be based on LME average cash settlement price of high grade Aluminium published in Metal Bulletin London for the month prior to the month of shipment plus premium, freight and local Agent Commission making CFR(C) Chittagong liner term basis. The determination of LME period on buyer option.				

Mustafizur Rahman
Head of Purchase
For Managing Director