

Swedish Princess visits Ctg, Khulna

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden yesterday visited Khulna and Chattogram to witness first-hand the impact of climate change and UNDP's initiatives on climate adaptation.

She engaged with members of the climate displaced population, particularly women, who have become active change-makers in their communities.

The Princess visited a UNDP-supported a2i digital service delivery centre -- where people access essential public services -- and inaugurated a smart post centre.

The Crown Princess also observed an embankment wall constructed through collaboration between the UK and Bangladesh governments, facilitated by UNDP.

In Koyra, Khulna she inaugurated a Smart Service Point (SSP) for the Post Office.

"Digital Centre is bringing government services to the doorstep of grassroots people..." said Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury.



Children's park now a grazing land

S DLIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The lone park for children in Lalmonirhat town, established on a land of Bangladesh Railway beside Lalmonirhat Railway Station, is now being used for dumping garbage and grazing cattle.

The railway authorities built the park around 65 years ago to provide recreational facilities to children, especially those of the railway employees.

About 4,000 railway employees live in Lalmonirhat town with their families. The park used to serve as a recreational ground for their children, as well as children from different other areas of the town.

"My two sons and a daughter used to play in the park, but now I cannot take my grandsons there as the place has become filthy. Besides, it has become a den for drug addicts," said Mobarak Ali, 70, a retired railway staffer.

Nur Mohammad, 50, another railway employee, said, "Till 2000, the park was in good condition. Since then, in last 23 years, its condition deteriorated a lot due to lack of care and maintenance. At present the park no longer serves its purpose."

Abir Hossain, 12, son of a railway staffer said, "The rides in the park are in a shabby state. Meanwhile, cows and goats graze, and garbage

is dumped there as well. I have nowhere to play."

Prabir Kumar Bishwas, head teacher of Railway Children's Park High School, said, "Proper recreation is essential for children's physical and mental well-being. I requested the railway authorities to take steps for reviving the park as it is the only one for children in Lalmonirhat town."

Ahsand Habib, divisional engineer of Bangladesh Railway in Lalmonirhat, said, "We have adopted an action plan to renovate the park. A tender will be called soon. We have also put up a notice so that no one can dump garbage there."

Strict actions

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cannot enter the capital," he added.

In response to transport leaders' demand, Md Shahabuddin Khan, additional inspector general of highway police, said, "No risky and unfit vehicles will be allowed to ply on roads during Eid."

"We will be strict on the highway, and legal action will be taken against those who pick up passengers in unsafe vehicles," said Shahabuddin.

"My special request to owners and workers is that all of you must take responsibility so that unsafe vehicles or buses cannot ply the road," he added.

Alongside law enforcement agencies, transport owners and workers will be at the terminals, and there will

be mobile courts as well, he said. "Hopefully extra fare will not be allowed this time," he added.

"Three-wheelers have been a major problem on highways. Despite a High Court ban on their movements, we have not been able to reduce their movement on highways to the expected level," said the highway police chief.

It will be risky if the three-wheelers move during Eid, he said.

Shahabuddin asked the superintendent of police of all districts and transport owners and workers to help control three-wheeler's movement.

Presidents and general secretaries of different transport owners and workers associations, and related stakeholders were present at the meeting.

\$236 billion

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exploitation accounts for more than 73 percent of illegal profits, despite representing only 27 percent of victims.

The report also revealed alarming statistics, showing that 27.6 million people were engaged in forced labour in 2021. Additionally, between 2016 and 2021, the number increased by 2.7 million.

The ILO report recommended strengthening legal frameworks, providing training for enforcement officials, extending labour inspection, along with better coordination between labour and criminal law enforcement.

Monitor NGO-run

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this regard in the next meeting.

State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Kujendra Lal Tripura participated in the meeting, alongside other committee members.

Ease visa process

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GSP+ benefits beyond 2032.

Coveny said exchanging delegations will enhance bilateral trade, particularly in technology, pharmaceuticals, and energy.

He assured support for Bangladesh's appeal for extending trade preferences of EBA facilities until 2032 and GSP+ facilities beyond 2032 and an additional 1.5 million euros in humanitarian assistance for Rohingyas.

Advertisement for DHAKA LINE featuring a logo and text about services and contact information.

I've no idea about

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We have no weaknesses."

On the allegation that Shakib Al Hasan wanted to join a Kings' Party before polls, Quader said, "I noticed the issue in media. I have no idea about the matter. But, Shakib participated in the election with AL ticket and won. He got the primary membership of the party before seeking nomination."

About a US report on the democratic situation in Bangladesh, the AL leader said, "We have our

own criteria of democracy. No one is perfect in the world... A former US president said if he didn't get elected, there will be bloodbaths. What type of democracy is it? Even the former president didn't accept the elected president of USA till now."

Quader said the prices of some commodities have already been reduced. The government is also trying to reduce the prices of other essential commodities, he said.

I told Shakib

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They (some retired army officials) brought Shakib Al Hasan to me but I did not influence him to join any party," said Hafiz. "I told Shakib, it's up to you. Without getting any support from me, he left the place," he said.

"Did I join the BNM? Did I break the BNP? " he asked.

"It is clear that I got a proposal to join the party. But I rejected that. Now they are spreading rumours misleading my party supporters," he said.

He added top ruling party leaders advised him to form a new political party before polls. He said he told them after 32 years it is impossible for him to leave the party.

Eight years on, still

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Begum said, "The whole world is waiting to see the killer punished. We want justice for my daughter. But there is rarely any justice for the poor."

Tonu's father Yaar Hossain said, "The then Army chief assured me that justice would be ensured. Abul Kahar Akhand [CID official] had also assured me, yet no results have come."

Contacted, PBI

Inspector Mujibur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, said, "We are gathering evidence. If there's any development, we'll brief the media."

Khairul Anam Raihan, an activist, said, "Law enforcement agencies are covering up the murder case in the name of lengthy investigations. This is a major obstacle to keeping our faith in the judicial system."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Narayanganj Road Division. Tender Notice (LTM) for various works including installing lights and supplying trees.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Laxmipur www.lged.gov.bd. e-Tender Notice No. 36/2023-2024 (OTM) for various road and construction works.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Laptop. Details regarding the procurement process and contact information.

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা আবশ্যিক কর্মকর্তা পদ. Advertisement for various engineering and technical positions at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.