

Will increase efforts to bring convicts back Says law minister

STAR REPORT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said efforts will be increased to bring back those to the country who have been sentenced and convicted by the court.

He made the remarks in response to a query regarding the return of sentenced convicts, including Tarique Rahman, acting chairman of BNP.

On a two-day trip, the minister arrived in Akhaura yesterday to inaugurate different developmental projects organised by local upazila parishad and participate in a public meeting organised by local Awami League.

The minister also said the Labour Act will be passed in this parliament session.

When asked about the letter of 12 American senators to the prime minister to stop the harassment of Prof Mohammad Yunus, the minister said, "As far as I know by looking at the documents of this case, the trial has been conducted in accordance with the law in the judicial court. The person who has been sentenced will surely appeal, so I don't want to affect things."

BNP a master

FROM PAGE 3

As long as BNP carries out their movement, the "Peace and Democracy rally" of AL will continue, he added.

BNP started its two-day black flag march in district headquarters and metropolitan areas yesterday, demanding the release of their activists and cancellation of the parliament.

AL will hold its today in front of its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

PRAYER TIMING

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15
JAMAAT	6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



To connect 7,000 residents of three villages of Kharia Kazir Char union in Sreebordi upazila, Local Government Engineering Department constructed a bridge in 2006. However, in 2017, the approach road to the bridge collapsed and has remained unrepaired since then, much to the woes of locals.

PHOTO: STAR

JL, Sramik League bring out machete procession in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A group of Jubo League and Sramik League leaders and activists in Natore's Singra upazila yesterday brought out a procession by brandishing sharp weapons.

They claimed that they were protesting extortion by leaders of Singra CNG-run Auto-Rickshaw Owners Association.

Singra Municipal Jubo League President Labu Hasan Johnny led the procession in the Singra bus stand area in the afternoon.

However, protesters left the spot soon after police reached there.

Meanwhile, some videos of the incident went viral on social media.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the videos.

Labu alleged that Singra CNG-run Auto-Rickshaw Owners Association president Salim Reza and general secretary Ranju Ahmed have been extorting about Tk 50-70 per day from each auto-rickshaw driver for a long time.

When asked about carrying machetes during the procession, Labu said, "My supporters thought I would come under attack, so they brought the weapons to protect me."

Contacted, Ranju said the association is approved by the government. There had been no problem in the past, but now the protesters are inciting drivers without any reason.

"They brandished weapons during the procession and vandalised our office, threatening to kill me," he claimed.

Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge of Singra Police Station, said police went to the spot and brought the situation under control. The police officer said he did not receive any written complaint in this regard. "We are looking into the matter," he added.

BRIDGE OVER BOYSHA CANAL

Six years on, still no approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Due to the absence of an approach road, the bridge over Boysha canal in Sherpur has been making things arduous for locals for the past six years.

To connect 7,000 residents of three villages of Kharia Kazir Char union in Sreebordi upazila, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the bridge in 2006.

However, in 2017, the approach road to the bridge collapsed and has remained unrepaired since then, much to the woes of locals.

Visiting the location recently, this correspondent saw the villagers facing much hassle to reach the bridge using a makeshift structure made of wood and bamboo.

The local representative had repeatedly requested the authorities concerned to repair the approach road, but to no avail, they said.

"We formed a human chain two years ago, demanding repairs to the bridge's approach road, but no step was taken in this regard. As such, we are not getting any benefit from the bridge," said a villager.

"Schoolchildren, elderly people, and farmers carrying their agricultural produce to markets are the worst

sufferers. Sometimes they fall into the canal while using the makeshift structure to reach the bridge and suffer injuries while using alternative routes, which is costly," said Ashraf Miah, a local.

Al-Amin Hossain, a sixth-grader, said every day his father helps him cross the canal with his bicycle, and then he goes to school.

Schoolchildren, elderly people, and farmers are the worst sufferers. Sometimes they fall into the canal while using the makeshift structure to reach the bridge and suffer injuries.

ASHRAF MIAH, a local

Dulal Miah, local union parishad chairman, said The UNO and LGED engineers in the upazila have been urged to take steps several times, but to no avail.

Contacted, Sreebardi upazila LGED engineer Md Moshir Rahman said they are trying to solve the problem soon.

Newly-elected lawmaker ADM Shahidul Islam said he will try to take quick action in this regard.

Where influentials

FROM PAGE 5

Due to commercial importance, cost of getting access to the shoal land for cultivation has been rising rapidly over the last few years, sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Subir Kumar Das, UNO of Ishwardi upazila claimed there has been no complaint regarding these matters.

ORIGIN OF LAND LEASING

Asked about the reason behind giving lease of the land in this way instead of traditional land management rule, the UNO said it is because of a court order.

"A case is pending with the court over a long-standing land dispute. Until the case is solved, the court ordered a yearly lease of the land to avoid hassle," said the UNO.

Ever since Decree Char rose from the river bed after the nation's independence, several groups in Pabna Sadar and Ishwardi upazilas were trying to control the land using muscle power, and engaged in clashes that led to loss of lives.

After two such rival groups — Jafir Uddin Gong and Sharif Bishwas Gong — had confronted each other to grab the shoal land during crop harvest in 1997, the local administration decided to impose Section 144 in the area, before a case was filed and the matter went into

court.

The additional district magistrate's court later passed an order directing the local administration to give the shoal land on yearly lease. Since then, the vast land has been leased to the politically influential people of the ruling party.

Over the past 15 years, the local ruling Awami League men, their associates and relatives have been getting lease of the shoal land, and making crores by engaging in illegally encroaching the land or sub-leasing those to farmers in exchange of money.

The previous lawmaker's men are controlling the shoal land as per last year's lease. But new faces may come in control this year as the political situation has changed in the area after the January election, they added.

Earlier, during BNP's tenure, it was the same, said Md Saidul Pramanik, a local pro-BNP leader who used to cultivate on the shoal but is no longer able to do so due to his political affiliation.

Contacted, former lawmaker Nuruzzaman Bishwas said the existing leasing system for Decree Char's land has been maintained over the years to keep peace.

Asked about his relative Nazmul getting a lease, the former MP claimed he did not influence the leasing procedure.

Sunflower wonderland!

FROM PAGE 3

While sunflower cultivation has traditionally been overlooked by farmers, its popularity is on the rise due to the increased demand for sunflower oil.

Md Rafikul Islam, deputy director of BADC (seed), said sunflower seed production has been increasing in the farm over the last few years.

He said sunflowers are being cultivated to produce high-quality seeds that will be supplied to

agriculture departments across the country. The government is promoting sunflower cultivation as a way to reduce import dependence.

"Sunflower production began here three years ago. This is one of the largest farms of BADC and has been cultivating sunflowers on three acres," the deputy director added. "This is not a tourist spot but we can't stop visitors as people are attracted by the natural beauty."

Climate change must

FROM PAGE 5

Inner Wheel clubs worldwide focus on friendship, personal service, fostering international understanding, and engaging in various charitable

community service projects, contributing to social development and humanitarian causes.

District 328, the first Inner Wheel district in Bangladesh, was formed in 1985 and has 60 clubs in it.

They scalped 500 train

FROM PAGE 3

A total of 1,244 train tickets of different routes, 14 mobile phones, and Tk 20,000 in cash were seized from them.

"Selim had been running his gang at Kamalapur for 35 years while Uttam at Airport Station for 15 years. They used to block and subsequently collect the tickets of different trains from railway servers and booking counters with the help of corrupt employees. The gang members used to take 50 percent of the profit after sale, while the rest was given to the railway employees," Moin said.

They paid each individual Tk 100 for gathering four tickets using their NIDs, accumulating around 500 tickets daily through this method.

Additionally, the arrested individuals also employed students to purchase tickets on their behalf.

During special holidays such as Eid, Puja, and weekends, the arrested individuals collaborated with railway employees and online ticket selling companies. They used to reach out to the IT officers of the companies and instruct them to cause disruption in their servers, making sure passengers couldn't buy tickets online, said Moin.

Hit by police

FROM PAGE 3

Roman died while undergoing treatment around 2:00am.

Quoting witnesses, Selim said a police truck hit Roman and his colleague as they were returning home after work.

Further information regarding the incident could not be known immediately.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
২৯৩৫ বর্গফুটের ৪ বেড রুম প্রায় রেডি ব্লাশ বহল এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট বিক্রয় হবে।
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০১৯৩৯১৯৮০২, ০১৯৩৯১৯৮০১

রাজউক পূর্বাচল এবং গাজীপুরে পট বিক্রয়
রাজউক কর্তৃক ১০ তলা নান্দনিক ভবনের ডিজাইনের নকশা অনুমোদনসহ রাজউক পূর্বাচলে আইননিক টাওয়ারের পাশে ২০ নম্বর সেক্টরে ৫ কাঠের একটি প্লট ৫ কোটি টাকা এবং পূর্বাচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্পের ২৯ নম্বর সেক্টরের নিকটে লক্ষা মনোহরপুর এবং বড় আমদিয়া মৌজায় এসব পাকা রাস্তা সংলগ্ন আবাসিক/বানিজ্যিক/ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল স্থাপন করার উপযোগী ৩ তলা ভবনসহ ৩০ বিঘা প্লট ৫ লক্ষ টাকা শতক এবং গাজীপুর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের দক্ষিণ শালনা মৌজাহ কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সংলগ্ন হাইওয়ে রাস্তার পাশে পার্শ্ববর্তী, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, হাসপাতাল, শিল্প-কারখানা, বাড়ি তৈরী করার উপযোগী উঁচু নিম্নস্টক ৬৯ শতাংশ জমি বিক্রি হবে।
যোগাযোগঃ ০১৯৯২-০৭৭০৩৪, ০১৬২৪-৬৫৯০৫৫, Email: founder.digital.co@gmail.com



World Health Organization
Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2024/004: Proposal for conducting Training of Trainers and Supervisors (ToTS) on mhGAP and the Training on mhGAP.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 11 February 2024 (Dhaka time).**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR INVESTMENT/PARTNERSHIP/CONSTRUCTION

Basic information of the Project

- ◆ **Project:** 41 storied commercial tower with 01x semi-basement and 05x basements
- ◆ **Site Location:** Holding No-194/A, B, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
- ◆ **Area of land:** 2.040 Bigha/40.809 Katha/66 decimal (corner plot)
- ◆ **Width of the road:** North side main road- 60', West side secondary road- 25'
- ◆ **Owner of land:** Sena Kalyan Sangstha
- ◆ **Design and drawing:** Design and drawing (architectural and structural) of the building already completed
- ◆ **BOQ/MOQ:** Will be handed over to the short-listed bidder

Expected qualification of the investor/partner/contractor

- ◆ Reputed foreign/local/foreign-local (JV) company
- ◆ Must have experience of constructing minimum one 25 storied (or above) building with minimum 04 (four) basements
- ◆ BDT 150-200 crore worth liquid asset and average BDT 500 crore turnover within last 05 (five) financial year
- ◆ Must have concerned expertise having minimum 15 (fifteen) years of experience of working in high rise building projects

Expected details in proposal

- ◆ Latest company profile
- ◆ Financial guarantee details for the investment (if required)
- ◆ Construction period (expected period will be 5-6 years)
- ◆ Percentage of Equity Share (if interested by construction company)
- ◆ Requirement of mobilization advance (if any)
- ◆ **Pay-back details:**
 - Mode of payment (USD/BDT)
 - Method of payment
 - Profit/service charge details
 - Payback schedule
- ◆ Details of local agent (if any)
- ◆ Trade license (for local company)
- ◆ Audit report of last 05 (five) years
- ◆ TIN and BIN (for local company)
- ◆ **Last date of Submission: February 15, 2024**

(Colonel Mohammad Foyshol Azad, psc)
Managing Director (SKCD)