

'794 illegal brick kilns still running in Rangpur'

HC blasts divisional commissioner for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted Rangpur's Divisional Commissioner Md Zakir Hossain for his failure to evict all 812 illegal brick kilns in the division despite its directive.

"Rangpur's divisional commissioner has failed to comply with this court's directive, which is an inefficiency on his part," said the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil after seeing a compliance report from Zakir while hearing a writ petition.

According to the compliance report, 794 illegal brick kilns are still running in different districts of Rangpur, though the HC on March 4 directed the government to evict those within four weeks.

Earlier in the day, Zakir submitted the report to the HC through Assistant Attorney General Kalipada Mridha, saying there are 812 illegal brick kilns in Rangpur and operations of only 18 of those have been shut down.

The HC ordered him to give an explanation for failing to implement its directive, to take necessary steps to comply with the directive and to submit a compliance report in two weeks. The bench also fixed May 30 for further hearing and passing of order on this matter.



Nilima Roy takes her cattle to a nearby meadow to feed them. Starting from scratch, she now rears 16 cows. Nilima makes around Tk 2.5 lakh annually from selling milk and cattle, with which she supports her family. The photo was taken in Khulna's Batiaghata area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A kg of beef for

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Tuesday, this correspondent saw farmers standing with sacks of paddy. The traders were seen offering low prices for the crop amid a lack of monitoring.

Besides, most of them were unaware of the government price.

"I made Tk 4,000 by selling five maunds of paddy. The prices are too low today," said Maulvi Abdullah, a farmer from Baoni village.

He accused that a traders' syndicate controls the prices in the local markets.

"Rather than selling paddy at markets, we should have sold them from the fields before harvesting. We would at least make Tk 1,000 per maund," said Ebadullah, another farmer.

Mofiz Mia from Bhangnati village was taking his paddy elsewhere from the market.

Asked why he did not sell his produce, he said, "I

cultivate the BD-28 paddy variety. Traders here are offering me Tk 900 per maund, which is too low. So, I am going to another market hoping to get better offers."

"The prices were better last week when I sold 40 maunds at Tk 1,000 per maund. However, it has been reduced by Tk 200 within just a week," said farmer Abu Saeed of Bairagichala village.

However, traders denied the allegations.

"We had no idea about the prices being fixed by the government," said Mostafa Mia, a trader.

Asma Ul Hosna, food controller in Gazipur, said, "The price of paddy was Tk 32 per kilo as of this [Tuesday] morning. I am

unaware of the fact that the farmers are not getting proper prices, as I am new here. However, I will look into the matter."

Hope of seeing

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situation, she fell ill worrying about her youngest son.

"The first few days of being held hostage was incredibly hard. All 23 of us had to stay in the single bridge room and only had one toilet for use. We also struggled as we had to ration our water and food, in fear that we would be held captive for a long period," he shared.

"When a challenge like this comes along, other things feel trivial. We struggled, but our main concern was getting released safely," Ayub explained. "Thoughts of being reunited with my family kept me going."

Following 33 days of captivity, the Somali pirates finally released the ship and its crew on April 14. The crew members finally reached the Chattogram port on Tuesday.

Ayub got reunited with his family members. His eldest brother and maternal uncle came to the port city on Tuesday to receive him and the three reached their home in Rakhalia village under Raipur union around midnight.

Kamala Bhasin Award seeks applicants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee overseeing the "Kamla Bhasin Award for Driving Gender Equality Across South Asia" urged Bangladeshi individuals to apply for the award during an information session held yesterday.

After the death of Kamla Bhasin, the prominent Indian developmental feminist activist, poet, author, and social scientist, on September 25, 2021, Azad Foundation, National Foundation for India, and iPartner-India jointly launched the award.

The information session was organised by the committee at Jaitiya Press Club.

"A significant number of applicants from South Asian countries applied in 2022 and 2023. However, there were no applications submitted from Bangladesh in 2023," said Dolon Ganguly, chief functionary of Azad Foundation.

According to the committee, the jury comprises esteemed South Asian women's rights and human rights activists, philanthropists, and journalists.

Annually, the awards will recognise outstanding individuals in two categories: woman (cis or trans) excelling in non-conventional occupations, and man (cis or trans) advocating for gender equality.

The application process commenced on March 8, with a closing date of June 7, 2024. The award ceremony is slated for November 30 at the Habitat Center in New Delhi, India.

Rights activist and advisor of Sangat Khushi Kabir and advocate Nahid Sultana, member of the country core group of Sangat Bangladesh, among others, spoke at the event.

BNP raises

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Meanwhile at another programme, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said their party believes the US maintains the same position as before regarding free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

"Basically, what we have seen is that they (US) have consistently spoken in favour of a free and fair election and they still continue it," he told reporters in response to a question on US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu's visit. He said the US has been maintaining relations with the current AL government as per diplomatic norms.

"A country has to maintain ties with the governments of other countries, even with a military regime. In view of the current situation of Bangladesh, they (US) are doing what they think is necessary for their country. But they are not doing it against people of Bangladesh."

Referring to the Human Rights Report released by the US in April, Fakhrul said it contained much more criticism than what Bangladeshi media reported.

Need proper guideline to address mental health issues

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To help combat mental health issues in the country, experts and policymakers have called for a multifaceted approach, public-private partnerships, and comprehensive guidelines.

They also asked for an increase in the number of psychiatrists and psychologists to address the large number of mental health patients.

The remarks came at a symposium, titled "Current Status of Mental Health in Bangladesh & Strengthening Public-Private Partnership," held at a city hotel yesterday.

The programme was organised by Non-Communicable Disease Control of Directorate General of Health Services with the support of ADD International Bangladesh.

DGHS Director General Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam said to ensure mental health services in the country, the government must work in collaboration with stakeholders.

Prof Md Robed Amin, line director of NCDC, said comprehensive guideline, better treatment, more patient care centres and data preservation are needed to improve mental health services.

DGHS Additional Director General Meerjady Sabrina Flora said, "Mental health is a big issue in Bangladesh right now and the problem will grow in near future. We need to work with all the stakeholders to combat it."

Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed, associate professor of NIMH, said there are around 350-400 psychiatrists and over 500 psychologists in the country. The number of occupational therapists, speech therapists, and social workers is also insignificant.

"There is a big gap in mental health treatment in the country. A survey found the treatment gap to be 92 percent, meaning 92 out of every 100 patients in the country are out of the purview of mental treatment and health services for various reasons," he added.

Mental health is a big issue in Bangladesh right now and the problem will grow in near future. We need to work with all the stakeholders to combat it.

MEERJADY
SABRINA FLORA
DGHS additional DG

SC stays HC verdict

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review petitions and mercy petitions are finally disposed of by the HC, and Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and the president of the republic respectively.

It ordered the authorities

concerned to move such convicts from condemned cells to ordinary cells within two years, starting immediately.

The order came following a petition by three convicts on August 31, 2021.

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TENDER INVITATION

Tender is invited from the bonafide/intending suppliers/firms for the following items:

- Procurement of Laboratory Furniture and Sink (SS) with Ceramic Tabletop for Lab-09, Department of Pharmacy.
- Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Successfully Handover of Fire Hydrant & Suppression System of Farashuddin Bhaban (FUB) of EWU.

The schedule of the items with terms and conditions (hard copy) can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (1st floor) of the University until **09.06.2024** during office hours (up to 03:00 p.m.) on working days. The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is Tk.500/- for item no.1 and Tk.1000/- for item no.2.

A pre-bid meeting for item no. (2) will be held on 29.05.2024 at 11:00 A.M. at the conference room (4th floor) of the University.

The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule through hard copy by **10.06.2024** within 02:00 P.M. Hard copy of the tender must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2nd floor of the Office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. The tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened on the same day (10.06.2024) at 02:30 P.M. at the Conference Room (4th floor) of East West University in the presence of the bidders (if any) by ensuring health safety. The bidders must mention the "name of the item" at the top of envelope. Otherwise, the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof.

Chief of HR & Logistics

174 fire hydrants lying

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have to send us a letter to this end and meet with us," said AKM Fazlullah, managing director of the CWasa.

Fire service officials, however, claimed that CWasa took no steps to make the hydrants usable despite repeated requests made to them through letters.

A letter was last sent in November of last year to CWasa, citing the problems, they added.

Asked how CWasa would solve the problem of adequate water pressure,

Fazlullah said currently the firefighters collect water from ponds using water pumps, and they can use the same method when collecting water from hydrants.

"The hydrants are lying unused due to a lack of coordination between the two government agencies. It is an utter waste of public money," said Akter Kabir Chowdhury, president of Sachetan Nagorik Committee, a citizens' platform.

Need better

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Anam acknowledged Better Work's consistent and influential impact on policymaking regarding labour rights and fundamental issues.

He affirmed that The Daily Star will further address these issues in its editorials and commitments.

Moderated by Tanjim Ferdous of The Daily Star, the event was addressed by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry's President Ashraf Ahmed, Industrial Bangladesh Council's General Secretary Shahidullah Badal, DBL's Chief Sustainable Officer Mohammed Zahidullah, ILO's Deputy Programme Manager Laetitia Weibel Roberts, Prothom Alo's Assistant Editor Firoz Chowdhury, ITUC BC's Secretary General Shakil Chowdhury, BKMEA's Executive President Mohammad Hatem, and BWB's Programme Manager Mohammad Anis Agung, among others.

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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www.dhakabrt.gov.bd

Corrigendum

Memo No. 35.06.0000.010.07.002.24-376 Date: May 15, 2024

The Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Selection of a Consulting Firm to perform the consultancy service for Operational Design and Business Model (ODBM) for Dhaka BRT Company Limited", vide EOI Memo No. 35.06.0000.010.07.002.24-316, dated 25/04/2024 is hereby amended as follows:

Section	Title	Original Text	Amended Text
13 (II)	Evaluation Criteria for the Expression of Interest	"Applicants must submit evidence of having successfully executed at least one project in the past five years that demonstrates the following capabilities, in the following order of priorities"	"Applicants must submit evidence of having successfully executed at least one project in the past ten years that demonstrates the following capabilities, in the following order of priorities"

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be an integral part of the published REQI.

SD/-
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General Manager
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Chattogram South Road Division, Dohazari, Chattogram
E-mail: gectpsouth@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1582.414.36.01.05.24-895 Date: 14-05-2024

Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.gprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Chattogram South Road Division, Chattogram for Procurement of the following works/goods.

Sl No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Description of works/goods	Tendering method	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender fees/security last depositing (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01	ID No. 986256 e-GP/EE/CSRD/58/2023-2024	Supplying of Materials for Routine Maintenance works at different roads of Dohazari Road Sub-Division under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2023-2024.		30-05-2024 13:30	30-05-2024 10:00	30-05-2024 13:30
02	ID No. 985689 e-GP/EE/CSRD/54/2023-2024	Supply of materials for Routine maintenance works on different roads in the Dohazari Road Sub-Division under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	OTM	30-05-2024 13:30	30-05-2024 10:00	30-05-2024 13:30
03	ID No. 986255 e-GP/EE/CSRD/55/2023-2024	Supplying and Laying of Asphalt materials for emergency repair of existing Damaged pavement at different KM of different road of Dohazari Road Sub-Division under Chattogram South Road Division during the year of 2023-2024.		30-05-2024 13:30	30-05-2024 10:00	30-05-2024 13:30
04	ID No. 986256 e-GP/LTM/EE/CSRD/56/2023-2024	Repair and Protection of Damaged Road Embankment by Placing Geo-Bag and Installing M S Pipe Piling at 4th PKM and 5th PK of Hoshimpur Rail Station-Bagichhat-Bornami Road (Z-1036) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	LTM	30-05-2024 13:30	30-05-2024 10:00	30-05-2024 13:30
05	ID No. 986255 e-GP/LTM/EE/CSRD/57/2023-2024	Flood-damaged Khodrahat Bridge Approach Repair by Re-Sectioning, Strengthening and Installing M S pipe Piling at 18th PK of Paliya-Chandausah-Baithali Road (Z-1039) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	LTM	30-05-2024 13:30	30-05-2024 10:00	30-05-2024 13:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.gprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@gprocure.gov.bd).

Pinto Chakma
ID No. 602219
Executive Engineer, RHD
Chattogram South Road Division