



What looks like a scene out of a post-apocalyptic movie is actually a photo taken from Uttara’s House Building area, from the road that leads to Gazipur. After a spell of rain from a couple of weeks ago which caused damage to the road, dry weather has created so much dust that it is hard to see even a few feet ahead. The situation has become so bad that shopkeepers in the area are finding it difficult to open their stores for business. This photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

239 Bangladeshis

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demand for foreign workers in Gulf countries has been in decline due to various reasons, such as malpractice in the recruitment process.  
This has also affected Bangladesh, as thousands of workers had to come back home from Gulf nations over the last few years.  
In this regard, Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad has said the government is taking initiatives to send workers to at least six new destinations. These are: China, Cambodia, Poland, Romania, Croatia, and Seychelles.  
Besides, the government is also looking to export manpower to more central Asian countries.  
Sources at the ministry said the government is looking for alternative job markets abroad as opportunities in traditional markets have drastically shrunk in recent times.

ACADEMIC FEAT



Fardin Khan received a scholarship in computer engineering from the Berkeley University of California. Fardin Khan, son of Salauddin Khan Selim, a prominent businessman from Shaitpakia village in Bhairavpasha union of Nalchiti upazila of Jhalokati district, has received a scholarship in electrical engineering and computer science from Berkeley University of California, USA. Fardin Khan, 17, is currently studying at City Law University in London. His success has been hailed by people in the area, including his parents, sisters and family members.

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It’s unexpected

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They held placards and banners saying “Stop communalism: Wake up brave Bangalee” and “Stop using Facebook for communal attack”.  
Former Supreme Court Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, prominent journalist Abed Khan, activists of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi and leaders of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation expressed solidarity with the protest.  
At least 17 people from religious and ethnic minority communities have been killed between March and September, as communal attacks continued even amid the pandemic, according to the parishad.  
Member of parliament Ushatan Talukder, vice president of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Jana Sanghati Samiti, said, “Today, a few fundamentalists are implementing the blueprint of an international conspiracy in the country... If the government can stop militancy in the country, then why would these few people dare to commit misdeeds? Shall we just stand and watch?”  
Nimchandra Bhowmik, president of Oikya Parishad, said all the democratic and social forces have to join hands to deal with the anti-liberation forces. He said arrests on false pretexts should be stopped.  
Expressing solidarity with the rally, journalist Abed Khan said it seems that the Liberation War was not over yet.  
“Today, even when the government that upholds the spirit of the Liberation War is in power, it is our misfortune that we are talking about minorities being tortured, we have to ask the government to look for the perpetrators... and we have to stand here...”  
He said today, if anything happens abroad, temples are burnt and destroyed in this country. Secular politics is under threat, he added.  
A victim family of Cumilla’s Muradnagar incident also took part in the rally.  
In Chattogram city, the parishad members took to the streets in New Market intersection area.  
Addressing the rally, Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of the parishad, said the prime minister wants the Hindu community to live in peace and prosperity.  
But he doubted how many Awami League leaders wanted the same.  
Referring to the resistance of the party led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to protect minority communities during the Pakistan era, Rana Das questioned where the spirit of that party has gone... where is that political leadership?  
He warned that they will organise a long march if the communal attacks are not stopped immediately.  
Meanwhile, similar protests were held in different parts of the country including Barishal, Pabna, Jhenidah, Narsingdi, Rajshahi and Jamalpur.

Only plans

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Road Transport and Highway Division, which was assigned to coordinate taskforce’s activities, called the second meeting, which would be held virtually.  
‘LACK OF SERIOUSNESS, APPROACH’  
At a road safety-related programme on Thursday, Obaidul Quader said, “We are constructing four-lane, six-lane and eight-lane roads, but we could not ensure road safety yet.”  
“There is nothing to hide here; we have to tell the truth. Road crashes are our main concern now,” he said.  
Noted columnist and a member of the taskforce Syed Abul Maksud said this is unfortunate that the meeting is going to be held after a year.  
“Dozens of meetings were held during this pandemic, with exception for the meeting of this taskforce,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.  
“The authorities might have formed the taskforce following people’s demand and their movement but they are not serious about it,” he added.  
Maksud said he had a suggestion to form a taskforce with six-seven members but the authorities have formed a “huge” taskforce with many ex-officio members, for whom, it would be difficult to give time for this particular work.  
Mentionable, only two of the 11 secretaries, who are members of the taskforce, attended the first meeting, making the home minister discontent.  
Noted transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said there is a lack of approach to solve the problem.  
“Actually we [the authorities] don’t know how to solve the problem. That’s why a vicious circle has been created and number of recommendations is on the rise,” he said.  
Instead of strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring accountability and time-bound action plan, formation of such taskforce would not work, said Prof Shamsul, also a member of the taskforce.  
He said the authorities had to find out the reasons behind the non-implementation of previous experts’ recommendations and make the failed persons accountable to solve the problems in the transport sector.  
The Daily Star could not get in touch with the home minister for comments, despite phone calls and text messages.

Indigenous

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Citing a research, the speakers said about 56 percent of the country’s children cannot participate in education programme on television when the rate of indigenous children deprived of education would be more than 75 percent.  
They said most of the indigenous families have little access to electricity and television that lead to such deprivation.  
During the pandemic, a large number of indigenous people lost their jobs and are sitting idle at homes while harassment by the land grabbers and oppressors is continuing, they said.  
The speakers protested calling indigenous communities as small ethnic groups.  
They demanded formation of a separate ministry for the indigenous communities of the plain land and separate budget for their progress.  
Local public representatives, officials from other NGOs and leaders from indigenous communities were present at the discussion.

EC to

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Huda and Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed jointly inaugurated the overseas voter registration programme in Malaysia last November.  
A total of 738 expatriates from the four countries had also applied for NID cards before the pandemic began. Of them, 530 online applications came from the UAE, 121 from the UK, 48 from Malaysia and 39 from Saudi Arabia.  
The Commission sent the applications to the respective upazila or thana election offices to complete verification process of the expatriates. However, the EC could not send technical teams to these four countries to collect biometrics of the applicants due to the pandemic.  
Now, the EC is ready to send its technical teams to the four countries, as well as Kuwait, to collect biometrics for rendering the NID services there to the expatriates, said the head of the NID Registration Wing.  
“The Commission will soon decide if fees are to be charged for the NID services abroad. If yes, the commission will also set its rate.”  
Saidul Islam, however, said when the EC went to four countries to open online portals to render the NID services there, expatriates had asked them to impose fees to maintain better services.  
The plan for introduction of the NID services in the 40 countries has also been incorporated in the Development Project Proforma of the Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA)-II, as the tenure of the ongoing IDEA project is going to end in December, said an EC official.

DSCC’s

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This newspaper recently visited eight wards under DSCC and talked to numerous residents who expressed utter dissatisfaction about this reform.  
“Until July, I used to pay Tk 50 per month. Now, the waste collector company is charging Tk 100. When I refused to pay and said I would dispose of my wastes myself in the garbage container set up by the government, they said I will have to pay them the monthly bill regardless,” said Abdus Salam, a school teacher who lives in East Jurain under ward-53.  
Several residents of Jatrabari’s Konabari area (ward-64) said the service provider was charging Tk 200 from them. They also showed monthly receipts as evidence.  
“Although they are charging two to three times higher, their service is very unsatisfactory. They often dump all the garbage on canals and sewerage lines,” said Fajlul Karim, a resident of Konabari.  
Mizanur Rahman, a social activist and a resident of East Jurain, said, “We are paying different kinds of taxes to DSCC for maintaining our houses and business. Then why do we have to pay for waste collection to a private company?”  
“DSCC’s method to appoint a company in exchange of money means next year another company may get the contract in exchange of more money, which they will try to draw from city dwellers. The cost of waste collection will increase and people will have to bear the burden,” he added.  
WHAT SERVICE PROVIDERS SAY  
Kaosar Haoladar’s company Raeen International has been appointed to collect waste from ward-53.  
He said, “We collect no more than Tk

100 per month as fixed by DSCC. But, many local inhabitants are not paying us. I have to operate 35 rickshaw-vans and 75 staffers just to collect wastes.”  
“Moreover, to complete all the tasks within 6-10pm timeframe we have to recruit hundreds of labourers. How will we pay our workers and labourers, if people don’t pay us this minimum bill?” he said.  
Another PCSP owner, requesting anonymity, said DSCC took Tk 12 lakh as safe deposit from us. We also had to pay hundreds of thousands to local politicians to get their “recommendations”. I have invested almost Tk 20 lakh to launch this business. I have to make sure that I am making profit while delivering services.”  
WHAT DSCC SAYS  
DSCC chief waste management officer Air Commodore Badrul Amin said, “Waste collection from households is not the city corporation’s job. So, this is not covered by holding tax or other municipal taxes.”  
“Previously it was done in an unregulated manner which made waste management extremely difficult. To make things better, we have appointed companies through a review committee,” he said.  
Asked about increased bills, he replied, “We have assessed the expenditure trend of households in DSCC and thus fixed the maximum bill of Tk 100 per month. However, smaller households, offices can pay less than that depending on the amount of waste they produce. There is no chance of increasing the bill in the future.”  
“If a PCSP demands more than Tk 100 or violate any of the 25 terms, their deposit will be seized and their permission to operate will be cancelled,” he added.

LDC graduates

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global development finance system, she emphasised to ensure flexible and equitable governance for them.  
She further noted the importance of maintaining a balance between development and humanitarian financing of the UN agencies.  
Focusing on the importance of involvement of national governments in SDG implementation, she urged the OECD countries to leverage innovative financing, STI and emerging technologies for meeting the ensuing resource gaps.  
She underscored the importance of collective effort for eradication of the

climate vulnerabilities of the LDCs and other vulnerable countries.  
The report published by OECD highlighted the evolution of multilateral development finance system, their sources of funding and their pattern of financing throughout the world.  
It also illustrated various challenges faced by the system and the possible ways that can be pursued for their recovery.  
The event was co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Indonesia. Permanent Representatives of Member States, OECD Director, UN Assistant Secretary General, high-level dignitaries and experts attended the event.



Commuters take up a fair share of the road width on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near the Panthapath-Sonargaon intersection, to catch a bus home after work. Although there is no designated stoppage here, buses stop here often, creating a traffic bottleneck. Social distancing and mask-wearing are also fairly lax, despite a global ‘second wave’ of the pandemic. The photo was taken on Thursday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (বিস্তারিত)	
এতদ্বারা খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট এর অধীনে খাদ্যশস্য (ধান, চাল ও গম), খাদ্যদ্রব্য, খালি বস্তা, জাণ সামগ্রী এবং অন্যান্য দ্রব্য সামগ্রী সড়ক পথে জেলার অভ্যন্তরে এক এলএসডি হতে অন্য এলএসডিতে সড়ক পথে পরিবহনের জন্য ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের অবশিষ্ট সময় ও ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের জন্য অভ্যন্তরীণ সড়ক পরিবহন টিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে অগ্রাধী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি নিম্নে পেশ করা হলো।	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. সংগ্রাহক সত্তা	জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, সিলেট।
৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তর	জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট।
৪. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	১৩.০১.৯১০০.০০০.৪৯.০০৩.২০.৩৭৯৬ তারিখঃ ০৪/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
৫. কাজের নাম	খাদ্য অবিদ্রবের অধীন খাদ্যশস্য (ধান, চাল ও গম), খাদ্য দ্রব্য, জাণ সামগ্রী এবং অন্যান্য দ্রব্য সামগ্রী সড়কপথে সিলেট জেলার এক ওদাম/কেন্দ্রে হতে অন্য ওদাম/কেন্দ্রে পরিবহনের জন্য অভ্যন্তরীণ সড়ক পরিবহন টিকাদার (আইআরটিসি) নিয়োগ।
৬. কাজের পরিমাণ	সরকারের খরচ যেমন প্রয়োজন।
৭. কাজের সময়কাল	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের অবশিষ্ট সময় ও ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছর।
৮. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৯. দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা প্রতি সেট। ট্রেজারী চালানদের মাধ্যমে মূল্য জমা দিয়ে দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা করতে হবে। চালান জমা দেয়ার কোড নং- ১/৪৮৩১/০০০১/২৩৬৬।
১০. টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা। ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে (ফেরতযোগ্য)।
১১. পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি	২৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা। ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে। (চুক্তি সম্পাদনের পূর্বে জমা দিতে হবে)।
১২. পরিবহনতাবা পস্যের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	পস্যের নিরাপত্তা জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) ৫০,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা হারে (প্রতি ১০০ মেঃ টন) সূচী জারির পূর্বে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৩. বাজেট ও আয়ের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
১৪. দরপত্রাদাতার অভিজ্ঞতা	সড়কপথে পরিবহন কাজে ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। এরূপ অভিজ্ঞতার ক্ষেত্রে সড়কপথে সাধারণ পরিবহন কাজে ১ (এক) বছরের এবং খাদ্য বিভাগীয় পরিবহন কাজে ১ (এক) বছরের অথবা খাদ্য বিভাগীয় সাধারণ পরিবহন কাজে ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১৫. দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়/প্রাপ্তির স্থান	জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট।
১৬. দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৬/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৭. দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৮. দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেটে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজ।
১৯. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেটে দরপত্রের খোলায়তা বিষয়ক প্রস্তাব উন্মুক্তকরণ ও মূল্যায়ন করা হবে। আর্থিক প্রস্তাব খোলার তারিখ ও সময় জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট এর নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।
২০. দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
২১. দরপত্রের ধরণ	দুইমাস পদ্ধতিতে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
২২. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী এবং টেলিফোন নং	জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, সিলেট। টেলিফোন নং ০৮২১-৭১৭১৪৩।
এ দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সংগ্রাহক সত্তা এ নোটিশ বাতিল বা পরিবর্তন এবং যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাখ্যান/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
স্বাক্ষরিত/- মনোজ কান্তি দাস চৌধুরী উপজেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, সিলেট সদর ও আহরণ ও বায়ান কর্মকর্তা জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট ও সভাপতি জেলা দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি (খাদ্য) ফোনঃ ০৮২১-৭১৭১৪৩	
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