

US under secy
Uzra Zeya
likely to visit
in July

UNB, Dhaka

US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya, is likely to visit Bangladesh next month to discuss issues of mutual interest.

She leads global diplomatic efforts to strengthen democracy, advance universal human rights, support refugees and humanitarian relief, promote rule of law and counter-narcotics cooperation, fight corruption and intolerance, prevent armed conflict, and eliminate human

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Family of a
journalist
attacked over
land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Miscreants yesterday vandalised the residence of a journalist and attacked his wife and daughter in Kalaia Dockyard area of Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila.

The incident happened around 2:30pm when Touhid Hossain Ujjal, upazila correspondent of Sangbad Pratidin, was away. He later arrived at the spot after being informed of the incident, according to victims.

The attacks were carried out by their neighbour Bashar Khan and his son Mehedi over land-related

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KUAKATA BUDDHA BIHAR

Rakhines continue fight
to save their land

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Crafted by a group of Rakhines, expelled from the Arakan around 1783, the 240-year-old Srimangal Buddha Bihar (Buddhist temple) in Patuakhali still stands tall today amid chaos as the indigenous community keeps fighting for the full possession of its land.

There has been numerous disputes and discussions regarding the measurement and possession of the property, and the dispute has compelled the community to take the matter to court, hoping for a just settlement.

According to Indro Bansho Bhikkhu, the temple committee's general secretary, the expelled group settled in Kuakata around 1780 and established the temple couple of years later to perform religious ceremonies.

Along with establishing an idol of the meditating Gautama Buddha, a deep well, locally known as "Kua", was also dug on the temple's premises.



Standing as a testament to resilience, the ancient Srimangal Buddha Bihar in Patuakhali emerges from a turbulent past. Crafted by Rakhine artisans exiled from Arakan centuries ago, this 240-year-old Buddhist temple stands tall amidst the chaos of land disputes. The indigenous community, fighting for full possession of their ancestral land, seeks justice through legal channels.

PHOTO: STAR

The High Court imposed an order in 2016, banning any development work on this land by any party. We had turned in a written complaint to the DC on January 1, this year. They are yet to take any steps.

INDRO BANSHO BHIKKHU
CS of Buddha Bihar Committee

The place eventually became known as "Kuakata" following these incidents. The 2.44-acre land was later donated in the name of the temple by the British government in 1943, leading to the establishment of various small temples by the Rakhines in

the following years.

"Only 65 decimals of the said land were shown in the temple's name in the BS survey, leaving 1.79 acres of land undocumented. Now, the Water Development Board is claiming that land as theirs," Bhikkhu claimed.

Following cyclone Sidr, the temple committee initiated development works in 2007 to repair significant damages to its then-existing wall and the temple. However, the WDB obstructed their works. Following this, the committee filed a case with the Patuakhali civil court in 2008, which is still ongoing.

"The High Court imposed an order in 2016, banning any development work on this land

by any party. We had turned in a written complaint to the district commissioner on January 1, this year. However, they are yet to take any steps in this regard," added Bhikkhu. "We are continuing our fight to save our land," he said.

Contacted, Patuakhali Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Obaidur Rahman said, "We cannot intervene as the case is still pending in court."

WDB Kalapara Circle Executive Engineer Khalid Bin Walid echoed the same.

Meanwhile, a citizen's committee created on the initiative of Adibasi Forum visited the Buddhist temple in Kuakata on June 16 to observe the overall

situation of Rakhines in Kuakata.

Former lawmaker Nazmul Haque Pradhan, general secretary of Bangladesh JSD and chief of the inspection team, said, "Rakhines have been living here for centuries. We should all come forward to ensure their existence and protect their rights. Their existence allows their culture and traditions to be preserved for the future generations."

"The Rakhines are in minority there and they have retained the tradition of the place. Their claims should be taken seriously," said Robayet Ferdous, a teacher of Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism department.



The fate of some 40,000 people, living alongside the Kapotaksha in Keshabpur and Kalaroa, has never changed in the last 50 years. The lack of a bridge on the river make them suffer immensely as they either cross it using this almost broken bamboo bridge or by boat. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Of a 'missing' bridge and
unkept promises

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

For 50 years, the residents of two neighboring upazilas, Keshabpur and Kalaroa, have been enduring the consequences of a missing bridge over the Kapotaksha river.

This river has separated the lives of approximately 40,000 people on either side. The absence of a bridge has severely impacted the daily routines and livelihoods of these communities, compelling them to endure the hardships of an inconvenient and risky mode of transportation.

Located eight kilometres west of Jashore's Keshabpur upazila town, Trimohani Hat stands at one end of the Kapotaksha river. On the opposite side lies Kashiadanga, an area situated in the Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira district.

In the past, individuals from both sides relied on boats to cross the river and access Trimohani Hat. However,

due to encroachment and pollution, this essential mode of transportation ceased to exist two decades ago, leaving the communities stranded and isolated.

Over the years, the people on both sides of the Kapotaksha river have persistently voiced their grievances and called for urgent measures to address the pressing issue. However, despite repeated appeals to the authorities and local representatives, a solution to the longstanding problem has remained elusive.

Liaquat Ali, an unemployed resident, took matters into his own hands 15 years ago, as he rallied the residents of nearby villages, collecting bamboo, paddy, and monetary contributions to build a makeshift bamboo footbridge. Approximately 40,000 people from various areas, including Deyra, Kashiadanga, Chalandia, Daulatpur, Chalimpur, Patulia, Gargaria, Bade

Khordo, Mathpara, and Uludanga, rely on it daily, risking their safety as they cross the vulnerable structure using bicycles, motorcycles, easy bikes, and vans.

Among the bridge's users are students attending Keshavpur's Varandhali School, who also brave the dangers posed by this temporary crossing. Frustrated by the lack of a proper bridge and the inherent risks they face, local residents including Nazrul Islam, Rahim Uddin, Babu, Niranjana Dutta, and Abdul Malek have expressed their anger and disappointment to The Daily Star.

They lament the cycle of broken promises made by public representatives during election campaigns, where assurances are abundant, only to be forgotten once elected.

Dipankar Das, the head teacher of Varandali Secondary School in Keshabpur, attests to the enduring

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Man stabbed to
death in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was stabbed to death at a building in Dhaka's Agargaon area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Azim Islam, a 55-year-old security guard of the building.

He suffered five stab wounds in the chest, police said.

The murder took place around 3:00am near the guard room at Mia Tower situated near the Science Museum.

The house owner Imam Hossain said on information, he rushed there and found Azim lying in a pool of blood. He was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead around 4:30am.

Imam said they came to know that one Sagar, 18, an office employee on the first floor of the building, stabbed Azim following a feud.

Utpal Barua, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said they have detained Sagar. Police are interrogating him to find out the motive, he added.

Woman, daughter
die as truck hits
auto-rickshaw

STAR REPORT

A woman and her daughter were killed and two others injured after a truck rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Jhalakathi's Nalchity upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Halima Begum, 35 and her daughter Soa Moni, 15, said police officials.

The accident took place around 5:00am in Protap Bazar area under Bhairabpasha union of the upazila, said Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nalchity Police Station.

The truck heading towards Barishal from Barguna hit the auto-rickshaw, leaving the driver of the three-wheeler and three passengers injured, he added. They were rushed to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared the mother and daughter dead.

Police seized both the vehicles after the accident, he added.

Both the drivers fled after the accident. Drives are underway to arrest them, the official added.

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নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২৭.২৮.৮৮৭৮.০০১.০৭.০০১.২১.৩৬০

তারিখঃ ২৬/০৬/২৩ ইং

নিলাম বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ : বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়, বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ।

২। নিলাম আদানকারী দপ্তরের নাম : প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, সয়দাবাদ, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, ঢাকা।

৩। নিলামের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ : নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড-এর আওতাধীন সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের কাজের ব্যবহারের বিভিন্ন অক্কেজো মালামালসমূহ "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়।

৪। নিলামের প্রকৃতি : খোলা দরপত্র।

৫। নিলামের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ : ২৭.২৮.৮৮৭৮.০০১.০৭.০০১.২১.৩৬০; তারিখঃ ২৬/০৬/২৩ ইং

৬। দরদাতার যোগ্যতা : বাংলাদেশের ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও টিআইএন এর অনুমতি থাকতে হবে এবং প্রয়োজনে মূল কপি দেখাতে হবে।

৭। দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি স্থান : প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, সয়দাবাদ, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড।

৮। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সময় : ০৩/০৭/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ টা হতে (প্রতি কর্ম দিবসের সকাল ১০:০০ টা হতে বিকাল ০৩:০০ টা পর্যন্ত) প্রশাসনিক ভবন, সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র।

৯। দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিলের স্থান : মেইন গেটে রক্ষিত বক্সে, সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র।

১০। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০১/০৭/২০২৩ ইং (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।

১১। দরপ্রস্তাব জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০১/০৮/২০২৩ ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

১২। দরপত্র দলিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০১/০৮/২০২৩ ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।

১৩। জামানতের পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ডার আকারে) : উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২০% (শতকরা বিশ) অর্থ।

১৪। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা : চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পর্যন্ত।

১৫। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (পে-অর্ডার আকারে) : ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

১৬। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ও জামানত পে-অর্ডার আকারে 'নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড' এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। জামানত ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র দাখিল করলে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য করা হবে।

১৭। Notification of Award (NoA) ইস্যু করার ১৫ (পনের) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে প্রদেয় আয়কর ও ভ্যাটসহ সমুদয় অর্থ ঠিকাদার কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে ও চুক্তি স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে। চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত সকল মালামাল গ্রহণযোগ্য সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা (Technically Responsive Highest Bidder)/কৃতকাঙ্ক্ষ দরদাতাকে নিজ জিম্মায় "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১৮। নিলাম সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী শিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে।

শফিকুল ইসলাম

(প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)

সিরাজগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র

নওপাজেকো লিঃ, ঢাকা।

২৬/০৬/২০২৩

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