

UAE wants partnership

FROM PAGE 3
The UAE foreign minister expressed his interest in advancing the ongoing investment in Bangladesh. The two leaders exchanged views on various regional issues including Rohingya repatriation and efforts to end the ongoing Gaza war. UAE Foreign Minister gave a positive response when Hasan Mahmud requested to simplify the visa process for Bangladeshis in all trades including graduate nurses, caregivers, healthcare technicians, agriculturists, farmers and various professionals in the UAE and ease the transfer of work permits from one employer to another.

Hasan Mahmud highlighted the potential of investment from the UAE government and businessmen to develop the Matarbari Exclusive Economic Zone, port and logistics management, development of the land gifted to the founder President of the modern UAE, Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan in Rangunia.

Of honey-trap

FROM PAGE 3
alongside recovering Tk 6 lakh of ransom money and a handcuff, said the DB chief. "The arrestees Lavli and Syma are mother and daughter," he said. "On the day, Liton was asked to meet Lavli at her Demra residence. Syma received him on the way from his Brahmanbaria home. Soon after Liton went there, Jewel and three others confined Liton," he also said. Jewel called Liton's family and asked for Tk 10 lakh as ransom through cryptocurrency, said the

investigators, and provided contact of one Mohammad Ali Rifat, who is now in Dubai, to pay the ransom through dollar to him, said Harun. The family then paid US\$ 8,000 to Rifat to convert those into cryptocurrency in exchange for Tk 10 lakh. Detectives are now looking for Rifat and other members of the syndicate. Jewel, who is wanted in at least 24 cases including murder, robbery, abduction, and pornography, also took a total of Tk 66 lakh as ransom by abducting two other persons previously, Harun added.

6 lawyers held, five

FROM PAGE 3
addressing reporters in Dhaka's Mintoo Road. Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Haider granted a three-day remand to five of the arrestees except Ruhul after DB inspector Abul Kalam Azad produced them before the court with a five-day remand plea. Earlier, the vote

counting in the two-day SCBA election was halted yesterday morning following an altercation due to alleged interference from a group of outsiders on behalf of a candidate. The outsiders attacked some lawyers who were present at the polling centre in the SCBA auditorium as the votes were scheduled to be counted there.

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89/304 Baizid Bostami Road, Yakub Trade Center (7th floor), East Nasirabad, Panchlaish, Chattogram
This is to inform that the Branch Office of KUBOTA CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. in Chattogram will be permanently closed from 1st May 2024. If you have any debt to us, you are requested to contact with us by 30th April 2024 with proper due evidence. It is mentioned here that from 1st May 2024, no kinds of appeal will be accepted. With Thanks: The General Manager

BORSHIJORA ECOPARK A failed attempt to harness untapped ecotourism potential

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

To harness the untapped potential of ecotourism in the region, the Borshijora Ecopark was set up in 2006 across a vast expanse of natural reserve forest in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

Nearly two decades on, the eco-park could not even be fully opened due to a lack of manpower, adequate security measures, and necessary eco-friendly facilities.

Visiting the eco-park recently, this correspondent found only three persons were employed for the management and security of its entire 887-acre forest area.

According to the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, Borshijora Ecopark was set up in the protected forest area to preserve its biodiversity and attract tourists, at a cost of around Tk 100 crore.

Initially, two double-room eco-cottages, four picnic spots, two observation towers, four security outposts, five public toilets, a ticket counter, and an archway were constructed in 2006-07 for tourists at the eco-park. However, despite being in the vicinity of local settlements, there has not been any security measure to prevent the free movement of people through the park area.

As such, due to a lack of security and an acute manpower crisis, the eco-park could not be started properly.

Very occasionally, one or two tourists visited the park after it was launched. Still, it largely failed to grasp the interest of tourists, said



Shaheen Alam, a junior wildlife scout of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department.

Over the years, the cottages and other infrastructure in the eco-park have become unusable. The park is largely unprotected, with no boundary wall, thereby allowing people to trespass through the area.

Locals were seen freely moving through paths in the eco park's Karali Tila, Hiron Kuchi, and Goalabari areas, where there were dense forest covers of Eucalyptus, Sal, and various other trees. Several trees were found felled by the forest department in the Hiron Kuchi area. Many dead skylarks were also seen there, suggesting that those died when the trees were felled.

The iron staircase leading to the observation tower was found broken.

According to the Sylhet divisional office of the department, a project titled "Forestry and Eco-tourism Development in Lawachhara-

Satchhari National Park and Borshijora Ecopark" was submitted to the Forest Department in 2022.

The project recommended setting up eco-tourism facilities in the forest areas to help the wildlife and biodiversity thrive and sustain while also attracting tourists and thereby helping propel the region's economy. It, however, did not progress further.

"With settlements around the eco-park, it is not possible to ensure security with only three staffers. There is no boundary wall. People use the paths through the park all day and night. The manpower needs to be increased as well as security infrastructure," said Abu Naem Md Nurunnabi, beat officer at Borshijora Ecopark.

"Long-term planning is needed for the eco-park. A master plan is being worked on to that end," said Jahangir Alam, divisional forest officer in Sylhet.

Ensure fair competition in market Plastic

FROM PAGE 3
employment and induce economic growth, he said. He added that in this case the regulator should be careful so that big conglomerates cannot occupy the market and create a monopoly.

Fair competition expands the market and benefits the consumers, said AK Enamul Haque, dean of faculty of business and economics at East West University.

"So, the regulator should be cautious about unfair practice by big conglomerates. Otherwise, good and real manufacturers

may quit the market facing unfair competition, which will eventually affect the economy," he said.

He suggested not to abuse the law against manufacturers, and rather find out the actual reason behind price increase.

According to him, there is no provision to punish the entrepreneurs for forming syndicate or cartel in the market without proper evidence.

Hamidul Mishbah, founder of Bangladesh IP Forum, said while syndicate is not always bad, however, if syndicates are formed with the aim to create artificial

crisis in the market, then it is a punishable offence.

Practically there is no clause for market syndicate in any law in the world including Bangladesh, he added.

Moderating the dialogue, Bazlur Rahman called for creating public awareness about the competition law and the competition commission's actions in controlling the product prices.

Gawher Nayeem Wahra, writer and researcher, and MS Siddique, adviser to the Bangladesh Competition Commission, also spoke among others.

FROM PAGE 5
Refuting the allegations, Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, deputy chief conservancy officer of CCC, said the workers regularly clean up the canal, but the situation does not improve as locals and traders at make-shift kitchen markets in Chawkbazar Dhunir Pool to Phultala continue to dump waste into canals at nights.

Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman, deputy commissioner of Chattogram, said, "Due to important engagements, including the national polls, we could not conduct mobile courts till January. The drives have resumed."

C-section: When

FROM PAGE 3
"Some unscrupulous doctors encourage patients for C-sections only to derive financial benefits," Dr Ishtiaq Mannan, neonatal and maternal health specialist and deputy country director of Save the Children in Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

In June 2023, one Mahbuba Akter Akhi died nine days after undergoing C-section at Central Hospital in Dhaka. The incident caused quite an uproar back then.

On October 12, 2023, the High Court directed the health ministry to take necessary measures so that all government and private hospitals follow proper guidelines in conducting C-sections.

TESTCASE MANIKGANJ
This correspondent has recently visited different hospitals in town and villages in Manikganj and talked to dozens of people, including hospital owners, patients and doctors.

It was found that multiple syndicates of doctors, hospital owners, field level health workers and brokers are active in the district to misguide expecting women to undergo C-section.

Of the 28,606 children who were born in Manikganj in 2022, 49 percent were delivered through C-section, and 88 percent of the Caesarean deliveries were conducted in private hospitals, according to data from the district's civil surgeon's office, two hospitals, and district family planning office.

During his visits, our correspondent found that a host of clinics - Monno Medical College Hospital, Doyal Clinic, Apollo Hospital, Doctors' Clinic, Islami Bank Community Hospital, United Hospital, Medilab Hospital, Zamzam Hospital and Surjer Hashi clinic - are each conducting over 100 C-sections monthly.

Most of these hospital owners declined to comment on the issue.

Some of them, wishing anonymity, said they have to spend huge sums to run their hospitals and C-section is a major income

source for them. "Caesarean patients are the main source of our income. If we don't get a sufficient number of C-section patients, we will be compelled to shut our hospitals," said a hospital owner wishing anonymity.

Meanwhile, Delwar Hossain, Chairman of City Hospital, said, "Several brokers and health workers are engaged in bringing C-section patients to our hospital. We pay Tk 1,500 to 2,000 to a health worker for each patient."

Swarna Mushtari Ima and Piya Akhter of Shibbaloy upazila, Shilpi Akhter of Harirampur upazila, and Lamia Akter of Sadar upazila underwent C-section at Chashir Hashi clinic in Manikganj in September last year.

All of them were brought to the clinic by its health workers. They had to pay Tk 12,000 for the procedures. Of which, Tk 2,000 was given to the brokers.

"There are 20 cabins in my clinic. I get a good number of C-section patients each month. I pay at least Tk 2,000 to health workers for bringing each C-section patient," said the clinic's owner Harun-Ar-Rashid.

Dr Moazzem Ali Khan, civil surgeon in Manikganj, said, "We always encourage normal delivery. However, we suggest a C-section if the patient faces health complexities. Also, many women themselves want to go through C-sections."

THE RISKS
"A C-section procedure not only requires a family to spend a huge amount of money but also poses different types of health hazards to mother and baby," said Dr Mannan of Save the Children.

"Immediately after a caesarean delivery, the newborn is kept away from the mother for some time. During this time, the baby cannot be breastfed, although it is very crucial for the newborn at that moment," he added.

"Unnecessary C-section can also cause mutilation, excessive bleeding, infection, complexity in having more babies for mothers and other health complexities," he said.

RE-INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	ISDB-BISEW	
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Central Air Conditioning System	
3	Invitation Ref. No.	ISDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-02	
4	Publication Date	10 March 2024	
KEY INFORMATION			
5	Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Basis (LCB).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
6	Source of Funds	ISDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with Common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.	
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-02	
9	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Central Air Conditioning System.	
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	21 March 2024 upto 3:00 PM	
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	27 March 2024 at 11:00 AM	
12	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.	
13	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	17 April 2024 upto 12:00 Noon	
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	17 April 2024 at 12:30 Noon at the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer.	
15	Name and Address of the Office for Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.	
16	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.	
17	Brief Description of Works	Supply, Installation Testing and Commissioning of Central Air-conditioning and Ventilation System comprising e.g Supply & Installation of Chillers, Fan Coil Unit (FCU), Air Handling Units (AHU), Pump, Cooling Tower, Ventilation Fan, Ducting and Piping and Air Terminal etc.	
18	Price of Tender Documents	Non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft in BDT 100,000 (One Hundred Thousand) or equivalent amount in USD in favour of ISDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).	
19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT. 8.00 (eight) million or in equivalent USD in the form of Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of ISDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). The Tender Security furnished by a foreign Bank must be Counter Guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.	
20	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience: i) Lone Local Tenderer/Foreign Lead Firm of Joint Venture must be a bonafide Contractor having minimum 15(fifteen) years of experience in supplying and installation of Central Air-conditioning Works. ii) The Joint Venture Partner (Limited to 1 number only) must be a Bangladeshi Firm having minimum 10(ten) years of general experience in Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Central Air-conditioning System. b) Specific Experience: i) Lone local Tenderer must have successfully completed 2(two) works of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Central Air-conditioning System of minimum combined capacity 1600 RT in building projects in last 7(seven) years prior to the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/Website. ii) Foreign Lead Firm of the JV must have completed 2(two) works of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Central Air-conditioning System of minimum combined capacity 2000 RT Air-conditioning System in building projects in last 5(five) years prior to the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/Website.	
21	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: i) Lone Local Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover only for Central Air-conditioning works of BDT 250(two hundred fifty) Million or Equivalent USD in last 5(five) years. ii) Foreign Lead Firm of the JV must have minimum Average Annual Turnover only for Central Air-conditioning works of USD 5(five) Million in last 5(five) years. iii) The Local JV Partner of a JV Tenderer must be a Bangladeshi Firm having minimum Average Annual Turnover only for Central Air-conditioning works of BDT 100(one hundred) Million or Equivalent USD in last 5(five) years. b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit: i) Lone Local Tenderer/Foreign Lead Firm of the JV must submit original letter from Foreign Bank/a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh (as applicable) confirming a Liquid Asset/Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 250(two hundred fifty) Million or equivalent in USD for this particular project. ii) The Local JV Partner of a JV Tenderer must submit original letter of credit from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh confirming Liquid Asset/Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 50(fifty) Million for this particular project.	
22	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Telephone No. +88029183006; Fax No. +88029183001-2, e-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org	
23	Any further changes /update/ modifications regarding this Tender	Shall be available in the official Website of ISDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and Addendum. Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender	
24	Special Instructions and Conditions:	a) If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender shall be received and Technical Offer shall be opened at the same time on the next working day. b) Applicants without having the requisite experience and qualification need not apply for issuance of Tender Document. c) This Invitation for Re-Tender can be seen in the Website of ISDB-BISEW. d) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.	



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