

31 trees felled without approval for road work

Allegations raised against BNP leader; probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

At least 31 government-owned mahogany trees have allegedly been felled in Kendua upazila of Netrakona for a road renovation project without approval.

The trees were cut along the Alampur-Dighli LGED Road in Maskha union, reportedly under the instruction of Rezaul Hasan Bhuiyan Suman, a BNP leader who is also the local representative of Chattogram-based contracting firm Yunus & Brothers.

Locals intercepted a lorry carrying the felled trees on Tuesday night and alerted the authorities. The assistant commissioner (Land) of Kendua later seized the vehicle.

Residents of Dighli village said the trees were cut during the day and moved secretly at night before the vehicle was stopped and seized.

"Felling trees for roadmaking requires prior permission and the authorities must be notified. I visited the site and found that 31 trees had indeed been felled. I have reported the matter to the UNO," said Kendua upazila engineer Al-Amin Sarker.

UNO Imdadul Haque Talukdar said a three-member probe committee headed by the A C (Land) has been formed and asked to submit a report within three days. "Necessary actions will be taken after reviewing the report," he said.

According to upazila LGED sources, a 5-kilometre road between Atrar Bari and Sandikona in Kendua is being paved at a cost of over Tk 5 crore. Yunus & Brothers secured the contract and began work 25 days ago, appointing Rezaul as their local representative.

Contacted, Rezaul claimed the trees were removed after discussions with locals to speed up construction.

"Applying for approval takes a long time, while the project duration is only one year. So, I felled the trees at my own cost and stored those at Shimultola market," he said.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt! Two youths on roller skates ride along a busy road in the capital's Banglamotor area by clinging to the back of a moving CNG-run auto-rickshaw yesterday. As they weave through traffic while vehicles speed past, the stunt puts them at grave risk of an accident. The photo was taken recently.

SAINT MARTIN'S ISLAND Tourist season begins with 1,174 visitors on first day



MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

The tourist season in St Martin's Island began yesterday with three cruise ships carrying 1,174 passengers from Cox's Bazar's Nuniachhara BIWTA jetty to the coral island.

The vessels left between 7:00am and 8:00am, with tourists expressing excitement as they boarded, said Hossainul Islam Bahadur, general secretary of the Sea Cruise Owners' Association of Bangladesh.

The district administration, Department of Environment and Tourist Police conducted checks to ensure compliance with government guidelines.

Nitula Yamin, UNO of Cox's Bazar Sadar, said the vessel Kleari Sinbad was fined Tk 50,000 for selling tickets without the mandatory government-approved travel pass.

Abdullah Al Said, a director of Kleari Group, said some passengers had arrived at the jetty at the last moment with return tickets but without onward tickets.

He said issuing QR-coded passes was

not possible because the server was down at 7:00am, and although they tried to assist passengers, they were penalised.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan said tickets and travel passes must be purchased online, and QR codes were being scanned at entry points to ensure the daily visitor limit was not exceeded.

Md. Zamin Uddin, director of DoE (Cox's Bazar), said ships would remain under strict monitoring, with separate checkpoints set up at both the Nuniachhara and St Martin's jetties.

A festive atmosphere prevailed on the island yesterday as tourists arrived after a long pause.

Sadia Nowrin, a visitor from Mymensingh, said she was overjoyed to finally step onto the island for the first time. "Arriving here feels like entering paradise," she said.

Tourism on the island had remained suspended from February 1. Although travel was permitted from November to January, visitors showed little interest without permission to stay overnight.

SC Secretariat gets its first secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday assigned SC Registrar General Mohammad Habibur Rahman Siddiquee to serve as the secretariat's secretary to run its operations.

"Until further orders, he will act as the administrative head of both the Supreme Court Registry and the Supreme Court Secretariat," a SC press release said yesterday.

According to subsections (2) and (4) of section 4 of the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, overall control of the secretariat will rest with the chief justice.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Judicial Service Association, a body of the lower court judges, yesterday congratulated the interim government for issuing the ordinance and urged the government to urgently establish the SC Secretariat and to complete all necessary tasks.

173 more return from Libya

UNB, Dhaka

Another 173 Bangladeshi nationals returned home from Libya yesterday.

They arrived in Dhaka at 6:00am on a Burak Air chartered flight, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The repatriation was coordinated by the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Most of the returnees had entered Libya with the intention of travelling illegally to Europe via human traffickers. Many had experienced abductions and abuse during their stay.

Officials from the foreign ministry and the IOM welcomed the returnees at the Dhaka airport and requested them to share their difficult experiences to raise public awareness. Each returnee received travel allowances, food supplies, basic medical care, and temporary shelter from the IOM.

Hope blooms on Jamuna shoals as thatch season begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Newly emerged shoal lands in the Jamuna river under Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj have been blanketed by cogon grass (Imperata cylindrica), locally known as chhon or kaisha, signalling the start of the thatch season.

Every autumn, vast stretches of these shoals turn into a sea of green with white blooms swaying in the breeze. The grass grows two to six feet tall and, once harvested and dried, is widely used as roofing material for thatched houses in rural areas. Herders in the shoal areas also use it as cattle fodder.

As floodwaters recede at the end of the monsoon, local men and women begin cutting the grass with sickles. The harvested grass is tied into bundles and carried on their heads or transported by horse-drawn carts to the riverbank, before being ferried home by boat.



After drying the bundles under the sun for about a week, many sell them in local markets, while others use the grass to repair or replace their roofs. For shoal dwellers, the season becomes an important source of income.

Traders from different districts arrive to buy the grass in bulk, and the earnings often help families recover from monsoon losses.

"When the grass grows a little, we feed it to our cattle. When it grows taller, we dry and sell it in the market," said Rohima Begum of Majnabari village.

Mokhlesur Rahman, a former union parishad member, said cogon grass from Kazipur is transported to several villages in Sherpur upazila of Bogura, where artisans use it to make baskets, trays and flower vases.

"Small cottage industries could be developed around this grass to pave the way for financial solvency among local people," said Bakul Sarkar, former chairman of Kazipur upazila.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) invites proposals from interested Firm/ Organization(s) to review and update Qualification Packages following national and international context. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the UNGM website at: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/286009>

The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, December 21, 2025, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

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Memo No: 35.01.6700.451.07.000.25-4414

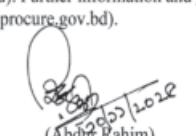
Dated: 30.11.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj, for the procurement of below mentioned works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Publication Date	Name of work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	TID:1183082 Package No: 21/e-GP/PMP/EE/NRD/2025-2026 Publication Date: 30-Nov-2025	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP) Work of Existing Pavement by providing DBS Base Course and DBS Wearing Course at 5+000 (Sanarpur) to 7+500 (Chattogram Road) and Ch. 9+200 (Kanchpur) to Ch. 10+000 (Noyabari) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Mainamati)-Chattogram-Teknaf Road (N1) under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2025-2026	28-Dec-2025 17:00	29-Dec-2025 14:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender 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.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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Memo No. 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-3196

Date: 01/12/2025

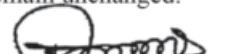
Amendment No. 3

Sub: Amendment against Request for Bids for the "Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District Project (Solar Power Plant with Battery Back-up and associated distribution system) on Turn-key Basis" under Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District, BPDB, Dhaka (Package No. GD-1)

Reference: RFB No: 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2337, Date: 14/09/2025
Memo No: i) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2845, Date: 28/10/2025
ii) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2978, Date: 12/11/2025
iii) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-3155, Date: 26/11/2025

Amendment No. 3, consisting of 5 issues (spread over 03 pages) along with reference drawings (spread over 46 pages) related to the Request for Bids for the "Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District Project (Solar Power Plant with Battery Back-up and associated distribution system) on Turn-key Basis" under Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District, BPDB, Dhaka (Package No. GD-1), is enclosed herewith; which will be the integral part of the Bid document.

All other terms and conditions of the Bid shall remain unchanged.


Md. Rashedul Hoque Prodhan

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