

FIRE SAFETY IN PORT CITY 174 fire hydrants lying unused for over two years

SIFAYETULLAH, City

A total of 174 fire hydrants set up in different areas of Chattogram city are wearing out as those have been lying idle since installation.

According to firefighters, those cannot be used due to different hydrant coupling sizes and inadequate water pressure.

The Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority installed the hydrants at a cost of Tk 2 crore in six different areas of the port city under two projects between 2019 and 2022.

According to a recent survey of the fire service, a total of 1,750 commercial and residential buildings and 42 markets in the port city are at grave risk of fire.

CWasa installed the hydrants after the fire service demarcated 86 places to this end, in a bid to mitigate the crisis of water for firefighting in the city as the ponds and waterbodies are mostly lost to grabbing.

"The coupling size of the installed hydrants is smaller than the ones we use. As such, we cannot attach our hose pipes to the hydrants and hence fail to fetch water from those," said Dinmoni Sharma, deputy director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Chattogram.

Also, a water pressure of four to five bars is needed to use hydrants for dousing fire, but these hydrants have water pressure of only one bar, he added.

Contacted, CWasa officials, however, said they are ready to mitigate these problems to make the hydrants usable.

"Small coupling size is not a big problem. We can solve it. But, they [Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence]



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

A kg of beef for a maund of paddy!

Lack of monitoring deprives Gazipur farmers of fair price

MONJURUL HAQUE, Gazipur

Kamal Mia, a farmer in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila, went to a local market recently to sell a maund of paddy to buy meat and other essentials as he was expecting guests.

However, all his hopes and plans went out of the window as soon as he came to know that he would only get Tk 800 for the crop.

His disappointment became despair when he could only



afford a kilogramme of beef (priced at Tk 750 per kilo) with the money.

"There is no profit in paddy production. As the prices were low today, I only sold a maund and returned home with just a

kilo of meat," said Kamal. The disappointment in his voice was undeniable.

Moulvi Abdullah, Ebadullah, and Mofiz Mia were also compelled to sell their paddy at lower prices in the local markets.

While the authorities have fixed the price of paddy at Tk 1,280 per maund, the prices offered at the markets in Sreepur are usually lower, depriving farmers of fair prices.

Visiting the markets on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

3RD PHASE UZ POLLS BNP expels 52 more leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has expelled 52 grassroots leaders for defying the party's directive by participating in the third phase of the upcoming upazila elections.

Among those expelled are 17 chairman candidates, 26 vice chairman candidates, and nine female vice-chairman candidates.

These leaders have been dismissed from all party positions, including primary membership, as outlined by party rules, according to a press release issued yesterday.

Previously, BNP had issued show-cause notices to 45 candidates for contesting the upazila elections scheduled for May 29.

In total, the BNP has expelled 193 grassroots leaders for participating in the upazila elections - 80 in the first, 61 in the second, and 52 in the third phases.

Sreepur chairman aspirant's candidacy scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday scrapped the candidacy of Jamil Hasan, a chairman aspirant running for Sreepur upazila of Gazipur, for violating electoral code of conduct.

Jamil is the brother of State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Rumana Ali.

The commission took the decision after holding a hearing on Jamil's alleged violations. Jamil appeared in person before the EC.

However, the commission was not satisfied with his answer, said EC Additional Secretary Ashok Kumar Debnath.

Sreepur upazila will go to polls on May 21, on the second phase of ongoing upazila elections.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

SC stays HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till August 25 the High Court verdict that ordered the authorities concerned to move the prisoners, sentenced to death, to ordinary cells of jails from condemned cells.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice MEnayetur Rahim passed the order following a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC judgement.

The judge also asked the government to file a leave to appeal petition with this court against the

HC verdict.

During the hearing, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that problems have been created in the prisons because of the HC judgement, as the death-row prisoners are demanding that they have to be brought out of jails.

The HC in its verdict has issued some directions and observations, which need to be examined by the Appellate Division through holding hearing appeal against the verdict, and that is why, the HC verdict needs to be stayed now, he argued.

Meanwhile, writ petitioners'

lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir opposed the government's stay petition, saying that the HC in its verdict has disposed of the rule with some directions and observations.

But the directions and observations are not specifically clear as the certified copy of the HC judgement is yet to be released, he argued.

The HC on May 13 delivered the verdict saying that the prisoners, who have been sentenced to death by the trial courts, cannot be kept in condemned cells until their appeals,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD. Road Division, Brahmanbaria. Memo No. 35.01.1213.400.14.259.21.786. Date: 15.5.24. e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal...

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড. ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা. ঢাকা-১২০৮. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ইতিমধ্যে নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত প্রকৃতকর্তা/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত হানে দরপত্র আহ্বান করণে :-

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ. পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়. হাইওয়ে পুলিশ কুমিল্লা রিজিয়ন. প্লট-৪, ব্লক-এন, সেকশন-১. হাউজিং এস্টেট, কুমিল্লা. উনুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. শর্তাবলী: ১. প্রকল্পের নাম: হাইওয়ে পুলিশ কুমিল্লা রিজিয়ন...