Beside Chengelkhal river, these two farmers have gotten busy over the last few days, preparing their arable land to cultivate winter vegetables and spices, like chillies, cucumbers and different kinds of beans. They're hoping to get a good reap by November's end. This photo was taken in Sylhet Sadar's Hatkhola union recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

9pc worse than global average

Bangladesh stands 76th in Digital Quality Life Index

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though Bangladesh moved 27 notches up ranking 76th in Digital Quality Life Index out of 117 countries, its internet service is still worse than the global average.

Bangladesh's internet quality, considering the speed, stability, and growth, ranks 67th in the world and is 9 percent worse than the global average, cyber security company Surfshark said in its fourth annual edition report.

"Compared to India, Bangladesh's mobile internet is 25 percent slower, while broadband is 34 percent slower. Since last year, mobile internet speed in Bangladesh has improved by 24.1 percent (2.7 Mbps), and fixed broadband speed has grown by 19.5 percent (7 Mbps)", the report said.

The DQL study is conducted by cybersecurity company Surfshark, which evaluates countries based on five fundamental digital wellbeing pillars: internet quality, e-government, e-infrastructure, internet affordability, and e-security.

Last year, Bangladesh ranked 103rd among 117 countries.

"Out of the five fundamental digital life pillars, Bangladesh's worst score is for e-government, where the country has ranked 86th globally. The best score acquired by Bangladesh is in the internet affordability category, where it stands at the 29th position," read the report.

"Bangladesh's internet quality services come at the 67th position globally, while e-security and e-infrastructure rank 75th and 85th, respectively", it adds.

Compared to India, Bangladesh's mobile internet is 25 percent slower, while broadband is 34 percent slower.

According to the report, internet quality in Bangladesh is comparatively mediocre. On a global scale, fixed broadband internet is better than mobile internet, as evaluated in the report.

In terms of internet speed alone, Bangladesh's fixed broadband internet ranks higher than mobile in the global ranking, said the cyber security company.

Idol vandalised at temple in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Unidentified miscreants vandalised an idol of Kali inside a temple in Jhenidah's Shailkupa upazila on Thursday night.

The incident occurred at Dauti Kali Mandir in Dhalharachandra union. Around 5:00am yesterday, locals saw the broken idol and informed police.

Police visited the temple and started an investigation, said Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shailkupa Police Station.

According to police and locals, on Thursday night, someone broke the lock of the temple's main gate and vandalised the idol. The process to file a case was underway, said the OC.

When sluice gates don't work

Aman production at stake in Khulna's Koyra upazila

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

As many as eight sluice gates out of 23 have remained completely out of order in Khulna's Koyra upazila for a long time, concerning the farmers about irrigation during the ongoing Aman season.

Moreover, the remaining 13 sluicegates are about to be dysfunctional, said locals.

Amid such a situation, freshwater is receding through the hole of the water control gates while salt water is intruding into the farmland, hampering irrigation in the upazila.

So local farmers are fearing a huge loss if the sluice gates are not made operational immediately.

Sluice gates are one of the most common hydraulic structures in controlling flow rate and water level in open channels such as rivers and canals.

Several rivers -- including the Kapotakkho, Shakbaria and Koyra -- are flowing through the upazila surrounded by embankments of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWBD).

Sadhon Sarkar, a farmer from Gatirghari of Koyra, said they saw less rain this monsoon.

"Generally, rainwater reduces the salinity of soil. However, it did not happen this year," he said. "And when it rained, the water couldn't be stored because of dysfunctional sluicegates. If such situations prevail, most farmlands will become barren," he added.

The upazila has a total of 121km of embankments where 23 sluicegates were constructed to control water levels and flow rates in rivers and canals. They were also used as wastewater treatment plants.

According to WDB, the eight damaged sluice gates are in Kashiabad Forest Station, Nayani, Kushodanga, Kathmarchar, Oratala, Padmapukur, Binapani and Hajatkhali areas.

The rest in Naksha, Masjid Kur, Amadi, Khoralkathi, Shalukkhali, Hogla, Lalua, Narayanpur, Gobindpur, Sutia Bazar, Gariyabari, Jorshing and Koyra-2 areas have become vulnerable.

Koyra upazila chairman SM Shofiqul Islam said most of the sluice gates installed in the 1990s are yet to be repaired.

"Eight have completely become dysfunctional due to a lack of maintenance. Besides, cyclone Amphan damaged the Hajatkhali sluice gate," he said.

"Even four years after the collapse, the Oratala sluicegate near Guchchhogram is yet to be repaired. Aman production is being hampered as a result," he added.

Chapal Kumar, a farmer from Gariyabari area, said, "We are facing a lack of irrigation water during this peak season of Aman cultivation due to less rain and damaged sluice gates."

This correspondent recently visited at least 12 villages -- including Nayani, Kushodanga, Kathmarchar, Oratala, Padmapukur, Binapani, Hajatkhali Shalukkhali, Hogla, Lalua -- where almost all sluicegates were found inoperative.

Mud and silt blocked the entrances of those sluicegates, of which iron parts were rusting.

Md Asaduzzaman, agriculture officer of Koyra upazila, said around 14,720 hectares of land have been used for Aman cultivation this year. Farmers do not get required facilities from these sluice gates, he said.

"They need to be renovated urgently," he added.

Mashiul Abedin, assistant engineer of BWDB in Koyra, said a list of dysfunctional sluice gates have already been sent to the headquarters for reconstruction. "The project will start after getting approval and allocation," he added.

Seminar on managing pain held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Savar*

An international seminar on interventional pain management was held at Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujub Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital in Gazipur on Thursday.

SK+F Pharmaciticals Ltd sponsored the seminar titled "Interventional Pain Management. It's Beyond..."

Interventional pain management is a method which utilises pain blocking techniques to help make day-to-day activities less difficult, and effectively restore quality of life for patients.

Prof AKM Akhtaruzzaman, chairman, Department of Anesthesiology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, was present at the event as chief guest.

Zaiton Sulaiman, chief executive officer of KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital in Malaysia, was present as special guest while Prof Nizar Abd Jalil, interventional pain management specialist, KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital, was the keynote speaker at the event.

Two killed, 24 injured

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"Being informed, a police team sent the injured to Kumudini Hospital, and removed the wreckage from the road," he said. "The bus driver might have been drowsy. We are looking into the incident," he added.

Passengers and transport workers said the aftermath of the accident caused a tailback stretching for several kilometres, which lasted almost an hour.

PM pays homage

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The prime minister reached Tungipara in Gopalganj at 10:10am by road after crossing the Padma Bridge.

Sheikh Rehana paid the toll for 17 vehicles at the bridge.

The premier reached Dhaka last night.

PRESIDENT PAYS HOMAGE TO BANGABANDHU

President Abdul Hamid yesterday reached Tungipara via Padma Bridge to pay homage to Bangabandhu.

It is the president's first visit to Tungipara, crossing the Padma Bridge after its inauguration on June 25, reports UNB.

The head of the state's motorcade arrived at 5:00pm, said his Press Secretary Joynal Abedin.

The prime minister and her sister, local dignitaries and senior officials of the administration welcomed the president.

President Hamid paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at his mausoleum.

Ensure Bangla

FROM PAGE 3

not place any less importance on literature, philosophy and history, even in the time of the fourth industrial revolution.

Underscoring the need for promoting culture, he said, "We must not forget that the educational and cultural environment in Dhaka is not satisfying. This is true for all universities as well."

He said to promote good culture, it is necessary to hold Ducsu elections annually. It is also crucial to turn the convocation programmes into an occasion for festivities.

"Due to its rich history and legacy, it is by default Dhaka University's duty to take the lead in promoting culture," he added.

Professor Upama Kabir, also Ahmed Kabir's daughter, highlighted the biography of his father in brief. Born in 1944 in Chattogram, Ahmed Kabir carried out important roles at Centre for Advanced Research Institute.

A prolific writer, Ahmed Kabir always emphasised the need for research and put it as the first and foremost responsibility of Dhaka University, to become an epicentre of higher education.

"Knowledge is created through research. Therefore, more research is needed. And it should be unique and purposeful," said Prof Serajul Islam.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জনস্বাস্থ্য ইনস্টিটিউট
মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
মুজিব বর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য খাত এগিয়ে যাবে অনেক ধাপ
স্মারক নং-জ.স্বা.ইন./বি.স./বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০২২/০৩৯
তারিখঃ-০৬/১০/২০২২খ্রি.।
সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
গত ০৪/১০/২০২২খ্রি. দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকার ৭ নং পৃষ্ঠায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে ৫ নং লাইনে ২০২১ এর স্থলে ২০১২ এবং ৮ নং লাইনে ISO17025:2007 এর স্থলে ISO17025:2017 পড়তে হবে।
ডাঃ রাশেদা সুলতানা
পরিচালক
জনস্বাস্থ্য ইনস্টিটিউট
মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
ই-মেইলঃ- iph@ld.dghs.gov.bd
GD-1861

They were just

FROM PAGE 5

seized 458 bottles of foreign liquor and 6,005 bottles of beer, which, according to DB, are unauthorised.

At a press conference, DMP Additional Commissioner Harun Or Rashid said they conducted the raid as many complaints were made against the restaurant's illegal business.

"They were selling unauthorised liquor and running unethical trades in the building," said the DB official.

He said to verify the authenticity of this information, all the teams of DB Uttara went to that building around 9:00pm.

"We were faced with an appalling sight. We first raided the sixth floor, where we saw many young people and found a huge amount of liquor. The fourth and fifth floors had similar situations."

Later, DB asked the authorities how they brought the foreign liquor to the country, for which they had no legitimate answer.

"That's why we made the arrests. A case has also been filed against the arrestees as well as the owner and manager of the bar with Uttara West Police Station," he added.

Muktar Hossain, the owner of the bar, has several other bars in the capital and Narayanganj. When asked how many bar licences Muktar has, the DB official said, Muktar runs five bars in Mirpur, Gulshan and Narayanganj. "We don't know if they are under the same licence or not. However, these illegal activities were going on under the guise of Kingfisher Restaurant, in the building that we raided in Uttara on Thursday."

Law enforcers could not arrest the owner and MD yet. Asked about the allegation that cops used to visit the bar and that the raid was conducted due to their internal conflict with the bar management, the DB chief said, "We will investigate who among the force used to go to that bar."

More women going

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the top work destination, with 48,727 women hired. Besides, Oman hired 13,232 women, Jordan 10,229, and UAE 1,248, BMET data show.

In a field-level study, Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup) found that of 156 Saudi-returnee women, 80 returned home before completion of the two-year contract, while 50 returned within a year.

Okup provided reintegration support to the returnee women between April 2020 and July 2022.

Okup in its 2021 study report "Access to Justice for Bangladeshi Migrant Workers: Opportunities and Challenges", conducted with 262 female migrants, found that nearly 45 percent of the women had not received the promised wages and benefits.

About 88 percent were not provided with a written job contract before migration, it says.

A 2019 expatriates' welfare ministry report found that irregular payment and physical and sexual torture were the top reasons for the early return of over 100 women from Saudi Arabia.

In many cases, challenges faced by female migrant workers are ignored, said Okup Chairperson Shakirul Islam.

"Instead, there is a tendency in the government to blame their [migrants'] lack of knowledge for falling into a vulnerable situation," he said.

Most women migrate abroad to work as domestic workers, and the government support service for those facing challenges is not satisfactory yet, he added.

He urged the government to take steps so that the women get paid on time, communicate with their families uninterruptedly, and remit money home without hassle.

Asked, an official of BMET admitted that there are challenges regarding female migration from Bangladesh.

"We try our level best to mitigate the challenges," the official told this newspaper over the phone, preferring anonymity.

The Bangladesh government from time to time raises issues before the host countries, while the bureau also arranges hearings to resolve disputes regarding female migration, the official added.

No scope to reduce

FROM PAGE 3

report. "Two committees are working to find the reason behind the failure." About upgrading the grid, he said the authority has taken up a project to upgrade the transmission system.

"The prolonged process of getting money from the World Bank and the Covid situation put the project in limbo. We need at least two years to finish the automation process," he said.

Are we consuming tannery waste?

FROM PAGE 5

"A section of insiders including members of the authorities, security guards and law enforcers are helping this gang," alleged Nayan Miah, a truck driver for the tannery estate.

Sometimes, the authorities seize trucks laden with solid waste. But later they release it through underhand dealings, said another worker, seeking anonymity.

Visiting the estate premises recently, this correspondent saw two such trucks -- Dhaka Metro Dr 14-6047 and Dhaka Metro Dr 12-1271 -- kept parked near the Waste Treatment Plant Company Limited. They were filled with seized solid wastes.

"We have seized the two trucks. We will hand over those to police soon," said an official of the estate.

He also alleged that law enforcers in most of the cases do not take action against these illegal traders. Rather, they release the trucks after taking bribes.

Russell Mollah, in-charge of Chamra Shilpa Nagari Police Outpost, denied the allegations. "The tannery estate authorities have so far handed over only one truck to us. But, we could not take action as none filed any case over this matter," he said.

"We are not authorised to seize any truck. If the tannery authorities seize trucks and file a case, we will definitely take action in this regard," he said.

Contacted, Satendra Nath Paul, chief engineer of Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Waste Treatment Plant Company Limited, said, "We will discuss the matter in the next board meeting and come up with a decision so that we can take stern action against the perpetrators."

About leaving the wastes in a dump yard inside the industrial zone, he said, "We have approached companies that can use these for by-products [factories making wallets, leather boards, sandals and key rings or even ceramic, cement or tiles factories]. We have also floated a tender in this regard, but no one officially responded to it yet."

Slam Poetry

FROM PAGE 3

Kazi Mahdi Amin replied, "The second time was far beyond my expectations and it was much better than the first time. The performers were very youthful and jubilant, and the things they recited were very touching. It was an amazing event."