

'We want to continue investing in Bangladesh' Says US envoy

Our Correspondent, Sylhet
The US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has said that the United States wants companies like Chevron and others to continue to invest in Bangladesh.

"We want to introduce new technologies into the economy, bringing shared prosperity to more and more people -- benefiting both countries," the ambassador said while talking to journalists in Sylhet yesterday morning.

After a meeting with Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Mustafizur Rahman, the US envoy briefed the media on his tour at the conference hall of the DC office.

During his official visit to Sylhet, the ambassador visited Chevron Corporation's Bibiyana Gas Plant and Ratargul Swamp Forest, which is a "special biodiversity conservation area" in Sylhet district.

Ambassador Miller said, "American companies like Chevron play a key role not only in Bangladesh's energy sector, but also as a major employer in its growing economy."

"Chevron is working to support the local community, and I had a chance to see the positive impact the company is having in the Greater Sylhet region," he said.

The ambassador said, "Conserving ecosystems such as Ratargul is critical because they are home to protected species and provide ecosystem services such as protecting populations from floods."

"The co-management committees taking the lead to conserve protected areas are invaluable in ensuring that Bangladesh continues to be resilient and to grow its ability to adapt to natural and

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Amid the ongoing ban on catching hilsa, a fisherman passes his time knitting and mending nets while fishing boats remain anchored on the bank of Meghna river. The 22-day ban on catching, selling, storing and transporting hilsa started from October 9. The photo was taken from Tulatoli area in Bhola on Wednesday.

Keane Bridge reopens without repair

Our Correspondent, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) reopened Keane Bridge for vehicular movement from Tuesday night without even starting the repair work, though the heritage symbol of Sylhet had been closed for that purpose since September 1.

As the repair work became time consuming and the city corporation was being pressurised by locals, they reopened the bridge, according to SCC sources.

Authorities, however, imposed restriction on plying of engine-run vehicles, considering the deteriorating condition of the bridge.

Three wards are situated on south side of the bridge along with the railway station and bus terminal.

Ever since SCC authorities closed vehicular movement on the bridge in September, people from different walks of life have been protesting the decision.

At the same time, concerned citizens have long been demanding that the historical bridge be repaired properly and vehicle movement be restricted permanently.

"Considering the admission tests of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) on Saturday and locals' demands, we have reopened the Keane Bridge," said SCC Mayor Ariful Haque

Chowdhury.

"However, no engine-run vehicles will be allowed to ply the bridge," he added.

Asked about the delay in repair work, the mayor said the work could not be started due to unavoidable circumstances.

"The bridge has a unique steel structure and the Roads and Highways Department or city corporation don't have the necessary expertise in this regard," he said.

"After looking into the matter, we came to know that it [the bridge] was repaired by the Railways Department after the Liberation War. A team of experts from the department visited the bridge today [yesterday]. They will submit a report soon," he said.

The mayor also said, "We hope to start the repair work soon to protect the heritage and will suspend vehicular movement on the bridge again during the work."

Keane Bridge was built over the Surma in 1936, and named after Sir Michael Keane, the then English governor to Assam from 1932 to 1937.

Over the ages, the notable landmark's condition deteriorated and it was first damaged during the Liberation War, and repaired in 1977.

Since then, no notable repair work, except some beautification, had been done, until the decision taken by the city corporation recently.

PM Baku today

Unb, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for Baku today, on a four-day official visit to Azerbaijan to attend the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The two-day summit of NAM -- a forum of 120 developing countries -- will be held at Baku Congress Centre in the Azerbaijan capital on October 25-26.

A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Prime Minister and her entourage will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Baku at 4pm, and is scheduled to land at Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport at 8:55pm local time.

On the sidelines of the Summit, the PM is expected to meet a number of heads of state or government, sources at the Foreign Ministry said.

Sheikh Hasina will return to the country on Sunday.

Two arrested under Digital Security Act

Star Report

A former student of Jahangirnagar University was arrested in a case filed under digital security act for allegedly spreading rumour via a messaging app against JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam to remove her from the post.

The arrestee is Saad Sharif, former student of government and politics department, who was detained from the campus by the university proctorial team on Tuesday night over suspicion of being involved with Shibir, reports our JU correspondent.

Talking to The Daily Star, Md Toslim Uddin, inspector of Ashulia Police Station (intelligence), said the university's Chief Security Officer Sudipto Shaheen filed a case under digital security act against Saad. "We demanded five-day remand to get further information," he added.

On the alleged involvement with Shibir, the inspector said, "We do not know that to be a fact yet, but we found proof that he was spreading rumour online."

However, Saad denied being involved with Shibir. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

When trees became victims of vengeance

Woman held in Savar for destroying neighbour's rooftop garden

Our Correspondent, Savar

Forty-year-old Ratna Habib, a homemaker from Savar's Dagormora area, enjoys gardening as a hobby. Her husband Ahsan Habib, a retired bank officer, bought a flat on the sixth floor of an eight-storied building in the area two years ago.

Ratna and her family set up a small garden on the building's rooftop before Eid-ul-Azha this year. There were about 32 pots where fruits, vegetables and medicinal trees had been planted.

However, owners of another flat on the same floor complained about the garden multiple times over phone. During the past weeks, Khaleda Akter Lucky, 45, and their two sons had created pressure on Ratna's family to remove the trees, claimed Ratna's daughter Sumaiya Habib.

On Tuesday around 5pm, Khaleda and her son, along with 10-12 local youths went to the rooftop and engaged in an argument with Ratna and her family. At one point, Khaleda started to cut down the trees using a machete.

Sumaiya captured the incident on her phone camera and posted it on Facebook, which went viral soon.

After seeing the video, a team from Savar Model Police Station visited the spot and detained Khaleda for questioning yesterday morning.

Sumaiya, a second-year student at a university in Dhaka, said, "I can't imagine how someone could damage a beautiful garden. Some of the fruits and vegetables were almost ready for harvesting."

"I want justice for this incident," she added.

Meanwhile, Khaleda's family members have gone into hiding since the police visit. Before being taken to the police station, Khaleda told reporters, "I cut down the trees as they [Ratna and family] cursed my son when we asked them to remove the trees before."

She added that she now understands that she "should not have chopped down the trees."

Ahsan Habib lodged a case in this regard with Savar Model Police Station yesterday, and Khaleda was arrested.

Meanwhile, environmental activists visited the spot and condemned the incident. Green Savers Association handed over ten saplings for plantation to Ratna.

Man sentenced to death for killing two

Staff Correspondent, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing an elderly woman and a seven-year-old house help during a robbery in port city's Kotwali area in 2009.

The convict is Md Solaiman, 32, said court sources.

The court of Chattogram Additional Metropolitan Session Judge Jannatul Ferdous passed the verdict after examining all records and witnesses, said Additional Public Prosecutor Taslim Uddin.

After the verdict, the court sent him to jail, he said.

Advocate Taslim said the court gave him death penalty as the murder charge against him was proven beyond doubt. It also sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment and fined him Tk 10,000 on charge of robbery.

According to the case statement, victim Nurjahan Begum, 70, her son Faruk Hossain, and house help Popy used to live in the city's Bundle By-lane area.

On August 18, 2009, Faruk had gone to his workplace in the morning. After retiring home at night, he found her mother's and Popy's dead bodies.

Advocate Taslim said SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Forest Department Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project Cox's Bazar South Forest Division Memo No.: 22.01.2200.790.29.13.19.3792 Date: 21 October 2019 e-Tender Notice (SUFAL/GD-11) E-Tender notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of: Tender ID Package No. Description Online notice publication date & time Online tender closing date & time

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড দুলালাপাণী কার্যালয়ঃ ৬১৩৪৯ বাসাঃ ৭৩৪৭৪ ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬১৩১৮ ই-মেইলঃ xen.kushtia@gmail.com Memo No. T-4/777 Date: 22-10-2019

e-Tender Notice-05/2019-20 An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works. SI No. Tender ID Package No. & description Location of the works Tender/proposal document last selling date & time Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time

Pijush Krishna Kundu Executive Engineer Kushtia O&M Division BWDB, Kushtia

Padma Oil Company Limited (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram e-Tender Invitation Notice e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following works: SI No. Tender ID No. & tender reference Description of works Tender publishing date & time in e-GP Tender document last selling/downloading date & time Tender closing date & time

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Netrakona www.lged.gov.bd e-Tender Notice No: 15/2019-2020 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works, details in table: Memo No. Name of work Package No. Tender ID Procurement method

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