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PHOTO: STAR

## 108 trees -- the price of 'beautification'

Habiganj municipality finalises tender to cut those

MINTU DESHWARA, from Habiganj

A total of 108 trees of a diverse range of species, including akashmani, shilkoroi, mahogany, and olive, are to be felled on the premises of Shah AMS Kibria Municipal Auditorium in Habiganj town in the name of a beautification project.

Adjacent to Habiganj Government High School ground, the lush green area provides shelter to different native species of birds, including cormorant, common myna, cuckoo, and sparrow, while also being a recreational space for local children and youths.

Habiganj municipality authorities are no longer interested in keeping the pristine site; rather, they deem it necessary to remove the trees to beautify the auditorium premises.

It even finalised the tender for felling the trees.

The municipality's decision to cut down these trees has left locals puzzled and concerned.

Protesting the move, local environmentalists and residents submitted a memorandum to the municipality mayor on Wednesday, saying cutting down the trees will be detrimental to the environment.

According to the municipal office, 108 trees have been selected to be felled, including 70 in front of the district Shilpakala Academy and 38 in front of Biam Laboratory School. Most of the trees are between 20 and 25 years old.

The municipality called the tender for felling the trees on December 28 last year and finalised it at Tk 3.51 lakh. The contractor will start felling the trees after being issued the work order.

The trees contribute significantly to the area.

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## 'Whoever reads newspapers can't be a thief'

Unattended stall in Banasree a beacon of trust

ASIFUR RAHMAN

In Banasree, on any given morning, if you find yourself walking past a newspaper stall that has been left unattended, don't be surprised. Just pick up the newspaper or magazine that you want, put the money in the box that's kept nearby, and you are on your way.

The stall you have come across is owned by Abul Bashar, who has made a habit of keeping his newspaper stall open in the morning and going about his day, distributing newspapers to subscribers and keeping up with personal tasks.

While he does this, his stall remains open, and he even leaves a box of change on his stool.

Around midday on a weekday recently, this correspondent visited Banasree E block, where he found the empty stall -- which was made up simply of a bench, a stool and an umbrella on the footpath. When asked about the shop owner, a coconut seller who was camped just next to the stall

replied, "Please take what you want, don't worry about where the owner is."

Half an hour later, Abul Bashar, 55, came from his prayer and said, "It's a test of belief. The people who come to buy newspapers or magazines have never failed this test in the last 10 years. I also believe that whoever reads newspapers can't be a thief."

Bashar said he went to Kuwait in 1990, where he found shops where there were no shopkeepers. "There are products, there is a place to put the money, then what is my duty here?"

In the 1980s, he came to Dhaka from Cumilla's Chaudagram and started working as a newspaper lineman, supplying newspapers from door to door. Later, he tried

his luck by going to Kuwait but failed due to the start of the Gulf War in 1991. In 2000, he went to the Maldives and was sent back within 18 months.

Since then, he has stayed in the newspaper business. His employer, who operated an area (also known as a line) comprising three blocks at Banasree, let him

run it. "I invested a large amount of money to buy the line but had to incur losses due to the pandemic," he said.

Before the pandemic, his fixed customers were around 1,000 a day in three blocks of Banasree, but the number is down to 300-400 now. He sells newspapers with a commission, and he has two employees working under him as linemen now.

"We are fine. But the high cost of goods in the market puts us under pressure," he said, speaking about his economic condition.

Bashar lives at East Rampura with his wife. His eldest son lives in Qatar, but he needs his expenses sent from Bangladesh as he does not have a job there. His another son is working as an electrician while one of his

daughters has been married off. His youngest daughter lives in the village with her grandparents, and goes to school there.

"My fate has been intertwined with the newspaper business and I have formed a bond of love with this job," he said. "I start my day at dawn and take my lunch in the house to spend time with my

family."

Bashar feels that his entire line of work is now facing problems due to the dominance of online news, but he realises that newspapers are forced to shift their focus for the sake of survival.

"People now read newspapers online. There were huge offices that used to subscribe to newspapers in the past, but those [subscriptions] are also in decline," he added.

He has many well-wishers in his area. One of them was found standing beside his shop, reading a newspaper. "Readers like me sometimes act as shopkeepers when he goes somewhere," he said.

The system is a major indicator of a commitment to create a better society, a well-wisher wrote on Facebook.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The newspaper stall of Abul Bashar in the capital's Banasree is left unmanned while the stall owner runs his errands. Customers take a newspaper of their choosing and leave the money in the box. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

## RECRUITMENT TEST FOR TEACHERS

### Three jailed, two held over bribery

STAR REPORT

A mobile court sentenced three candidates to jail in Sherpur yesterday, for using devices during the primary school teacher recruitment examinations.

The court also expelled 39 others for engaging in unfair means, said District Primary Education Officer Obaidul Haque.

Semina Begum and Rafiqul Islam got one-month imprisonment each, while Shafiqul Islam was jailed for 15 days. Among them, Semina and Rafiqul took the exams at Sherpur Government College and Government Girls School centres, respectively, while Shafiqul attended the Ideal School centre.

According to the Sherpur District Primary Education Office, 13,363 candidates were supposed to participate in the exams in the district.

However, only 10,439 candidates attended the test at 21 centres.

Meanwhile, two people have been arrested in Jamalpur on charges of accepting bribes from candidates participating in the examination for assistant teachers at government primary schools.

The arrested are Abul Kalam Azad, 48, an assistant teacher at East Boyra Government Primary School; and Mostafizur Rahman, 36, from Kandarchar Fakirbari in Islampur upazila. They were held in Sheikh Vita area in Jamalpur Sadar on Thursday.

Three admit cards and Tk 1 lakh were seized from the arrestees, said Kazi Shahnewaz Imon, officer-in-charge of the police's Detective Branch in Jamalpur.

The examinations took place at a centre in the area yesterday.

## Beaten by teen gang, student dies at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A college student died yesterday, nine days after being beaten by a local teen gang in Basail upazila of Tangail.

Jijan Hasan Deepta, 18, son of Jahangir Alam from Chakdaha in Sakhipur upazila, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Dhaka, according to his family.

His uncle, Prince Mahmud, a councillor in Basail municipality, said Deepta went to his grandfather's house at Dakkhinpara village in Basail on January 23. The next day, Deepta went to Basail Bazar area with two



Barishal city-bound people head out to work in a trawler on the fog-wrapped Kirtonkhola river. This picture was taken in Barisal River Port area on Wednesday morning.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Directorate General of Family Planning						
Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital						
Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.						
Ref no. 59.11.0000.651.07.1.2024-808				Dated: 1/2/2024		
Invitation for Tenders (Goods)						
Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per "PPR-2008" from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender document for the under mentioned Goods as per terms and conditions stated below:						
1	Ministry/Division:	Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare				
2	Agency:	Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, DGFP.				
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, DGFP				
4	Procuring Entity Code:	N/A				
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka				
6	Invitation For:	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package1 for the year 2024-25 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package2 for the year 2024-25 3. Supply of MSR (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Injectable, Lot-3: Infusions) under package3 for the year 2023-24 4. Supply of Uniforms for staffs under package4 for the year 2023-24				
7	Invitation Ref No.:	No. 808				
8	Date:	1-February-2024				
9	Procurement Method:	OTM				
10	Budget and Source of Funds:	Revenue Budget (GOB) as per released fund.				
11	Development Partner:	N/A				
12	Project/Programme Code:	N/A				
13	Project/Programme Name:	N/A				
14	Tender Package No.:	1. DGFP/MFSTC/01/2024-25/ 2. DGFP/MFSTC/02/2024-25/ 3. DGFP/MFSTC/02/2023-24/ 4. DGFP/MFSTC/07/2023-24/				
15	Tender Package Name:	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package1 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package2 3. Supply of MSR (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Injectable, Lot-3: Infusions) under package3 4. Supply of Uniforms for staffs under package4				
16	Tender Publication Date:	1-February-2024				
17	Tender Last Selling Date:	6-March-2024				
18	Tender Closing Date and Time:	7-March-2024 at 1:00 PM				
19	Tender Opening Date and Time:	7-March-2024 at 1:45 PM				
20	Name & Addresses of the Offices:	<b>Selling &amp; Receiving Tender Document:</b> 1. At the office of the Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. 2. At the office of the Director (Mch-Services), MCH Unit (10th floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215. <b>Opening Tender Document:</b> 1. At the office of the Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.				
21	Brief Eligibility & qualification of Tenderer:	The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 1 (one) number of supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 3 (three) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the news paper and also as described in Tender Document.				
22	Brief Description of Goods:	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package1, 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package2 and 3. Supply of MSR (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Injectable, Lot-3: Infusions) under package3 4. Supply of Uniforms for staffs under package4 (Detailed in Tender Schedule)				
23	Brief Description of Related Services:	1 (one) year warranty of goods as described in Tender Document.				
24	Price of Tender Document:	Tk.2000/- (Tk. Two Thousand) for each tender (Per Package) should be paid in Bangladesh Bank through Treasury Challan in code no. 1-2781-0000-2366 in favour of Director General, DGFP, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and on line verification copy must be submitted.				
25	Pkg. No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in weeks	Remarks
1.	DGFP/MFSTC/01/2024-25/	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package1	AT MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	*15,000/- (Fifteen thousand) per lot	4 weeks after the signing of the contract	* N.B. Tender security for each lot should be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.
2.	DGFP/MFSTC/02/2024-25/	2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package2	Do	*10,000/- (Ten thousand) per lot		
3.	DGFP/MFSTC/02/2023-24/	3. Supply of MSR (Lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Injectable, Lot-3: Infusions) under package3	Do	(i) *15,000/- (Fifteen thousand) for lot-1 AND (ii) *10% on quoted value for lot-2 (iii) *10% on quoted value for lot-3		
4.	DGFP/MFSTC/07/2023-24/	4. Supply of Uniforms for staffs under package4	Do	*10,000/- (Ten thousand) per lot		
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender:	Dr. Md. Muniruzzaman Siddiqui				
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender:	Director				
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender:	Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207				
29	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender:	Phone: 02223310125, 02223310126				
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. If schedule submission and opening is interrupted due to unavoidable circumstances, it will duly be conducted in the next working day. All other terms and conditions will remain same.					

Dr. Md. Muniruzzaman Siddiqui  
Director, MFSTC

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