

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



On a hot afternoon, an elephant cools off in the Kirtankhola while a boy tends to it. The mammal was brought to the area yesterday to take part in an ongoing fair in Barishal city's Muktijodhha Park.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

418 children murdered last year

Report finds significant increase in violence against children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against children and the level of brutality, especially against girls, have increased significantly in recent years, worsening the state of child rights in the country, finds a non-government report.

In 2018, at least 418 children were murdered across the country, which is 23 percent higher than the previous year [around 339 murders in 2017], said the report.

Over 571 children of different ages were raped last year, while 812 were assaulted physically and sexually, it added.

Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, a platform of 10 non-governmental organisations, prepared the report based on published news.

The findings were unveiled yesterday at a press briefing held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

According to the report, most working children face both physical and verbal abuse at work. Besides, more than 55 percent and 49 percent children face physical punishment at home and educational institution respectively.

The report also found that incidents of children dying by suicide

and the number of their deaths in road accidents have increased remarkably.

Reviewing the findings, speakers at the briefing identified dilly-dallying in ensuring justice, absence of a designated government institution for protection of child rights, and lack of public awareness as major reasons behind the worseningsituation.

They suggested that the government form a separate department and commission for children, ensure speedy trial through establishing an individual tribunal and enforce ban on physical punishment at educational institutions.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said children face violence almost everywhere. They face physical punishment at school often, although it has been prohibited by the High Court.

"We are yet to have the mindset that we should remain sensitive towards women and children. It has to change," he said.

Abu Taleb, a joint secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Shahnaz Rahman, an adviser of Plan International Bangladesh; and Abdullah Al Mamun, a director of Save the Children, also spoke.

97pc Ctg high-rises at fire risk

Fire dept's 2018 survey raises alarm

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Around 97 percent high-rise buildings in Chattogram city lack adequate fire safety measures, posing a serious risk of casualties in case of fire, reveals a survey conducted by the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The 2018 survey further revealed that 93 percent high-rises did not even take "no objection certificates" (NOC) from the fire service, said its officials.

Only seven percent owners took NOCs from the fire department and of those, three percent implemented fire safety measures, they added.

The buildings include commercial and residential establishments.

Reaz Uddin Bazar, Tamakumandi Lane Market, Jahur Hawkers' Market, Teri Bazar and Central Plaza, among others, were found "very risky", said Jasim Uddin, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chattogram.

None of them have sufficient fire safety equipment, including fire extinguishers.

According to Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) 2006 and Fire prevention Act 2003, a market will have to keep sufficient fire extinguishers (an extinguisher for every 550 square feet) and sufficient staircases.

YEAR	FIRE INCIDENTS
2018	577
2017	663

A market should have sufficient reserve water, a diesel pump, an electrical pump and a jockey pump, arrangement for emergency lighting, smoke and heat detector, fire alarm system and sprinkler. Also, it must have fire safety and evacuation plan, and emergency exists with smoke-proof stairwells.

"We have divided the city into eight zones to conduct the survey and came up with the findings," Jasim Uddin said.

During a recent visit to Jahur Hawkers' Market and Tamakumandi Lane Market, this correspondent saw that the alleys were too narrow for fire fighting vehicles to enter in case of an emergency.

Asked, Fazlul Amin, organising secretary of Jahur Hawkers' Market Traders' Association, said they have received a notice from the fire service, and will hold an emergency meeting soon to discuss the matter.

Contacted, Ahmed Kabir Dulal, general secretary of Tamakumandi Lane Banik Samiti, said there are 110 markets in Tamakumandi Lane with over 40,000 shops.

"The market buildings were constructed without keeping enough space," he said.



"Now it has become difficult for us to implement fire safety measures in this vast area."

Asked, Abdul Kaium Chowdhury, vice president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh, claimed that 80 percent of their members had complied with fire safety rules.

"The owners of most high-rises, who have been violating safety rules, are not our members," he said, adding that it is the duty of the fire department to monitor fire safety measures at the buildings.

A total of 663 fire incidents occurred in Chattogram in 2017 while the number was 577 in 2018, said assistant director of fire service.

As per Fire Prevention Act 2003, designs of high-rises cannot be approved without a clearance from the fire service.

Asked, how 93 percent high-rises have been approved without NOCs, Shahinul Islam Khan, chief town planner of Chattogram Development Authority, evaded the question.

He, however, told The Daily Star that when they approve design of any building over six-storey, they impose a condition to receive NOC from the fire service.

"It is the responsibility of fire service officials to inspect whether under-construction buildings have provisions of fire safety," he said.

According to Fire Prevention Rules 2014, if the number of residents remains between 50 and 500, there should be two emergency staircases in the building; if the number remains between 500 and 1,000, there should be three emergency staircases and if the number exceeds 1,000, there must be four emergency staircases.

There is also a provision of three years' imprisonment for violating the rules, said Abdul Mannan, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chattogram.

Asked, whether anyone was jailed or fined for violating the law, Mannan said they had issued notices to owners in this regard. "We also try to motivate them to install fire safety equipment," he said.

Admission Announcement (2019)

University of Dhaka

Master of International Trade and Business

Department of International Business, University of Dhaka invites applications for admission in its 2-Year Specialized Master's Program in International Trade and Business for professionals.

Program Features:

- ❖ Rigorous orientation in international trade and business issues
- ❖ Unprecedented combination of highly qualified and experienced faculties
- ❖ Classes in the evening and mostly weekend days; small size classes
- ❖ Flexibility in course combinations (conditions apply)
- ❖ Practical learning opportunities, collaborations with firms, seminars, real life case studies

Admission Requirements:

- ❖ A bachelor degree in any discipline.
- ❖ A minimum of 2 years job experience as executive in recognized professional organization.
- ❖ Qualifying in a written test and viva voce.

Admission Form: will be available for a fee of Tk. 2000 at the Office of the Department of International Business, University of Dhaka during 10am-8pm on working days (Saturday -Thursday).Program Starts: July 2019. Apply now; last date of application: 04 May 2019. Written test for admission will be held at the Department of International Business, DU at 10.00 am on 10 May 2019.

Contact

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CUMILLA MURDER CASE

Khaleda's bail stayed till April 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order that granted six-month interim bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Cumilla murder case till April 7.

The case was filed on the charge of killing eight people and injuring 25-26 by torching a bus in Cumilla's Choudhagram during anti-government agitations by the BNP-led alliance on February 2, 2015.

Yesterday, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by the government, challenging the HC order of bail.

The apex court chamber judge also sent the petition to its full bench and set April 7 for further hearing of the same petition, Deputy Attorney General Dr Md Bashir Ullah told The Daily Star.

He also said Khaleda Zia cannot be released from jail following the SC chamber judge's order.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam argued for the government while Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali, Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Barrister Kayser Kamal appeared for Khaleda Zia.

Following a bail petition filed by Khaleda, the HC on March 6 granted the six-month interim bail to her in the Cumilla murder case.

Switzerland-Bangladesh political consultations start tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The fourth edition of biennial bilateral political consultations between the foreign ministries of Switzerland and Bangladesh will be held in Dhaka tomorrow.

Stocktaking and further strengthening of bilateral relations in the areas of economy, development cooperation and humanitarian aid will get top priority during the discussions, said a press release from the Swiss Embassy yesterday.

Both countries will discuss a wide range of multilateral, regional and global topics of mutual interest during the consultations.

The Swiss delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday for the four-day visit.

Ambassador Raphael Nägeli, assistant state secretary for Asia-Pacific of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and Ambassador Kamrul Ahsan, secretary (bilateral and consular) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, will lead the respective delegations, added the press release.

The Swiss delegation, which also includes Ambassador Thomas Gass, assistant director general of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, will travel to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar to obtain a first-hand experience on the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Ambassador Nägeli and the Swiss delegation will meet representatives of the civil society, business leaders, diplomatic community, international organisations and INGOs during their visit.

Bangladesh Bank

Information Systems Development and Support Department

Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Website: www.bb.org.bd

Tender No. ISDSD(Services)-12(56)/2019 Date: 27 March 2019

Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka

1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable.
2	Agency	Not applicable.
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of IT Equipment for Bangladesh Bank.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	ISDSD(Services)-12(56)/2019
8	Date	27 March 2019

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Own source.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/program code (if applicable)	
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	
14	Tender package No.	ISDSD(Services)-12(56)/2019
15	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and related services of Network Data Cabling and Node Installation at Bangladesh Bank offices.
16	Tender publication date	Date 27 March 2019
17	Tender last selling date	Date Time 04:00pm 04:10pm
18	Tender closing date and time	17 April 2019 04:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	17 April 2019 04:10pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address BB website e-Tender System (https://etender.bb.org.bd) and one hard copy document.
	- Receiving tender document	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
	- Opening tender document	17 April 2019 04:10pm

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of similar goods of at least one contract of similar nature successfully completed within the last one year.
22	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and related services of Network Data Cabling and Node Installation at Bangladesh Bank offices.
23	Brief description of related services	Three years warranty service including battery.
24	Lot No.	Identification of lot Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/ months from the date of contract signing
	A	Data Cabling at Bangladesh Bank Head Office, Khulna Office, Mymensingh Office, Rajshahi Office and Chattogram Office ISDSD 70,000/- 08 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL

25	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan.
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Systems Manager.
27	Address of official inviting tender	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530161 Fax: 9530481 E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings	

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬৩৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2019-1132
Date: 31-03-2019
GD-594

Md. Amir Hossain Pathan
Systems Manager
Phone: 9530161
Email: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd

Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Head Office, Chapapur, Cumilla

(Website: www.bgdcl.org.bd)

Reference No.: 28.11.0000.411.35.011.19/ Date: 25/03/2019

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling date and time	Tender security last submission date and time	Tender closing date and time
298750	28.11.0000.411.35.001.18	Supplying fitting and fixing tiles sanitary materials and plastering work in/c color at A B & C type Residential Building of Head Office Complex BGDCL Cumilla.	16-April-2019 up to 17:00	17-April-2019 up to 11:30	17-April-2019 at 12:00
299418	28.11.0000.411.32.011.18	Repair Maintenance and Painting of C type & F Type Residential Building at ADO Feni under BGDCL Chapapur Cumilla.	16-April-2019 up to 17:00	17-April-2019 up to 11:30	17-April-2019 at 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contact to the PE's Support desk (081-76847).

Engr. Ajharul Alam
DGM (PLCC)
BGDCL, Chapapur, Cumilla-3500

BG-1406, March-2019
GD-592