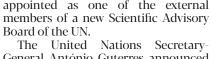
### Saleemul Huq member of UN scientific board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading global climate expert Prof Dr Saleemul Hug, OBE, has been appointed as one of the external Board of the UN.



General António Guterres announced the creation of the Board on Thursday, according to a UN press release.

He is also the director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development and a professor at the Department of Environmental Science and Management at Independent University, Bangladesh.

Centred on a hybrid model, the Board comprises a group of seven eminent scientists with a track record in applying their expertise in different fields.

The Board itself will act as a hub for a network of scientific networks, advise UN leaders on breakthroughs in science and technology, how to harness the benefits of these advances and mitigating potential risks, added the press release.

#### **BANDARBAN-THANCHI** Road communication suspended for 5hrs

UNB, Bandarban

Traffic on the Bandarban-Thanchi road was suspended for about five hours from early morning vesterday as a large stone fell on the road from Kala Pahar near Nilgiri after two consecutive days of rain.

Thanchi UNO Abul Mansur said the upazila fire service personnel were immediately sent to the spot after being informed about the incident.

The stone was removed with the joint efforts of fire service members, upazila administration, and Balipara BGB members, he said.

Thanchi Upazila Fire Station chief Tarun Jyoti Barua said vehicular movement became normal after the stone

Meanwhile, Bandarban municipality is conducting a drive in the town to evacuate the people living at the foot of the hill, according to the officials.

### Of friendship lost

company of his Bangladeshi friends filled his expatriate life with joy, and for nearly three decades, he treasured the memories they made

"When we were in Libya, we used to party every night after work. We had a lot of fun," he said, as his eyes lit up, reminiscing the

for a decade until 1986, disappointment when the Majid later returned to calls do not turn out to be Bangladesh for a short period before eventually settling in Australia. He has been living in Australia for would be satisfied," Majid more than 30 years now, said, as his voice choked.

building a life there with his wife, two daughters, and a son.

Despite finding a new home in Australia, Majid still holds a sentimental attachment to his past in

"Every time my phone rings, I feel a surge of hope, believing that it might be one of my friends who saw the advertisement. However, this optimism Having worked in Libya is often followed by from them," he added.

"At least if we could meet once -- once before I die, I

# Bridge lies unused for damaged road

A 15-metre bridge construction project over the Ghungijuri canal in Moulvibazar, undertaken by the Directorate of Disaster Management in the financial year 2021-22, has turned into a failure even before its official inauguration.

The project, awarded to contractor company "Friends Enterprise" from Kulaura upazila at a cost of approximately Tk 81 lakh, was completed by the end of June.

However, the brick-built link road on both sides of the bridge succumbed to constant rain and became completely unusable just a few days after it was finished.

Locals have raised concerns over the use of substandard materials in the road's construction. The bridge, meant to serve as a crucial transportation route for at least 5,000 people from the north and west Shahpur on a daily basis, now stands useless. STEALING BRICKS FOR 'PUBLIC **INTEREST'** 

In a bizarre turn of events, a local named Mahtab Mia seized the opportunity presented by the deteriorated connecting road and decided to embark on an "entrepreneurial venture", demonstrating what he called "public interest".

He gathered 10,000 bricks that lav scattered on the dilapidated road and



took it upon himself to find these bricks a new home -- in the hands of eager buyers in the vicinity.

Contacted, Mahtab revealed his "master plan", defending his actions by suggesting that he collected the bricks to save them from falling into the hands of thieves who wanted to sell them for profitable purposes.

"I merely collected 3,000 bricks, which were then sold at Tk 13,500 per thousand," he explained. Mahtab also claimed that his intentions were pure, as he wanted to

repair the road with the money he earned. When pressed on who granted him the responsibility for this peculiar endeavour, he casually brushed off any concerns, asserting that he acted entirely out of

sheer "public interest". DILAPIDATED ROADS

Upon visiting the area, this correspondent discovered the connecting road on both sides of the bridge had completely caved in, leaving a trail of scattered bricks in its wake. Jubel Ahmed, a local, lamented the as it inflicted significant hardships on the community, particularly students of local schools and madrasas who hoped the route would make their daily commutes easier.

dire consequences of the road's collapse,

'The road's subpar construction with inferior materials appeared to be the root cause of its rapid deterioration," he said.

Other locals echoed the same. Mokhtadirul Islam, owner of the

contractor company, claimed that they had taken measures to deploy sufficient soil on the link road. "However, unforeseen circumstances

arose as the ground failed to hold firm, leading to the road's dilapidation, further exacerbated by relentless rain," he added.

Implementation Mizanur Rahman assured that a thorough investigation would be conducted to determine the exact cause of the road's collapse. He revealed that they have the scope to make the contractor firm repair the road at their own expense, as per contacts, if proof of using low-quality materials is found. "We'll investigate the matter."

Juri UNO Ranjan Chandra Dey confirmed that he had received a complaint concerning the unauthorised removal and sale of bricks from the link road. He vowed to take appropriate action after an investigation.

#### Track abandoned, promises

FROM PAGE 5

past decade, we haven't received a single penny."

The story is no different for Abdur Rauf, an elderly farmer from Madhya Kanchipara, who lamented the loss of his 60-decimal land for the rail line construction. estimated sum of Tk 1.48 His hope of cultivating paddy or leasing the land to secure a better life in his old age has been shattered.

"It has been 14-15 years since I got the last payment of compensation," he said.

Almost all the farmers this correspondent talked to shared similar stories, with some of them even claiming that they had not received any compensation since 2003-4.

"Children have been

playing on this field since

the British era. It's absurd

that some people are now

ground," he added.

Administration

organised

claiming ownership of the

participation of national-

The District Sports

**AUTHORITIES' TAKE** According to Gaibandha

district administration, railway authorities disbursed approximately Tk 4 crore to 629 farmers between the years 1996-97 and 2010 (Bangla 1417). Subsequently, an crore was earmarked for compensations for Bangla year 1417, 1418, and 1419.

However, since then, no payments have been made by the railway authorities. The landowners are owed approximately Tk 6 crore from Bangla years 1417 to 1430 (2010 to 2023).

Sources within Gaibandha land office echoed the same.

former

claimants

administration

Girindra Roy.

Contacted, Md Asadul Hauqe, chief engineer of

UP

villagers

Locals unite to save century-old

level football players in urgently requested their

this field, said another assistance in reclaiming

added.

member

gradually

tournaments with the turned to the district raise awareness in this for the

are

zone, Rajshahi), said, "We have no plan to reopen the railway line from Balasighat to Trimohani. The compensation money would be given for as long as the track was operational."

Divisional Engineer Md Ahsan Habib, Lalmonirhat, said, "Compensations of Bangla years 1417, 1418, and 1419 were estimated and sent to us by the local district administration. But for some unforeseen reasons that payment could not be made. Currently, we are working on the payment of those compensations to the landowners."

"Since the railway line farmers."

the field for public use, he

concerned about the to protect the ground has recently and found proof

the Bangladesh Paribesh

seizing it for their own Andolon has initiated a that the public space be

playground's influential garnered attention, as of encroachment.

numerous personal use, so they have series of programmes to protected and preserved

regard.

The villagers' attempts

Bangladesh Railway (west was operational till 2015, to the landowners till farmers will be given back their land," he added,

> Additional compensations.

the institution include: we will pay compensations 2015. After that, we will remove all rail tracks and temporary bridges, and the Contacted, Gaibandha

Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Siddiquee said, "We are in touch with the railway authorities. They have been informed in writing about the farmers' due railway authorities are also interested. We have asked them to remove the railway line so that we can return the land to the

Md

Bapa's Habiganj unit, said

their members visited

Bapa also demanded

Ikramul

playground

community's

president of

Prof

Wadud,

Rampur

benefit.

Of the seven craft instructor posts practical training, only one person is working for Electrical and Machinist departments each while one other from Electrical crisis. Additionally, proper Department has transferred elsewhere. All the other posts are new staff to help them

# Teacher shortage

FROM PAGE 5

chief instructor, two instructor and two junior instructor posts in Department; two chief instructor, two instructor and three junior instructor posts in Welding Department; one chief instructor, two instructor and three junior instructor posts Automobile in Department; two chief instructor, one instructor, and three junior instructor Machinist

Department. Also, there are eight vacant teaching posts for general subjects, including one for English, three for Physics, one for Chemistry, two for Mathematics, and one for Religion (Islam). Two English teachers of the institution are currently on deputation at Rajnagar Technical School College, authorities said.

remaining vacant.

number of employees at the added.

is 26, of which 17 are vacant.

"There are no classes most of the days. Practical ones are held occasionally. I made a mistake by getting admitted here," a student said seeking anonymity.

Acting Principal Subrata Shankar Barua expressed grave concerns over the severe shortage of teachers, stating that it has significantly affected the institution's ability to deliver proper education.

The present situation has given rise to significant challenges in delivering effective learning experience for students and carrying out administrative tasks efficiently, said Panna Datta, general secretary of Moulvibazar Press Club.

The lack of adequate personnel hampers the functioning of the institution and hinders the overall growth and development of the students, he said.

Urgent measures to recruit qualified teachers and employees are of dire need in order to address the been training and support adapt quickly to their roles Apart from this, the and responsibilities, Datta

#### اِنَّاٰ ذِنْ مُعَانَا الدَّيْطِ لِمَعْوَنْ عَالِيْكُمُ عَوْنَ عَالِيَّا لِمُعْجُونِ عَالِيَّا لِمُعْجُونِ عَا Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un



satisfactory performance.

the environment in Bangladesh.

us at 'supplybangladesh@unicef.org'

It is with great sadness that we announce passing away of Md Habib us Samad (Ranju) on Friday, August 4, 2023, at the age of 81, Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un

His Janaza prayers will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Gulshan Azad mosque Baad Zuhr.

Friends, Relatives and those whose lives he touched may join in his final farewell. He will be laid to rest at Banani Graveyard on his parents resting place.

> On Behalf of Samad Family's Members

> > RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-2023-9184550

Request for Proposal (RFP): For Servicing and Maintenance of Electronic Access

Control Systems and CCTV Surveillance Systems at UNICEF-Bangladesh under

long term arrangement (LTA) for the duration of 02 years + 02 years subject to

UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) Bangladesh is

delighted to invite qualified and experienced firms to submit proposals for the two

RFP Invitations mentioned above. These initiatives aim to revolutionize wastewater

treatment and sanitation services, making a significant impact on public health and

To obtain the detailed scope of work and the bid submission procedure, please email

Note: At UNICEF, we prioritize transparency and fairness. UNICEF does not

charge any fee for tender participation at any stage of the solicitation process.

Important Dates: Submission Deadline: Monday, 04 September 2023.

## Tk 5,617cr project fails to prevent

following heavy spells of rainfall between Thursday night and Friday morning, further exacerbating the plight of its long-suffering dwellers.

The Chattogram Met Office recorded 125mm rain in 24 hours till 3:00pm yesterday, said local met officer Suman Saha. "There is a possibility

of heavy showers and landslides in the next 48 hours, "he added. The heavy showers caused a landslide in the Tiger Pass area yesterday, for

was stopped for around three hours. A chunk of earth from an adjacent hill fell on a microbus on the road around 7:30am, said Abdur Razzak, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and

Civil Defence, Chattogram.

Although the vehicle

which vehicular movement

was damaged, no casualties 'CDA MEGA PROJECT were reported, he added.

Yesterday. correspondent visited various low-lying areas in Chattogram, including Chawkbazar, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholashahar Gate No.2, Badurtola, Bakalia DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Halishahar, Agrabad, Chandgaon. Katalganj, Shulakbahar, and Dewan Bazar and observed knee- to waist-deep water

causing even the ground floors of many houses to be inundated. The mayor's residence, Mayor Bhaban," Bahaddarhat area, was

submerging the streets,

found inundated. The waterlogged streets caused a gridlock with vehicles moving slowly, and some even breaking down due to water entering their engines. Residents who needed to venture outside were forced to wade through filthy

The affected residents expressed their frustration, blaming the authorities their decade-long failure in addressing the waterlogging issue, leaving them to suffer each year without relief.

from "Filthy water drains roadside have entered our house following the rain. Waterlogging is a perennial problem. I don't know if we will ever get rid of it," said Sheikh Mohammad Ledu, a resident of Uzir Ali Shah Bylane at Rahattarpool KB

BEARING NO FRUIT' August Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved a Tk 5,617 crore mega project, scheduled for completion by June 2020, to be implemented by the Chattogram Development authority.

However, even after over five years, the project incomplete, remains leaving residents frustrated. Anisul Islam, a resident

West Bakalia DC Road area, expressed his confusion, saying, "I don't understand why the CDA could not improve the situation despite initiating such a massive project."

The CDA chief engineer, Hasan Bin Shams, could be reached comment as his phone remained switched off.

Project Director Lt Col Shah Ali did not answer his cell phone despite repeated attempts. However, during a press conference on May 2, Shah Ali informed journalists that project's progress stood at 76.26 percent.

people also Many hold the city corporation for accountable poor drainage, alleging that the CCC conservancy workers fail to clean them regularly.

Mobarak Hossain, chairman Standing Committee on Conservancy, said the CCC could not act on the 36 major canals in the city as they are still under the jurisdiction of the CDA. Regarding

jurisdiction, Mobarak said their conservancy workers regularly clean the drains and canals under their responsibility, but people's irresponsible disposal of plastic and polythene bags hampers their efforts to quickly drain water.

**URBAN SPRAWL** 

Earlier in November 2022, a study conducted by Save the Children and Young Power for Social Action found that a total of 13.5 square kilometres area of the port city is directly at risk of waterlogging while a total of 52 square kilometres area is indirectly at risk due to unplanned urbanisation.

The study also revealed that 70 percent of the city has vanished in 53 years.

As the city has been developed in an "unplanned manner", the low-lying areas of the city including Agrabad, Bakalia, Halishahar, Mohra, Khatunganj and Chaktai are submerged into water by the tidal surge even in the dry season.

Contacted, Md Shah Jalal Misuk, assistant Department professor, of Urban and Regional Chittagong Planning, University of Engineering and Technology, said, "If we want to get the benefit of the CDA mega project or any other project regarding waterlogging, we will have to go for planned urbanisation."

Misuk, also the chief consultant of the study, said, "We will also have to have the canals and waterbodies of the city from encroachment."

# Mango exports

tonnes in 2020-21, and 1,757 tonnes in 2021-22.

press release highlighted that despite the high demand for mangoes in the world market, the export volume remains low to various international standards, including good agricultural during production and packaging.

To address this issue

and increase exports, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a project called "Increasing the Production of Exportable Mangoes" aimed at assisting farmers in increasing mango production in due to the non-adherence accordance with good

> agricultural practices. Project Director Arifur Rahman mentioned that mango exports are expected to continue for another 15-20 days this year.

#### **Erosion hits Marine**

FROM PAGE 3

Siddique Ahmed, member of Sabrang Union Parishad, however, said illegal sand lifting from the sea by some local influential people is causing the erosion.

"In Cox's Bazar town, he also said. sand has receded from Laboni point due to high tide. We have placed 3-4

Development Board.

"We are also working to repair breaches at two points of the geo tube protected area in Matarbari of Maheshkhali upazila and in Kutubdia upazila,'

"About 145 metres of the beach at Laboni point has been eroded in the geo tubes to protect the last few years. This is an beach," said Dr Tanjir Saif effect of sea level rise due Ahmed, executive engineer to climate change," Dr

#### Bangladesh Water Ahmed added. Resign, pave way

FROM PAGE 5

participatory, free, fair and impartial manner.

Manzurul Ahsan Khan, CPB rally, among others.

President Mohammad Shah Alam, General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince, Advisor of the CPB former president Muzahidul committee Islam Selim addressed the

#### BNP 'deadlier

FROM PAGE 5

with a party like this? In processions," he added.

other words, those leaders post of union council or want BNP to remain a municipal councillor. Why 'lathial' force and that is should people get involved why they take sticks to their





www.unicef.org/bangladesh