



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Every day, these women travel 2-3 kilometres on foot or by boat to collect water from a tubewell in Chawkgona village of Bagerhat. After reaching the spot, they have to wait in long queues for hours. There are two tubewells -- the only source of safe drinking water -- available for residents of five villages, but one of them remains out of order most of the time. The photos were taken recently.

Beaten by teen

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of his relatives, Nayeem and Sajal.
At that time, a local teen gang led by one Shakil Ahmed, alias Tiktok Shakil, attacked them with lethal weapons following a dispute over previous enmity. Although Nayeem and Sajal managed to escape, the gang beat up Deepta.

Deepta was initially taken to Tangail General Hospital. For better treatment, he was later transferred to a hospital in Dhaka, where he passed away around 6:00am yesterday.

Prince also mentioned that Deepta passed the HSC examinations in 2023 from Bir Shrestha Noor Mohammad Public College at Pilkhana, Dhaka. He was preparing for admission to a medical college.

Mazharul Amin, officer-in-charge of Basail Police Station, said Deepta's mother filed a case with the police station on January 27, accusing eight named and four unnamed persons.

Police already arrested three accused -- including Shakil -- with choppers, iron pipes, and chains.

The OC said they are trying to arrest the remaining accused.

Friday, fun day!

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her delight after buying three books, saying, "Almost every year, I come to the book fair to buy books from my favourite authors. This time, I visited on the second day of the fair."

According to Bangla Academy, 31 new books were published at the fair yesterday. The book fair started at 11:00am yesterday and concluded at 9:00pm. The fair is scheduled to follow the same time frame today.

Untap maritime potential

Speakers tell seminar on blue economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

There is an immense untapped potential for blue economy in Bangladesh, said experts at a seminar in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute (Bori) organised the event, titled "Blue Economy: Finding Prospects in Capital Market."

Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh Security and Exchange Commission (BSEC), highlighted the importance of Blue Bonds and Blue Loans as financing instruments.

Blue Bonds and Blue Loans are instruments to raise funds for investments such as water and wastewater management, reducing ocean plastic pollution, marine ecosystem restoration, sustainable shipping, eco-friendly tourism, and offshore renewable energy.

"The government alone can't finance these initiatives," remarked Prof Shibli, stressing the need for exploring alternative funding sources.

Blue economy contributed USD \$6.2 billion to the country's net domestic production in 2015, with the potential to reach USD \$25.9 billion by 2035, according to UNDP estimates.

Speakers emphasised the need for significant investments to unlock economic prosperity from the country's vast marine areas.

Dr Towhida Rashid, director general of Bori, pointed out that Bangladesh uses only a fraction of the available fish resources in the Bay of Bengal, with a vast 600-kilometre stretch remaining untouched.

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She said the government must explore gas, oil, minerals, and other marine resources to harness green energy, emphasising the pivotal role of the sector in achieving Bangladesh's development goals by 2041.

Researchers, policymakers, investors, journalists, and maritime industry representatives participated in the seminar.

Rock mining halts for storage shortage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Limited (MGCL), a Petrobangla subsidiary in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur, has halted production for an indefinite period since Thursday morning due to a shortage of space for their existing stock of rocks.

The contracted company Germania Trest Consortium (GTC) issued a notice in this regard on Wednesday afternoon, informing 700 of their miners and giving them indefinite leave.

According to MGCL officials, the mine has a capacity to accommodate around 4-5 lakh tonnes of hard rocks at the stockyard. However, their existing stock is almost double that amount, with officials claiming around 10 lakh tonnes of hard rock remaining in its current stock.

GTC officials said they have been producing around 5,000-6,000 tonnes of hard rock daily. Recently, their monthly sales dropped to 50,000-55,000 tonnes against the target of 1.5 lakh tonnes. As monthly sales dropped, annual profits of MGCL also took a hit.

Normally, around 7-10 government and non-government organisations -- including Roads and Highways Department, Bridge Division, Public Works Department, Water Development Board, Bangladesh Railways, different cement factories, and other private companies -- purchase hard rocks from MGCL annually. However, in the last few fiscal years, they reduced their purchasing of hard rocks.

RHD, PWD and Bridge Division jointly took around 50,000 tonnes of hard rock in 2022-23 fiscal year, which was 2 lakh tonnes less than the previous year.

Similarly, WDB took only 35,000 tonnes of hard rock, whereas the previous year's figure stood at 1.51 lakh tonnes. Contacted, Pinak Iqbal, general manager (production) of MGCL, said they suspended the production for an indefinite period. Production will resume after they free up the existing space.

Hajj registration deadline extended till February 6

UNB, Dhaka

The government has again extended the hajj registration deadline for 2024 until February 6 in a bid to avoid last time hassle.

The Religious Affairs Ministry issued a notice in this regard yesterday.

According to the notice, those who want to perform hajj have to deposit Tk 2.05 lakh for primary registration and the rest need to be deposited by February 29 for final registration.

The government on November 2 announced the Hajj packages for 2024, reducing the cost by Tk 92,450.

Intending pilgrims have to pay Tk 5,78,840 under general package, and Tk 9,36,320 under special package.

Hajj 2024 will be held on 9th day of Zilhaj (June 16) depending on moon sighting.

Like last year, a total of 127,198 devotees can perform hajj this year and of them, 10,198 can perform hajj under government management. The rest can perform it under private management. The hajj registration process began on November 15.

'Abducted' boy found dead in canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A four-year-old boy was found dead in a canal at Jumchari in Sadar upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday, a day after he was allegedly abducted.

The victim -- Abid, son of Mohammad Ishaq -- was from the area.

On information from locals, Abid's relatives rushed to the spot and identified the body.

His uncle Badiul Alam said they could not trace Abid since Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a person told Abid's father over the phone to go to Jhelongia Link Road with Tk 3 lakh. The caller's phone was found switched off when he reached there, according to the family.

Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station OC Rakibuzzaman said the body was sent to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The OC said they are investigating the incident.

BNP slams Russia

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perpetrated by the anti-cast their votes and most of them voted for Awami League, the statement read.

BNP said, "We would like to say his (ambassador's) unwarranted, unacceptable, and pro-Awami statement has hurt the democratic sentiment of the people of Bangladesh."

It said all Bangladeshi citizens who are not involved in AL politics have lost their rights and freedom and become subjugated in their own country.

"People from all walks of life have been subjected to discrimination, injustice, and oppression due to the corruption, misrule, and criminal activities

perpetrated by the anti-cast regime over the last 15 years," it also said.

The party said the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh expect that Russia, India, China, or any other country will not unduly support the misrule of the anti-mass and fascist Sheikh Hasina government by standing against the strong will of the people.

"BNP believes that long-term diplomatic success lies in building bridges of friendship between the peoples of the two countries. That's why BNP urges Russia to show proper respect to the aspirations and interests of the people of Bangladesh," it also said.

108 trees -- the price Government It's ingrained in our

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the aesthetic appeal of the area, where Brindaban Government College, Judicial Court, and The Roses School are also located, said Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon in Habiganj.

Felling these trees will threaten the area's biodiversity and ecological balance and disrupt its aesthetic appeal, Sohel said.

"The Department of Environment approved the decision to cut down the trees. The highest bidder will be permitted to cut the trees down within the next two days," said Dilip Kumar Dutta, assistant engineer of Habiganj Municipality.

Aatur Rahman Salim, mayor of Habiganj Municipality, said, "The trees have overgrown to turn the auditorium premises into a jungle. So those will be felled to create open space and enhance the beauty of the location. Also, drains will be constructed in front of the Shilpakala Academy and Biam Laboratory School, so space is necessary."

"Hopefully the environment won't lose its beauty," he added.

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the elections, sensing its defeat," he added.

Quader said even the United States did not say that the election was flawed, and US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter Haas greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said the whole world is facing a challenge today, and Bangladesh is facing this challenge too.

"On Thursday, I saw that remittance flow increased but reserves decreased. There will be fluctuations. Yet, we are self-sufficient in food. This is a good point. Despite this instability, everyone is leading a normal life," said Quader.

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Prof MM Akash said, "Bangabandhu's Awami League and today's Awami League are not the same. Awami League has tried the war criminals of Jamaat. But before the recent election, the government was not as aggressive on Jamaat as it was on BNP. Maybe there was an understanding between them before the election."

Prof Mesbah Kamal said, "There is not much difference between the current situation and the situation during the Pakistani period. Socially and politically, we have not made much progress. But we did not want to see such a Bangladesh. We did not fight to see such a country."

Shamsul Huda, coordinator of the organisation, presented the keynote.

Prof Robayet Ferdous, Kajal Debnath, and Monindra Kumar Nath also spoke at the event.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
২০৫৫ বর্গফুটের ৪ বেড
রুমের ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
(চলমান প্রকল্প)
টিকানাঃ বসুন্ধরা, ব্লক-আই।
০১৯৩৯৯১৯৮০১, ০১৯৩৯৯১৯৮০২

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2024-9188198

Request for Proposal (RFP): Provide engineering services to conduct assessment, survey, design, and construction monitoring for EPI Central Dry Store in Dhaka.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above-required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to supplybangladesh@unicef.org

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Monday, 26 February 2024; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org/bangladesh

unicef for every child

চতুর্থ মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী
কিমদ্বারা হারামানির রাহীম
বিগত ০৩/০২/২০২০ইং তারিখে বলিয়াদী
জমিদার পরিবারের বৌরানী খুরশীদ আজিম
সিন্দিকী আমাদের সকলকে ছেড়ে না ফেরার দেশে
চলে গেছেন। তিনি একজন প্রখ্যাত রবীন্দ্র সংগীত
শিল্পী ছিলেন। আজ ০৩/০২/২০২৪ইং তারিখ
তার চতুর্থ মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী। তিনি সাবেক মন্ত্রী এবং এফ.বি.সি.সি.আই ও
ডি.সি.সি.আই এর সাবেক সভাপতি চৌধুরী তানবীর আহমদ সিন্দিকী'র
সহধর্মিনী ছিলেন। আমরা মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার প্রতি সকলের দোয়া
ও মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি। **মরহুমার পরিবারবর্গ**

TODAY IS THE 26th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER SECRETARY M. AKHTAR ALI

Today 3rd February 2024, Saturday is the 26th Death Anniversary of former Secretary Late M. Akhtar Ali. Relatives and well wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Mrs. Akhtar Ali,
House # 14/A, Road # 95, Gulshan # 2, Dhaka-1212.
Phone: 01713069583

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Thakurgaon
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No- 46.02.9400.000.14-001-24-465 Date: 01/02/2024

e-Tender Notice-48/2023-24 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of under mentioned work FY 2023-2024.

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of Work & Package No.	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & time	Completion Time
1	944774	(a) Construction of Belchara khal WRS at ch. 0+620 Km (Khal) (5V-2.0m x 2.0m), (b) WMCA office Building, (c) Electrical works of WMCA office, (d) Supplying furniture of WMCA office Building (e) Supply of computer & others related item for WMCA office, (f) Documentation of works of Belchara Sub-Project (SP ID-75129) Under Upazila Balidangi District Thakurgaon. Package LGED/SSWRDP-2/BD-P98/2023-2024/75129 Structures	28.02.2024 14.00	29.02.2024 12.30 PIM	540 Days

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any Registered Banks branches up to 28.02.2024 at 2.00 pm. For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.)

(Mohammad Mamun Biswas)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Thakurgaon
xen.thakurgaon@lged.gov.bd

GD-186