

US SCIENCE ENVOY Bangladeshi-born scientist selected

STAR REPORT The US Department of State has recently announced the selection of Dr Rumman Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi-origin Bengali American data scientist, as one of the four scientists to serve as a new US Science Envoy in 2024.

She has become a part of the first all-female cohort in the history of the US Science Envoy Program. According to an official press release by the US Department of State, Dr Rumman Chowdhury brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role as a Science Envoy. Currently serving as the CEO of Humane Intelligence, a technology nonprofit focused on evaluating artificial intelligence (AI) models, she has previously held key positions such as Director of the Machine Learning Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability (META) team at Twitter, and Global Lead for Responsible AI at Accenture Applied Intelligence.

Dr Chowdhury holds two undergraduate degrees from MIT, a Master of Science in Quantitative Methods of the Social Sciences from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, San Diego. Her contributions to the field of AI ethics and accountability have earned her accolades such as Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in AI and BBC's 100 Women. As a US Science Envoy, Dr Chowdhury will focus on advancing international cooperation in Artificial Intelligence.



Garbage dumping continues unabated in Brahmaputra



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Garbage dumping into the Brahmaputra River at Kalibari Puratan Gudarghat area has persisted for years, causing concerns among environmentalists. Despite protests and appeals to authorities, the situation remains dire.

During a recent visit to the site, municipal cleaning staff Ripon Mia and Faruq Mia were observed dumping garbage by the river dam. They claimed to be following orders from the local councillor.

Residents alleged that garbage is sometimes dumped into the river due to traffic jams on the Brahmaputra Bridge that has to be crossed to get to the designated dumping spot named Moilakanda at Char Kalibari.

Advocate Shibbir Ahmed Liton,

secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokkha O Unnayan Andolon, said the pollution jeopardises both the river water and surrounding environment.

"We submitted memorandums to the deputy commissioner and municipal mayor urging action, but no permanent measures have been taken," Liton said.

Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener of Jonouddogh, Mymensingh, expressed disappointment over the continued pollution of Brahmaputra, noting the adverse impact on residents.

"We can easily feel the scale of the nuisance when cleaners of the city corporation dump garbage into the river," Chunnu said.

Residents said that protests and interventions by environmental organisations have only

temporarily halted the dumping, with approximately 1600 families residing in the affected area.

Mohabbat Ali, conservation inspector of Mymensingh City Corporation, said that despite efforts to manage garbage, around 500 tonnes are produced daily, with 480 metric tonnes managed. Garbage dumping into the river persists despite periodic drives, he added.

Executive Engineer Md Akhlak Ul Jamil of the Water Development Board in Mymensingh stressed the importance of raising awareness among city residents to address the issue.

He said that mixing garbage with river water would harm the river's ecology and biodiversity, urging the municipal authority to take decisive action.

4 more killed Ireland pledges

FROM PAGE 5 Mia, who was crossing the road.

Mohammad Ashikuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Pirojpur Sadar Police Station, said, "Masum and Hasib died on the spot, while Nuru Mia succumbed to injuries on the way to Khulna Medical College Hospital."

Meanwhile, in Gazipur's Kapasia upazila, a teenager died and two others were injured as their motorcycle hit a tree early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rajib, 15, son of Rokon Uddin from Pachua village. The injured are Shamim, 23, and Abdur Rahim, 22.

The accident occurred around 12:00am on Khirati road in Ghagatia village, said Kapasia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakar Mia.

Quoting locals, the OC said the driver lost control of the motorcycle and rammed the vehicle into a roadside tree.

The victims were rushed to Monohardi Upazila Health Complex, where duty doctors declared Rajib dead.

The injured are in critical condition and were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for further treatment, the OC added.

Ireland has high demand for foreign workers, and Bangladeshis can take this opportunity. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought Ireland's support in Bangladesh's efforts to enjoy the preferential trade facilities in the EU market until 2032 instead of 2029, during the country's post-graduation period, reports UNB.

Coveney suggested intensifying security to

Rohingya camps, engaging them in income generating activities and arranging permanent and more developed houses for them.

In response, the PM said Bangladesh arranged standard housing for one lakh Rohingyas in Bhashanchar. If they want to go there, the government can arrange housing for some 4 lakh Rohingyas.

The Irish minister announced 1.5 million Euros for this cause.

Narco couple held

FROM PAGE 3 of yaba and four kilograms of marijuana and arrested Sumon's wife Sumi," said the officer.

Mamun said the couple has maintained their narcotics network in the capital's Khilgaon, Sabujbagh, Motijheel, and Basabo areas for a long time.

"Both of them were known as notorious narcotics dealers and used to sell marijuana, yaba, and heroin. Sumi was arrested earlier several times but managed to secure bail and go back to previous professions," he added.

Police said the couple has a strong network, and several lawyers stood at the

court for their defence every time they were arrested and produced in court.

"We primarily found a ring of around 15 to 20 members who used to control the couple's drug network. We are trying to get more details to take legal action," he said.

Mamun said they found the details of 30 cases against the couple so far after analysing the database till the year 2017.

"We believe there will be more cases against them," he said.

Mamun further said they may be able to give more details about the drug racket's activities after interrogating the couple during remand.

Over 3.4m street

FROM PAGE 3 collaborative efforts between government, non-governmental organisations, and community groups to create sustainable solutions that prioritise the welfare and rights of street children.

Addressing the launching ceremony, Social Welfare Minister Dipu Moni said that although street children are a part of society and have all rights to receive the basic entitlements granted to other children, they face various forms of torture and live insecure lives.

She highlighted the government's aim to reduce

poverty to zero, saying, "We have already significantly reduced poverty. When poverty reaches zero, the situation of street children will improve."

Termining the study's findings important, Women and Children Affairs State Minister Simeen Hussain Rimi echoed her.

They said the government will do more for the street children at policy level.

Unicef Representative to Bangladesh, Sheldon Yett, stressed the need for a more targeted and focused approach to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Teknaf rocked

FROM PAGE 5 Subsequently, a significant number of Myanmar troops, predominantly comprising Myanmar's Border Guard Police, sought asylum in Bangladesh in successive waves before being repatriated on February 15.

With the conflict spreading from the Naikhongchhari to the Teknaf border, where many Rohingya populations live in villages bordering Rakhine State, the

situation remains risky. The ongoing clashes between the Myanmar government and Arakan Army along the Bangladesh border areas have caused tragic incidents on this side of the border as well.

A Bangladeshi woman and a Rohingya man were killed and a child was injured as a mortar shell from across the border in Myanmar exploded in Ghumdhum union of Bandarban's Naikhongchhari on February 5.

Three misguided

FROM PAGE 3 Regarding the process of collecting the parts, Harun said that they used to buy stolen phone accessories, and also collected low-quality imported parts.

Then these phones were assembled on level seven of Eastern Plaza market, he said.

The DB team has recovered a large quantity of phone parts and accessories from the assembling centre - including 97 different brands of Vivo handsets, 48 handsets of Oppo, 25 handsets of Redmi, 20 handsets of Mi, 20 iPhone handsets, and various other phone accessories.

"It could be possible to make thousands of phones by using the accessories recovered from the arrestees," added DB chief Harun.

Detectives suggested matching the IMEI numbers with the packets and the cell phones before buying a new one from the market.

Ashrafullah, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, who led the drive to arrest the syndicate, told this newspaper, "We are trying to know how the syndicate managed

the operating systems or accessed the software." "We are also investigating how the IMEI numbers are being used for these phones, ensuring access to Google Drive or iCloud with duplicate accessories," he said.

We did not get the scope to check all the accessories properly, once we complete scanning all the devices then we may be able to clarify the concerns, he added.

Kazal denied

FROM PAGE 3 On March 8, Assistant Attorney General Saifur Rahman Siddique Saif, who was assaulted centring the polls violence, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station naming independent candidate Nahid Sultana Juthi, Kazal and 18 others.

On March 9, Kazal was arrested from near his Purana Paltan chamber in the capital.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় গোপালগঞ্জ. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ২০২৩-২০২৪ অবসানে গোপালগঞ্জ জেলা পুলিশের বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের মোরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য টিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে 'দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি/২০০৮' (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ) অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited Road Transport & Highways Division House-04, Road- 21, Sector- 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 www.dhakabrt.gov.bd Invitation for Tenders. 1 Ministry/Division Road Transport & Highways Division 2 Agency Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited 3 Procuring Entity Name Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited

Raise more

FROM PAGE 3 shelter for forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar on humanitarian grounds and arranged improved accommodation for them in Bhashanchar, ensuring many facilities for them. Now some one lakh Rohingya can reside in Bhashanchar, she added.

She sought assistance from the UNDP to relocate more Rohingyas to Bhashanchar.

Princess Victoria arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day visit to Bangladesh during which she will tour Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhashanchar.

The princes said there is a huge scope to deepen the bilateral relations between Sweden and Bangladesh.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ৩৯৫-৩৯৭ তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮। স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ইউসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে :-