

# NHRC, Brac sign MoU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure welfare, protection and accessibility for cross sections of people, including persons with disabilities, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Brac have signed an agreement yesterday at NHRC office in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

NHRC Secretary Narayan Chandra Sarkar and Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh signed the MoU on behalf of respective parties.

The memorandum aims to strengthen partnership and collaborative work to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in public transport, infrastructure and information.

Under this MoU, the two organisations will jointly work to ensure increased access in both physical and digital spaces for persons with disabilities and benefit cross-sections of people.

Asif Saleh said that in future, Brac is committed to assisting the government in formulation of disability-friendly policies and their implementation.

NHRC Chairperson Nasima Begum, ndc, said that lack of accessibility is the major problem for people with disabilities.

She also said sensitivity and humanitarian initiatives are mostly needed to solve the problem, rather than a huge amount of money or workforce.

NHRC has taken up initiatives to ensure an "Accessible Dhaka City" for people with disabilities, she added.

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Executive Director AHM Noman Khan also spoke at the event and expressed his gratitude to Brac for creating auditing opportunities regarding accessibility for people with disabilities on footpaths, in government hospitals and the High Court building.

# SENDING WORKERS TO MALAYSIA Create opportunity for all agencies: recruiting agents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of recruiting agents yesterday demanded that the government create opportunity for all agencies while sending migrant workers to Malaysia after the Southeast Asian country reopens its labour market for Bangladesh.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, members of "Baira Syndicate Nirmul Oikyajot" alleged an "evil attempt" was on to form a new "syndicate" comprising of 25 agencies to send workers to Malaysia.

"This, if implemented, will deprive nearly 99 percent of the country's recruiting agencies," said the platform's convener Ali Haider Chowdhury.

"We don't want syndication regarding Malaysia's labour market," he said, while reading out a written statement.

A former secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), Haider said they desired to send workers to Malaysia under

transparent and specific rules at low-cost and with assurance of opportunity for all.

The platform raised the demand as the two countries are likely to hold the next Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Tuesday on the market's reopening.

In 2016, 10 Bangladeshi recruiting agents were selected by Malaysian government for recruiting workers from Bangladesh.

The 10 agents were accused of monopoly and charging excessive amounts from the migrants. Malaysian media later termed the 10 agents part of "an organised syndicate".

Malaysia suspended hiring Bangladeshi workers in September, 2018 on allegation of malpractices in the recruitment process and high recruitment costs.

Last October at a virtual meeting between Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad and Malaysia's Human Resources Minister M Saravanan, Malaysia agreed to reopen its labour market for Bangladesh, said a press release of the expatriates' welfare ministry.

# bKash CEO awarded for Covid-19 CSR efforts

CITY DESK

Kamal Quadir, Chief Executive Officer of mobile financial service provider bKash, has been awarded "Best E-cash/money & CSR award" at the "Global Business CSR Award-2021" for his contribution to the welfare of people during the Covid period.

The award ceremony was held on Saturday at a city hotel to honour officials from various fields who have contributed in CSR activities during the pandemic, a press document said.

LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam was present as chief guest of the event, while Dr Md Enamur Rahman, State Minister for Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; Murad Hasan, State Minister of Information; and Dr Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairperson of Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company were present as special guests.

During the early days of the pandemic, bKash organised one of the largest medical intervention efforts by handing over 350 ventilators along with more than 950,000 emergency medical toolkits -- which included masks, thermometers, protective clothing, gloves, medical goggles -- to the government. The aide was donated by its overseas partner Alibaba, the press release said.

From its own fund, bKash also provided 30 ventilators to hospitals and installed an oxygen plant at the Diabetic Hospital. In addition, bKash also worked with Bidyanondo Foundation to establish a hospital in Chatogram, provided food aid to disadvantaged families through the Sena Kalyan Sangstha and a few NGOs.

# Mosquito menace

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"In IVM, environmental control is the most important aspect. Eliminating breeding grounds of mosquitoes is a preventive measure, which yields better results than mitigative measures such as fogging. The efficacy rate for fogging is maximum 30 percent, so it is unwise to rely on it entirely," said Prof Bashar.

Recently in an interview with The Daily Star, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "We have bought fourth generation pesticide Novaluron. It is experimental. We are putting those in a net with a stick in water bodies. But the local fishermen are throwing those away. So, the challenge is there of course. We are working on it."

DNCC sources said they have already spotted 629 breeding grounds and are planning to use Novaluron there. For larviciding, both city corporations are using Temephos and Malaria Oil B at the stagnant water bodies. They are also using Malathion for adulticide.

Atiqul also said, "The mosquito problem will be reduced gradually, but not overnight. I also directed the department concerned to change the pesticides after one or two years so that mosquitoes don't get to adapt those."

DNCC has undertaken an initiative called "400-gauge by 400-gauge", where there are supervisors to monitor the activities of workers engaged in mosquito control in every 400 square-gauge area of a ward. Presently, there are 15 workers in every ward who work with DNCC in this regard.

In the 2020-21 fiscal, DNCC has allocated Tk 70 crore to curb the mosquito problem, while DSCC has allocated Tk 300 crore. DSCC is planning to adapt BTL, a bacteria that will kill larvae once mixed with water. Currently they have 13 mosquito control workers in every ward.

Meanwhile, Prof Bashar expressed his pessimism regarding Novaluron, saying, "It hasn't yielded the expected result as a biological pesticide. It required more field testing. Also, if an area is larvicided properly, mosquito breeding can't happen easily. Therefore, proper monitoring needs to be ensured in the field level."

Asked, DNCC Deputy Chief Health Officer Md Golam Mostofa Sarwar said, "We can't say our pesticide is ineffective, because it is tested and certified by the Plant Protection Wing of the Department of Agricultural Extension

and Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research."

"Stagnant waters are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. We spray our pesticides, but the pesticides get stuck on the upper part of water hyacinths and cannot reach the water surface properly. Interestingly, the mosquitoes breed in the roots of water hyacinth, which gives them protection. We are now cleaning those," he added.

He also said monitoring field workers is a challenge but they are doing their best.

Mentioning the stagnant waters as one of the challenges, DSCC CEO ABM Amin Ullah Nuri said, "If the canals are recovered and cleaned, there will be flow of water and the mosquito menace will reduce by a large margin. We are focusing on that now."

"As a biological control measure, we have released fish in Dhanmondi and Khilgaon lakes so that they eat up the larvae," he added.

Claiming there is no lack of monitoring, he said, "Our mayor, I, health and zonal officers are monitoring the situation. Because of the season and lack of wind, little increase of mosquitoes can be seen."

# Shut down

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in water, as untreated waste gets dumped from different industries surrounding Sundarbans.

"That's why new plants are not growing from seeds in different areas of Sundarbans. That's why different areas inside Sundarbans look barren."

He also said life cycle of different animals and trees in Sundarbans has changed negatively due to pollution in the area.

Bapa Executive Vice President Mohammad Abdul Matin said Sundarbans cannot be saved unless catching fish using poison is not stopped. Livelihood of 40 lakh people depend on the forest.

Bapa General Secretary Sharif Jamil, Vice President Kamrul Ahsan Khan, joint secretaries Sharmeen Murshid and Alamgir Kabir, among others, also spoke at the programme.

# Household

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conservancy workers have been appointed, all on a daily wage basis.

Concurrently, the city corporation also started disposing public dustbins, with almost 90 percent of the 1,350 open dustbins and 96 container dustbins in the city having already been removed.

Apart from CCC's conservancy department, local ward councillors are charged with supervising conservancy workers. However, as the CCC polls got pushed back from its due date in last March due to the pandemic, some administrative difficulties also came into play.

The polls were held on January 27, and the new elected mayor and councillors took oath on Thursday.

Contacted, CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Shafiqul Mannan Siddique said there are supervisors in every ward to monitor the programme.

Told of the allegations of negligence, he said, "I am going to ask the supervisors about the matter. No false play in duty will be tolerated."

CCC Chief Executive Officer Kazi Mohammad Mozammel Haque told The Daily Star, "It is by no means acceptable for workers to not fulfil their task regularly, especially given that they're paid for each day's work."

Contacted, newly elected mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury told this newspaper on Thursday that he will look into the matter after formally taking charge.



A heap of garbage just lies beside the wall near port city's Surson Road. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim  
Remembering You On Your 1st Death Anniversary  
**Late A.K.M Jahangir Khan**  
21.04.1939 - 15.02.2020

**Rabbir Hamhuma Kama Rabba Yani Sagheera**

My Dear Father,  
You left a legacy and lots of memories for us. Not a single day goes by that we do not think about you. The pain of losing you is immeasurable. Our prayers are always with you.

Fondly remembered by:-  
**Dr. Jhumu Khan (Jahanara F. Khan)**  
**A.K.M Alamgir Khan**  
**A.K.M Imran Khan**

# Coast Guard

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added to the force as well. Marking the anniversary, the minister presented medals to around 40 members of Coast Guard.

Highlighting various achievements of the force, he said BCG has been working relentlessly for more than two decades to provide maritime security to the coastal people.

"The government is determined to make this force stronger. State of the art offshore patrol vessels, hovercraft and other high-tech vessels will be added to the force soon," he added.

Among others, Mostafa Kamal Uddin, senior secretary, Department of Public Security of Ministry of Home Affairs; Rear Admiral M Ashraful Haque, director general, Coast Guard, and other military and civilian officials were present on the occasion.

# SC grants

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death. The Appellate Division will make final decision in the case after hearing the appeal, the lawyer said.

Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath represented the state at the hearing.

Wahida Sifat was found dead at her in-laws' house in Mahishbathan area of Rajshahi city on March 29, 2015.

A murder case was filed accusing her husband Asif and his parents. The case was later handed over to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, which began the trial proceedings on November 11, 2016.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka on February 27, 2017 sentenced Asif to 10 years' imprisonment for "provoking Sifat to take her own life" and acquitted three other accused in the case.

The tribunal acquitted Asif's parents -- Md Hossain Ramjan and Najmun Nahar Nazil -- and Jubaidur Rahman, assistant professor, forensic department of Rajshahi Medical College, saying the charges brought against them were not proved.

Following an appeal filed by Asif and a petition filed by Sifat's uncle Mizanur Rahman Khandker, the HC on September 6 last year scrapped the tribunal's verdict and directed the tribunal concerned to hold a retrial of the case.

# Management

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Wasa's lone waste treatment plant at Pagla has a capacity of treating 1.20 lakh cubic metres of sewage a day but it now treats only one-third its capacity due to dilapidated condition of the networks linked to it, said Wasa sources.

Proposing a system where the two city corporations give occupancy certificates instead of Rajuk, architect Iqbal Habib -- joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon -- said Rajuk does not have capacity to monitor it, as they have already failed to stop deviation while constructing buildings.

When people are obliged to take and renew occupancy certificates, they will be forced to set up their own septic tanks or soakaways at their buildings, he said.

Architect Mubasshar Hussain, president of Institute of Architects of Bangladesh, said there is no country in the world where its capital is surrounded by five rivers. But fortunately, Dhaka has five rivers around it.

"But we are in competition to destroy and pollute it," he lamented.

**উত্তরণ লাঞ্চপতি ও মিলিয়নিয়ার সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প**  
লাঞ্চপতি বা মিলিয়নিয়ার হোন ১ থেকে ১০ বছরের মধ্যে

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**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর**  
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০

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গাজী মোঃ ওয়ালি-উল-হক  
সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর  
ফোনঃ ৯৬৭৪৭৯৬

জিডি-৩০৭

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Economic Relations Division  
Ministry of Finance  
Admin-3 Section  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)

Reference No. 09.00.0000.074.07.008.20/318 Date: 14/02/2021

**Re-Tender Notice (e-GP)**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of goods/work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1.	542002	Procurement of Computer and others	01.03.2021 at 11.00	01.03.2021 at 12.00	01.03.2021 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 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 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Quazi Arefin Rezoane**  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Phone: 48114354

GD-306

**Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
E/M Division-1, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229  
File No. 30.31.0000.412.17.001.21/1074 Date: 11/02/2021

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP System Portal.

This is an online tender where only e-Tender 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 from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Detailed name of work, tender ID and closing date & time are as follows.

Sl No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Closing date & time
1	O&M of E/M works services at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka during the 2020-2021 (S:H-Denting and Docu Painting i/c related works of 05 Nos. Passenger Boarding Bridges at HSA).	546491	04-March-2021 12:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk.

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.১৭.০০১.২১/১১০  
তারিখঃ ১৪/০২/২০২১খ্রিঃ  
GD-309

**Shahriar Morshed Siddiqui**  
Executive Engineer (E/M)  
E/M Division-1, CAAB, Dhaka