



Syed Ashraf's second death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the second death anniversary of former general secretary of Awami League and public administration minister Syed Ashraful Islam. Ashraf was the eldest son of Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of the 1971 Mujibnagar government. Born in Mymensingh in 1952, Ashraf started his political career during his student years with Chhatra League and became general secretary of its greater Mymensingh district unit. Following the killing of his father on November 3, 1975 along with the three national leaders, he left the country for the UK. On his return home in 1996, he was elected MP and served as state minister for civil aviation and tourism from 1996-2001. After the 2008 election win, he became minister for LGRD and Cooperatives. Later in July 2015, he was given the charge of the public administration ministry, a post he held till his death.

Livelihood of jatra artistes at standstill

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

It's a tough time to be an artiste in the country right now, as the economic consequences of coronavirus continue to rattle creative professionals. For female jatra artistes in Mymensingh, the situation has become crippling, especially during winter -- the peak time of the year for this craft.

The jatra artistes, who generally live in clusters at the city's Krishnapur, said they are not getting enough contracts in the fallout of the pandemic. On the other hand, the few gigs that do come by are offering much lower payment than before.

"We receive a lot of contracts around this time, after sitting through long dry periods throughout the year. But this year, the scenario is quite unfortunate," Shanti Akter, an artiste from the area, told this correspondent.

"I've done only three deals in the whole year," said Shanti, a mother of two schoolgoers. "I have been in this profession for more than 16 years. Nothing like this has ever happened before," said the 32-year-old.

This is a drastic fall from just last year's numbers. "I got more than 100 contracts and earned Tk 3.5 lakh. But as luck would have it, I have had to borrow money this year," she added.

Like Shanti, 26-year-old Jui Akter Bithi, another mother of two schoolgoing children, said she is currently passing the most critical point of her eight-year career.

The situation is so bad, many jatra artistes were forced to sell their belongings to cope, said Parvin, another artiste from the area.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nizam Uddin Bhuiyan, president of Mymensingh Jatra-Natok Shilpi Bahumukhi Kalyan Samabaya Samity, said 150 female artistes depend on jatra gigs to make a living in the city.

To survive the pandemic, many have even started working at garment factories, informed Nizam.

Some 100 instrument players, make-up artistes, and costume makers in the periphery of the jatra scene are also in deep financial crisis, said Nizam.

Similar comments came from Ali Akbar Pathan, a costume maker.

In Mymensingh, folk-theatre programmes like jatra are staged in rural areas, said Shahadat Hossain, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha. These are arranged by art and culture enthusiasts, who keep entrances free.

But this year, their financial situation, as well as health safety issues, have led them to drastically reduce the number of these shows.

Mohammad Rafiq, a cornet player, said in order to survive, the artistes seek long-term soft loans from the government.

DSCC takes on

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DSCC again stopped taking rent after Taposh became mayor, he claimed, adding that they got the notice of eviction on December 6. "We sought one month's time from the mayor, but we did not get it," he said.

Contacted, former mayor Khokon told The Daily Star that illegal shops had been running there for a long time.

He said when they went to demolish those, the shop owners and traders filed a writ petition with the HC and following the HC directives, they revised their decision at a board meeting of the DSCC.

He said following the decision, they made the shops that paid their rents legal.

About taking money, Khokon said DSCC did not take any money for giving the traders licences, it just took all the outstanding rent from them.

COUNCILLOR RATAN SHOW-CAUSED
On December 17 last year, DSCC served a show-cause notice on Councillor Ratan.

The notice, signed by Mayor Taposh, mentioned that according to some media reports, the ward-20 councillor is taking money using the name of the existing mayor to "help" people get shops in some markets including Pura Bazar Hawkers Market and Pora market.

It also asked the councillor to explain

why legal actions will not be taken against him in this regard.

Asked, Ratan denied the allegation. Without elaborating any further, he said he will reply to the city corporation accordingly.

KHOKON SUED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT
Meanwhile on December 29, former mayor Sayeed Khokon and six others were sued on charges of embezzlement of Tk 34.89 crore.

Delwar Hossain, president of Traders-Owners Association of Fulbaria City Supermarket-2 in Gulistan, filed the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Ashek Imam, Atiqur Rahman, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

The six other accused are: Yusuf Ali Sardar, former chief revenue officer of the city corporation, Md Mazed, former deputy assistant engineer of the city corporation, and their assistants Kamrul Hasan, Helena Akter, Atiqur Rahman Swapan and Md Wali.

According to the case document, Khokon and six others conspired with one another and built shops, violating the main design of Fulbaria City Supermarket-2.

On December 30, a Dhaka court directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the case and submit a probe report by January 31 this year.

BSCIC fair begins in capital today

Honey, handicrafts, small and cottage industries in focus

BSS, Dhaka

A five-day long honey, handicrafts, small and cottage industries fair will kick off in the capital today.

On the occasion of Mujib Borsho, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) will organise the fair on its premises following health guidelines.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all fairs were closed most of last year, and the small and cottage industrialists have been severely affected for this, said a press release.

The fair will be open till January 7, from 10am to 5pm.

A total of 61 honey, small and cottage industry entrepreneurs will participate in the fair. Besides, people who received training from the BSCIC will get the chance to showcase their products at the fair.

BSCIC Chairman Md Mushtaq Hasan urged entrepreneurs, buyers and sellers of honey, small and cottage industries to follow health guidelines properly.

Everyone

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democracy.

"Authoritarianism and dictatorship are growing in such a way that arrogance and negligence towards people have now become a part of current politics across the world."

Fakhru said their party has been working and making efforts to come out of this situation by "restoring" multiparty democracy. "But it's not enough."

He alleged that the government has been carrying out "repressive acts" by imprisoning their party leaders and implicating them in "false" cases. "Over 500 people were made disappeared and more than 1,000 were killed. All these victims are political activists. Last year, cases under the Digital Security Act were filed against 157 journalists who revealed the truth. So, where's democracy?"

The BNP leader said their party wants to turn Bangladesh into a democratic country by protecting its independence. "We don't believe in (foreign) masters. We don't want to be subservient to anyone. We want to stand in the global arena with our heads held high."

He urged all to get united to establish a government of people and "restore democracy and their rights by defeating the current regime through a strong struggle".

At the event, Fakhru also recalled Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf's contributions to the country and BNP.

Water flow

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Commission and Shri Nagendra Kumar, assistant director of the commission -- along with officials of Hydrology Department and the Water Development Board started monitoring water levels at the 2,500-feet upstream of Hardinge Bridge point of the river.

Additionally, a four-member team, led by AKM Saifuddin, executive engineer of Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), along with the Indian Water Commission officials also started measuring at two points of Farrakka by the Ganges, according to JRC officials.

In accordance with the treaty, Bangladesh is to get 67,650 cusecs of water every day on average in the first cycle of 10 days of January.

Make sugar

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employees from 16 mills.

On December 21 last year, a group of researchers and educationists, referring to a research paper, said mismanagement, corruption and absence of proper planning are responsible for the losses incurred by state-owned jute and sugar mills, and workers of the mills can in no way be blamed.

Prof Mohammad Tanjimuddin Khan and Prof Moshahida Sultana of Dhaka University and researcher Maha Mirza revealed the research findings during a programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The report was prepared following field visits to different jute mills in Khulna and sugar mills in northern districts.

ফ্যাট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লক দক্ষিণমুখী নতুন (অবাবরত) ফ্লফানিটি ও বেড, ৪ বাথ, ড্রইং, ডাইনিং, ও বারান্দা, অভ্যুত্থানিক ১৭০০ বর্গফুট পার্কিংসহ বিক্রয় হইবে।
যোগাযোগ- ০১৯১১০৫৫১৪৪

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
Purchase Department
Plot #16, Block #B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1212

TENDER FOR THE IT EQUIPMENT

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed manufacturers/bona-fide dealers / suppliers for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Network equipment. The detailed specifications, quantity of the products, terms & conditions are mentioned in the tender schedule. Interested bidders are requested to purchase tender schedule from the Purchase Department (room no. 2031) on payment of Tk.3,000/- (non-refundable) to the Finance & Accounts Department in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Independent University, Bangladesh between the office hrs. of 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. (Sunday through Thursday) till January 21, 2021.

The sealed bids will be submitted by the bidders in two envelopes in the Purchase Department. One for the Technical offer and one for the Financial offer. The bids (Technical and Financial) will be received up to 2:30 pm on January 24, 2021. The Technical offers will be opened on the same day at 2:45 pm in front of the bidders who wish to remain present. The financial offers of the technically qualified bidders will be opened in presence of tenderer. The financial bid must be accompanied by 2.5% of the total quoted amount as earnest money in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Independent University, Bangladesh without which the bid shall be rejected.

The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids and increase or decrease of the requirements / quantity without assigning any reason whatsoever and also is not bound to accept the lowest quotation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)
Noakhali Division
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Majidee Court Noakhali
xennoa@hed.gov.bd

Memo No. 45.02.2075.263.00.000.20.2312 Dated: 31.12.2020

e-Tender Notice-05/2020-2021
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies 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 of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to particular date and time specified on the Tender Notice.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission
1	2	3	4	5
1	HED/GOB/R&P (19-20)-11 re	Repair & Maintenance of 24 Hrs Delivery works for (a) Uttar Char Ababil UH&FWC & (b) Char Mohana UH&FWC at Raypur Upazila in Laxmipur District.	532050	19.01.2021 17.00pm
2	HED/GOB/R&P (19-20)-12 re	Repair & Maintenance of 24 Hrs Delivery works for (a) Bhabanigonj UH&FWC at Sadar Upazila & (b) Char Ramiz UH&FWC & (c) Char Badam UH&FWC at Ramgoti Upazila in Laxmipur District.	532051	19.01.2021 17.00pm
3	HED/GOB/R&P (19-20)-22 re	(a) Repair & Maintenance works of Class iii Quarter & (b) Repair & Maintenance work of Doctors Quarter & (c) Repair & Maintenance works of Nurses Dormitory at Hatiya UzHC in Noakhali District.	532052	19.01.2021 17.00pm
4	HED/GOB/R&P (19-20)-28 re	(a) Repair & Maintenance and Extension of Boundary Wall works at Kamol Nagar UzHC (b) Repair & Maintenance work of Civil, Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal Electrical for Class iv Quarter (4 units old) at Raipur UzHC (c) Repair & Maintenance work of Civil, Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal Electrical for Class iv Quarter (4 units new) at Raipur UzHC in Laxmipur.	532053	19.01.2021 17.00pm
5	HED/GOB/R&P (19-20)-30 re	(a) Repair & Maintenance work of Civil, Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal Electrical for Changirgoan Sub Center at Ramganj Upazila (b) Repair & Maintenance work of Civil, Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal Electrical for Class iv Quarter at Sadar Hospital in Laxmipur.	532054	19.01.2021 17.00pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mahfuzul Alam
Executive Engineer (c.c)
HED, Noakhali Division
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Amborkhana Road is vital to traffic movement throughout Sylhet city. Right in front of signs prohibiting vehicles from even stopping or standing on the road, the street continues to be taken over by illegal parking, hawkers, and makeshift stores on both sides. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

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intrusion of controversial persons in the party leadership.

The party will continue extending cooperation to the government in implementing its electoral pledges, he added.

The minister said the government will prioritise bringing discipline in the roads and highways this year. He sought cooperation from all stakeholders to this end.

He asked the authorities concerned to end domination of brokers at BRTA. He also gave directives to stop plying of three-wheelers on highways and shut down factories that manufacture such vehicles.

Quader reiterated his call to vehicle owners and workers to not carry passengers more than the vehicles' seating capacity. Action will be taken if any vehicle violates the directives, he added.

Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary Md Nazrul Islam and BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder and officials concerned also joined the meeting virtually.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
Department of Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Work: Supply, Installation & Commissioning of VRF Air Conditioning with Fresh Air System (Phase-1) at Dr. A. Majeed Khan Building, IUB

- Sealed Bids are hereby invited from the bona-fide Contractors / Firms for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of VRF Air Conditioning with Fresh Air System (Phase-1) at Dr. A. Majeed Khan Building of IUB Campus, Bashundhara, Dhaka. The bidders shall be required to submit a complete offer in two separate envelopes, one for the Technical Offer while the second envelope shall contain the sealed Financial Offer with earnest money.
- The bidders shall apply in their Official Letter heads to Director, O&M, IUB, along with the following documents:
 - Updated Trade License, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, VAT Registration Certificates & Ownership evidence of the Company/Firm.
 - Experience certificate of similar type of work (should be minimum 05 years with minimum Tk. 2.00 crore in single tender)
 - Certificate of Average annual Turnover should be at least Tk.4.00 crore.
 - Certificate of General Experience.
- The bidders shall furnish an earnest money, equivalent to 2.5% of the bid amount, in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh, in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, as part of the Bid Documents.
- Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB, between 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM up to 10th January 2021 on payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk. 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only in cash.
- A Pre-bid Meeting with the intended bidders will be held on 11:30 AM, 12th January 2021 at the Office of the Director, O&M.
- The Tenders will be received at the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB up to 01:30 PM of 20th January 2021 and the Technical Offers shall be opened at 02:00 PM on the same day & at the same place, in presence of the bidders who may wish to attend the Tender Opening.
- The Financial Offers of the technically responsive bidders will be opened separately with due notification to the respective bidders.
- All bidders should mention their contact number & email address clearly in the forwarding letter of the Tender.
- IUB Authority reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tenders without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Director
Department of Operations and Maintenance, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Plot-16, Block-B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1212