

DNCC scheme offers hope

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The project, said, "We have submitted a proposal to the DNCC so that all the existing waterbodies of the new wards remain intact even after 50 years.

"We have proposed to create some new retention areas, and that existing five acres of waterbodies including ponds will have to be either acquired or protected through transfer of development rights.

"We have prepared a DPP of Tk 857 crore to develop the blue network."

Under the new initiative, the DNCC will now develop the Naria-Beraid canal. Its length is 9.5km, while the width ranges from 12.53m to 115m, which is very unsuitable for natural water flow.

The canal originates from the Balu river and then runs through Aftabnagar, Badda, Shahjadpur, Sutibhola, Satarkul, Kathaldia and Beraid areas.

Rampant filling at different points, encroachment by illegal occupants, indiscriminate waste dumping and illegal fish farming have put the waterbody in dire state, according to the study.

DNCC will demarcate the canal, excavate it to increase navigability, and re-establish interconnectivity between different parts of the waterbody.

"If you want to save the areas

like Aftabnagar, Badda, Shahjadpur, Sutibhola, Satarkul, Kathaldia and Beraid from acute waterlogging, the canal from Naria to Beraid will have to be protected properly."

According to the study, Satarkul canal in Badda is another waterbody which was significantly choked at different points because of grabbing. The Sutibhola part of the canal has been filled up and lost its link with other parts almost completely.

In Beraid, developers have kept alive some canals to carry sand for their housing projects but part of the Naria-Beraid canal in the area has mostly been encroached upon.

In the project, there are plans for walkways and bicycle lanes along the two banks of the canal. Seating areas, tents, parks, floating decks, children's playgrounds and terminals have also been designed.

Besides, adequate dustbins, lighting, CCTV cameras and watchtowers were recommended.

Though several reclamation attempts have been made, a more comprehensive approach is necessary to save this waterbody, one of the most important canals in the DNCC area, said architect Sumon.

Hopefully, he added, this large-scale project will be able to resuscitate the entire canal.

Govt seeks 5-year transition

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challenges posed by the pandemic," said an official of the Economic Relations Division.

Bangladesh was recommended for LDC graduation by the CDP in its triennial review in 2018 as the country met the graduation criteria in Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI), and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI).

The CDP will review the country's performance based on these criteria in its triennial meeting on February 7, 8, and 9. If the country meets the criteria in this review, it would be recommended for graduation.

According to the CDP, a country gets a three-year transition period to prepare itself. During this preparatory period, it continues to receive benefits from specific international support in the areas of trade, development assistance, and general support.

But once a country gets out of the LDC bloc, it no longer gets those supports.

Recent official data suggests Bangladesh has met the criteria in its GNI, HAI, and EVI, to get out of the LDC bloc.

The UNCTAD in its assessment shared with the government last month found the country was well ahead of the required thresholds in the three criteria.

According to the UN's graduation threshold, the GNI per capita of a country has to be \$1,230 or above. Bangladesh's GNI per capita is now \$1,640 -- well above the ceiling, according to the government's latest status report.

The GNI per capita is the value of a country's final income in a year, divided by its population. It reflects the average income of a country's citizens. The per capita income was \$1,272 during the last triennial review in 2018.

In terms of the HAI, a country must have a score of 66 or above. Bangladesh has performed better than it did in 2018 as its score has risen to 75.3 from 72.8. The HAI is an indicator of nutrition, health, adult literacy and secondary school enrolment rates.

In the EVI criterion, a country's score has to be below 32. Bangladesh's score is 27.3, which was 25 two years ago.

The EVI is a composition of indicators like instability in agricultural production and exports of goods and services and share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in gross domestic product. The lower a country scores in this index the better it performs.

Countries recorded in the LDC category are defined as low-income countries that are facing severe structural impediments to sustainable development.

Bangladesh was included in the LDC list in 1975. In 2015, it crossed the threshold of the World Bank-defined

lower middle-income country and became eligible for graduation in 2018.

A country must cross the threshold on two of the three criteria in two consecutive triennial reviews to be considered for the graduation.

GRADUATION CHALLENGES
The most crucial challenge the country is likely to encounter is erosion of preferential market access.

It currently enjoys zero-duty benefits, preferential trade benefits and regional trade benefits on exports to 38 countries, including 28 in the EU. Bangladesh also gets duty-free access to the US for 97 percent of its products, except readymade garments.

After the formal graduation, the country will lose duty-free and quota-free market access to the EU under the "Everything but Arms" initiative for LDCs, according to the CDP.

The UNCTAD estimates the impact of losing LDC-specific preferential market access ranges between 7 percent and 14 percent of exports.

According to an impact assessment on LDC graduation by the Planning Commission in 2019, the country would lose \$7 billion in export earnings every year after the end of the transition period. By 2031, the amount would balloon to \$13 billion, it said.

In today's meeting, the 14-member team will place its action plan to face the challenges, particularly in relation to the trade and export sector, ERD officials said.

It will inform the expert committee of the government's initiatives on signing free trade agreements (FTA) with 11 countries for increasing bilateral trade.

The government also initiated negotiations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) to sign a FTA to enjoy greater market access in the bloc.

Besides, the government has already signed a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Bhutan and is at the final stage of its negotiations with Indonesia for a PTA for duty privileges on select goods traded between the two countries.

The team will update the committee about the measures taken for export diversification. It will inform that the government is diversifying its export base in terms of products and destinations, said the officials.

Currently, the garment products account for 85 percent of Bangladesh's total export earnings. The country's main export destinations are the United States and the EU.

"The government will take initiatives to reach out to different South Asian countries with more products," said an official.

The officials said the graduation will not impact foreign aid.



Elderly people dance in a public area along the Yangtze River in Wuhan yesterday, as the city marks the first anniversary of when China confirmed its first death from the coronavirus.

PHOTO: AFP

Four killed in 2 train accidents

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To save his son, he tried to rush there, but the train hit both of them. The two died on the spot.

In another accident, two people were killed as a Dhaka-bound train hit their motorcycle in Thakurgaon's Pirganj upazila yesterday morning.

The victims are Abdus Sobhan, 59, a former employee of Thakurgaon Sadar Judge's Court, and Ruhul Amin, 40, a staffer of the same court.

Muktar Hossain, station master of Pirganj Railway Station, told The Daily Star over phone that the Dhaka-bound Drujoan Express hit the motorcycle around 9:15am when they were crossing an unauthorised and

unmanned level crossing in Jagtha village.

Sobhan and Ruhul died on the spot. The two were going to Pirganj, said sources at Thakurgaon Judge's Court.

On information, firefighters from Pirganj fire service rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Later, Dinajpur Railway police sent the bodies to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies. An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in this connection, said Goljar Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Following the accident, train communications between Panchagarh and Dinajpur remained suspended for

about two hours.

Sagor Hossain, 25, of Jagtha village, told this paper that people frequently use the road and cross the level crossing as the road is in Pirganj municipality area. But the authorities concerned did not take any initiatives to install a barrier there for decades.

The crossing point has become more risky as the number of trains has increased in recent years, locals said.

Anisur Rahman, divisional traffic superintendent of Lalmonirhat, could not be contacted for his comments on setting up a barrier and appointing a gateman there.

[Our correspondents in Cumilla and Thakurgaon contributed to this report.]

Global Covid-19 cases top 90m

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remains the worst-affected area in the world, followed by North and Latin Americas with 22.4 million and 16.3 million cases respectively.

Europe has reported around 31% of about 1.93 million coronavirus-related deaths globally.

The United Kingdom, the worst-affected European country, crossed 3

million cases last Friday.

Seven mass vaccination sites opened across England yesterday. The sites include football stadiums and a horse racing course, and are located in cities including Bristol, London, Newcastle and Manchester.

They are to vaccinate thousands per week and several more sites are expected to follow, according to the National

Health Service (NHS) in England.

"I feel very relieved," said Moira Edwards, 88, after receiving her first vaccination at Epsom Downs Racecourse, south of London, which is more famous for the Derby.

The United States, world's worst affected country, reported its highest death toll on Wednesday, with over 4,000 fatalities in a single day.

Democrats introduce resolution to impeach

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the state.

"In all this, President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government," the resolution said.

"He threatened the integrity of the

democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coequal branch of Government. He thereby betrayed his trust as President, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States."

The resolution also cited the Constitution's 14th Amendment,

noting that it "prohibits any person who has 'engaged in insurrection or rebellion against' the United States" from holding office.

IGP, DMP AC contradict

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courts. But, there are very few probation officers, correction centres and children courts, said the IGP pointing to problems in tackling teenage gang culture, drug abuse, and other crimes.

He was speaking at a programme at Rab Headquarters organised to mark the celebration of Bangabandhu's birth centenary.

On Sunday, the mother of the 17-year-old victim said an invisible power was trying to protect the man accused of raping her daughter.

"Considering everything, it seems to us that they [the accused] have been getting special privileges since the beginning," the grieving mother had told The Daily Star.

The IGP said, "Parents have to be aware where their children go, what they do and who they mingle with. Parents have to take this responsibility."

"Why did you give birth to your babies if you can't take the responsibilities? It is your social, moral and religious duty," the police chief said.

Meanwhile, police yesterday

picked up a security guard of the building, where the incident took place, for interrogation.

Dulal, aged about 45, was under police surveillance. Police took him into custody after he came to the building around noon, said Shazzadur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of DMP.

"We are interrogating him to know what he saw on that day. We will verify the information gleaned from him..." said the DC.

Police earlier said they were looking for him as he helped the lone accused, Dihan, carry the victim out of the building and that he might know something.

A medical officer and a staffer of Anwar Khan Medical College Hospital, where the girl was taken first, said Dihan along with another young man brought the girl in a car.

A Dhaka court on Sunday allowed police to conduct a DNA test of Dihan and the blood stains on the victim's cloths.

On January 8, Dihan gave a statement before a magistrate after which he was sent to jail.

Quader Mirza warns

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election is possible if the magistrates want. If anyone involved with election management commits irregularities, they will face dire consequences."

Mirza, the mayor of Basurhat municipality in Noakhali, said these at a campaign rally at Rupali Chatter. He is contesting the municipality polls, slated for January 16, with an AL ticket.

He has stirred up a debate in the country's political circles with some of his recent remarks.

If irregularities happen in a polling station, voting will have to be suspended there immediately, he said, adding, "I will not object if I am defeated in the election. But elections must be held in a fair manner."

He said the DC of Noakhali was biased towards a vested quarter.

He then named several local AL leaders, saying that they have brought firearms in Noakhali to

cause violence during the election.

Surprisingly, Mirza yesterday praised his elder brother Obaidul Quader, saying he should be credited for developing the area.

"There is no place in Basurhat, Kabirhat and Companyganj where Obaidul Quader had not undertaken development activities," he said.

Over the last few days, Mirza on several occasions said if elections were held in a free and fair manner, all AL MPs in Noakhali region, except those from three or four constituencies, "would not have found ways to flee."

Unveiling his election manifesto on December 31 last year, he alleged that some local lawmakers and AL leaders were corrupt, manipulated tenders and got involved in recruitment scams.

The remarks put the AL top brass in an awkward position.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
সরঞ্জাম নিয়ন্ত্রক (পূর্ব) এর দপ্তর		
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম		
নং-সিওএস/সেইল/টেক্স/মোট/২০১৬-১৭	তাং-১১-০১-২০২১ইং	
পুনঃ সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
অত্র দপ্তর হতে জারিকৃত আন্তর্জাতিক দরপত্র বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২০২০-২১/০৪ তাং-০৮-১২-২০২০ইং এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত ক্রমিক ১ হতে ৯ এর দরপত্র খোলার সময় অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ আদিষ্ট হয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত ভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো।		
সংশোধনী বিবরণী	যা হইবে	পরিবর্তে
দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ১৯-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ১২-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।
দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ১৯-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) এবং ২০-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ১২-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) এবং ১৩-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২০-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।	১৩-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।		
ফরিদ আহমেদ		
সরঞ্জাম নিয়ন্ত্রক (পূর্ব) (অঃ দাঃ)		
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম		
S(LI)(14)		
GD-67		

Bangladesh Bank			
Information Systems Development and Support Department			
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000			
Website: www.bb.org.bd			
Proposal No. ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(80)/2021		Date: 10 January 2021	
Invitation for Tenders			
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
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 VAPT Software Tools for Bangladesh Bank.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(80)/2021	
8	Date	10 January 2021.	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	Own source.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)		
14	Tender package No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(80)/2021	
15	Tender package name	VAPT Software Tools for Bangladesh Bank.	
		Date	Time
16	Tender publication date	10 January 2021.	
17	Tender last selling date	Not applicable.	
		Date	Time
18	Tender closing date and time	31 January 2021	03:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	31 January 2021	03:15pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address	
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents			
	-Receiving tender document	BB e-Tender System (etender.bb.org.bd) and one hard copy document.	
	-Opening tender document	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	
21	Place/date/time of Pre-tender meeting (optional)	None. Date Time	
		Date	Time
		Not applicable	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of Delivery of Goods of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of five (5) years. Evidence of Work Order, Work Completion Certificate mentioning amount, item list, date etc. are required.	
23	Brief description of goods	VAPT Software Tools for Bangladesh Bank.	
24	Brief description of related services	Three years warranty service of VAPT Tools.	
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Not applicable.	
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location
	1	Information Technology items	ISDSD
		Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
		1,50,000.00	08 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan.	
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Systems Manager.	
28	Address of official inviting tender	Information Systems Development and Support Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	9530101	9530481
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.		
DCP: 48/2021-102		Date: 11-01-2021	
Sd/-		Sd/-	
Md. Amir Hossain Pathan		Md. Amir Hossain Pathan	
Systems Manager		Systems Manager	
Phone: 9530101		Phone: 9530101	
E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd		E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd	
D-13			

Couple, two others

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same village and Abdul Auwal, 42, of Jagannathpur village of the district's Palashpur upazila.

They were tenants of adjacent rooms of a house. Workers of garment factories rent houses in the area, the station officer said.

Soon after being informed of the fire, three firefighting units rushed to the spot and put out the blaze after an hour, Alam said.

They rescued the injured and sent them to different clinics and hospitals, he said.

Firefighters suspected that the explosion of a gas cylinder may be the reason behind the fire but they could not confirm the cause till yesterday evening, Alam added.

Tk 20,000 in cash and blankets were distributed among each of the victim's families, Hafizul Alam Amin, Kaliakoir upazila nirbahi officer said.

The bodies will be sent to their respective villages after post-mortem, said Razib Chakrabarty, inspector (investigation) of Kaliakoir Police Station.

Cases will be logged if the deceased's families file them in this regard, he said.

Saudi Arabia

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zero cars, zero streets and zero carbon emissions," he said.

"We need to transform the concept of a conventional city into that of a futuristic one," added the de facto leader of the Arab world's leading economy, regularly ranked among the world's most polluting countries.

Prince Mohammed showed computer-generated images of "THE LINE" as well as landscapes of pristine deserts and blue seas.

The pedestrian city will have services such as schools, health centres and green spaces, as well as high-speed public transportation, with no journey expected to take more than 20 minutes, according to a NEOM statement.

Artificial Intelligence will play a key role in the city, the statement said, adding that "it will be powered by 100 percent clean energy, providing pollution-free, healthier and more sustainable environments for residents".

Construction of the city will begin in the first quarter of this year, with funding from the Public Investment Fund, the main vehicle through which the kingdom is diversifying its economy beyond oil.

The project is slated to create 380,000 jobs and contribute 180 billion riyals (\$48 billion) to the kingdom's GDP by 2030, the NEOM statement said.