



A traffic police official checks the speed of buses plying on the Dhaka-Mawa highway in Keraniganj to ensure they don't cross the speed limit imposed to prevent accidents on highways. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Initiate social

FROM PAGE 3  
Rafiqul Islam were present at the event. The discussion was presided over by Prof Arun Kumar Goswami, director of Centre for South Asian Studies.

## HC to begin hearings

FROM PAGE 5  
Hossain, Aslam Hossain seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack, terming it a disgraceful attack aimed at assassinating the non-communal character of Bangladesh.

## Contradictory

FROM PAGE 3  
criticism of the government is often considered to be synonymous with anti-state," the rights activists said.

They also pointed out that the abuse of surveillance technology can be surmised from the number of times phone conversations of influential persons have been leaked in the past.

**বাড়ি/ ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**

বনানীতে ৪ তলা বিল্ডিংসহ ৬ কাঠা জায়গা এবং ধানমন্ডিতে ২৪০০ বর্গফুটের পাশাপাশি ২টি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় হইবে।  
যোগাযোগ: ০১৯১২৮১৯৩৭৮

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**Request for expression of interest (EOI) giz**

Selection of a national consulting firm for the assignment "To conduct a waste management analysis in Nawabganj, Keraniganj and Dohar Upazilas, as part of a feasibility study of waste to energy plant."

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work to shaping a future worth living around the world. As a public-benefit Federal Government organisation, GIZ supports the German Government, particularly the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implementing development projects. In Bangladesh, GIZ is implementing the technical cooperation projects in the areas of energy, climate change, textile, human rights under the bilateral agreement, signed on 15 July 1972 between the Bangladesh and German Governments.

The Policy Advisory for Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (PAP) is a joint undertaking of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR), Government of Bangladesh, implemented by GIZ. Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) is the Government Counterpart of PAP.

GIZ is hereby requesting an EOI from national consulting firm based in Bangladesh to provide expert services to conduct a waste management analysis in Nawabganj, Keraniganj and Dohar Upazilas, as part of a feasibility study of waste to energy plant. The consulting firm will work independently. The detail of the activities is mentioned in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The firm shall have expertise as per mentioned in the ToR.

The ToR is to be collected by email: contract-bangladesh@giz.de from 'GIZ Contract & Procurement Unit' with the subject line 'TOR- To conduct a waste management analysis in Nawabganj, Keraniganj and Dohar Upazilas, as part of a feasibility study of waste to energy plant'.

Interested parties are requesting to attend Prebid meeting which will be held on 23rd January 2023 at 11-1 PM. Place and contact person information will be share through email.

Proposal shall submit by 15:00 hours, local time on 5 February 2023. Proposal submission instructions will be shared through email.

GIZ reserves the right to accept or reject offers in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

## MUJIB KILLA Poor planning halts shelter-home project

FROM CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat  
A noble project of the government, Mujib Killa (elevated structure in flood plains), may soon erode because of poor planning and wrong selection of site.

The construction work of the project, worth Tk 2 crore, started in February 2021 by the side of Dharla river at Char Falimari in Lalmonirhat's Mogholhat union, with a deadline of August 2021.

However, after finishing 55 to 60 percent of the work, the construction company had to stop working as the Dharla was eroding land some 20 metres away from the site.

According to locals, the river was eroding around 80 to 90 metres away from the site when the construction started. The authorities then did not pay heed to it even though they had safer khas land for the project nearby.

Termining the project "unplanned", they said they requested the authorities to shift the structure to a safer place.

"The government spent crores for Mujib Killa but it brought no benefit to us," said local Nur Hossain.

Mogolhat Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman said the establishment will be eroded by the river shortly.

Contacted, Mashur Rahman, project implementation officer in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said the site was selected in 2016-17 fiscal year. The construction was stopped following orders from the higher authorities, he said.

"It is not possible to continue the construction unless the erosion is checked," he said.

Funded by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the work of the shelter home started on February 18, 2021 at a cost of over Tk 2 crore.

## Max 10yrs' jail for leaking PSC

FROM PAGE 3  
The penalty is one year in jail, monetary fine or both for creating obstacles to examinations and creating anarchy.

As per the new law, apart from the question paper leak, other crimes will also be punished by the mobile court.

There shall be a public service commission to be called the Bangladesh Public Service Commission. The number of members of the commission, including the chairman, shall be not less than six and not more than 20.

There will be a secretariat of the commission where a secretary will be appointed.

## Families left with no roof

FROM PAGE 5  
displaced, due to this river erosion. Their fates too hang in the balance as most of them have lost their homes.

Mansur Ali, 62, a farmer of the same char, said, "Even though we lived amid many struggles a few months ago, we at least had a roof over our heads. Now I have to fight for even a handful of food."

He and his three sons have ploughed 35 decimals of land on the riverbank with the sweat of their brows. They too fear that all their hard work will go down the river.

Mansur had already lost his 11 bighas of cultivable land and homestead. Like many, he and his family members took refuge in a relative's home in another char.

Contacted, Sanju Miah, a local union parishad member, said such gruesome pictures of hardship has become a common scenario in the chars.

He said so far government assistance in terms of food has been provided to the victims. About plans for their re-allocation, he said decisions are yet to be made in this regard.

## To revolutionise sanitation

FROM PAGE 3  
Infrastructure Investment Bank will provide Tk 1,882 crore as loans and grants, while Tk 329 crore will come from the government exchequer.

The project, which was supposed to start in October 2022, is scheduled to be completed by June 2027.

Contacted, Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of Institute for Planning and Development (IPD), welcomed the initiative but said its implementation will be a challenge.

Adil said sanitation and waste-management systems in local municipalities are still quite poor. "This initiative will be very impactful if it is implemented following policy guidelines."

He went on to say that every municipality will be allotted around Tk 100 crore. So, its proper utilisation should be ensured. "If the project is not implemented properly, it may just be a waste of money."

Following implementation, proper management with essential facilities over the years is also important, he said.

In the last five years, only a handful of public toilets have been built, said Adil, who is a professor of Jahangirnagar University's urban and regional planning department.

Recent media reports support Adil's claims. The city corporation areas in Dhaka have only 103 public toilets, and they are scattered across 129 wards. If that wasn't bad enough, in 36 of the new wards, there is no sign of this essential facility.

Due to this grave crisis, residents have to face many difficulties. The number of toilets is not only insufficient but most of them are also unhygienic.

The lack of year-round management leaves most of such facilities to deteriorate, Adil said.

Meanwhile, a project-valuation committee of the planning ministry has asked the authorities to explain and re-fix the high costs of building public toilets, community, and household toilets.

Apart from the cost of design, supervision and reporting, purchasing and monitoring costs should be fixed logically following re-discussion, it said.

The DPHE has conducted a feasibility study, titled "Implementing System in 53 District Level Municipalities [Pourashavas] and 8 City Corporations", funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Nirmul Committee to launch

FROM PAGE 5  
fundamentalists and communal forces," he added.

During the press conference, Shahriar Kabir also announced the details of the programmes centring on the committee's 31st founding anniversary. The conference will be inaugurated by Norwegian folk music researcher, writer and photographer Wera Sæther.

He said a discussion meeting will be held at Bangla Academy auditorium at 10:00am on January 19 on the theme 'Develop the culture of secular humanity in the spirit of the Liberation War against radical fundamentalism, terrorism'.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal will be present as the chief guest, while State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid will be present as a special guest.

Committee Vice-President Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, eminent folk singer Farida Parveen, Jatra Artist Milon Kanti Dey and others were present at the press conference.

## Ensure no one can use religion

FROM PAGE 3  
"Make sure that none can mislead people using our religion. You can educate people to refrain from getting involved in social ills that include drug addiction, child marriage, repression of women, food adulteration and corruption through your daily sermons and khutba during Jumma prayers," she said.

She said religion cannot be used as a political weapon. "Our target is to put an end to torture and repression, using religion," she said.

"Irrespective of political identity and opinion, we can build a developed, prosperous and 'Smart Bangladesh' -- with equal respect towards every religion and with the non-communal spirit," she said.

Following the ideals of the Father of the Nation, she said they have taken various programmes to dignify Islam that includes constructing 564 model mosques at each of the upazilas and districts.

The prime minister said that she has so far opened 100 model mosques across the country while the rest will be opened in phases.

## Decentralise healthcare

FROM PAGE 3  
-- for providing free medicine in rural areas, filling the posts at service centres, and spending on wages and salaries -- the burden on general people to spend their own money will significantly go down, he said.

Atiur said if allocation is increased by that much, it will be possible to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure from 69 percent to 51 percent.

If the quality of health care available in big cities including Dhaka is available in other parts of the country, it is possible to reduce the pressure for people to spend out of their pocket, said M Abu Eusuf, professor of development studies department at Dhaka University.

For this, he feels that the process of decentralisation needs to speed up.

Due to the high health expenses, relatively low-income families often face a financial crisis, said SM Zulfikar Ali, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

He believes that if the cost for health services is further reduced, Bangladesh will be able to move forward in poverty alleviation.

Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, additional secretary in the Health Services Division, said there is no alternative to strengthening monitoring as well as ensuring good coordination among all stakeholders to implement the government's political promise of improving the quality of health services.

The lack of efficiency and coordination of ministries concerned in regards to budgetary expenditure is the main obstacle to increasing the allocation for the health sector, said Mamun-Al-Rashid, former secretary of the Planning Division.

He said therefore, attention should also be paid to improving the efficiency with which the allocation is used.

## A year of unkept promises

FROM PAGE 5  
constantly being told the same things and promised that our demands will be met in the following month," he added.

According to their other demands, the proctor and the student advisor were removed from their positions, while a case against former SUST students was withdrawn and the bank accounts of students were opened.

Raj said, "When asked about the resignation of the vice-chancellor, Sir (Dr Zafar Iqbal) told me that the higher-ups from the government always assure him that they are working on our demands every time he asks."

However, despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not contact Professor Zafar Iqbal or his wife Professor Yasmeen Haque over the phone.

The VC could not be contacted as well as he was out of the country while the report was being prepared.

When asked about the allegations of the students, the university's Director of Student Counselling and Guidance Professor Amina Parveen said, "No student has informed me of any such matter, so I have nothing to comment on. There were some abnormalities initially after the movement. But now the relationship between teachers and students is completely normal."

Contacted, Professor Md Rashed Talukder, head of the probe body formed after the incidents of January 16, said, "We recorded the testimony of the teachers and staffers. However, the students did not cooperate. Later the members of the committees were also changed. We were asked to submit a report and hope to submit it soon."

Residential students of the university's Begum Sirajunnesa Chowdhury Hall started a demonstration on January 13 this year over a few demands, which was later joined by other students on January 16.

On that day, the students confronted their VC, who was confined to MA Wazed Miah ICT Building.

In a mission to rescue the VC, police charged truncheons, and opened rubber bullets and sound grenades on the students, injuring at least 30 of them. After this move by the authorities, the protest took an anti-VC stance, demanding his removal.

On January 19, 24 students started a hunger strike, and later, five more joined in.

The strike was withdrawn after being publicly assured by Prof Zafar Iqbal and Prof Yasmeen Haque, both former professors of the university, that "higher-ups" in the government promised them that the demands will be fulfilled.

On February 11, Dipu Moni and Mohibul Hasan went to Sylhet and met the protesting students.

On assurance of fulfilling all demands in the quickest possible time and forwarding the demand of VC's removal to the president, the students on February 12 suspended their movement.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. 35.01.0651.171.99.37.22-276 Date: 16.01.2023

**(e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method, NCT))**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal in Bangladesh (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following works mentioned in the table below:

Invitation Reference No.	06/e-GP/PMP-Bridge/BC/PRD/2022-2023
Tender ID	779019
Name of works	Construction of 22.680m (1x21.34m) Long RCC Bridge (Darus Sunnat Madrasha Bridge) at 10th km (Ch 09+827) on Rajapur-Naikathi-Bekutia-Pirojpur Road (Pirojpur portion) (Z8702) under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2022-2023
Tender last selling date and time	15-Feb-2023 16:00
Tender closing date and time	16-Feb-2023 12:00
Tender opening date and time	16-Feb-2023 12:00

a) This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
b) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
c) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branch.  
d) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from a e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

M. S. Debnath  
16.01.23  
Mintu Ranjan Debnath  
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