

100 years

FROM PAGE 3

Rambhajan Kairi, general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union, said, "We have been making demands for a long time to ensure basic rights of tea workers, wage increment, land rights, housing and medical treatment so that they too can live a dignified life."

Asked about recognition of the day at national level, GM Shiblee, chairman (Sylhet branch) of Bangladesh Tea Association, told The Daily Star yesterday that any demand of this sort has to officially come from the workers' union.

During the visit to tea gardens at Moulvibazar, this newspaper also spoke to many workers. They said it has been 100 years since Shannarayan's father and many others marched for a better life, but no significant steps were taken to recognise "Tea Workers Day" or improve their conditions.

By the time we finished talking to Shannarayan, the evening had already spread out against the sky.

As we bade him farewell, he smiled at us. There was still hope in that smile -- hope of a better life and a better future -- not for him but for the thousands toiling away for years at the tea gardens.

A HISTORY OF SRTUGGLE

According to Bangladesh Tea Board, the first tea production started in the subcontinent in Sylhet around 1849.

Historians said the East India Company first started tea cultivation in Sylhet's Malinichara tea garden on an experimental basis.

The British companies brought the workers from Bihar, Madras, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and other places in India to work in the tea gardens.

The misfortune of these indentured labourers started with their journey to the tea gardens. According to an account, in the early years, many tea plantation workers died during their long journey to the tea gardens and due to the tough work and living condition.

Upon arrival, their luck did not change much. They had to clear jungles, plant and tend to tea seedlings and saplings, plant shade trees, and build bungalows for tea planters, according to Philip Gain, researcher and director of Society for Environment and Human Development.

But they had their destiny tied to their huts in the "labour lines" that they built themselves.

In protest of their continued persecution, the then tea workers' leaders called for the "return to motherland" movement.

Marking the incident, Tea Workers Day will be observed today like every year with due solemnity.

Is a 1923

FROM PAGE 3

buy time for the government to frame a false case against her. "The police could have immediately rushed to the spot if they had wanted to," he said.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) said, "When government officials assault us, do they forget that they are public servants?"

"The statements made by ministers suggest that there is potential for Rozina to get bail. Kajol, Kishore and Mushtaq were denied bail so many times, and Mushtaq ultimately died in prison. This shows that law does not take its own course. It takes the course directed by the government, who dictates who will get bail and who will not," said Professor Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University.

"Rozina Islam's only 'crime' is that she is an investigative journalist and she has unearthed corruption. By arresting her, the government is sending a message that they are sheltering corrupt officials," said Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Secretary of SHUJAN at the webinar.

"What kind of information does the health ministry have that would jeopardise the safety of the state? Who gave the health ministry officials the power to detain her in the ministry?" questioned Faruq Faisal, regional director of ARTICLE 19 Bangladesh and South Asia.

"Journalists cannot ensure their safety until and unless they are united. Until the journalist unions stop pandering to different political parties, the government will continue doing this," added Faruq Faisal.

Journalism is under pressure from corporate owners, the government, the security forces and fundamentalists, said Robaet Ferdous, associate professor of journalism at Dhaka University.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Naripokkho, Ain

O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) made similar demands at a virtual press conference yesterday.

The organisations said in their statement -- the way Rozina Islam was detained and harassed by both male and female officials at the secretariat clearly falls under the 2009 High Court Guidelines of sexual harassments, which is a criminal offense. The organisations have been planning on lodging a charge against the officials.

"If she has to be tried even under the existing law, it has to be proved that she was a 'spy' and intended to supply the papers to different states. If this could be proved, only then it would be a punishable offence," said Shahana Huda, senior coordinator of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

"Although the undisclosed part of the China-Russia vaccine agreement is a secret document, journalists have the authority to know or photograph that information," she added.

University Teachers' Network issued a statement demanding immediate release of Rozina. They also demanded that the Official Secrets Act 1923 and Digital Security Act 2018 be immediately repealed. The statement was signed by a hundred university teachers.

Sixty-seven social activists of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also hosted a press conference demanding Rozina be immediately released. "We need to protect people working to uncover information that is beneficial to public interest," said their statement.

Management and Resource Development Initiative sent a statement decrying the harassment, prosecution and arrest of Rozina and demanded that the case against her be withdrawn immediately.

"In the age of free flow of information, the prosecution of a journalist under a colonial law like the Official Secrets Act is taking Bangladesh a step backwards," said the organisation.

Rajshahi suffers from 1.5hr power outage

Usage cause 'emergency shutdown'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Residents of Rajshahi city had to suffer a one-and-a-half-hour blackout due to an "emergency shutdown" by the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) yesterday morning. In some parts of the city, the power outage lasted for more than two hours.

The outage began from 8:30 in the morning as electricity suppliers Northern Electricity Supply Company Limited (NESCO) delayed resuming power after PGCB's maintenance works at the Katakhalhi Grid Maintenance Department.

Electricity consumers from all over Rajshahi city and Paba, Nawhata, Bagha and Charghat upazila called the authorities to complain over the issue, sources said.

Contacted, PGCB executive engineer ASM Mostafizur Rahman said the issue was caused due to an increase in power demands stemming from the ongoing heat wave sweeping over the region.

On Tuesday night, PGCB detected a "red hot issue" (overheating) on a 132KV power line at Katakhalhi Grid Maintenance Department, PGCB's Mostafizur Rahman said.

"An electronic device and wire had become red with high temperature from the high flow electricity. It required an emergency maintenance to avoid any major problem," he said.

PGCB immediately informed the matter to NESCO who talked with administrative officials and decided that a two-hour emergency shutdown was necessary.

However, PGCB completed the maintenance and resumed power supply on the national grid within one-and-a-half-hours at 10am. But due to their plans, NESCO took until 10:30am to resume power across different areas.

"We resumed power as soon as the grid company started providing it. In some areas, we needed to finish some incomplete works before resuming power," Zakiul Islam, managing director of NESCO, said.

The maintenance took place in the day to avoid the emergency shutdown at night, to minimise people's sufferings, he said.

The official also said they had notified consumers about the shutdown on their website and social media profiles.

However, the shutdown caused immense suffering to the locals either way, especially due to the scorching heat, with temperatures reaching as high as 36 degrees Celsius.

The current daily power demand rose to 170MW in the district, though it never exceeds the limit of 110MW in winter, he said.

Harun-ur-Rashid no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Harun-ur-Rashid, president of Bangladesh Newspaper Agents' Association, died at a hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday night, aged 56.

He was admitted to Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital in the capital's Moghbazar following a cardiac arrest, family said.

He left behind his wife and a daughter.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Moghbazar Wireless Gate in Dhaka, and the second one at Police Line Jame Mosque in Barishal and the third one at Charkarmaji village in Sadar upazila of the district. Later, he was buried at his home in the village.

Barishal city Mayor Semiabat Sadiq Abdullah and different journalist organisations -- including Barishal Reporters' Unit -- have expressed deep shock at his death.

DSCC working

FROM PAGE 3

"Fighting corruption is a continuous process, we will take actions against all sorts of corruption gradually," the mayor said.

Talking about the drive against illegal shops in different markets, he said they will take steps to gradually demolish all such shops constructed illegally at different DSCC markets.

In addition, he said DSCC has picked up an 'Integrated City Master Plan for Dhaka (2020-50)' to ensure planned development of the city.

NOTICE INVITING INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Tenders are hereby invited from reputed manufacturers for supply of 50,000 CUM Railway Track Ballast sourced from "Pakur, India" as per BR approved specification. Material will be used in the project Package WD-1: Construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge tracks in Dhaka-Tongi Section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Track in Tongi-Joydebpur Section excluding Signaling works UNDER THE PROJECT Construction of 3rd & 4th Dual Gauge Railway Track between Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Track between Tongi-Joydebpur section including Signaling works of Bangladesh Railway under Tender No. PD/DTJDL/WD1/Part-2.

The Payment shall be made in USD through 30 days credit LC issued from India. The price shall remain valid for a period of 12 months. Tender will be received up to 12.00 Hours of 27.05.2021 at the project office of M/s AFCONS-KPTL JV, Ward No. 07, Rail Gate Road, Amtoli TNT Road, East Arichpur, PO: Monnou Nagar, PS: Tongi Dist.: Gazipur, Bangladesh PIN: 1710.

We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

D-69

By-polls to

FROM PAGE 3

The gazette has been in effect since January 28 when Papul was sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment by a Kuwait court.

Sylhet-3 seat fell vacant following Awami League MP Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury's death on March 11, Dhaka-14 following AL MP Aslamul Hoque's death on April 4, and Cumilla-5 for AL MP Abdul Matin Khasru's death on April 14.

According to the constitution, by-elections to fill the vacant seat of a member of parliament should be held within 90 days. Provided that in a case where, in the opinion of the CEC, it is not possible, for reasons of an act of God, to hold such election within 90 days period, such election shall be held within ninety days following next after the last day of such period.

Free Rozina

FROM PAGE 3

"The health minister said she stole a secret document of the government. How important was that file? It's a conspiracy to trap Rozina. I believe she is innocent," he said.

BSRF general secretary Shamim Ahamed called for ensuring congenial atmosphere for journalists in the secretariat to prevent any such conspiracy against journalists.

Former president of a faction of BFLU Shawkat Mahmud alleged that the government was against independent journalism and favoured corruptors.

"The government was angry at Rozina as she revealed its corruption. To muzzle her voice, she was tortured and sent to jail without bail," he said.

Meanwhile at the DRU rally, Prothom Alo associate editor Anisul Hoque said journalists of the country have united and they want withdrawal of the case against Rozina as well as punishment of the harassers.

Jatiya Press Club general secretary Elias Khan said journalists are facing the wrath of the administration for publishing stories on corruption.

"If the case against Rozina is not withdrawn, we'll go for a tougher movement," he warned.

Terming the health ministry's probe committee farcical, DRU president Morsalin Noman said, "Officials who attacked Rozina will investigate the incident. We reject the committee."

DRU general secretary Moshir Rahman said, "We are professional journalists. We don't want to hold protests on roads. We want immediate release of Rozina."

Besides Dhaka, journalists from across the country held protests, demanding immediate release of Rozina, report our local correspondents.

They formed human chains and held rallies in front of their respective press clubs in Savar, Munshiganj, Chapainawabganj, Sylhet and Benapole and vowed to continue protests until Rozina gets justice.

Air at two

FROM PAGE 3

The project initiated the research in collaboration with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP), Buet and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

Buet Professor Afsana Haque and ICCCAD Coordinator Sarder Shafiqul Alam shared research findings in the event.

Under this research, Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS), Stamford University Bangladesh tested the water and air of the research areas.

The air quality report of the CAPS team reveals that Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and PM10 are found four to five times higher above the permissible limit under Bangladesh standards in a 24-hour period.

The water sample tested by CAPS was contaminated with foreign particles exceeding standard limits in both study areas. They found E. Coli and 'uncountable colonies of total coliform' in the water. The Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD5) and chlorine concentration were found excessive.

Residents of the two slums said water is often inaccessible, scarce and polluted. Supply is often interrupted and women have to wait hours in queues to collect water.

On average, the households pay Tk 400-500 per month for water services.

Speaking as chief guest, LGRD Minister Tazul Islam said, "Awareness is key at every stage of society. Community-led initiatives should be encouraged. Government, NGOs and the private sector must collaborate to address challenges related to waste management, water supply, water and air pollution."

Plan International Bangladesh Director (Programme Management and Implementation) Afroz Mahal said people migrating to Dhaka often end up in marginalised low-income areas with inadequate basic services and the problem will be exacerbated by impending climate change.

Buet VC Professor Satya Prasad Majumdar Vice, PSTC Executive Director Dr Noor Mohammad and ICCCAD Director Prof Saleemul Huq were also present at the event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bogra
ee_bog@eedmoe.gov.bd
e-Tender Notice No. 16/EE/EED/bog/2020-21/7016 TMED 5 of 10 Lots Date: 19.05.2021

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Description of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Fees for tender documents
577750	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building at Khadiza Khatun Islamic Alim Madrasa, Dupchancia, Bogura	6.6.2021 15.00	7.6.2021 11.00	7.6.2021 10.30
577752	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building at Islampur Alhaj Sharif Uddin & Sharifan Girls Madrasa, Nandigram, Bogura	6.6.2021 15.00	7.6.2021 11.15	7.6.2021 10.30
577753	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building at Sathikori Technical School & BM College, Dhunat, Bogura.	6.6.2021 15.00	7.6.2021 11.30	7.6.2021 11.00
577754	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building at Nagar Azron Rebeya Mohila Alim Madrasa, Shajahanpur, Bogura	6.6.2021 15.00	7.6.2021 11.45	7.6.2021 11.00
57775	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building at Mostail Pancheperola Girls Dakhil Madrasa, Shajahanpur, Bogura	6.6.2021 15.0	7.6.2021 12.00	7.6.2021 11.30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies shall be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Altaf Hossain
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bogura

5'X3 Column GD-999

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Bridges Division
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati-Mukterpur Bridge Project
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
www.bba.gov.bd

Memo No. 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-77

Date: May 18, 2021

Corrigendum Notice (2nd)

It is hereby notified to all concern that the Invitation for Tenders (International) for "Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati-Mukterpur Bridge" invited vide Memo No. 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-36 dated: 08 March, 2021 and subsequently 1st Corrigendum Notice was issued vide Memo No. 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-57 dated: 13 April, 2021. As per the request of tenderers and due to unavoidable circumstances, the Tender Last Selling, Closing and Opening Dates and Time have been changed with this Corrigendum Notice (2nd). It is important to note that Tender Documents has also been amended with Addendum and Clarification-1, 2 & 3. Therefore, Tenderers are requested to be cognizant regarding the latest amendments of Tender Documents during preparation of Tender.

Ref. IFT	Descriptions	Date & Time	
		As per Corrigendum Notice (1st)	Amended as follows (with this Corrigendum Notice (2nd))
14	Tender last selling date and time	30 May 2021 5.00pm (BST)	29 June 2021 5.00pm (BST)
15	Tender closing date and time	31 May 2021 12.00 Noon (BST)	30 June 2021 12.00 Noon (BST)
16	Tender opening date and time	31 May 2021 3.30pm (BST)	30 June 2021 3.30pm (BST)

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice will be the integral part of IFT which was published vide Memo No. 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-36 date: 8 March 2021.

Shafiqul Islam
Project Director
+8802-55040374
pdmukterpur@gmail.com

GD-1000

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Immigration and Passports
E-7, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.dip.gov.bd

Ref No. 58.01.0000.102.07.021.18-(Part-1)-282

Date: 19/05/2021

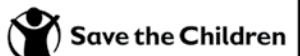
Corrigendum

Subject: Amendment of DIP International Tender No. 58.01.0000.102.07.021.18(Part-1)-215, Dated: 08/04/2021 for Procurement of Spare and Wearing Parts of MRP Personalization Machines (Ruhlatam-2100) and Consumables for Passport Personalization.

Tender No. & Date	Description	Existing	Amended As
58.01.0000.102.07.021.18(Part-1)-215, Dated: 08/04/2021	Tender Last Selling Date (Tender Notice Sl. No. 17)	19/05/2021 (During office hours)	14/06/2021 (During office hours)
	Tender Submission Date & Time (Tender Notice Sl. No. 18)	20/05/2021 13.00 hrs BST	15/06/2021 13.00 hrs BST
	Tender Opening Date & Time (Tender Notice Sl. No. 19)	20/05/2021 14.00 hrs BST	15/06/2021 14.00 hrs BST

Tariq Salman
Deputy Director (Establishment)
For Director General
GD-1006

Date: May 20, 2021



Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Tender

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for Providing Cleaning Service and 4G Data/Internet/Voice Call, Bulk Text & Voice SMS service and VAS and Media Coverage Service for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh. For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

Description, submission time & date:

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule and Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Cleaning Service	IFT/SCI/BDCO/FY-21/(Manual)/03	26/05/2021 at 3:00 PM through ZOOM (Details in tender Documents)	June 09, 2021 at 2.00PM
2	4G Data/Internet, Voice Call, Bulk Text & Voice SMS service and VAS	IFT/SCI/BDCO/FY-21/(Manual)/04	26/05/2021 at 12:00 PM through ZOOM (Details in tender Documents)	June 09, 2021 at 2.00PM
3	Media Coverage Service under Framework Agreement	IFT/SCI/BDCO/FY-21/(Manual)/05	02/06/2021 at 11:00 AM through ZOOM (Details in tender Documents)	June 10, 2021 at 2.00 PM

Special Instruction: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. (b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 8181658-61, Website www.pksf-bd.org, Facebook: www.facebook.com/PKSF.org

TENDER NOTICE for OTM-Goods

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) invites a sealed envelope tender from competitive suppliers for the procurement of goods under package titled "Procurement of Desktop Computer, Interactive Flat Panel, Laptop and UPS with accessories" with the fund to be provided by following projects/program:

(a) Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People (PPEPP) Project, jointly financed by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); formerly DFID and the European Union (EU);

(b) Low Income Community Housing Support Project (LICHSP) funded by World Bank; (c) PKSF's core program.

'Tender Document' is obtainable from the office of PKSF during office hours from 20/05/2021 to 02/06/2021 on payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT 1000/- (One Thousand) Interested suppliers are requested to visit the website: <http://pksf-bd.org> for the detailed Tender notice.

The tender will be submitted at the office of PKSF by 12:00 noon on or before 03/06/2021. Bid documents will be opened at 12:15 pm on 03/06/2021 in presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the bid documents without showing any reason whatsoever.

Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin
Deputy Managing Director