

# ‘We need better transport service for a better Dhaka’

## Speakers tell BIP conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Planners yesterday urged the government to ensure quality bus service in Dhaka to improve its position in the global liveable city index.

Dhaka has dropped two places to 168th on the Economist Group's Global Liveability Index. This decline from last year's 166th rank has placed Dhaka just above Karachi, while Kyiv, the war-torn capital of Ukraine, ranks three places higher.

The annual survey, published on June 27, assessed the liveability of 173 cities based on stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.

BIP, during a press conference at its conference hall, recommended building new playgrounds and parks that are open to everyone.

BIP President Adil Mohammed Khan said the government is prioritising the infrastructure sector in the capital but the question is whether the infrastructure is in place to benefit more people.

Akhter Mahmud, former president of BIP, stressed the need for making all the ministries accountable.

BIP's other suggestions included taking effective initiatives to reduce waterlogging, and protecting waterbodies.

# Four to die for killing B'baria AL leader in 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced four persons to death and 10 others to life term imprisonment for killing Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila Awami League vice president AKM Iqbal Azad in 2012.

Judge Mohammad Halim Ullah Chowdhury gave the verdict. The death row convicts are Rafiq Uddin Thakur, Mafuz Ali, Mokkarm Ali Sohel, and Ismat Ali.

Public Prosecutor Ashok Kumar Das said the court sent the convicts -- all leaders and activists of AL and its associate wings -- to jail.

Iqbal Azad was stabbed and hacked to death by his political rivals on October 12, 2012. The PP said Iqbal was murdered in a planned way so that the convicts could grab tender businesses and others political benefits.

# Gazette delay leaves candidates

FROM PAGE 3

been posted, and it's frustrating not being able to provide them with satisfactory answers," Rashed told this newspaper.

"It has even led me to avoid public gatherings. Some of the recommended candidates didn't even go home for Eid. Those who did, stayed away from social programmes just to avoid answers," he added.

Maruf Rahman, another candidate, said being unable to start their roles, they are missing out on practical experience that could increase their skills and knowledge, which is crucial given the huge number of pending cases that need to be resolved.

AGM Al Masud, deputy secretary of BJSC secretariat, said, "We already did our part a long time ago. However, it sometimes takes a prolonged time for police verification reports and other bureaucratic processes."

Contacted, Md Rezaul Karim, public relations officer of the law ministry, said, "We haven't gotten the police verification files yet. It is contributing to

# SUNDARBANS Mangroves along rivers to be restored

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Forest Department has taken an initiative to reforest the lost mangroves on the banks of 52 rivers and canals adjacent to the Sundarbans in Khulna, Bagerhat, and Satkhira.

Under the initiative, only the plants that grow naturally in the Sundarbans will be planted on the banks of the rivers and canals that flow through Sharankhola, Morrelganj, Mongla, Dacope, Koyra, and Shyamnagar upazilas of the districts.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh and the Forest Department will jointly implement this initiative titled "Upper Sundarbans Restoration Programme" with funding from the French Development Agency.

The initiative will enhance the region's capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change by bringing back the lost mangroves. It will be implemented following the model of mangrove afforestation done across five acres of land on the banks of the lake at Sheikh Russel Eco Park in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila.

Dr Abu Nasser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer, said from July 6 to 8, officials of the department, members of the French Development Agency and IUCN Bangladesh will visit the cyclone-affected areas and the mangrove model created in the eco park.



PHOTO: STAR

# Encroachment, pollution killing Burai beel

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Burai Beel, an important natural swamp in Tangail district town, is quickly shrinking due to pollution and illegal encroachment.

Once a vast waterbody, locals used it to commute to the district town from adjoining areas. It also served as a natural reservoir of native fish species, providing livelihood to local fishermen.

Tangail municipality, which is responsible for protecting waterbodies in the areas under its jurisdiction, has been dumping municipal wastes into Burai through several drains, thereby polluting its water. Moreover, some local influential people, including those with political backing, have been encroaching the swamp by filling it with different structures and claiming ownership using forged documents.

As a result, the swamp is now on its death bed. It can no longer drain away the accumulated rainwater of

the town during monsoon, leading to waterlogging in neighbouring areas.

"We used to bathe in Burai's clean water decades back. Now the water is as polluted and dirty as it gets. It was also full of indigenous fish species," said Rafiqul Islam, a local.

Gautam Chandra Chanda, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said Burai Beel and waterbodies in Tangail are disappearing due to people's greed and authorities' irresponsibility.

Ratan Ahmed Siddique, general secretary of Committee to Protect Waterbodies in Tangail, said many areas in the town have become prone to waterlogging due to poor drainage system, and loss of waterbodies.

Contacted, SM Sirajul Haque Khan Alamgir, mayor of Tangail municipality, said they are aware of the issue and steps are underway to recover and protect all waterbodies in the town.

# Adulterated drugs a major challenge

## Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Low-quality and adulterated drugs is a major challenge for Bangladesh, said Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen yesterday.

The minister said this at a programme titled, "Meeting of the assembly members of SEARN", in the capital.

The event was organised by South-east Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN), a network of health ministers of 11 member states from the WHO South-East Asia Region.

Sen said ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines is of paramount importance to protect people's health.

"The gathering of member states created a valuable opportunity for us to exchange experiences and strengthen drug abuse control in our regions," he added.

Maj Gen Mohammad Yousuf, director general of Directorate General of Drug Administration, Dr Rokeya Sultana and DGHS Director General Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam also spoke.

# DNCC launches school bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday introduced school bus service on a pilot basis in a bid to mitigate traffic congestion and ensure safety of students.

As part of the initiative, three buses were given to Banani Bidyanketan School for transporting its students.

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said these buses will have modern technology including CCTV cameras and app-based tracking system to ensure safety of children.

Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury and DMP Commissioner Habibur Rahman were present at the event.



# Militants using

FROM PAGE 3

However, Md Lutfur Rahman, jailer of the Kashimpur High-Security Jail, said, "There is no possibility of militants using mobile phones, as we are maintaining high security inside the prison."

He also refuted the allegations of guards helping inmates.

Meanwhile, CTC officials have intercepted communications revealing that Neo JMB leader Saiful Islam Khaled, accused in the Gulshan café attack, used Telegram from Kashimpur high-security jail to contact IS militants in Afghanistan's Khorasan province, seeking financial support to reorganise Neo JMB in Bangladesh.

The outfit is also recruiting members inside jail, CTC sources said.

To boost finances, the group plans to buy a speedboat, CNG-run autorickshaws, and motorbikes for income generation, they added.

Abu Ahsan Habib Al Bangali, also known as Lion, who is currently on the run after being released on bail, is overseeing all these activities.

The Neo JMB has collected 1.5 lakh phone numbers and uses those to recruit new members through text messages, the intelligence report adds.

They also spread posters and PDFs on online platforms, and have formed eight social media platforms in this regard.

Abu Adnan Al Bengali, a top leader, has been designated for media operations.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur Rahman said online propaganda poses a significant challenge due to its ability to quickly spread extremist ideology with minimal cost.

The outfit intends to establish remote hill hideouts for operational activities and train new experts in bomb and arms manufacturing.

Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of the CTC unit, said, "The outfit is altering its strategy to evade law enforcement, but we have heightened vigilance to thwart their subversive intentions."

(Our Gazipur correspondent also contributed to this report.)

# Freedom

FROM PAGE 3

fundamental goal of freedom. It destroys the purpose of creating a society based on justice without discrimination."

Hesaidtheconstitution talks about equality in terms of opportunities. "If the constitution is to be obeyed then it must be obeyed properly...," he added.

"The country needs talent to move forward... The world will not depend on our sentiments. We have to compete. If merit is not given priority, on what basis will we compete?" he questioned.

Quader also spoke about the movement of teachers over the pension scheme. He said such a situation has been created due to a lack of trust in the government.

# ACC seizes six Brahma cows from Sadeeq Agro

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday seized six cows of Brahma breed from Sadeeq Agro's farm in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

A drive, led by ACC Assistant Director Abul Kalam Azad, was conducted at the farm in the presence of Dhaka District Livestock Officer Basana Akhter, ACC Public Relations Officer Akhtarul Islam told The Daily Star.

He said the cows have been placed under the custody of the Department of Livestock Services.

Brahma cows were imported from the United States, which is prohibited. During the operation, neither the owner nor the manager of Sadeeq Agro was found.

# A family torn apart

FROM PAGE 5

SM Ajharul Islam, district fisheries officer, said they informed the coast guard so that they can recover the bodies.

"We have urged police to increase monitoring so that no fishing boat can go out to sea until the ban ends on July 23," he added.

Jahangir and other villagers urged the government to provide financial support to the missing fishermen's families and the village as well.

## Career Opportunity at BTMA

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) is looking for 07 (seven) full-time employees for its secretariat as per the following requirements:

- 1. Deputy Secretary General (Banking & NBR): 01**  
Master's in Law/Finance/Accounting/Economics/Business Administration with a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in banking, finance, or related fields.
- 2. Assistant Secretary General (Research & Publication): 01**  
Master's in Textile Engineering/Statistics/Economics or Business Administration from a recognized university with a minimum of 3 years of professional experience in research/publications section in any reputed organization.
- 3. Assistant Secretary General (Administration & HRD): 01**  
Master's in Business Administration/Public Administration or a related field from a recognized university with at least 3 years in a managerial or senior HR role.
- 4. Officer (Research & Publication): 01**  
Master's in Textile Engineering/Economics/Statistics/Business Administration or a related field from a recognized university. Outstanding academic results within the given academic discipline will be an added advantage.
- 5. Officer (Certification & Documentation): 02**  
Master's in Business Administration/Business Studies/Economics or a related field from a recognized university. Experience within a similar trade organization in the textile and apparel sector in a relevant position will be preferred.
- 6. Officer (Cash): 01**  
Master's in Finance/Accounting/Business Studies or a related field from a recognized university. Experience within a similar trade organization in the textile and apparel sector in a relevant position will be preferred.

**Application Process:**  
Interested candidates meeting the above criteria are invited to submit their CV along with a cover letter to the respective posts:

1. Email at [recruitment@btmadhaka.com](mailto:recruitment@btmadhaka.com) by July 15, 2024. Please mention the position applied for in the subject line of the email.
2. Submit a hard copy to the following address:  
Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)  
UTC Bhaban (Level-8), 8, Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
For detail, interested applicants may visit the following:  
<https://btmadhaka.com/>, <https://www.bdjobs.com/>

## FOR SALE

Wheel loader, tipper truck, Forklift, Generator, bulldozer, Pile driver barge, Concrete Block-making mixer machine Etc. Location: Barisal. **CICO Bangladesh** Gulshan-2, Dhaka. **Mobile: 01818-443196**

### Sources Sought Notice (SSN) for a Potential Digital Development Activity of USAID/Bangladesh

An SSN is requested from all local non-governmental organizations capable of implementing a maximum of \$5 million digital activity contract. This SSN aims to collect information and innovative ideas for planning the new Digital Development Activity designs. For detailed information, please Visit <https://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/business-opportunities> or email [mmhussain@usaid.gov](mailto:mmhussain@usaid.gov) and [schang@usaid.gov](mailto:schang@usaid.gov).

**Solomon Chang**  
Contracting Officer  
USAID/Bangladesh

D-37

## Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.  
Phone: 222218331-33 Website: [www.pksf.org.bd](http://www.pksf.org.bd)

Memo No. 53.23.0000.03.009.24.3993 Date: 03-07-2024

### e-GP Tender Notice (Goods)

PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Description	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1001128	Procurement of Laptop (12 nos.), Printer (8 nos.), Camera (3 nos.), Photocopy Machine (3 nos.), Scanner (3 nos.) and Digital Display Board/4K Android TV (2 nos.) under GCF-RHL, GCF-ECCCP-Drought and giz-Haor Project of PKSF. (Package no- PKSF/GCF/RHL/2023 -2024/GD-01)	03-07-2024 & 10:00 AM	30-07-2024 & 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Deputy Managing Director-1**