

CTG EXPRESSWAY Century-old raintrees to be felled for a ramp

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg Defying its own policy, Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has decided to fell 46 trees, including two century-old rain trees, from the CRB area in the port city to construct a ramp of the Chattogram Elevated Expressway. The CDA has already gotten permission from the forest department to cut these trees, including 11 raintrees. According to a survey conducted by a teacher of Chittagong University's botany department and a non-government organization, the CRB area is home to 225 rare plant species. Meanwhile, a Detailed Area Plan (DAP) prepared by the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), which was published in Gazette on January 25, 2009, designated CRB as a cultural heritage site. According to the gazette, no part of CRB can be used for commercial purposes, and no high-rise buildings can be constructed there. However, CDA is going to construct this ramp, violating its DAP. "We gave permission to CDA as per their demand following the existing forest act," said SM Kaiser, divisional forest officer of the Chattogram North Forest Division. He said as the land is owned by Bangladesh Railway (BR), it can step in to protect these trees. Contacted, Mahfuzur Rahman, director of the Chattogram Elevated Expressway project and executive engineer of CDA, told The Daily Star, "The ramp construction is not possible without cutting down the trees." However, some environmentalist organisations have already announced a demonstration in the CRB area to protect the trees. Ritu Parvee, co-founder of Green Fingers Bangladesh, said, "The people of Chattogram have forced BR to stop the construction work on a hospital on CRB last year. And this time we will start a movement to save the trees." Meanwhile, CDA has yet to get permission from Bangladesh Railway to use this land. "We got a letter from CDA to lease out this land for constructing a ramp. But we are yet to give permission [for the ramp]," said an official of BR estate department, seeking anonymity. Project Director Mahfuzur confirmed that they have yet to get permission for land use from BR.

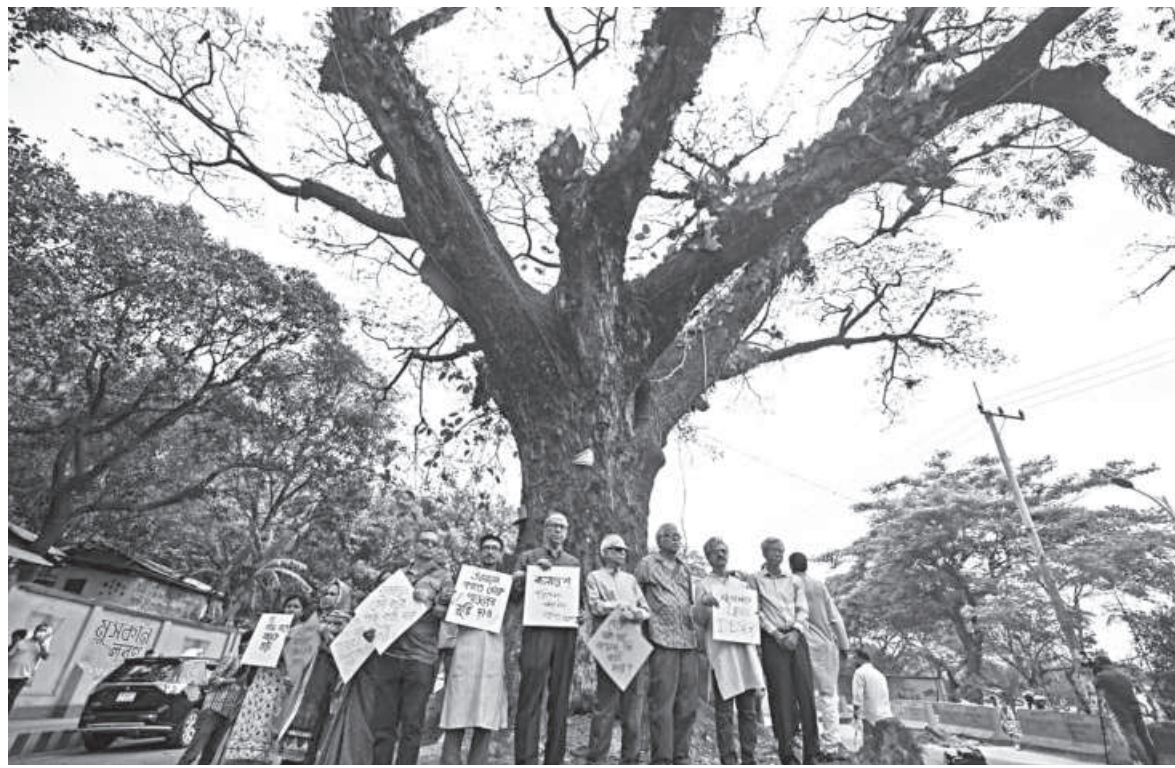


PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon formed a human chain at Chattogram city's Tigerpass area yesterday, protesting against a move to fell trees for the construction of a ramp for the Chattogram Elevated Expressway.

MURDER OF FOREST OFFICER

Not the first time in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar The killing of Sazzaduzzaman, 30, a forest officer in Cox's Bazar, was not the first time that a forest official got killed by those involved in hill razing and tree felling in the forest areas of Cox's Bazar. Sazzad, a beat officer Dochhari Forest Beat of Ukhiya range under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, tried to stop a dump truck carrying stolen earth from a razed hill on

Sunday when the truck ran over and left him dead on the spot. Earlier on July 30, 2020, Md Yousuf Uddin, 30, a forest officer of Maheshkhali Range, was injured when he came under attack by miscreants damaging a forest area in order to make space for growing betel leaf. Yousuf later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Chattogram Medical

College Hospital (CMCH) seven days later. A case was filed in this connection on August 1, 2020, in which five persons were arrested. However, four of the accused walked out of jail in 2022 after securing bail from the High Court, said Mohammad Belayet Hossen, divisional forest officer, Coastal Afforestation Division, Chattogram. There were numerous incidents

CHT lagging behind in maternity service: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban - under Chattogram Hill Tracts are lagging behind in maternity services, said speakers at an event yesterday. The rate of maternal mortality in CHT is higher than the other districts due to the lack of proper doctors, midwifery services and infrastructural development, the speakers added. They emphasised proper coordination and an integrated plan among the government's organisations, NGOs, community health service providers, and stakeholders to ensure safe birth and maternity services. The speakers came up with the opinion while addressing a workshop titled "Expanding Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Health Sector Response to Gender-based Violence (HGBV) services in hard-to-reach areas of Chattogram Hill Tracts". Director General of Health Services (DGHS), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs jointly

Control of one student body is a problem

Gayeshwar on student politics UNB, Dhaka BNP senior leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday said student politics on the university campuses is not the problem, the concern is over the control of a single student organisation on the campuses. "Because of the killing of Abarar Fahad, Buet authorities banned student politics on the campus, they will see whether such a situation is continuing or not and take decision accordingly," he said. He said these while talking to reporters after visiting injured BNP Natore district unit's joint convener Dewan Shahin at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Official notice from the Government of Bangladesh regarding procurement of goods. Includes details of tender ID, description, and contact information.

YOUTH MURDER No headway even in six months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal Law enforcers are yet to make any significant progress with the investigation of a case filed over six months ago in connection with the murder of a physically challenged youth in Ujirpur upazila of Barishal. Moreover, the investigation officer in the case has been changed four times since the case was filed. On August 28 last year, Mehedi Hasan, 19, went out of his house in Machhranga village under the upazila around 8:00pm, but did not return home later. His blood-stained body was recovered from the courtyard of his house two days later. Mehedi's father Kashem Bepari filed the case against unidentified accused with Ujirpur Police Station on August 30. After police failed to make any headway in the investigation, it was later transferred to the Detective Branch of police, confirmed Ali Arshad, officer in charge of the police station. "Although Mehedi was physically challenged, he was the lone earner of the family. My other son Naim went missing around six years ago. Now Mehedi is also no more. How will we live now?" said Mehedi's mother Hasina Begum. Police had arrested a local Jamal Kha and his associate Sourav in the case, but they were later released on bail. "Jamal Kha and their associates often forced my son to marry his sister's housemaid, but Mehedi

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Nilphamari. e-Tender Notice No. 29/2023-2024. Details of tender items and contact information.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Engineering Section, Head office Rangamati. e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method). Details of tender items and contact information.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT At least three people were killed in road accidents in Khulna and Dhaka yesterday, according to the reports from our correspondents. In Khulna, two people were killed when a cement-carrying truck hit a bicycle on Meherpur-Chudanga road in Chandbil area. One deceased was identified as Hasan Ali, 21, of Chandbil village. Additional Superintendent of Police (Circle) Abdul Karim said the accident left the bicycle riders dead on the spot. On information, two teams of fire service and police went to the spot and arrested truck driver Babul. The bodies were sent to Meherpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, a 60-year-old man died after being hit by a private car in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area. The deceased, identified as Anisur Rahman, was a security guard at a factory in Jurain. The accident occurred around 1:30am as he was crossing Mirpur Road near Labaid Hospital, said Monirul Islam, a sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station. He was critically injured after the private car hit him. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 3:30am, he added. The car sped away after the incident, the SI added. The body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer, Dacope, Khulna. Invitation for Tenders (Works) LTM Tender Notice No. 12/2023-2024. Details of tender items and contact information.