



Want to tie the knot again? pay tax first

DSCC plans to slap levy from next fiscal

DIPAN NANDY

Life for those who are planning to get married in the southern side of Dhaka city is about to get a little more difficult than it usually is. Though those who will marry for the first time can relax, the ones who will marry for the second or third or fourth time have got something to worry about.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is planning to levy a tax on marriage, in a move to boost revenue collection. The tax will be imposed according to the Municipal Corporations (Taxation) Rules 1986.

The tax is likely to be introduced from the next financial year, said Ariful Haque, chief revenue officer of DSCC.

"This move will be implemented under the 1986 Act. Although the act empowers the city corporation to impose this tax, it could not be implemented due to various reasons. Now we are moving towards implementing it," he said.

Rule 50 of Municipal Corporations (Taxation) Rules 1986 says, "When it has been decided with the previous sanction of the Government that a tax on marriage be imposed, the City Corporation shall, at a meeting, determine the rate of tax not exceeding the amount specified in the Model Tax Schedules."

The City Corporation Model Tax Schedule 2016

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Using the few planks there, a rickshaw crosses a trench dug by the Dhaka Power Distribution Company to lay underground cables in Old Dhaka's Nawabpur Road. The authorities did not take any measures to protect the road users. The photo was taken on Monday.

It's Rupali Bank, not Pubali Bank

We apologise

In our report titled "He died waiting to get back the job he lost unfairly" published yesterday, we inadvertently mentioned that Sarder Abdur Razzak was a former senior officer of Pubali Bank Ltd. He was actually a former officer of Rupali Bank Ltd.

We took prompt action as per our editorial policy and corrected the information in the digital version of our newspaper. We apologise for the unintentional mistake.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank Limited, in a rejoinder yesterday strongly protested the news report and said the report mentioned Pubali Bank Limited in a context unrelated to the bank.

"This irresponsible and misleading reporting has caused severe damage to the reputation and dignity of Pubali Bank Limited," he said in the letter.

"It is evident that the news was published without any attempt to verify the authenticity of

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Saudi Arabia offers large investments

2 KSA ministers tell Hasina that they want Bangladesh turned into a regional hub

BSS, Doha

Saudi Arabia has offered to make a large investments in various sectors of Bangladesh, as the country has a stable government and tremendous record of economic growth.

Saudi Arabian Minister of Investment Khalid A Al-Falih and Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal Alibrahim came up with the offer when they jointly called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Doha yesterday.

While briefing reporters, after the meeting, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen quoted the two ministers as saying, "We see few issues as investors. Firstly, the stability [of the country], businessmen see whether it is stable, the future of investment. Present and future of Bangladesh is very good, and that is why we've taken the decision to strengthen relations with Bangladesh."

"Bangladesh's leadership is very good, vision is good and their commitments are very good," they said, adding that the country has a stable government and good economic growth.

"Saudi Arabia wants to establish Bangladesh as a regional hub considering its geographical location as the country is between South and South-East Asia. If we make it a hub, we can

cover Indonesia, Malaysia, more..." they added.

The two ministers said they want to do business of petrochemical, diesel, jet fuel, fertiliser and major distribution centres as well as shipping lines.

In reply, Hasina said that she has given permission and urged them to start immediately. She also offered Matarbari and Payra ports and economic zones to Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, she directed the authorities concerned to take necessary measures for removing obstacles to Saudi investment in Bangladesh.

Saudi Arabia also wants to develop a partnership with Bangladesh through cooperation in various sectors including agriculture.

In this regard, they assured the prime minister of providing necessary financial and technical assistance to Bangladesh.

While discussing the issues of Hajj, both the ministers requested Bangladesh for making investment to build housing and hospitals in Saudi Arabia.

The two ministers of Saudi Arabia requested the prime minister to establish pharmaceuticals, beverage and real estate industries in Saudi Arabia for the benefits of the people of the two countries.



SEIZING WEAPONS, DRUGS

Joint drive to be carried out in Rohingya camps

Home minister says if necessary, army members may join it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint operation will be conducted at Rohingya camps to prevent criminal activities and recover weapons and narcotics, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday.

If necessary, the army will be present during the drive, he said.

He made the comments after attending a meeting with the National Committee on Coordination, Management, and Law and Order of Forcefully Displaced Myanmar Citizens [Rohingyas] at the Secretariat.

To prevent any mischief inside the camp, the authorities will increase patrolling, check posts, and intelligence surveillance, he said.

"We will take measures so that no one of the ARSA or the Arakan Army can enter Rohingya camps. The army will be present during the drive if necessary," said the home boss.

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

People loading boats on three-wheelers after buying them at Salutikar Bazar in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday. In preparation for the rainy season, people of the upazila have started buying boats as water bodies overflow during this season and many get marooned. Boats become the main mode of communication in Gowainghat, a low-lying and flood-prone area.

Removal of Dhaka Wasa chairman worrying: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has said the authorities have set a worrying example of protecting the accused by removing the Dhaka Wasa chairman who raised allegations of arbitrariness against Managing Director Taqsem A Khan and irregularities and corruption in the agency.

The graft watchdog in a press release yesterday said such a move brought into question the government's announcement of "zero tolerance" against corruption.

It is also contradictory to the legal obligations about giving protection to whistle blowers, the statement added.

The TIB called upon the authorities to take into consideration the allegations, conduct a fair and clear investigation, and hold the accused accountable.

On Sunday, the local government ministry removed Gholam Mostofa as Dhaka Wasa chairman and made Sujit Kumar Bala, a member of the Wasa board of directors, the chairman.

The move came three days after Mostofa wrote to the secretary of the Local Government Division alleging that Taqsem turned the state-run agency into "a den of corruption."

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Fossils reveal ancient beast's epic journey to oblivion



REUTERS, Washington

It was a dire moment for life on Earth. Runaway global warming triggered by calamitous volcanism in Siberia inflicted the worst mass extinction on record -- dooming perhaps 90 percent of species -- roughly 252 million years ago at the end of the Permian Period.

Unlike the asteroid 66 million years ago that ravaged the dinosaurs, this extinction event unfolded over a protracted time span, with species perishing one by one as conditions worsened. Scientists said on Monday fossils unearthed in South Africa provide a peek into this drama, telling the tale of an apex predator that over multiple generations migrated halfway around the world in a desperate, and ultimately failed, bid to survive.

This beast, a tiger-sized, saber-toothed mammal forerunner called *Inostrancevia*, had been known only from fossils excavated in Russia's northwestern corner bordering the Arctic Sea until new remains were discovered at a farm in central South Africa.

Russia crushes border incursion

Blames Kyiv; Ukraine denies responsibility

REUTERS

Russia said yesterday it had routed fighters who crossed the border from Ukraine after two days of combat, in what appeared to be one of the biggest incursions of its kind of the 15-month-old war.

There was no immediate confirmation that the fighting had ended, although one of two groups claiming to be behind the raid said in a post on social media: "One day we will return to stay."

The two days of fighting had forced Russia to evacuate towns along the Ukrainian border. Russia has blamed Ukraine for the attack, which Kyiv denied. The two groups that claimed responsibility describe themselves as Russian armed dissidents.

The Russian military said it had killed more than 70 "Ukrainian nationalists" and destroyed four armoured vehicles. There was no independent confirmation of those losses.

Russian forces had surrounded the enemy fighters and defeated them with "air strikes, artillery fire and active action by border units", the defence ministry said.

The two days of fighting had forced Russia to evacuate towns along the Ukrainian border.