

‘A stronger than ever partnership’

50yrs of ties with Switzerland observed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Swiss President Ignazio Cassis greeted Bangladesh President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries yesterday.

In his congratulatory message, Cassis emphasised the long-standing collaboration between the two countries in many domains as well as the continuous broadening and deepening of bilateral ties, said a statement of Swiss embassy in Bangladesh.

Highlighting the stronger than ever partnership, Cassis underlined key areas of future collaboration, including Covid-19 recovery, peace and

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As the excavation works weren't done thoroughly enough, something that locals blame on the contractors of the project, this channel of the Suk river has filled up with silt and sand and has been turned into a farmland for cultivating crops and vegetables. PHOTO: STAR

From river channel to farmland

Botched excavation work to blame, allege locals

MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

The government recently ran an excavation project in Thakurgaon's Suk river. But within 10 months of its completion, the river channel has been filled up again, making the entire effort futile.

In these 10 months, the channel has become a farmland, with farmers cultivating crops and vegetables there.

Locals alleged that the contractor who was assigned to excavate the channel did not do the job properly, while government officials in charge of the project looked away. As the channel wasn't dug properly, it eventually filled up with the silt and sand the water carried from the river.

The Suk river originates in Radhanagar area of Panchagarh's Atwari upazila. Flowing through different villages of Panchagarh and Thakurgaon, the river flows into Tangan river in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

Water Development Board (WDB) implemented a project worth Tk 6.90 crore to excavate the 24-kilometre river channel and plant trees on the riverbank.

A joint-venture contractor firm named SR & JH JV was awarded the work, which began in May 2019 and ended in April 2021, according to sources at WDB Thakurgaon office.

However, during a recent visit to Dholarhat and Mohammadpur areas in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, it was seen that farmers were cultivating crops and vegetables on the newly-filled up river channel.

Meanwhile, in Dholarhat bridge area, a signboard saying "It's a punishable offence to obstruct normal flow of the river, as per directives of the High Court" was seen hanging, although to little effect.

Akhil Barman, a farmer of Dholarhat village, said, "I have planted boro paddy here and hope to get a good yield. My neighbours Hasem and Majid are cultivating sweet potatoes and other vegetables here."

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MYMENSINGH CITY CORPORATION

Here come the mosquitoes again



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

It hasn't been long since winter left the country, but already, mosquitoes are posing a serious threat to the lives of Mymensingh residents.

"It's beyond control. Before bedtime, we can't even pass a minute without mosquito coils," said Halima Akter, a college teacher living in Mymensingh's Rambabu Road area.

Shahadat Hossain, a resident of the city's Notun Bazar area, said, "The city's drains – filled up with various daily wastes – have turned into a haven for mosquitoes to breed. The authorities concerned are indifferent to act in many cases, resulting in a problem that keeps getting more dire."

Locals alleged that Mymensingh

City Corporation (MCC) is yet to take any initiative in this regard. They also said they rarely see conservancy workers cleaning drains and spraying insecticides.

Meanwhile, MCC sources said it has been trying some alternative methods to combat the menace.

In April last year, they released some 20,000 frogs in the city's drains and canals to curb the mosquito population. Their efforts also included releasing 50,000 tilapia fish to contain mosquitoes.

Residents, however, said they are yet to experience fruitful results from these eco-friendly initiatives.

Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, president of Jono Udyog, said the initiative lacks strict monitoring, for which it hasn't seen success yet.

Dr Harunur Rashid, professor of

fisheries management at Bangladesh Agricultural University, said to contain mosquito spread, using small country fish like khalisa, darkina and dhani (zebra-fish) instead of tilapia could be far more effective – as they consume mosquito larvae and can survive in drain water.

On the other hand, Deepak Mazumder, food and sanitation officer at MCC, said they're suffering from a serious staff crisis. There are only 20 workers for mosquito control, but realistically, each of the 33 wards needs at least 20 workers.

Admitting that mosquito infestation is high, MCC chief medical officer Dr SK Devnath said they have already started an anti-mosquito crash programme in three zones.

Luring clients with 'shariah' schemes

Rab arrests five of a cooperative in connection with embezzling Tk 200cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve years ago, Shah Sultan Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited was opened in Narsingdi. The company enticed people to make interest-free investments following Islamic shariah, with promises of lofty returns.

Using religious clout, they lured thousands of clients and collected around Tk 200 crore in deposits.

After the pandemic hit, the entire population of the country needed cash in hand, and so did the clients of the cooperative.

They started putting pressure on the cooperative so that they could withdraw their deposited funds. As the demands to withdraw grew louder, the cooperative closed the office and went out of reach, scamming numerous clients.

Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have arrested five, including chair of the cooperative, from different areas of Narsingdi on Saturday.

The arrestees are Shah Alam (50), chairperson of the cooperative, and

his associates Delwar Hossain Sikder (52), Kazi Mane Ullah (44), Sumon Mollah (33) and Abdul Hannan Mollah (30).

"Luring people into so-called Shariah-based and interest-free schemes, they collected money from people," Commander Khandaker Al Moin, RAB's media wing director, told a press briefing yesterday.

"Before getting the money, the cooperative would ask clients if they prayed regularly and adhered to Islamic customs. This was their way of creating credibility, on which they later capitalised on to scam their clients," said Moin.

The arrestees claimed that they owe their customers Tk 200 crore. However, the customers – around 6,000 of them – claim that the figure is much higher.

Shah Sultan Cooperative began operations in Narsingdi after registering with Department of Cooperatives in 2010. All 20 members of its board of directors had previous affiliations with various

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Six killed, four hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and four injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Tangail, a truck driver was killed and another driver injured in a collision involving three trucks at Bangabandhu Bridge East Link Road.

Mohammad Shahin Miah (30) from Bogura died on the spot. The injured – Rafiqul Islam (40) – was admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

The accident occurred as two trucks first collided head-on, and later, another truck hit one of them from behind at Jokarchar in Kalihati upazila, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station.

After the accident, a 10-km tailback from Salla to the bridge's east end was created, said passengers and transport workers.

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The excavation did not bring any result, as the work was not conducted properly. Rather, it has obstructed the natural flow of the river. As a result, the river channel has been filled up again.

NAZRUL ISLAM
Resident of the area

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Line Director

Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS

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INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of MSR for Urban Health (Urban Dispensaries/Satellite Clinics). As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION				
1	Ministry/Division		Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.	
2	Agency		Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW.	
3	Procuring Entity		Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS.	
4	Procuring Entity Code		224330400	
5	Procuring Entity District		Dhaka	
6	Invitation for		Supply of MSR for Urban Health (Urban Dispensaries/Satellite Clinics).	
7	Invitation for offer Ref. No		UHC/Proc./RPA-GOB/MSR (Urban Health)-15/2021-22/1117	
8	Date		13.03.2022	
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method		Open Tender Method (OTM)	
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds		RPA-GOB	
11	Developments Partners		None	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/Program Code		224330400	
13	Project/Program Name		UHC	
14	Tender Package No		UHC/R-GD-6/2021-22	
15	Offer Package Name		MSR for Urban Health (Urban Dispensaries/Satellite Clinics).	
16	Tender Publication Date		14.03.2022	
17	Tender Last Selling Date		27.03.2022 at 5.00 pm	
18	Tender Closing Date and Time		28.03.2022 at 12 pm	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time		28.03.2022 at 2 pm	
20	Name and address of the Office			
a) Selling of Tender Documents			a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
b) Receiving of Tender Documents			b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.	
			a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
			b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.	
c) Opening of Tender Documents			Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of Tenderer		As stated in TDS	
22	Brief Description of Goods		Supply of MSR (26 items) for Urban Health (Urban Dispensaries/Satellite Clinics).	
23	Price of Tender Documents Taka		TK. 2,000 (Two Thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).	
24	No	Identification & Name	Location	Tender Security Amounts in BDT
	Single lot	UHC/ R-GD-6/2021-22	UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	Tk. 1,25,000 (One lac twenty five thousand) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS.
COMPLETION TIME				
				10 (Ten) weeks from date of signing the contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL				
25	Name of Official Inviting Offer		Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman	
26	Designation of Official Inviting Offer		Line Director, UHC, DGHS.	
27	Address of Official Inviting Offer		BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
28	Contact details of Official Inviting Offer		BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.				

13.03.22

(Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman)
Line Director
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