

# Shops in the middle of the road?

CDA's plans to rent out space under ramp of Aktaruzzaman flyover draws flak

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority's (CDA) decision to rent out space under Aktaruzzaman flyover's ramp -- on dividers of a major road of the port city -- in an apparent bid to manage maintenance cost of the flyover, has drawn flak.

Town planners have termed the decision suicidal, saying it will heighten risk of accident for pedestrians, and will exacerbate traffic tailbacks, while Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) has termed the decision "illegal".

CDA published a circular in local dailies on December 24, inviting prospective businesses to apply by January 24 for renting space under Aktaruzzaman flyover's ramp, in Muradpur, Gate no. 2 and Lalkhan Bazar areas.

CDA wants to build 13 shops and three super shops on the aforementioned spots, according to the circular.

CDA sources, preferring anonymity, said the initiative is aimed at generating funds for the maintenance cost of the flyover,

which is about Tk 12 lakh a month. They also said each shop will be 132 square feet in size, while the super shops are planned at 7,000 square feet each.

The spaces under the ramp of the flyover are currently being used as free parking spots.

Road safety expert Professor Dr Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star that the decision will create safety hazards.

"These shops will invite pedestrians, who will be encouraged to cross the busy thoroughfare haphazardly. They will be prone to accident when they cross the road to reach the shops as well as when they step out of the shops," he said.

Vehicles will be forced to slow down by the pedestrians, he added, saying the decision will be counterproductive at a time when government is trying to stop jaywalking and haphazard crossing on busy roads.

Contacted over phone, CDA Chairman Abdus Salam claimed it would not impact anything.

"We constructed the flyover through proper

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The space under the ramp on Aktaruzzaman flyover in Nasirabad currently serves as a parking spot for cars. Chittagong Development Authority's decision to rent the space out for shops and super-stores has raised concerns among town planners, regarding safety of pedestrians and discipline on roads.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Ensure sustainable dev of char residents

National Char Alliance urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Char Alliance (NCA) yesterday urged the government to form a "Char Foundation" in order to ensure sustainable development of the people living on char (shoals) in the country.

NCA also demanded formulation of a specific development project and "National Char Policy" to ensure their rights.

The platform, advocating rights of char people in national-level policy, placed these demands at a press conference on "Expectations of char people from the newly-formed government" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

NCA in collaboration with Shamunnay and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation organised the conference.

Reading out a statement, Jahid Rahman, member secretary of NCA, alleged that people of the shoals are deprived of their fundamental rights.

"They are not getting opportunities when it comes to education, healthy food, modern sanitation, medical facilities and minimum social security. The government should form a 'char foundation' to address the issues," he said.

In his speech, NCA Chairman Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled claimed that the government is yet to ensure minimum amenities for char residents, though these marginalised

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## Free textbooks on sale!

One arrested with 283 books for school and madrasa students

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN, Ctg

Free textbooks for primary and high school students, provided by National Curriculum and Text Book (NCTB) authority, are being sold in port city markets.

Dodging the eyes of the authorities concerned, some unscrupulous businessmen are selling the books, according to police and market sources.

The issue came to light after members of Detective Branch (DB) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested a book seller from the city's Andarkillah book market area with 283 free textbooks on Sunday night.

The arrestee was identified as Snehashish Talukdar, 28. He is a staff member of Prakash Bichitra, a book shop at Wali Mansion of Andarkillah book market area, said Inspector Eliash Khan of DB.

Tipped off, a team of DB police raided the book shop and detained Snehashish, seizing books meant for

free distribution among students," said Inspector Eliash.

"During primary interrogation, the arrestee told the police that he and cohorts used to collect the free books from primary schools and madrasas and later sold them to students of private schools," the inspector told The Daily Star.

The owner of the book shop Debasish Talukdar is on the run following the incident, Eliash said.

According to the district education office sources, educational institutions need to provide the list of their students to both primary education office and district education office for free books. As per the list, the authorities provide books to the institutions.

Police and district education office sources said a section of educational institutions have been collecting extra textbooks from district education office showing more students on the list than the actual number. These books end up in the market with the

help of unscrupulous school staff.

Chattogram District Education Officer Mohammad Jasim Uddin told The Daily Star, "We provided the textbooks as per lists provided by educational institutions... We verify a list when there's any allegation."

"We have already held a meeting where I asked the officials to verify the information," said Jasim Uddin.

Md Amirul Kaisar, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) (Education and ICT) of Chattogram District Administration told the newspaper, "District administration coordinates the free textbook festival and they will raise the issue in their next coordination meeting.

Kazir Saber Ahmed, general secretary, Chattogram chapter of Bangladesh Publishers' and Book Sellers' Association, told this correspondent, "Selling of free textbooks is strictly prohibited by our organisation. If anyone violates the law, he will have to take the responsibility."

## 9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS Cabinet committee reconstituted

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet committee formed to review the Ninth Wage Board Award -- for journalists and employees working in newspapers and news agencies -- has been reconstituted, keeping its terms of reference unchanged.

A proposal for the reconstitution of the cabinet committee was approved at the maiden cabinet meeting of the newly formed government, held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her office.

Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam briefed reporters at the conference room of the Cabinet Division at the Secretariat after the meeting.

He said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will lead the seven-member committee as its convenor. The other members of the committee are Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque, Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid and State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnuza Begum.

According to the terms of reference, the committee will submit its report by January 28, 2019.

## Bird-poaching rampant in wetlands

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Indiscriminate hunting, trapping and selling of local and migratory birds at different upazilas in Sylhet is posing a serious threat to nature and biodiversity.

Rampant poaching by professional and amateur hunters gets quite unruly during winter, starting from mid-October to mid-March, all over the division.

During this time, the wetlands in higher altitudes dry up, and local birds from the hills fly down to flat wetlands, bottom hillocks and open fields, making them easy targets for poachers.

Moreover, migratory birds from different parts of the world come to Bangladesh, especially to wetlands known as "haor" and "beel".

Larger wetlands like Hakaluki Haor and Baikka Beel in Moulvibazar and Tangiar Haor in Sunamganj host the largest number of migratory birds; while smaller haor and beel spread around the division also host a smaller portion.

Local breeds of wild birds like bittern, egret and Asian openbill stork are also seen in these wetlands.

Environmentalists claim that due to the demand of birds, lack of social



Poachers captured this Asian openbill stork (shamuk khol) from haor areas of Jantiaupur upazila in Sylhet, and blinded it to prevent it from returning to its natural habitat. Sellers hide the birds inside bags or boxes while looking for potential customers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

awareness about poaching, and rare legal action, poachers consider this an open season for hunting and selling.

In Sylhet, bird poaching is rampant in Tahirpur and Dharmapasha upazilas in Sunamganj; Jantiaupur, Gowainghat, Kanaighat, Beanibazar and Fenchuganj upazilas in Sylhet; Barlekha, Kulaura, Shreemangal, Rajnagar and Komolganj upazilas in

Moulvibazar; and Sayestaganj, Bahubal, Madhabpur, Nabiganj and Baniachang upazilas in Habiganj.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's (Bapa) Sylhet chapter, said, "Poachers are mainly hunting different kinds of local and migratory birds like wild ducks, Indian Pond Heron (kani bok),

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## Six Rohingyas detained in Sylhet

Police says the family entered Bangladesh from India through Zakiganj border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) detained a family of six Rohingyas, including three children, from Kadamtali Bus Terminal area in Sylhet city on Sunday night.

They were sent to the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar under police escort yesterday afternoon.

Zedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of SMP, said the detained Rohingyas entered

Bangladesh from India through Zakiganj border.

They hailed from Saheb Bazar of Arakan state of Myanmar, he quoted the detainees as saying.

The SMP official said, "They told us that they fled their home village months ago and entered India, while some of their relatives entered Bangladesh. After passing time at Guwahati of Assam, they crossed the border to Bangladesh through Zakiganj".

"We could not get the informa-

tion on how they crossed the border, but they might have managed it through a broker. After they reached Sylhet, locals identified them as Rohingyas and informed police. It

The SMP official said, "They told us that they fled their home village months ago and entered India, while some of their relatives entered Bangladesh. After passing time at Guwahati of Assam, they crossed the border to Bangladesh through Zakiganj".

"We have contacted their relative Sheikh Ahmed at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar, and sent them to the camp under police protection. They will be questioned by police there," Zedan Al Musa said.

### Election Commission Secretariat

Electronic Voter Machine (EVM) Project

Nirbahan Bhaban (8th Floor)

Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Date: 20 January 2019

### Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) Procurement Consultant (National)

#### Objective

The main objective of the consultancy is to provide quality support to Election Commission Secretariat and NIRD in terms of all procurement activities and processing under the project.

#### Educational Qualification & Experience

The "Procurement Consultant" will be Bachelors in Engineering or Masters in procurement /commerce/finance/business/management/law. Post qualification in procurement will be an added advantage. At least ten years of experience as procurement specialist or have had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in (use of internationally accepted contract documents for goods and services; sound understanding of principles underlying goods procurement practices with IT systems; understanding of government procurement rules/act with analytical capability in identifying and resolving procurement issues). Specialized knowledge and significant experience in 2-3 substantive areas/aspects of procurement (e.g. procurement of goods, selection/contracting of consultant services, preparation of bidding/contract documents for international procurement of goods, services). Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues. Ability to work effectively and efficiently in a multidisciplinary team.

#### Assignment Selection Procedure

The Procurement Consultant (National) will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules-2008. Completed EoI must be submitted to the following address by 03 February 2019 within 17.00 hrs BST. Please mention the position on the top of envelop and interested consultant/s may obtain further information including detail Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Project Director office or the website of [www.ec.org.bd](http://www.ec.org.bd) and [www.nidw.gov.bd](http://www.nidw.gov.bd).

Md. Kamal Uddin

Lieutenant Colonel

Project Director

EVM Project

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## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Kurigram

Phone: 0581-61658, Fax: 0581-62685

Email: [eekur@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eekur@rhd.gov.bd)

### Invitation for e-GP Tender

Sl. No.	Office Memo No.	2330(3) তারিখ ১১/০১/১৯	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission
01.	e-GP Tender ID No.: 273998		20 February, 2019 within 13.30
	Invitation Reference No.: e-GP/16/EE/KRD/2018-2019		

Name of work: Construction of 645.015m Sonhat Bridge over the river Dudhkumar at 6th Km of Bhurungamari-Sonhat Landport-Motherganj-Bhitorbondh-Nageshwari Road (Z-5624) under Road Division, Kurigram during the year 2018-2019.

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Amir Hossain  
Project Director  
&  
Executive Engineer, RHD (C.C.)  
Road Division, Kurigram

### Security guard

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might have been killed with an object like hammer, police said.