

1971 GENOCIDE

Intensify campaign for int'l recognition Says president

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday called upon the Sector Commanders' Forum to continue the campaign for creating public opinion from the grassroots to the international level to get the global recognition for the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.

The president made the call when the forum's executive president Nurul Alam and its secretary general writer and journalist Harun Habib paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the freedom fighters informed the president that the Sector Commanders' Forum is working at the national and international levels to get international recognition for the 1971 genocide.

7 DIGs, 22 SPs transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a reshuffle of the police administration, the government has transferred seven officials of the rank of deputy inspector general (DIG) of police and 22 superintendent of police (SP) to new postings.

The Public Security Division of the home ministry issued three separate circulars in this regard yesterday. The circular was undersigned by its Deputy Secretary Sirajum Munira.

US visa policy to help us hold fair elections Says GM Quader

UNB, Sherpur

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said that the new US visa policy will be helpful in holding the next general election in a free, fair and credible manner.

"The United States expects free, fair and neutral elections in Bangladesh. What is said in the visa policy, goes in favour of Bangladesh and its people," Quader, also the deputy opposition leader in parliament, told reporters at the Sherpur circuit house before attending the bi-annual conference of Sherpur district unit of the party.

O Level Math
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এমন ছাত্র/ছাত্রীকে শুভসার
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A MOMENT OF JOY... Children enjoy playing football on a rainy day, forgetting the summer heat. The smiling faces vouch for their happiness as they drift along the field and chase the ball. This photo was taken yesterday at the Khulna Home Economics College field in the city's Khalishpur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Work halted

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Bridge. The authority announced to open the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga section in September this year.

In a letter to the DC and SP, the project director said they have built a 600-metre-long bridge over the Arial Khan River taking navigation clearance from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

They are currently conducting river training works on the eastern side of the river, which was also notified to the BIWTA, it reads. The projected completion date of the works is September 16 of

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this year.

Therefore, China Railway Group Limited, the contractor, has mobilised an excavator to dredge loose sediment from beneath the river and dump geo bags there.

However, the chairman of the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) visited the site on Sunday and "expressed wrong perception" that sand was being illegally extracted from the riverbed and sold, and a case was filed

against the government project employees with Shibpur Police Station in the district.

The letter states, "As a result, river training works remained suspended now and apprehension has been created that the works would not be completed within September as per the contract."

Contacted, NRCC Chairman Manjur A Chowdhury said following the complaint, they went to inspect the site and found sand being extracted from the river.

"When we sought papers, they could not show any. So, they [workers] were detained for interrogation," he told The Daily Star last night.

"We will further investigate the issue and seek papers from the authorities concerned. If they fail to show the papers, we will prosecute them," he added.

Madaripur Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Marufur Rashid Khan admitted to receiving the PD's letter.

"We will provide all our support to implement the fast-track project," he told this correspondent last night.

Shamima Nasrin, deputy director (bridge and viaduct) of the project, said they have already talked with the contractor and hope to resume work today.

Dispose of application

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following two petitions, said the petitioners' lawyer Shamsuddin Babul.

He said Prof Zia Rahman, currently the dean of DU's social sciences faculty, had been responsible for irregularities in holding exams, grading students and publishing the results.

Under Prof Zia's supervision, the department published the results of a midterm examination after holding the final examination, gave the highest grades to

students loyal to him and sent the grade over the phone and WhatsApp, said Shamsuddin.

A few students of the department applied to the DU vice chancellor, requesting him to probe the allegation against Prof Zia two months ago. However, the authorities did not take steps, prompting them to submit the petition, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Sk Shaifuzzaman, who represents the state, could not say specifically about the HC order on this issue.

20,988 foreign

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organisations in Bangladesh.

Among them, 6,075 are Chinese, 5,876 Indians, 2,468 Russians, 1,246 Sri Lankans, 924 South Koreans, 557 Japanese, 416 Pakistanis, 460 Filipinos, 399 Thais, 378 Belarusians, 269 Kazakhs, 168 Americans, 123 Malaysians, and 108 Indonesians.

In response to another query from AL MP M Abdul Latif, the home minister, said there is currently no street fire hydrants in Dhaka.

In response to a query from AL MP Abul Kalam Azad, the minister,

said currently there is a tendency among misguided children and adolescents to get involved in gang culture and commit crimes. He said law enforcement agencies are actively working to build a crime-free society.

While replying to a query from AL MP Haji Md Selim, the minister said the ratio of women to men in the police force is 1:8.

During the session, Planning Minister MA Mannan said 18.7 percent of the total population is poor and 6.6 percent is very poor.

Bapa mired

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"My only expectation is that Bapa continues its journey in light of its previous glorious contribution to the conservation of nature and the environment. I hope the new committee will follow the path of its predecessors," she said.

A range of allegations was brought against the recently-resigned leadership of Bapa, which they categorically denied as baseless and fictitious.

Sources said Bapa used to hold four secretariate-level meetings a month. However, in the last 42 months, there were not more than 18 meetings. The atmosphere for collective decision-making was shrunk and the existing committee expired in 2021, while the formation of the new committee was being delayed.

Another allegation suggests that Bapa was being used as an individual's platform.

Sharif Jamil told The Daily Star that he removed himself from the post due to

personal reasons.

He said within three months of taking the leadership of Bapa, the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, which delayed the formation of the new committee, along with other challenging matters.

Denying the allegation of shrinking the space for collective decision making, he said during his tenure, he activated sub committees and a programme committee so that the organisation's decision reflects the broader opinion.

"However, some leaders did not like it as they feared Bapa would not be theirs to control," said Sharif.

Some environmental activists, requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that a stronger Bapa is the need of the hour given the extent of onslaught on the country's environment, rivers, forest and hills.

If Bapa gets debilitated, environmental offenders will be strengthened, they said.

EID-UL-AZHA

Advance train ticket sales start today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) starts selling advance tickets for intercity trains online today ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha to reduce public suffering.

Like the previous Eid, all advance tickets will be sold online at two different time slots to reduce the load on its server.

The West Zone will start selling tickets online at 8:00am, while the East Zone will start at noon.

The tickets for trains on June 24 will be sold today, while tickets for June 25, 26, 27 and 28 will be sold on June 15, 16, 17 and 18.

BR will start selling advance return tickets from June 22. On the first day, they will sell tickets for July 2. Return tickets for July 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be sold on June 23, 24, 25 and 26.

The Eid-ul-Azha is expected to be celebrated on June 29. Moreover, BR will operate a total of eight special trains during the Eid rush.

Two special trains will be operated on the Chattogram-Chandpur route while one on the Dhaka-Dewanganj route, one on the Chattogram-Mymensingh route, one on the Bhairab Bazar Kishoreganj route, one on the Mymensingh-Kishoreganj route, one on the Dhaka Cantonment-Panchagarh route and one on the Dhaka Cantonment-Lalmonirhat route.

The operation of the Moitree Express on the Dhaka-Kolkata route and Mitai Express on Dhaka-New Jalpaiguri will be off from June 23 to July 3. The operation of the Bandhan Express on the Khulna-Kolkata route will remain halted on June 29 only.

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cause, followed by jaundice and different types of fever," said Project Director Md Alamgir Hossen.

Diarrhoea, malnutrition, acute respiratory infection and drowning were among the other reasons, according to Alamgir.

State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam, however, was critical about the role of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard. "The rise in child mortality rate is not expected...The health ministry should take steps to reduce the rate," he said while addressing the launching event.

A preliminary report of another government study, Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022, published last April, revealed that the under-5 child mortality rate came down from 43 per thousand in 2017 to 31 per thousand in 2022.

"Qualitatively, the BSVS 2022 study is a good one. But it will not be directly comparable with BDHS before analysing the methods and other identified causes," Dr Shams

El Arefin, senior director of icddr's maternal and child health division, told The Daily Star.

The study also revealed some improvements in several other indicators.

Maternal mortality rate, for example, has decreased to 156 per lakh from 168 per lakh, while life expectancy has increased to 72.4 years from 72.3 during the same period. Besides, both the crude birth rate and the total fertility rate, have increased from 18.8 percent to 19.3 percent and from 2.05 to 2.15 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, the use of contraceptives has decreased from 65.6 percent to 63.8 percent.

Although 98.8 percent of the population has access to sanitation, access to safe sanitation is still low, around 66 percent. Around 99.4 percent of people have access to electricity. However, access to clean energy and technology in cooking is around only 28 percent. The percentage of homeless people has decreased to 3.93 percent from 4.52 percent.

There have been

improvements in several other indicators, including the literacy rate (76.8 percent for people aged 7 and above) and internet users (45.5 percent for people aged 15 years and above).

The population density per square kilometre was 1,163. Meanwhile, the migration rate per thousand to foreign countries has increased to 6.6 percent from 3 percent during the same period. Experts at the event termed it a result of brain drain.

"Brain drain will have a more tremendous impact than money laundering. We have to take it seriously while adopting any policy," said Shamsul Alam.

The divorce rate in Bangladesh doubled last year compared to 2021 -- from 0.7 per thousand to 1.4, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the rate of marriage of girls below 15 years of age increased to 6.5 percent of all girls in the age group in 2022, from 4.7 percent in 2021. The rate of marriage of girls below 18 years increased to 40.9 percent from 32.4 percent in the same period.

They lose it all

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of either BNP or any of its associate bodies. However, no BNP candidate ran for the mayor's office.

Thus, AL-nominated

mayoral candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque was re-elected with a large margin of victory over the Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidate Abdul Awal.

Khaleque defeated IAB's Awal by a margin of 94,761 ballots, with the former receiving 154,825 votes compared to the latter's 60,061 in 289 centres.

CREDIT RATING REPORT

ONE Bank
Corporate HQ
2/F HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawnan Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215

ONE Bank Limited has been rated by the Emerging Credit Rating Limited (ECRL) on the basis of Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The summary of the rating is presented below:

| Valid From | Valid Till | Long Term Rating | Short Term Rating | Outlook |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| March 10, 2023 | March 9, 2024 | AA | ST-2 | Stable |
| March 10, 2022 | March 9, 2023 | AA | ST-2 | Stable |
| March 10, 2021 | March 9, 2022 | AA | ST-2 | Stable |

Long Term AA means:
Commercial Banks rated AA have very strong capacity to meet their financial commitments and is generally in a position to withstand adverse developments in the economy, business and other external conditions. These institutions typically possess a good track record and have no readily apparent weaknesses.

Short Term ST-2 means:
Commercial Banks rated in this category are considered to have strong capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner. However, it is somewhat susceptible to adverse development in the economy, business and other external conditions.

John Sarkar
John Sarkar
DMD & Company Secretary

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
DHAKA-1000
Office of the Chief Engineer

Corrigendum Notice
for
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SUPPLY & SERVICE

CE/EOI/Corrigendum No.01/2023/E-785 Date: - 13.06.2023

This is to notify all concerns that the following EOI have published through the news paper of the Dainik Itihaq & the Daily Star on 08th June, 2023.

| Sl. | Field Name | Old Date & Time | New Date & Time |
|-----|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | EOI Ref. No. & Date | CE/EOI No-01/2023/EOI/2023/E782, Date :- 05.06.2023 | |
| 2 | Package No. | CE/E-10(P)/22-23 | 26/06/2023 |
| 3 | Identification of Package: | Supply & installation of different parts for Top end overhauling 2MW CATERPILLAR Generator Unit#1 (3523C New) of BUET Power Plant. | 27/06/2023 |

| Sl. | Field Name | Old Price | New Price |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 3 | Price of EOI Document | Tk 1000/- | Tk 2000/- |

| Sl. | Field Name | Old Eligibility of Tenderer/Participant | New Eligibility of Tenderer/Participant |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 4 | Eligibility of Tenderer/Participant | Minimum 15 years General Experience on Maintenance Work/Schedule Maintenance/Trouble Shooting Work on Gas Generator or Other Generator. | Minimum 2 years General Experience on Maintenance Work/Schedule Maintenance/Trouble Shooting Work on Gas Generator or Other Generator. |

Others terms & condition of the EOI Notice will be remain unchanged and these corrigenda will be considered as the part of EOI documents.

GD- 1012

(Dr. A.K.M. Jahangir Alam, PEng)
Chief Engineer