

Save Sundarbans from plastic pollution

Speakers tell workshop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The use of non-biodegradable plastic has severely damaged the environment and biodiversity of the Sundarbans, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

They made the remarks at a workshop on Sundarbans Reserved Forest Ecotourism Master Plan organised by the Forest Department and USAID Ecotourism Activity at Sundarbans West Forest office.

Terming the present situation a major concern, speakers directed the authorities to ensure a ban on the use of single-use plastics. They also urged the authorities to stop the dumping of such plastics in rivers and coastal belts to save the flora and fauna of the areas from plastic pollution.

Calling upon the authorities concerned to find alternatives to plastic bottles and plates for tourists visiting the area, the speakers also vowed to monitor water bodies through which plastic floats into the forest reserves.

Divisional Forest Officer Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain said, "The biodiversity of the place will be preserved if the forest is brought under eco-tourism. Tourism will flourish as more people will visit the place, while the forest's biodiversity will also be preserved."

"We have to free the place from

plastic pollution if we want to save the Sundarbans. We all need to work together to protect the forest," he added.

Four operators in the area are now more aware of preserving the forest's wildlife, mentioned Nazmul Azam David, general secretary of Sundarban Tour Operators.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

"There is no substitute for skilled and trained guides in tourism development. Coordination between different stakeholders is key to developing tourism while also preserving the place," he added.

Mihir Kumar Doe, forest conservator (Khulna circle), and Wasiul Islam, deputy chief of party, USAID Ecotourism Activity, were present and spoke at the workshop, among others.



Kuddus Sheikh throws nets in the Rupsha to catch various local fish, including shrimp. He said he usually keeps a portion of the catch for his family and sells the rest in local bazars, making around Tk 500-600 from every catch. The photo was taken on Monday in Jabusa area of Khulna's Rupsha upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CLASH WITH COPS

BNP leader Nipun gets HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP leader Nipun Roy Chowdhury for eight weeks in a case filed in connection with BNP-police clash at Dholaikhal area on July 29.

The HC asked Nipun, a member of BNP's central executive committee, to surrender before the lower court concerned in eight weeks.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam passed the order following a bail petition filed by Nipun.

Earlier in the day, Nipun appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi told The Daily Star that police filed the case with Sutrapur Police Station against Nipun and several others for vandalising, attacking and preventing law enforcers from discharging duties during BNP's political programme.

GRAFT CASE

Prosecution seeks highest punishment for Chisty

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday completed arguments and sought highest punishment (14 years imprisonment) for four accused, including Farmers Bank's former audit committee chairman Mahbubul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty, in a case filed over laundering Tk 160 crore from the bank.

During the closing arguments, ACC Public Prosecutor Mosharrar Hossain Kajol told the court that they were able to prove the charges brought against all the four accused undoubtedly and they should be given highest punishment for committing such offences.

The three other accused are Babul Chisty's wife Ruzi Chisty, son Rashedul Haque Chisty, and Farmers Bank's former first vice-president Masudur Rahman Khan.

Of them, Babul and Rashedul are now in jail while Masudur and Ruzi are on bail in the case.

After that, Judge Syed Arifat Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka fixed August 28 for arguments from the defence.

On April 10 of 2018, the ACC filed the case against six people, including Babul Chisty, with Gulshan Police Station over laundering Tk 160 crore.

KHULNA'S BASTUHARA AREA

Locals suffer for delay in drainage work

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

"Every day for the last couple of weeks, my son has to cross extensive mud patches to go to school. He is tired and does not want to go to school anymore," said Rumana Akhtar, a resident of road-11 of Bastuhara area in Khulna city.

Rumana repeatedly requested contractors to finish the work, but they did not pay any heed to her plea.

"The mud piles on the lane adjacent to my house would be around 10 feet high," she added.

To establish a proper drainage system around the area, Khulna City Corporation has been digging up various roads and alleys in Bastuhara for a couple of weeks.

Alongside confining locals within their homes, construction workers have also disconnected water pipes set up by Khulna Wasa.

The area is home to a number of marginalised families, mostly earning their daily bread as traders and hawkers.

Even before the work started, they were facing various problems in the area such as waterlogging and narrow roads. Now, this delay in the drainage work has doubled their sufferings, they added.

Locals have been critical of the authorities' decision to take up this project during monsoon instead of dry seasons and many have called them "insensitive", as they are yet to take any action in this regard.



"The contractors did not take necessary precautions before working on such a small road. They damaged Wasa pipes, and now water keeps leaking from it, inundating homesteads," said Anwar Hossain, a local.

The local ward councillor was informed of the matter, but he is yet to take any steps to solve the problem, he alleged.

Visiting the area recently, this correspondent saw very few people stepping outside due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. While some houses were almost covered under mud piles, many used makeshift brick, bamboo and wood structures to protect their walls, which could collapse at any minute.

According to KCC, the 450-metre

drain is being constructed under Development of Drainage System to Eliminate Waterlogging in Khulna City, spending Tk 1.12 crore.

The project was scheduled to be completed by June 15. Sonia Enterprise secured the construction tender for this project.

The construction firm could not finish the work on time due to various reasons. It has already applied for an extension and hopes to finish the work soon, informed Zakir Hossain, the firm's owner.

"The area's soil is of poor quality. Its loose texture leads to frequent collapses, and that is what is making the work difficult. The expenses are also higher than quoted in the contract," he added.

The delayed work has caused around 70 local families to suffer for over a week, informed Mafuzur Rahman Liton, local ward councillor.

"I have asked contractors to speed up the work," he added.

OATH TAKING OF 290 AL MPS

SC dismisses petition challenging legality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed a four-year-old petition challenging the legality of oath taking by 290 Awami League alliance lawmakers of 11th parliament.

A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order.

Details of the apex court order could not be known as its full text was not released yet.

Additional Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SIRAJGANJ UNIT

Govt staffer new secy of Swechchhashebak League

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A government employee has been included in the partially-formed committee of Sirajganj district unit of Swechchhashebak League, sparking criticism.

Sumon Rahman, a class IV employee at Mesra Union Land Office, has been selected as secretary of the committee, office sources said.

Besides, Jakirul Islam Limon was selected as president while Md Shahidul Islam Ripon as vice president, and Md Saiful Islam and AKM Abdulla Al Maruf as joint secretaries.

Gazi Mejbaul Hossain Sachchu, president; and Afzalur Rahman Babu, secretary of the central committee of Swechchhashebak League, a wing of the ruling Awami League, approved the partial committee on July 31.

SM Rakibul Hasan, AC (land) in Sadar upazila, said there is no option to hold political post while being in government service. "I have come to know about the new committee but I am not sure whether Sumon is an employee of the land office... We are looking into the matter."

Sumon Rahman was not available over phone. Jakirul Islam Limon, president of the newly-formed committee, said Sumon was a Chhatra League leader. Later, he started a government job, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Department of Public Health Engineering Office of the Superintending Engineer Sylhet Circle, Topkhana, Sylhet.



Invitation for Enlistment & Renewal of Enlistment (2023-2024)

Memo no: 46.03.9100.013.07.41.15-64

Date: 01/08/2023

| GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Local Govt. Rural Development & Co-operatives, Local Govt. Division | |
| 2. | Agency | Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) | |
| 3. | Procuring Entity Name | Superintending Engineer, Sylhet Circle. | |
| 4. | Procuring Entity District | Sylhet | |
| 5. | Invitation for | Enlistment & Renewal of Enlistment | |
| 6. | Invitation Ref No | CE, DPHE Office memo no. 46.03.0000.001.35.001.13-426 (1) | |
| 7. | Date | 24/07/2023 | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | |
| 8. | Procurement Method | Limited Tendering Method | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | |
| | | Date | Time |
| 9. | Application Closing Date and Time | 24/08/2023 | 4:00 pm |
| 10. | Name & Address of the Office(s) | | |
| | - Application Form Availability | Office of the Executive Engineers, DPHE, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Moulvibazar. | |
| | - Receiving Application Form | Office of the Superintending Engineer, DPHE, Sylhet Circle, Topkhana, Sylhet. | |
| INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT | | | |
| 11. | Eligibility of Applicant | a. Must have valid Trade License b. Must have TIN, Must have Vat Registration Certificate. c. Must have Bank Solvency Certificate. d. Others document as Mentioned in Application Form. | |
| 12. | Price of Application Form (Tk) | 500.00 (Non-refundable) | |
| 13. | Enlistment / Renewal Fee (Tk) | New Enlistment Fee 5000.00+15% VAT and Renewal Fee 2000.00 + 15% VAT. Must be submitted in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, DPHE, Sylhet Division.Two separate POs/DDs to be submitted-one for Enlistment/Renewal Fee and another for 15% VAT of Tk. 750.00/300.00 respectively. If application is not accepted, the PO/DD will be refunded. | |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | | |
| 14. | Name of Official Inviting Application | M. Shaikh Sadi Rahmatullah | |
| 15. | Designation of Official Inviting Application | Superintending Engineer, DPHE, Sylhet Circle.Sylhet | |
| 16. | Address of Official Inviting Application | DPHE, Topkhana, Sylhet | |
| 17. | Contact details of Official Inviting Application | 02996635443 | se.sylhet@dphe.gov.bd |
| The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications | | | |

GD-1185

28/7/23
(M. Shaikh Sadi Rahmatullah)
SE, DPHE, Sylhet Circle



Dipankar Biswas and Nirmal Das are busy crafting baskets from bamboo strands, which they intend to sell at local bazars on Mondays and Fridays. Each of them makes around 5-6 baskets every day, which are sold for Tk 100 each. They said they make Tk 1,200-1,400 on the haat days by selling these baskets. The photo was taken in Shantipur Rishipara of Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila yesterday. The area is home to at least 25 other families engaged in this profession.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN