FIREARMS LICENCING Biometric registration underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka district administration is working to bring all firearms licencing procedures under a biometric registration system to prevent the illegal use of arms.

"We have started biometric registration for firearms' licences under Smart Firearms Licence Management System on December 19 and it will continue till March," Dhaka district deputy commissioner Mohammad Mominur Rahman told reporters at his office yesterday.

This applies to individual firearm buyers and dealers. Till December 11 this vear, a total of 12,551 firearms licences have been issued by the authorities. Meanwhile, around 554

licences were cancelled for various reasons in the last SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Rights of rivers as living entity must be protected

Discussion told OUR CORRESPONDENT,

The rights of rivers as a living entity must be protected and the law to protect the rights has to be implemented strictly, said speakers at a discussion in Sylhet yesterday.

The discussion on "River's rights and the state of Sylhet's rivers: a study on Sunai river" was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Surma River Waterkeeper.

SM Arafat, member secretary of the subcommittee for education, information and research of Bapa, presented the keynote.

In the keynote speech, Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa and chief coordinator of Waterkeeper Bangladesh, said, "The rights of rivers are being violated in the country in different ways, mostly by part of the government or elite businessmen."

Md Mozibur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said, "The government is very keen on protecting the rivers."

The discussion presided over by Jamil Chowdhury, Ahmed president of Bapa's Sylhet chapter.

Abdul Karim Kim of Surma River Waterkeeper; and Advocate EU Shahidul Islam, vice president of Bapa's Sylhet chapter, were present at the discussion.

GD-2375

Dr Samad's 'green heaven'

How a kidney specialist is on the forefront of Tangail's green revolution



Renowned kidney specialist Dr MA Samad has created a huge garden, rich with numerous local and foreign fruit plants in Tangail on about 30 acres of land. His "green heaven" has about 10,000 trees of 300 species. This photo was taken recently from Tangail's Hatibandha

MIRZA SHAKIL

Dr MA Samad is rated as one of the best kidney disease specialists in the country. He wakes up early in the morning and attends to hundreds of patients at the Anwara Khan Modern Hospital in Dhanmondi of Dhaka.

Rafiqul Hossain Ranju, a close associate of Dr Samad, once told him that kidney disease is life-threatening and very painful but people are not aware of the risks posed by kidneyrelated diseases.

Reflecting on that, Dr Samad established Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS) to create awareness among people regarding kidney diseases. It has five branches in total -- two in Tangail, and one each in Madaripur, Chandpur and Dhaka. Kidney tests and dialysis are done here at a lower cost. Despite his busy schedule, Dr Samad visits each centre once a month to see

He also has immense love for the people

If we can nurture greenery and inspire others to do the same, our world might just survive against all odds. I want to dedicate my Green Heaven to all the climate activists around the world.

of Tangail, his hometown. Every year on February 21, he comes to Tangail's Hatibandha village with an army of specialised doctors. Hundreds of patients are tested for various diseases and free medicines are distributed throughout the day. These activities have been going on for more than sixteen years.

But this is not just a story of a doctor who is giving back to his community. Rather, this is a story of a "green heaven", a place which is inspiring hundreds of local farmers and also combating climate change simultaneously.



Green heaven

In the span of four years, this nature-loving doctor created a huge garden, rich with numerous local and foreign fruit plants in his village on about 30 acres of land.

Dr Samad's "green heaven" has about 10,000 trees of 300 species of local and foreign fruits, including mango, berry, jackfruit, litchi, elderberry, grapefruit, malta, orange, olive, rambutan, custard apple, avocado and dragon. He also plants various

Local farmers and visitors from far away come to see this orchard daily. They return with the determination to do something similar.

The garden produces a huge yield every vear. The fruits are sent to different parts of the country, including Dhaka, every day.

Saiful Islam of neighbouring Basail upazila visited Samad's orchard and said, "I heard about this orchard from many people before, so I came to see it today."

"I'm mesmerised. I hope to do something similar on a small scale," he said.

Sakhipur Upazila Agriculture Officer Niyanta Barman said Dr Samad's mixed fruit garden is really extraordinary. The dragon fruit garden has about 1,400 trees. He also planted other fruit trees in his own way."

"Many have been motivated to create a garden of their own seeing Samad's orchard. The local agriculture department has been giving regular suggestions to develop the garden. The sub-assistant agriculture officer has been directed to visit the garden at least once a week," he added.

How it all started

Dr Samad was born into a farming family in Tangail. Growing up, he was surrounded by forests and red clay hills. So from childhood, he has had an immense love for nature and plants. It was from this feeling that he took special pleasure in planting trees and taking care of them.

A few years ago, Samad went to a tree fair in Dhaka and saw a lot of exotic fruit seedlings. From there, his curiosity arose whether it is possible to cultivate these fruits in the red soil of his village.

When he asked the concerned people, some said it was possible, although some were

After that, he started gardening by collecting seedlings from different places in the country and abroad. Taking a break from his busy schedule, he visited Tangail every Friday for the last four years regardless of torrential rain, scorching summer heat SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Cabinet approves rural dev academies in 2 dists

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday endorsed the draft laws to establish two rural development academies in Jamalpur and Rangpur districts in a bid to ensure sustainable

development of the rural people there.

The draft laws titled "Sheikh Hasina Palli Unnayan Academy, Jamalpur Act-2022" and "Sheikh Russel Palli Unnayan Academy, Rangpur Act-2022" were approved in the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh

"These (two academies) were approved to improve the standard of living for the rural communities," Cabinet Secretary Kabir Bin Anwar told reporters at a postmeeting briefing at Bangladesh Secretariat.

The functions of the academies include conducting research; taking joint programmes in collaboration with local and international research firms and educational institutions on approval of the government; and introducing different courses over rural development, including post-graduate diploma courses, graduate diploma courses and certificate courses, he said

The two rural development academies will run under two separate 21-member governing boards to be headed by the minister or the state minister for rural development and cooperatives division as their chairman, he added.

Besides, the cabinet approved the draft of National Skills Development Policy, 2022(NSDP 2022), with a vision to build a demand-driven skilled workforce for accelerating the country's economic growth.

"The policy has been designed based on our visions to enhance skills (of the country's workforce)," said Kabir.

CHATTOGRAM BRTA 21,000 smart driving licences uncollected

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Around 21,000 smart driving licences are lying at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's (BRTA) Chattogram office, as the clients have not collected them, claimed officials.

BRTA officials said clients have not collected these licences for a long time despite sending messages on their mobile phones as well as announcing through loudspeakers and public notices in newspapers.

"We are in trouble as they are not taking these licences despite repeated requests," BRTA Chattogram Director (Engineer) Shafiquzzaman Bhuiyan told The Daily Star.

According to the BRTA Chattogram office, the work of printing 12.45 lakh smart driving licences was piled up for more than two years due to complications related to BRTA's contract with a company named Tiger IT Bangladesh Limited.

On August 29, 2021, BRTA signed an agreement with another company named BMTF and finally started providing smart card licences on October 10 of the same year.

Around two third of the customers have already collected the licences.

BRTA did not deliver driving licences for almost two years, except for urgent cases. During that period, drivers used the Interim Acknowledgement Receipt as a temporary permit to drive vehicles. They did not get driving licences even after passing the written, oral and practical tests.

"I had to suffer for the last two years for not getting my licence," said Mohammad Shahjahan, a resident of Amanbazar.

"Many residents went abroad after completing the process to get a licence while they were in the country," said the Chattogram BRTA director.

"However, as the printing and distribution was stopped for a long time, they left the country without receiving those documents," he said.

Local farmers and visitors from far away come to see this orchard daily. They return with the determination to do something similar.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Khulna Telephone No. 02-44110868 Mobile No. 01730-782756 E-mail: eekhu@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

o rondor monos					
	e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of				
Г	SI.	Tender Notice No. &	Description of work	Document last	Closing date
	No.	Tender ID No.	,	selling date & time	& time
	01.	11/e-GP/KRD/2022-2023 (Tender ID: 770452)	Repair of Potholes and Depression and Carpeting Seal Coat Work at Ch: 11+700m to 12+300m = 600.00m of Dacope-Barobaria-Magurkhali-Tala (Road No: Z-7615) under Road Division, Khulna during the year 2022-2023.	10-Jan-2023 at 17:00	11-Jan-2023 at 13:00
	02.	12/e-GP/KRD/2022-2023 (Tender ID: 770511)	Repair of Damaged Pavement with Soling & H.B.B. Work at Ch: 39+000m to 42+000m = 3000.00m (Partial) of Satkhira-Asasuni-Goaldanga-Paikgacha (Road No: Z-7603) under Road Division. Khulna during the year 2022-2023.	10-Jan-2023 at 17:00	11-Jan-2023 at 13:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System 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 (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Clautana 27.12.2022 Madhury Sultana ID No. 700422 Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD Road Division, Khulna

17/12/2022 Masud Md. Anisuzzaman Masud ID No. 601952 Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Khulna



BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

We Strive for Maritime Excellence

Offers Globally Competitive Education Pertinent to the Needs of the Maritime Industry

BSMRMU INTRODUCES FIRST EVER ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN PORT AND SHIPPING MANAGEMENT

Master's in Port and Shipping Management (Online Master's Programme)

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be a citizen of Bangladesh.

Preference will be given to professionals working in

Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree in Mari-me Science / Oceanography / Ocean Science / Marine isherics/Marine Engineering/Maritime Business Stud-es/Nautical Science/Maritime Law etc.

Applicants must have obtained at least 2nd division or CGPA 2.50 in all public examinations.

Applicants with GCE must have passed at least 5 subjects at O level and at least 2 subjects at A Level. In this case, applicants with more than 2 'D' grades in O Level and/or more than one 'D' grade in A Level will not be eligible to apply.

Serving or Retired Navy personnel with Bachelor egree are eligible to apply.

Applicants should be capable of appearing in the online written/oral examinations.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Total 3 semesters, each consisting of 8 months 52 credits Excellent online platforms Online classes will be held in the afternoon including holidays Semester final exam will be held physically in person. First two semesters final exam and third semester final exam will be held after 1 year and 1,5 years respectively.

international reputed Universities/Professional organizations. English language support and specialized labs · Friendly, close-knit, convenient campus

BSMRMU HIGHLIGHTS

Maritime sector

specialised courses

CAREER PROSPECTS

· The first Specialized Public University of Bangladesh in

Blends Experienced Faculty Members from national and

Offers career-focused programmes with innovative,

Offers opportunities for higher education and

research in Foreign Universities under collaboration

- . Academic career in maritime institutions at home & abroad
- Exclusive opportunity to build research career in Maritime field Legal consultant on maritime affairs at home and abroad:
- Public and Private Maritime Organizations. . Career related to SDG, Blue Economy and Delta plan in govt,
- non-govt. and international organizations. · Port, shipping and shipbuilding industries

KEY DATES/EVENTS

- · Application Deadline: 10 January, 2023
- · Online Written Exam Date: 17 January, 2023 Online Viva Exam Date: 24 January, 2023
- · Class start: 2nd/3rd Week of February, 2023

1. Along with written and viva voce result, candidate's previous academic records will also be considered for final select 2. Application Fee: 2000 Tk.

Applicants are requested to submit their applications in the link below:

https://applyonline.bsmrmu.edu.bd For any queries: contact at +8801911155680, +8801912357794 Email: mpsmonline@bsmrmu.edu.bd

GD-2379