

ROOPPUR PLANT Russian woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

A Russian national was found dead in Green City, the residential area of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project in Pabna's Ishwardi, on Friday night.

The deceased, identified as 39-year-old Kesoni Postahuk, was employed by SMU-I, a company working on the project, said Shahidul Islam, officer in charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

Police suspect Kesoni fell to her death after jumping from a high-rise building between 11:30pm and 11:45pm.

She lived with her husband, also a project employee, on the third floor

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Residents rely on boats on a daily basis to cross this canal and commute to Pirojpur town and nearby areas due to the absence of a bridge, whose construction has been stalled for four years. The unavailability of boats at times further exacerbates their struggles. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Freedom of speech, press will be in peril

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reasons, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They said the new draft is nothing new compared to the previous two, and the move to issue an ordinance without proper consultation with stakeholders is a betrayal to the aspirations of the July uprising.

The discussion, titled "Cyber Protection and Ordinance 2024: State Oppression Exists and Negligence to the Spirit of Mass Uprising", was organised by Voice for Reforms, a citizens' platform, at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Irene Khan, UN special rapporteur of freedom of opinion and expression, said the ambiguities in the ordinance will encourage the misuse of state power.

She pointed out sections 25 and 26 as barriers to the freedom of expression, adding that some of the provisions contradict the human rights-related conventions with international bodies, including the UN, which were signed by Bangladesh.

The international arena has already agreed on some of the best practices on cyber protection, which Bangladesh should follow

to enact a law, Irene said, adding that defamation should not be counted as a criminal offence, though the draft does so.

"How will the media practise political satire and cartoons and who will determine which is defamatory or not?"

She also said the ordinance failed to address the issues of disinformation and misinformation.

Barrister Sara Hossain raised concerns on the process of drafting the new ordinance, saying they are raising the same issues for the draft ordinance as they had been with the DSA and CSA since 2006.

For example, she said, the sections of blasphemy remain the same -- allowing a person to file a case if their "religious sentiments are hurt", adding that such issues vary from person to person.

She also mentioned that the new provisions added for the protection of women and children were formulated without consulting the very groups they are meant to protect.

Photographer Shahidul Alam, co-convenor of Voice for Reform, said the government that came

to power through the sacrifices of thousands of lives should not issue such an ordinance that would violate human rights.

He emphasised the need for transparent discussions to finalise the act. "If a law is made in the interest of the public, it must reflect public interests and not be imposed without the consideration of the people's voices."

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said the new draft ordinance brought no structural and qualitative changes except some linguistic ones.

"The traps for the citizen's and journalists remain the same in the draft. The law was initiated aiming to control the people's voices.... Though it is named 'cyber protection', it will only serve the purposes of the state...."

He added that the ordinance lacks a clear explanation of cyberbullying and some other crimes, adding that the definitions in it are "disorganised".

Jyotirmoy also questioned the process of establishing the Cyber Security Council, which allows people with no knowledge on cyber spaces to join it.

He further criticised sections 25, 26 and 35 of the draft ordinance, saying, "There are similar provisions [in the previous laws] that can be misused against the minorities instead of protecting them."

Didarul Islam Bhuiyan, activist of Rastrachinta, said there should not be any clause which allows the police to detain someone without a warrant.

"The draft allows this and also allows them [police] to check personal gadgets."

He added that although many cases against political leaders, who were victims of the Awami League regime, were withdrawn, many of them are still being harassed with the DSA and CSA.

Bobby Hajaj, chairman of Nationalist Democratic Movement; Saimum Reza Talukder, assistant attorney General of the International Crimes Tribunal; Mohammad Taufiqul Islam, director of Transparency International Bangladesh's Outreach and Communication Division; Asaduzzaman Fuaad, joint member secretary of AB (Amar Bangladesh) Party, and Shabhanaz Rashid Diya, executive director of Tech Global Institute, also spoke among others.

Cops want their own commission

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including a police commission," Inspector General of Police Barahul Alam told The Daily Star on December 29.

The commission's goals are to ensure that police remain neutral, independent, and committed to protecting human rights in alignment with public expectations. Additionally, it aims to safeguard the rule of law and protect individual liberties.

The proposed police commission's framework was drawn up in line with an online survey by the Police Reform Commission.

Among the 14,389 respondents, 58.9 percent supported the creation of a separate oversight body to ensure police accountability and protect them from external interference, according to police officials involved in the process.

"We have received a proposal from the IGP that suggests a constitutional commission," Safar Raj told The Daily Star recently.

A member of the reform commission said the commission is set to include the police proposal as an annex to its final report.

It would also recommend a police commission without specifying a format, he said wishing anonymity.

COMMISSION'S STRUCTURE
The proposed police commission will comprise 11 members with a retired Appellate Division judge

or a retired IGP as the chairperson.

The members will include four MPs -- two from the ruling party and two from opposition parties. The names would be recommended by the parliament speaker in consultation with the prime minister and leader of the opposition.

The commission will also include four non-political personalities -- a legal expert, a human rights activist, a retired IGP and one academician on social science or policing. These four people, one of whom will be female, will be appointed by the president from a list of six that will be forwarded by a selection committee.

Besides, the home secretary and incumbent IGP will be ex officio members with the IGP serving as member secretary.

The Chief Justice or an Appellate Division judge nominated by the top judge will head the selection committee which will include the heads of Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Comptroller and Auditor General, National Human Rights Commission and either a retired secretary or a retired IGP.

COMMISSION'S FUNCTION

The commission will recommend a panel of three officers not below the rank of additional inspectors general to the president for IGP appointment.

The top cop's tenure will range between two and three years, irrespective of

the retirement age.

The proposed commission is envisioned also to have the authority to remove an IGP, if majority of the commission agree with the decision.

It will also recommend names for appointments to important positions, including heads of police training institutions, specialised units, deputy inspectors general (DIGs), metropolitan commissioners and district superintendents.

Each appointment, according to the proposal, will be for two years.

Additionally, the commission will formulate policies on recruitment, transfers, promotions and other service matters.

"This will put an end to the practice of picking officers for promotions and lucrative positions based on their political loyalties," said another reform commission member.

The proposed commission will also draft a national public safety policy, and police related laws, rules and regulations if and when necessary.

It will also be responsible to determine the scope of lawful use of force and plan police training, capacity building and formation of specialised units as and when required.

COMMISSION'S TENURE

The tenure of the police commission's members will be four years. The MPs will cease to be on the commission if the parliament is dissolved, while appointment to the

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 5

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Faz | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5:30 | 12:45 | 4:00 | 5:30 | 7:00 |
| JAMAAT 6:05 | 1:15 | 4:15 | 5:35 | 7:30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PIROJPUR SADAR UPAZILA

Bridge work stalled for four years

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Construction of a 42 metre girder bridge has remained suspended for four years, causing immense sufferings to residents of three unions under Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

According to sources at the upazila engineer's office, the Local Government Engineering Department initiated construction of the bridge over Tona canal between Chalpukhuria and Gopherhat areas in September 2020 at a cost of Tk 4.27 crore to enhance connectivity between Kalakhali, Tona and Durgapur unions in the upazila.

A contractor firm named Mohammed

Eunus and Brothers (Pvt) Ltd got the work order, with a stipulated deadline of one year to complete the construction. The firm, however, failed to begin the work in time, leading to extension of the deadline by one more year.

Eventually the contractor firm abandoned the work after completing around 30 percent of the bridge's construction, leading to suspension of the project.

Earlier, there was an iron bridge on the canal, which became dilapidated within a short time. The construction of a new bridge began around four years ago, but the work got suspended after the contractor abandoned it and even removed

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Host and FDMN Enhancement of lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP)
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0000.560.07.001.24.14

Date: 02/01/2025

Invitation for Tenders IFT No: 01/2024-2025

| Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 Ministry/Division | Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives/ Local Government Division. | |
| 2 Agency | Local Government Engineering Department | |
| 3 Procuring Entity Name | Project Director, Host and FDMN Enhancement of lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP), LGED. | |
| 4 Procuring Entity Code | Not used at present | |
| 5 Procuring Entity District | Dhaka | |
| 6 Invitation for | Vehicle hiring for transport services: a) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 7 persons b) Two-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 5 persons c) One-Sedan Car, Seat capacity 5 persons d) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle (Double Cabin Pick up), Seat capacity 5 persons (Package No: HELP/S-16). | Single Lot |
| 7 Invitation Ref No. | 46.02.0000.560.07.001.24 | |
| 8 Date | 02/01/2025 | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | |
| 9 Procurement Method | NCT (Non-Consulting Service) | Open |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | |
| 10 Budget and Source of Funds | Development Budget (IDA) | Credit |
| 11 Development Partners (if applicable) | IDA | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | |
| 12 Project/ Programme Code (if applicable) | 224402800 | |
| 13 Project/ Programme Name (if applicable) | Project Director, Host and FDMN Enhancement of lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP) | |
| 14 Tender Package No. | Package No: HELP/S-16 | |
| 15 Tender Package Name | Vehicle hiring for transport services: a) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 7 persons b) Two-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 5 persons c) One-Sedan Car, Seat capacity 5 persons d) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle (Double Cabin Pick up), Seat capacity 5 persons | |
| 16 Tender Publication Date | Date: 06-01-2025 | |
| 17 Tender Last Selling Date and Time | Date: 30-01-2025 Time: 4:00 PM | |
| 18 Tender Closing Date and Time | Date: 02-02-2025 Time: 1:00 PM | |
| 19 Tender Opening Date and Time | Date: 02-02-2025 Time: 1:30 PM | |
| 20 Place of Selling, Receiving Pre-Tender Meeting & Opening Tender Document | Office of the Project Director, HELP, LGED HQ, Workshop Bhaban, Level-3, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | |
| 21 Pre-Tender Meeting Date & Time | Date: 16-01-2025 Time: 11:00 AM | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | |
| 22 Eligibility of Tenderer | As per Tender Document | |
| 23 Brief Description of Physical Services | Physical Services (Non-Consulting Service) for Vehicle hiring for transport services. | |
| 24 Price of Tender Document (Tk) | 4,000.00 (Four thousand) Taka | |
| 25 Package No | Identification of Package | Location |
| Package No: HELP/S-16 (Single lot) | Vehicle hiring for transport services: a) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 7 persons b) Two-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle, Seat capacity 5 persons c) One-Sedan Car, Seat capacity 5 persons d) One-4x4 Cross country Service Vehicle (Double Cabin Pick up), Seat capacity 5 persons | Tender Security Amount (Tk) |
| Office of the Project Director, HELP, LGED, HQ. | 10,00,000.00 | Completion Time in Months |
| 26 Name of Official Inviting Tender | Md. Abdus Salam | |
| 27 Designation of Official Inviting Tender | Project Director, Host and FDMN Enhancement of lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP), LGED, Dhaka. | |
| 28 Address of Official Inviting Tender | Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Workshop Bhaban, Level-03, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. e-mail: pdhelp.lged@gmail.com | |
| 29 The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceeding | | |

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