

Resist threats

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"A vested quarter is out to spread rumors about the foreign reserves and liquidity in banks. Don't pay heed to the rumour," she said.

Hasina said her government has been able to transform Bangladesh into a digital and developing country in line with the Vision 2021 mentioned in the election manifesto of 2008.

She said her government will make Bangladesh a developed and prosperous country and transform "Digital Bangladesh" into a "Smart Bangladesh" by implementing the Vision 2041.

No parking

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Sayedabad Bus Terminal will be completed by March and they will inaugurate it on April 1. The major portion of the terminal will be used for inter-district buses.

The renovation work at Mohakhali and Gabtali bus terminals will also be done by this time, he added.

The mayor said they observed bus owners are setting up counters here and there like at Jhigatala, Kalabagan and Khilgaon, which create traffic congestion.

No comprehensive

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Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, also a member of the ministry-formed committee, said they are emphasising on finding the martyred intellectuals in upazila towns and other places.

EMPTY PLEDGES
On February 6, 2014, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq told parliament that a complete list of martyred intellectuals would be published by June that year.

The ministry then sent letters to deputy commissioners of all 64 districts, seeking names of intellectuals, but the DCs reportedly did not send in names because the definition for a martyred intellectual was not clear.

On December 14, 2016, Mozammel said the ministry would publish a book containing the names of all martyred intellectuals, but this book, too, is yet to be published.

"Shaheed Buddhijibi Koshgrantha" listed 328 martyred intellectuals. The government documentary "Bangladesh" said 1,109 intellectuals were martyred. "Banglapedia" estimated that 1,111 intellectuals have been killed.

Many war researchers, however, said the total number of martyred intellectuals could be much higher. The members of Buddhijibi Nidhan Tathyanusandhan Committee, set up in 1972, had made a primary list of 20,000 intellectuals who were killed.



Workers are levelling the ground by the rail track in Tejgaon area for the construction work of the elevated expressway. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

First national bamboo park disappears in plain sight

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

In 2012, the forest department took an initiative to protect threatened varieties of bamboo by creating the country's first national bamboo park in Sylhet.

The following year, the park was inaugurated at Forest School and Training Institute on June 6, where 23 varieties of bamboo were planted.

However, in just nine years, the bamboo park disappeared and only a handful of bamboo bushes survived.

The initiative was taken by the Wildlife Conservation and Eco-Tourism Development Project, for which approximately 1,417 hectares of land, including two hillocks, was selected.

The forest department planted 23

varieties of bamboo: Kalshi, Pecha, Rupahi, Tenga, Jai, Muli, Thai Barua, Kata Barua, Pali Marka, Kanchi, Budum, Kali, Sonali, Dolu, Makal, Mritinga, Tetua, Ora, Betua, Porua, Barua, Botom, Rangan and Parua.

The park was inaugurated by the then chief conservator of forests Md Yunus Ali.

While visiting the bamboo park recently, this correspondent witnessed only small bushes of four varieties of bamboo. A forest guard was chopping down five or six pieces of bamboo from a bush.

He said these will be used to make a fence.

While talking to another forest guard, this correspondent learned that bamboo varieties in the plainland were destroyed the very year they were planted.

Seeking anonymity, he said no one looked after the park, and people living nearby cut bamboo from the unprotected park over the years.

Advocate Shah Shaheda Akhter, Sylhet divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said, "They [forest department] tend to create some projects to show that they utilised the allotted budget, but only a handful of people get benefited from those."

"This bamboo park could have been a milestone in the conservation of rare and threatened varieties of bamboo. But carelessness killed the park," she added.

Contacted, Sylhet Divisional Forest Officer Md Towfiqul Islam said he was unaware of such a park and project. The next day, he reached out to this correspondent with information regarding the park.

"As far as I gathered, the bamboo park has been almost destroyed over the years. I will be visiting the spot soon and will take initiative to rejuvenate the park by doing everything necessary," he said.

Members unaware, untrained

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Nusrat Armeen, section officer at Cumilla University, informed that due to the extensive awareness campaigns in her institution, the committees have been playing a great role there.

"Each student is now aware of the existence of the committee and its responsibilities. However, more training and awareness campaigns are required to continue this progress," she added.

Papri Basu, freedom fighter, social worker and women's rights

activist; activist Prof Mahfza Khanam; Prof Md Shahjahan Ali of Government Azizul Haque College Bogura; Amena Begum, associate professor at Cumilla Victoria College; Prof Jebunnessa, president of the sexual harassment prevention committee at Jahangirnagar University, spoke at the event among others.

Earlier, in another event held at the Parliament members Club, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Parliamentary Caucus on Parliamentary Rights urged the government to enact

the proposed "Sexual Harassment Prevention and Protection Act 2022" immediately.

Lawmaker Shamsul Hoque Tuku said, "While enacting laws does not always solve everything, the law will create fear for criminals and protect the victims."

Lawmaker Basanti Chakma said, "Before finalising the law, further input from various stakeholders should be sought. The views of the indigenous people from the plain and hills need to be incorporated in particular."

Hope

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"According to our MoU with Malaysia, the cost is around Tk 80,000. But I hear, they are charging Tk 2 to 3 lakh for immigration."

"Government will take action against the recruitment agencies who are collecting fake medicals and extra money in the name of sending workers to Malaysia. Instructions have already been given regarding this. We will terminate all licenses."

Bernad Spanier, deputy head of delegation of the European Union in Dhaka, and Safi Rahman Khan, Brac's director of education, skill development and immigration, also spoke at the event.

Medical waste

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employees of both the health department and the city corporations were involved, said the study.

Speaking at the occasion, Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "An anarchic situation is evident in medical waste management. There are weaknesses in the relevant legislation. The institutional framework is absent and there is an overall lack of coordination in this regard."

According to the study, Medical Waste (Management and Processing) Rules do not clarify the responsibilities and accountability of city corporations and municipalities for the outsource management of medical waste. "As a result, the city corporation/Municipality has not developed any action plan," it mentioned.

Although there are guidelines from the WHO for the management of recyclable and reusable

waste, the rules do not indicate separate categories for reusable and recyclable waste.

For a standardised medical waste management system, the study placed a 13-point recommendation, including coordination, monitoring, and supervision of institutions related to medical waste management; amendment of laws; a clear definition of harmful medical wastes in relevant environment acts; coordination among the stakeholders, including the DoE, DGHS, hospitals and city corporations/municipalities; capacity development of the stakeholders; and adequate budgetary allocation and human resources.

The study also recommended developing a central open database and regularly updating it with information on waste generated, and strict action against corruption and irregularities to stop the illegal trade.

Fakhrul, Abbas

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Mohammad Ali that the division facilities given to Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Mirza Abbas have been executed on December 13 (yesterday) and therefore, the writ petitions have become infructuous (ineffective).

The petitioners' lawyers requested the HC bench to order the government to produce necessary documents of execution of the decision facilities before the court.

The bench then fixed today (Wednesday) for hearing and passing order on this issue.

A section of pro-BNP lawyers including AJ Mohammad Ali, Zainul Abedin, AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Bodruddoza Badal, Kayser Kamal and Md Ruhul Quddus

Kazal appeared for the petitioners.

Earlier in the day, Fakhrul's wife Rahat Ara Begum and Abbas's wife Afroza Abbas submitted the petitions to the HC, saying their husbands deserve division facilities in jail under the jail code as they are former lawmakers and ministers.

A prisoner reportedly gets a separate room, a bed, a table, a newspaper and some other facilities in jail if he or she is granted division facilities under the jail code.

BNP Secretary General Fakhrul and the party's standing committee member Abbas are now in jail in a case filed over the December-7 clash between police and BNP men in the capital's Nayapaltan area.

Northern schools

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awareness," she said.

Rasheda alleged that there is a lack of data on the indigenous peoples of the country and the coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

She also criticised the plan on introducing scholarship at the primary level, citing the education minister's comment about minimising certificate-oriented education.

While chairing the programme, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "Manusher Jonno Foundation has been working with the people and local organisations of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the last 17 years. We

worked on their education and livelihood as well as preserving their cultures."

She said the government took a positive initiative to introduce mother-tongue-based education.

"As this is a new initiative, many challenges, including the lack of teachers, remain. But the students are quick to learn when they are taught in their mother tongue," she added.

Prasenjit Chakma, assistant resident representative of UNDP; Md Farhadul Islam, chairman of NCTB; Hakim Arif, director general of International Mother Language Institute, spoke at the programme as special guests, while Mathura Tripura, executive director of Zabargat Kalyan Samity in Khagrachari, spoke as a discussant.

Fire breaks

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explosion at the BM Container Depot.

According to the Chattogram Customs documents, the privately-owned depot resumed its operations of the export-oriented activity on October 24 after Chattogram Customs stopped all kinds of activities at the depot.

Former JU VC

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Dal, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jatiyatabadi Swechchasebak Dal. The case was filed with Paltan Model Police Station on December 8. The clash between BNP men and police left one person dead and many others injured.

105 BNP men

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Several hundred women like Rasheda in Chimari upazila had similar stories to tell.

Swapna Rani (30), another homemaker, said, "As we are new, our work speed is a little slow. But business is gradually picking up."

Marjina Begum (48) of the same upazila, said, "Now we don't have to be solely dependent on our husbands for cash. We will be fully independent once our wages increase."

RDRS Bangladesh and CordAid are implementing

Sending children

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this project titled "Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO)" with the financial support of the European Union.

The initiative was launched to help the low-income families on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Kurigram's Chilmari.

Ahsanul Kabir Bulu, project manager, said, "We are working to provide women of poor families the opportunity to earn extra money by transforming them into skilled workforce."

INVITATION TO BID
Purchase of Laptop
First Date of Publication: Wednesday 14 December 2022

ITB No: RIR/2023/ITB/001

Room to Read Bangladesh invites sealed tender from reputable and eligible suppliers/Authorized dealer having relevant work experience with large organization including UN agencies, INGO and other international organization in supplying Laptops for Room to Read Bangladesh. Bidding is open to all bidders from registered companies with Bangladesh Government.

Package	Description	Quantity	Estimated date of delivery
A	Laptop (Core i3)	40 Units	By Tuesday 28 March 2023
B	Laptop (Core i5)	07 Units	Total 47 Units.

Envelope containing sealed bids must be marked with the ITB reference number (top right corner) as indicated above.

Interested bidder must have the following qualifications

A) At least 3 (Three) years' experience with large international organization/UN Agency/INGO
B) Authorized dealer/partner of any international brand
C) Able to meet the timeline and deliver the laptop in the location specified above

Interested bidder who satisfy the above-mentioned criteria may collect the bid form by paying Tk 500 (Non-refundable) for the tender at the address given below from Wednesday 14 December to Wednesday 4 January 2023 (Except Govt. holiday) from 9.00am - 5.30pm. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday 22 December 2022 at 11.00am at Room to Read Country office, Conference Room (4th floor), House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be collected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application on bidder's letterhead. Bids must be delivered to the address below by Wednesday 4 January 2023 no later than 3.00 pm. Any bid after the deadline will be rejected. All bids will be opened on Wednesday 4 January 2023- at 3.00pm in presence of bidders' representative & Room to Read purchasing committee members.

Room to Read reserve the right to accept or reject all bids without any reason whatsoever.

Administration
Room to Read, Bangladesh House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani Model town, Dhaka 1213
Phone # 987-1201, 987-1275, 987-2051, 987-2602 Fax 987-2650

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Office of the Principal
Email: dhakampi1985@gmail.com
Web: www.dmpi.gov.bd

Ref. No. DMPI/Gov/e-GP/2022-23/441 Date: 13.12.2022

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>) by Principal, Dhaka Mohila Polytechnic Institute under the Directorate of Technical Education for the procurement of following package which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.aprocure.gov.bd>) from date and time as follows:

Sl No.	Tender proposal ID	Tender description	Publishing date and time	Opening/closing date and time
1	764586	Goods Supply of Books	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	29-Dec-2022 11.30.00
2	764588	Goods Supply of Computer Accessories	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	29-Dec-2022 12.00.00
3	764589	Goods Supply of Raw Materials	18-Dec-2022 10.00.00	02-Jan-2023 11.30.00
4	764591	Goods Supply of Engineering other Equipment for Industrial Electronics Lab	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	05-Jan-2023 11.30.00
5	764592	Goods Supply of Engineering and other Equipment for circuit Lab	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	05-Jan-2023 12.00.00
6	764593	Goods Supply of Engineering and other Equipment for Monitoring and Equipment Lab	18-Dec-2022 10.00.00	09-Jan-2023 11.30.00
7	764594	Goods Supply of Engineering and other Equipment for Software Lab-3	18-Dec-2022 10.00.00	09-Jan-2023 12.00.00
8	764595	Goods Supply of Engineering and other Equipment for Rendering and Animation Lab	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	05-Jan-2023 12.30.00
9	764596	Goods Supply of office Equipment	14-Dec-2022 10.00.00	29-Dec-2022 12.30.00
10	764597	Goods Supply of Furniture	18-Dec-2022 10.00.00	02-Jan-2023 12.00.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.aprocure.gov.bd>).

Shahana Begum
Principal (Additional Charge)
Dhaka Mohila Polytechnic Institute
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

GD-2300