

PM seeks UAE investment

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on investors from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to come up with investments in Bangladesh's special economic zones.

She said this as UAE Ambassador to Dhaka Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif Alhmoudi called on her at Gono Bhaban.

PM's Press Secretary Md Nayeemul Islam Khan briefed the reporters after the meeting.

The UAE envoy said his country would issue visas for Bangladeshi manpower to ensure their jobs in the UAE.

According to Khan, the UAE ambassador assured the prime minister that they would take the manpower from Bangladesh making sure that the job is waiting for them.

He said the premier and the UAE ambassador put emphasis on not allowing any illegal migrant from Bangladesh. "Both the countries have agreed to be more aware of this matter," he added.



UAE Ambassador to Dhaka, Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif Alhmoudi, at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Revise CSA before implementing the rules

Demand TIB, Article-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as the Cyber Security Act mirrors the controversial Digital Security Act, the draft cyber security rules is a re-packaged version of digital security rules, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh and Article-19 organised the press conference.

Quazi Mahfujuul Hoque Supan, associate professor of law at the University of Dhaka, highlighted that 19 rules in the draft are identical to those found in the Digital Security Rules, 2020.

According to Supan, the proposed rules are inadequate for addressing the complexities of cyber security, pointing out that Cyber Tribunals currently maintain a conviction rate of only 2.7 percent due to challenges in producing credible digital evidence.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, expressed deep concerns about the implications of the rules, saying, "We do not see any possibility of the goals and objectives of the law and rules being met."

He cautioned that the proposed cyber security agency lacks independent oversight, raising risks of privacy violations and arbitrary government access to information.

Meanwhile, Supan also criticised the organisational structure of the proposed agency, noting that it is top-heavy with six directors including a director general,

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DNCC, DSCC gear up for swift removal of waste

DIPAN NANDY

The Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka North City Corporation have announced comprehensive plans to ensure timely and efficient removal of sacrificial animal waste during Eid-ul-Azha.

A combined workforce of over 18,000 sanitation workers will be deployed to manage the waste within the city, with both corporations committed to clearing the waste within 24 hours.

DNCC and DSCC have come up with separate plans to clean up the waste of sacrificial animals.

DSCC has mobilised approximately 9,497 employees to handle the cleanup. In addition to DSCC's own garbage vehicles, 360 cars from the organisation will be used in the operation.

To aid residents, DSCC will distribute 1.40 lakh eco-friendly biodegradable bags along with bleaching powder and disinfectants. A dedicated water vehicle will also be

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WASTE MANAGEMENT ON EID

MEASURES	DNCC	DSCC
Time to dispose of waste	6 hours	24 hours
Manpower	9,337	9,497
Vehicles to carry waste	Over 480	Over 360
Eco-friendly bags	1 lakh	1.40 lakh

CATTLE MARKETS IN DHAKA

Small bulls in short supply

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A significant number of middle and large-sized bulls have been brought to various cattle markets in Dhaka, but the supply of small bulls remains low despite high demand.

Cattle traders are primarily focusing on middle and large-sized bulls due to lower risk of loss, and the potential for higher profits if market trends remain favourable.

Visiting Gabtoli, Kamalapur, and Kachukhet kitchen markets, it was seen that only 20 to 35 percent of bulls were priced below Tk 1 lakh.

Forhad Hossain, a cattle trader from Kushtia, said small-sized bulls are mainly sold in markets outside Dhaka, leading to a scarcity in the capital's markets.

Forhad, who brought five bulls priced below Tk 1 lakh each, sold one weighing around 100kg to 110kg for Tk 92,000 on Wednesday.

"The supply of small-sized bulls in Dhaka is less, although many customers this year are preferring smaller bulls due to low price. I want to capitalise on the high demand," he said.

Abul Kashem, a trader at Kachukhet cattle market, brought 15 bulls weighing around 100kg from Kuakata, priced between Tk 90,000 and Tk 1 lakh. Similarly, Shafiq Uddin, a trader from Jhenaidah, reported that out of 70



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

bulls brought to Kachukhet market by 10 traders, only five were priced below Tk 1 lakh.

Meanwhile, Azmir Sardar, a trader from Pabna, said despite the potential for high profits from large bulls, there is also a significant risk of loss.

He said he did not face any loss last year from his five small-sized bulls, but incurred a Tk 1 lakh loss from seven large-sized bulls. He said customers are preferring smaller bulls due to inflation.

Ahmed brought 13 small-sized bulls to Kamalapur cattle market this year.

The tendency to bring larger bulls to Dhaka has left many residents struggling to find

affordable smaller bulls.

Abdus Sattar, a resident of Rampura Mohanagar Project, purchased a bull for Tk 65,000, weighing around 65kg, after visiting the cattle market twice and failing to find a reasonably priced option.

Shamsul Alam, a resident of Pallabi, also faced difficulty finding a small-sized bull with a Tk 70,000 budget and eventually had to pool resources with others to buy a bull for Tk 1.30 lakh.

Until yesterday evening, the number of customers remained low.

However, traders hope that customer turnout would increase from today.

Green Field Factory, Mohshin Khan Mausoleum win RIBA award

STAR REPORT

The architectural designs of Rangpur's Green Field Factory by Nakshabid Architects and Manikganj's Shah Muhammad Mohsin Khan Mausoleum by Sthapotik have been awarded prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award.

They are among the 22 winners of "The RIBA International Awards for Excellence 2024" announced recently, said a RIBA press release.

"The RIBA International Awards for Excellence" celebrate the most exemplary architecture from across the world and the 22 winning projects represent a significant cultural shift in the way that architecture is designed and built for current and future generations, the release said.



Left, Rangpur's Green Field Factory. Right, Manikganj's Shah Muhammad Mohsin Khan Mausoleum.

GREEN FIELD FACTORY OF KARUPANNYA RANGPUR LIMITED

More than just a place of work, this rug making factory embraces all aspects of the natural environment for the benefit and wellbeing of the employees.

A functional building form, draped in beautiful planting, facilitating shade and filtered natural

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Negligence of ACs, OCs behind theft during holidays

Says DMP chief; security beefed up ahead of Eid

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Incidents of theft typically increase during the holidays as many residents leave the capital for their hometowns.

In a recent special crime conference, the DMP Commissioner said inadequate supervision by officers-in-charge (OCs) and zonal assistant commissioners (ACs) are responsible for such incidents. He said delayed setup of check posts is also to blame.

Keeping these points in mind, Dhaka Metropolitan Police is taking proactive measures ahead of Eid-ul-Azha to curb theft incidents.

DMP has issued 12 point instructions in this regard which include gathering information on known thieves, conducting targeted drives to apprehend suspects, and intensifying monitoring to reduce theft incidents to zero.

Additionally, detailed analysis of seized

cell phones' call records will be conducted to aid in investigations.

The instructions also require ACs and OCs to personally visit theft sites and notify updates through WhatsApp groups after incidents occur.

Police sources reported approximately 97 thefts in Dhaka during the past two months.

DMP yesterday issued a new directive instructing police officers to conduct meetings with banks, insurance companies, ATM booths, and residents within their jurisdictions. They were also tasked with gathering contact numbers of these individuals and forwarding them to the DMP's crime department.

Kh Mahid Uddin, additional commissioner (crime and operations) of the DMP, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have already alerted residents, and security guards of the financial institutes."

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INSTRUCTIONS

- ➔ Conducting drives
- ➔ Intensifying monitoring
- ➔ Setting up check posts
- ➔ Collect info of financial institutes' guards

BUET GOES SOLAR

All 19 buildings of the university now have solar panels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rooftops of all 19 buildings of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Bu et) now have solar panels that can generate up to 3.5 megawatts during peak hours in the day.

This is the first time a university in Bangladesh has used all of their roofs to generate electricity. This initiative will allow them to meet around 10 percent of their electricity demand.

"We will be able to reduce at least Tk 12 crore electricity bills in the next 25 years [Tk

50 lakh per year] with this setup," said Prof Abdul Jabbar Khan, pro-vice chancellor of Bu et at an event yesterday.

He said roofs in most institutes are restricted for students and remain unused, so it can be a great source of electricity.

It is time to reduce dependency in importing solar panels, he said, adding that they will work to establish local factories to produce the equipment.

Bu et VC Prof Satya Prasad Majumder said Bu et has set an example in the journey towards clean energy.

"We hope other institutes will follow

us," he said, adding that they will now work to improve efficiency of solar panels.

Infrastructure Development Company Limited has financed the project.

Alamgir Morshed, CEO of IDCOL, said they have been working on financing to ensure 500MW of electricity from renewable sources, including rooftop by 2025.

"More commercial banks should come forward as financing is one of the major challenges here," he added.



PHOTO: ASIFUR RAHMAN