Bedlam at Baira over 'syndication'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chaos overshadowed a meeting of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) yesterday as attending members created chaotic situations on more than one occasions over alleged "syndication" in sending migrant workers to Malaysia.

During the incident, a journalist covering the event was allegedly manhandled by some of Baira members.

The apex trade body of recruiting agencies organised the meeting at a city hotel demanding opportunity for all of its members to send migrant workers to Malaysia, ahead of Malaysian Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail's upcoming visit to Bangladesh.

However, at the beginning of the meeting, when a Baira member took to the podium and alleged that several of its executive committee members are part of the "syndicate", a section of the members from the audience started to make noise.

This continued for several minutes as senior Baira leaders including its President Abul Basher, who was moderating the event, were forced to halt the meeting and calm down the audience.

The situation became normal following an on-duty police official taking to the podium and urging everyone to maintain discipline inside the venue.

Chaotic situation was created again towards the latter part of the event when Baira Joint Secretary Fakhrul Islam took to the podium and started to talk about the syndicate issue.

Amid the situation, some of Baira members allegedly manhandled and misbehaved with one of the journalists.

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Later, talking with reporters, Basher said he will take action against the culprits after identifying them going through video footage.

Asked about the chaotic situation, Basher said a section of "beneficiaries from the syndicate" might have demonstrated thinking of counting loss if the market is opened for all.

According to Baira members, only 100 recruiting agencies are allowed to send migrant workers to Malaysia at present, after the market was reopened last year following a four-year suspension.

Initially, 25 agencies were allowed to send migrant workers there, which was labelled by sector insiders as "syndicate".

According to the Baira website, it has more than 1,700 active members at present.

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Habiganj's lifeline ceasing to exist

Jujnal river victim of encroachment, pollution

PHOTO: STAR

MINTU DESHWARA,
back from Habiganj

There was a time when the Jujnal river used to be the lifeline of Habiganj. Boats used to ply the river with goods and passengers, facilitating agriculture, trade and communication simultaneously.

However, this has ceased to be the reality in recent years, due to rampant encroachment, filling and pollution.

The river, which originated from Khowai river and is situated at Mirpur Bazar in Habiganj's Bahubol upazila, is currently nothing short of a garbage dump. Illegal structures stand on both sides of the river, while part of the river is the victim of constant filling, making it look like nothing more than a mere canal.

During monsoons, the slopes of the river are flooded with dirt and polythene, causing it to remain dead during the dry season.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found traders from the adjacent Mirpur Bazar, along with locals, throwing garbage on the riverside indiscriminately. The area emanates a horrible stench without a garbage disposal facility around.

Besides, there are houses and other establishments by the market's traders on both sides of the river. Many of the owners of these establishments have been illegally occupying the riverside for generations.

Minhaj Uddin, a resident of Mirpur area, said all kinds of garbage, including remains from slaughtered cows and goats, garbage from raw markets and business establishments, are being dumped into the river.

"No one can move through the space because of the smell. If the administration took appropriate measures, the river could be saved. We could be saved," he added.

Khowai River Waterkeeper Tofazzal Sohel said a certain section, fueled with greed, has been behind the dying state of the Jujunal.

"It is absolutely necessary to dredge the river and ensure its normal flow," he added.

Abdul Karim Chowdhury, member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said, "When I visited the river recently, I saw the market people setting up open toilets on the riverbank."

"According to locals, the filth in Jujunal eventually falls into different connecting rivers, including the Meghna," he added.

"A couple of years ago, it was decided in the Upazila Parishad

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Hero Alom's claims have no basis

Says EC Rashida Sultana on vote-rigging allegations; JL leader assaults journos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogura*

Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana yesterday rejected the vote-rigging allegations brought by Bogura-4 independent candidate Ashraful Hossain, alias Hero Alom, saying that those have no basis.

Rashida, while talking to reporters in the afternoon at her EC office in the capital, said the returning officer, as well as the district election officer, informed the commission that the results are 100 percent correct.

Hero Alom lost the Bogura-4 (Kahalu-Nandigram constituency) by-polls to ruling Awami League-led grand alliance candidate AKM Rezaul Karim Tansen, by just 834 votes, on Wednesday.

After the announcement of the results, Alom alleged that the results were rigged and he would go to the High Court to seek justice.

"We have seen the results sheets ourselves. There is no discrepancy there. When candidates lose, they make some allegations to make the elections questionable. This is the culture of our country, and Hero Alom is no exception," she said.

Mahmud Hasan, Bogura's district election commissioner and assistant returning officer, told The Daily Star that the chief election commissioner gave the order to take note of the allegations Alom made during a press conference and also on a talk show. "Later, we checked the results again and found that everything was fine," he said.

Meanwhile, a leader of Bogura District Jubo League unit has been accused of beating two journalists for covering Hero Alom's press conference on Wednesday night.

The victims are JM Rauf, district correspondent of Dainik Kaler Kantho and general secretary of Bogura Journalist Union, and Zahurul Islam, a senior journalist of a local newspaper Dainik Bogura. The incident happened at Bogura Town Club adjacent to the Bogura District Awami League office around 11:30pm on Wednesday, said the victims.

The accused Jubo League leader is Shariful Islam Shipul. "Police have been informed and will submit a written complaint," Rauf told The Daily Star.

The Daily Star repeatedly tried to reach Shipul for comments but could not reach him.

According to District Jubo League General Secretary Aminul Islam Dablu, Shipul is a vice

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ এর কার্যালয়
দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম
ই-মেইল নংঃ eedoh@rhd.gov.bd

সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	:	০১/২০২২-২০২৩ইং (২য় আহবান)।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	:	দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগাধীন পটিয়া-আনোয়ারা-বাঁশখালী-টইটং সড়কের ২৩তম কিঃমিঃ এ সাংগু নদীর উপর তৈলারদ্বীপ সেতুতে (দৈর্ঘ্যঃ ৫২১.২৩ মিঃ) টোল আদায় কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	:	২০২৩-২০২৪, ২০২৪-২০২৫ এবং ২০২৫-২০২৬ইং ৩ (তিন) অর্থ বছর (১০৯৫ দিন)।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশন তফসিল মূল্য	:	টাকা ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার মাত্র)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	:	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৭/০২/২০২৩ইং বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৮/০২/২০২৩ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান তারিখ ও সময়	:	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম। তারিখঃ ২৮/০২/২০২৩ইং। সময়ঃ বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা।
০৯।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	:	ভ্যাট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারী/বেসরকারী/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয় করা হবে	:	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম। খ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী/চট্টগ্রাম/পিএন্ডডি বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম। গ) উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, দোহাজারী/পটিয়া/ ১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১১।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণ করা হবে	:	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম। খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক সার্কেল, চট্টগ্রাম। গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী/চট্টগ্রাম।
১২।	ইজারা আহবানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

সুমন সিংহ
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২১৬৩
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-১৭২

Nur Khan gets US human rights defender award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of State has named Bangladeshi rights activist Mohammad Nur Khan as one of the 10 winners of its annual Global Human Rights Defenders award.

The State Department made the announcement on Wednesday.

In a statement, the State Department said over the past three decades, Nur Khan led two of Bangladesh's best-known domestic rights organisations -- Ain o Salish Kendra and Human Rights Support Society -- and partnered with international organisations to document human rights abuses and promote accountability in Bangladesh.

"His timely interventions, advocacy on behalf of families of victims of enforced disappearances, and leadership amongst the country's active civil society networks, have saved lives and cleared innocent victims of politically motivated charges," it said.

Nine other awardees are: Elaize de Souza Farias (Brazil), Chhim Sithar (Cambodia), Nino Lomjaria and Team (Georgia), Rosa Melania Reyes Velásquez (Honduras), Nasrin Sotoudeh (Iran), The legal team of the Badinan detainees, led by Bashdar Hassan (Iraq), Mohamed Ely El Her (Mauritania), Ding Jiaxi (People's Republic of China) and Ekoue David Joseph Dosseh (Togo).

26 passport brokers jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday detained 26 illegal passport brokers from the premises of the Immigration and Passport Office at Agargaon and sentenced them to different jail terms.

The mobile court, assisted by Rapid Action Battalion-2, jailed them as they confessed to their crime, said Fazlul Haque, operation officer of Rab-2.

Executive Magistrate Iqbal Hasan conducted the one-hour drive from 12:30pm.

Fazlul said the brokers used to promise people to get their passports done in short time without police verification, hassle of filling up and submitting forms.

The brokers used to harass passport seekers until they agreed to their proposal. Their victims also had to pay a handsome amount for their "services", he said.

Passport applicants were occasionally duped by brokers, and other times they received their passport after much difficulty, he said.

The brokers continued to engaged in such illegal activities for long defying warning by the authorities, the Rab officials said.

জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান
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Invitation for Tender - OTM (International Competition)

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology.	
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR).	
3.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.	
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
5.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Scientific Equipments. [Name of equipments: Item No. (1) Gas chromatography system with Biogas Analyzer, Item No. (2) Oligonucleotide synthesizer, Item No. (3) Inductive Couple Plasma Spectrometer (ICP-QES), Item No. (4) Total Organic Carbon Analyzer & Item No. (5) HPLC (Details will be found in the Tender Document)].	
6.	Invitation Ref No.	39.02.0000.022.35.278.23	
7.	Date	02/02/2023	
KEY INFORMATION			
8.	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (International Competition).	
9.	Budget and source of fund	GoB.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10.	Tender last selling date	19.03.2023 during office hour.	
11.	Tender closing date & time	20.03.2023 at 1.00pm.	
12.	Tender opening date and time	20.03.2023 at 2.00pm.	
13.	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document	Cashier, BCSIR, Secretariat Building (3rd Floor), Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.	
14.	Name & address of the office(s) receiving tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat Building (4th Floor), BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.	
15.	Name & address of the office(s) opening tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat Building (4th Floor), BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.	
INFORMATION ON AWARD			
16.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology.	
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	* The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of similar type of goods. * The satisfactory completion of supply of similar scientific equipments/ instruments of minimum 100% (hundred percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the tenderer under maximum 5 (five) contracts in the last 5 (five) years. * Details will be found in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.	
18.	Brief description of goods	As per attached specification in the tender document.	
19.	Brief description of related services		
20.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) (non-refundable)	
21.	Evaluation will be done "**Item by Item**" basis.		
22.	Description of goods	Tender security (Tk)	Completion time in months/days
	Scientific Equipment (As per attached specification in the tender document)	The amount of Tender Security shall be at least 2.0% (Two percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the tenderer in favour of Secretary, BCSIR by a tender security.	90 (ninety) days from the date of contract signing
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS			
23.	Name of official inviting tender	Shah Abdul Tarique.	
24.	Designation of official inviting tender	Secretary, BCSIR, Dhaka.	
25.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Secretary, Secretariat Building (4th Floor), BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 58610717.	
26.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

Shah Abdul Tarique
Secretary

GD-174