HOUSE #01, ROAD#14, SECTOR#12 UTTARA, DHAKA-1230

TANZIMUL UMMAH

মাহলস্টোন ডিয়াবাড়ি উত্তরা প্রতিষ্ঠান



Dhaka: Sunday, 21, May 2023, 07 Jaistha 1430, Reg. No: DA-168.Vol.-29, Issue No: 15, 8 Page, Price: TK.5.00

Ashrayan homes bring smile to millions

Staff Correspondent

Realising the sufferings of the homeless marginal and ultra-poor people, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after comingto power in 1996, envisioned the Ashrayan project for rehabilitation of the millions.

"In all shabby weatherparticularly during monsoon and winter, we had to face unbound sufferings,as I virtually lived underthe open sky," according to Monira Begum, one of the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Ashrayan Project.Now, smiles glowed on Monira's face after receiving her dream home at Lakshmipur district, about 190 km from capital Dhaka.Like Monira, a small piece of land and home on it has made thousands of shelter-less people happy as they got it as 'gift', free of cost from the Prime Minister."Ashrayan project has changed the lifestyle of my family, as the home provided

me with the sourcesof livelihood and creating some other facilities as well like water supply, hygiene and sanitation," according to Monira.In rural Bangladesh, thousands of people, since country's independence, used to live floating from one place to another to sustain their lives. They had no permanent address."After 50 years of independence we have got our permanent address at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's noble gesture," Monira observed. The Ashrayan projecthome for the homeless- is seen as a "Sheikh Hasina Model" for inclusive development. So far, around 10 lakh families received such homes across the country, giving shelter to more than 3.5 million people. According to the officials, in the first phase of their project, a total of 63,999 houses were distributed among poor while 53,330 houses were given in the second phase and



Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury inaugurated 'Green TV' by cutting a cake at Bashundhara International Convention City in the capital. Meanwhile, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Hasan Mahmud was present.

Myanmar not diligent despite talking repatriation: Momen

Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Saturday reproached Myanmar for not showing due diligence about taking its displaced nationals back despite the repatriation pledge of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh.

"Myanmar has promised to take back their Rohingya population, but has not taken the initiative to implement it, the minister complained at a seminar on Rohingya repatriation in the city on Saturday.

Noting Bangladesh's allout effort to solve the endur-▶see page-2

State Minister Kamal seeks death penalty for food adulterators

Staff Correspondent

State Minister of Industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder has said that traders who adulterate food should be jailed for life or hanged for their crimes."White sugar is made with chemicals that have the potential to cause cancer," he said while speaking as the special guest at a Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) organised discussion marking the World Metrology Day on Saturday (20 May).

There is a need for collective efforts against those who adulterate food items and use inaccurate weighing scales, he added. ▶see page-2

The drug invasion undaunted, undeterred

Staff Correspondent

Zabirul Islam (not his real name) had been waiting outside an apartment in the capital's Kalabagan for more than an jittery demeanour."I will wait only 30 more minutes," he said. He had said the same an hour ago.Zabirul, 22, was waiting for his next hit. His drug dealer was not responding as quickly as promised. Eventually, he would find another dealer, wait again and continue the cycle until his needs were met. The scourge of drugs has become an inescapable epidemic. The threats of arrest, imprisonment and even death fail to act as a deterrent. The latest Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh 2022 reveals some worrying figures. The floodgates have opened, with nothing stymieing the spread of the crazy medicine yaba or the proliferation of Phensedyl.From 2010 to 2022, within a decade yaba

despite law enforcement agencies claiming they had increased vigilance, data shows that more Phensedyl has hour. His impatience was evident in his been smuggled this year compared to previous years. According to the



Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), around 7 lakh bottles of Phensedyl were seized in 2022 by all law enforcement agencies, including police, the Border Guard Bangladesh, and the DNC.In the previous year, the seizure was a little shy of 6 lakh bottles. Besides, 4.59 crore yaba seizures rose to around 4.5 crore of tablets were seized last year across the pieces from some 8 lakh, meaning it country, a dip from the 5.31 crore - the boy outside a coffee

was 50 times higher. On the other hand, highest in ten years - registered in 2021.According to a study by the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime, only 8-10% of the total smuggled narcotics is usually seized by law enforcers. Those concerned have tried to ramp up the pressure on drug dealers.

> The DNC alone set up around 2,783 temporary checkposts on the bordering districts in the fiscal 2021-22.

> Besides, the DNC conducted 92,627 operations and filed 22,169 narcotics cases across the country.

Police, RAB and other law enforcement agencies made fighting narcotics their top priority.In the meantime, courts are swamped with thousands of narcotics related cases. Yet, nothing seems to be working.80 lakh and countingJennifer (not her real name) had arrived in Dhaka from California, USA in 2013. Having grown up in the US, she had family but no friends in Bangladesh. A chance meeting with a ▶see page-2 tary

Quader wants to know specific time of govt's fall from Fakhrul

Staff Correspondent

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Obaidul Quader today urged BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir to disclose whether the directives of their movements to oust the government will come from London or Thakurgaon.

Pointing out at Fakhrul, he said: "If the date of when the government has to leave is known, the government can make preparations to leave. Besides, it's also better to be known that whether the storm of falling of the government is coming from London or Thakurgaon."

"BNP is saying every day that the government's time is over so as the general secre-▶see page-2

Bangladesh seeks int'l community's support in implmenting Rohingya pilot repatriation project

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has sought international community's support in implmenting the Rohingya pilot repatriation project.

"We urge the United Nations, ASEAN and regional countries to support the pilot repatriation project and help the Rohingya returnees reintegrate in Myanmar"- said the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith while speaking at the Security Council aria formula meeting on Myanmar.

The meeting convened by the United Kingdom was held at the United Nations Headquarters today.

Referring to the recent dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar, Ambassador Muhith informed the Security Council that the two sides have decided to undertake a pilot repatriation project under which a group of verified Myanmar nationals will return to Myanmar in the first batch.

The repatriation will continue and additional Rohingyas will be repatriated in successive batches. He further informed that a group of 20 Rohingya visited Rakhine State on 5 May 2023 to see arrangements made in Myanmar for their return.

Citing the pilot project as an important step in the right direction, Permanent Representative said that Bangladesh is taking all measures to ensure the voluntary return of the Rohingyas in family units. Ambassador ▶see page-2



The Homecoming Day of Prime Minister Unquestioned amnesty Sheikh Hasina was celebrated on the initiative of Bangabandhu Parishad

Staff Correspondent

This morning at the Abdus Salam Hall of the National Press Club on the initiative of Bangabandhu Parishad, the historic 17th May (1981) Homecoming Day of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 20th May (1971) Chuknagar Genocide Day and 23rd May (1973) Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by the World Peace Council A discussion meeting was held on the occasion of the Julio Curie Peace Medal Award Day. "Your homecoming, we have returned Bangabandhu's philosophy of development and peace" the acting president of the organization Prof. Dr. Under the chairmanship of AMS Arefin Siddique and moderated by Organizing Secretary SM Lutfar Rahman, eminent journalist and former information advisor to the Prime Minister Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, renowned historian, researcher and writer Prof. Muntasir Mamun, General Secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad Prof. AB M

Farooq, Jom. General Secretary Matiur Rahman Laltu, Organizing Secretary, Ed. Abdus Salam, Participating in the discussion, Professor Muntasir Mamun said that there is no sustainable development without cultural development. Today, the country is on the highway of development because the people's leader Sheikh Ĥasina returned to the country. Bangladesh is a role model for development in the world meeting. He regretted that there is no PhD degree on Bangabandhu, but it is in the name of Ziaur Rahman. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said, after spending 6 years in exile, the public leader returned home that day, nature welcomed her and the people of Bengal warmly greeted her. What he promised that day, he is implementing today. Professor ABM Farooq said that the Prime Minister is the shaper of modern Bangladesh. The digital Bangladesh he envisioned has been fulfilled today. In the president's speech, Professor Dr. AMS Arefin Siddique said, Jannetri Deshratna Prime Minister ▶see page-2

to black money may not continue

Staff Correspondent

Holders of black money in Bangladesh are unlikely to get the opportunity to legalise their undeclared wealth without facing any questions about the sources of their income in the next fiscal year, officials said.

Besides, the unquestioned amnesty to bring back money stashed abroad may also not continue in 2023-24, which begins in July. The move might come as no taxpayer has declared in their tax returns to have brought back their untaxed income by using the opportunity to legalise the wealth by paying only 7 per cent tax, which is less than a third of the highest tax rate of 25 per cent applied to personal income in Bangladesh.The National Board ▶see page-2





THE DAILY EVENING TEWS

<u> থীনতা বিরোধীদের কর্তৃক অখ্রিতিশীল</u> পরিছিতি সৃষ্টির অপচেষ্টার বিরুদ্ধে, অসাংবিধানিকভাবে ক্ষমতা দখলের পাঁয়তারা রুখে দাঁড়ানোর এখনই সময়

Dhaka: Sunday, 21, May 2023, 07 Jaistha 1430, Reg. No: DA-168.Vol.-29, Issue No: 15, 8 Page, Price: TK.5.00



UK-Bangladesh trade hits record £4.7b in 2022

Staff Correspondent

Shamsul Alam:

total trade reaching a record £4.7 billion (\$5.83bn) in 2022.

Thursday, revealing a substantial exports to Bangladesh increased by business ties with

Free eye camp organized by

Thakurgaon district police

Thakurgaon District Police organized a free eye camp

for the treatment of the helpless and distressed. A camp

was held at Police Lines Drill Shed yesterday Saturday.

Thakurgaon Police Super Mohammad Jahangir Hossain

inaugurated the eye camp organized by Thakurgaon

District Police and in collaboration with Deep Eye Care

Foundation of Rangpur. Additional Superintendent of

Police (Administration and Finance) Liza Begum,

President of Thakurgaon Press Club Mansoor Ali,

Director of Rangpur Deep Eye Care Foundation AKM

Feroz Alam Saifullah, Officer Logistics and Hospitality

Service Md. Masuk Mehbub, Medical Officer Dr.

Musfiqur were present among others. Alam, Dr.

Sazzadul Bari Rocky, Jr. Field Coordinator Md. Sadrul

Hasan Raju, various members of the district police, var-

ious doctors, officials and employees involved in med-

ical work and patients who came for treatment. During

this time free eye services were provided to 70 eye

patients from different upazilas of the district. Services

include eye examination, visual acuity and other tests.

operations will be taken to Rangpur by Deep Eye Care

wonderful and commendable initiative. They are happy

to receive medical care here

increase of 50.4% compared to the 36.7% to reach £897 million during In a significant milestone in bilater- previous year. The trade balance heav- the same period. Syedur Rahman al trade, the United Kingdom (UK) ily favoured Bangladesh, largely Ranu, president of British Bangladesh and Bangladesh witnessed a remark- attributed to its thriving readymade able surge in trade volume, with the garments (RMG) sector, which (BBCCI) told The Business Standard accounted for the lion's share of the trade. The UK's total imports from further strengthened in recent times, The UK's Department for Business Bangladesh surged by 54.0% to £3.8 and Trade released these figures on billion in 2022. At the same time, UK as well." Many countries are boosting

Chamber of Commerce & Industry that bilateral ties with the UK have which is reflected in the trade volumes

Distribution of training certificate

among Asharyan-2 project beneficiaries

1000 pieces of yaba recovered in police operation in Brahmaputra, arrest 3

Quader,

Kurigram: Three drug dealers were arrested by the police in a raid on the Brahmaputra river in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram. Meanwhile, 1000 pieces of yaba have recovered.On Thursday (May 18) at around 8:30 p.m., the police conducted the raid in Gendar Alga area of Alga Union of Upazila Saheb.The district police informed this information informed this information in a message sent on Friday (May 19) morning. The arrested persons are Habibur Rahman (27), Mohsin Mia (23) of Dai Khawar Char area on the west bank of Brahmaputra river in Gendar Alga village of Union and Ripon Mia (18) of Kazaikata vilof Roumari upazila. According to the district police, around 8:30 pm on Thursday night, a team of Namazer Char Investigation Center of Ulipur police station raided the curd eat-▶see page-7

border BGB-BSF meeting বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ ময়মনসিংহ ব্যাটালিয়ন (৩৯ বিজিবি)

Wild elephant attack on



Border Guard Bangladesh, BGB Mymensingh Sector 3 battalion responsible border areas (Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Netrakona) held a public awareness meeting on the attack of wild elephants. Today, a public awareness meeting was held in the presence of Union Parishad Chairman, UP members, dignitaries and general public of 37 Unions along with BOP commanders in This information

bordering public from the intrusion and attack of wild elephants in the mentioned border areas. It is to be noted that five Bangladeshis were killed in the attack of wild elephants in the mentioned border area in five months. Among them, there are five Bangladeshis including 2 in Haruaghat, 1 in Dhobaura and 2 in Sherpur border.
This information > see page-7

1,300 sued, 13 arrested after Police, BNP clash in Khulna

Staff Correspondent

Some 1,300 unnamed people have been sued following clashes between BNP leaders and activists with the police in Khulna. SI Khalid Uddin filed the case with Khulna Sadar police station on Friday (19 May) night, confirmed the police station's OC Hasan Al Mamun to The Business Standard.He said, "The case, suing some 1,200-1,300 people, was filed yesterday night. The 49 people who have been named in the case include BNP Information Affairs Secretary Azizul Nari Helal and >see page-7

Maize making its mark on farmers' lives

Staff Correspondent

In 1991, when Abul Kasem, a farmer of Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat, a northwest bordering district, decided to cultivate maize, he was one of the few growers in his area. The yield of the >see page-7

in Buraburi Union of Tentulia

Panchagarh representative: Under the project entitled 'Shelter-2 Project (Poor, Liberation and Rehabilitation)', certificates of ten-day income-generating and vocational training have been distributed for the purpose of rehabilitating the beneficiaries of Shelter-2 Project of Buraburi Union of Tentulia Upazila of

organization of the upazila administration Panchagarh.On Friday (May 19) at 10:30 and with the cooperation of the upazila a.m., this charter was distributed at the Buraburi Union Parishad hall in the supervision of the youth development office and under the supervision of the see page-7

Sylhet Mayor Ariful to skip city polls

Staff Correspondent

Ariful Haque Chowdhury on Saturday announced he will not participate in the upcoming Sylhet City Corporation elections, end-Patients who require glasses or first aid are treated at the ing speculation over his cancamp. Also, all the patients who need cataract or other didacy amid BNP's decision Foundation and will be brought back to Thakurgaon to boycott the polls. The after the free operation, said the Superintendent of Police. Nasima Begum of Bara Khochabari village of city's current mayor announced his decision on Sadar Upazila and Chandra Basak, an elder of Bara Saturday (20 May) while Balia village of Sadar Upazila who came for treatment, Kajli Rani from Ranishankail Upazila said that this is a addressing a rally at Sylhet Registry Ground.Ariful Haque said, "A fair election ▶see page-7

Onion prices double in a month

Staff Correspondent

Onion prices hit Tk 90 per kg on Friday, reflecting a staggering about 100 per cent increase within a month, according to trading sources. Onion was selling between Tk 42 and Tk 45 per kg nearly a month back. As prices of the kitchen staple show no sign of calming down amid a severe market volatilty, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi on Friday said that the government would consider allowing onion import."If the price of onions does not decrease within the next one or two days, the government will consider importing it," said the commerce minister in Rangpur. The minister said that the prices of essential commodities are currently under control, except for onions and sugar. Despite the government setting sugar prices at Tk 120-125 per kg on May 4, the actual prices remain as high as Tk 140-150 per kg."We do not control the market of raw produce as it falls under the purview of different ministries," said Tipu Munshi. However, he assured reporters that the overall situation is "not dire", as fluctuations in raw produce prices are "natural". He also attributed temporary price hikes in the ▶see page-7

Singer Nobel detained, taken to DB office for interrogation

Staff Correspondent

Singer Mainul Ahsan Nobel has been taken into custody after being detained by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) this morning (Saturday, 20 May).

The singer has been taken to the Dhaka DB office for quizzing over a case filed for fraud and a complaint filed by his wife, a DB official confirmed to The Business Standard while seeking anonymity.

According to sources, the case was filed last week with the Motijheel police station as the Sa Re Ga Ma Pafamed singer skipped a prescheduled event.

Reportedly, one Md Shafayet Islam, a former stu-Shariatpur's Bhedarganj Headquarter Pilot Govt High School, filed the case on 16 May.

The following day, a ▶see page-7



Distribution of rations and cash among fire victims in Mirpur, Kushtia

Bablu Ranjan Biswas Kushtia:

Mirpur Upazila of Kushtia distributed cash and cash to families affected by natural calamities and fires. At 9:30 am on Saturday morning, cash and cash were distributed among 24 affected families at the Upazila Auditorium. Jasad President Kushtia-2 (Mirpur-Bheramara) Constituency Member of Parliament Hasanul Haque Inu was present as the chief guest on the occasion. Upazila Executive Officer (Acting) Harun Or Rashid, Mirpur Thana Officer In-Charge Rafiqul Islam, Jasad Central Committee Member and Upazila Jasad General Secretary Ahmed Ali, Jasad Central Committee Member Mohammad Abdullah, Upazila Jasad Joint General Secretary Karshed Alam, were present as special guests. Saidur Rahman Montu, President of Bahalbaria Union Jasad, Abdul Jalil, President of Chatian Union Jasad.Former Chairman of Amla Union Parishad Aftab Uddin, Principal of Sagarkhali Adarsha College Rabiul Islam, Organizing Secretary of Municipal Jasad Nasir Uddin Tokon, Headmaster of Jahanara Secondary School Enamul Islam, Women Alliance Leader Shefali Khatun, Ruma Khatun, Youth

►see page-7

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmood Humayun delivered the chief guest speech at the discussion meeting on the occasion of "World Metrology Day" at BSTI head office in Tezgaon, capital. State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder was present

4 detained in Khagrachari for forced body trade

Khagrachari Representative:

The police arrested 4 people on the charge of forcing a young woman who had escaped from a Tabalchari into prostitution at Gamaridhala in Khagrachari district headquarters.

When they were sent to court on Thursday (May 18) afternoon, the court ordered them to be sent to jail.

The arrested are members of the same family, Setara Begum, daughter Amena Begum, Shamima Akhter and her husband Ismail Hossain.On Wednesday (May 17) afternoon, the police arrested them from their home in Gamaridhala area of the district headquarters. The victim, Bilkich Akhter (20), said that he could not bear the torture of his stepmother and ran away from his house in Tabalchari Gaurang neighborhood of Matiranga district and came to Jeromile area of ??the city and look for will be taken after the investigation.

work. From there, a woman took her to a house in Gamaridhala area of ??Khagrachari Sadar Union, saying that she would work for a salary of 4,000 taka. There, the girl was intimidated and forced into an immoral relationship in exchange for money. At that time, about 10 people including Pahari-Bengali raped her. Last Tuesday (May 16) afternoon, an old man went to that house and helped him escape. Additional Superintendent of Police of Khagrachari Circle Jinia Chakma said that based on the complaint of the victim, the police arrested the accused and brought them to the police station. In this incident, a case was filed under the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act at the Sadar police station. The 4 arrested persons were handed over to the court on Thursday afternoon after preliminary Khagrachari on May 11. Come to interrogation. He said that further action

Brahmanbaria Yabas and 2 people detained

Brahmanbaria Correspondent: A raiding team of RAB-14

Bhairav camp arrested two drug smugglers with 26 thousand 700 Yaba tablets from Brahmanbaria while smuggling from Cox's Bazar to Dhaka. This information was informed through a press release sent by RAB at around 11 o'clock on Friday.Earlier on Thursday evening, they were arrested from Nandanpur area of ??Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila on Comilla-Sylhet highway. The arrested are -Abu Said Akib (26) of Chakaria police station of Cox's Bazar district and Lama police station of Bandarban district. Hefaz ▶see page-7

The Homecoming

Sheikh Hasina's return to her country is a glorious chapter in history. It is because of him that the country is being run today in the spirit of liberation war, democracy has been established in the country by ending the military rule. The organization's joint general secretary Kazi Rehan Sobhan, environment and forest secretary Neshar Ahmad Mia, relief affairs secretary Sakhayat Islam Bhuya, office secretary Abdus Sattar, finance secretary Jalal Uddin Tuhin, co-finance secretary Noor Uddin Chowdhury, Executive member the daily evening news editor A.B.M Salim Ahmed, Nahid Noor were also present on the occasion. Light, etc. Minister of Agriculture of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. Abdur Razzak MP vatually participated and said that after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu and his family, the homecoming of the leader Sheikh Hasina was a blessing for the Bengali nation. Due to his wisdom, visionary leadership and efficient state management, the country has got the status of a developing country today. He is working relentlessly for the establishment of a welfare state and welfare of people by ending hunger and poverty.

State Minister

Majumder urged BSTI to play an important role in closing down factories that are making juice with colours that are very harmful to humans.

"A few factories have been shut down in the past and journalists should play their part in this regard," he said.

"A group of profit-mongers, anti-Liberation War people want to drag down the progress of the country by adulterat-

ing food," the state minister furthered. Meanwhile, speaking as the chief guest at the event, Minister of Industries Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said that businessmen need to fix their mindset and put in a sincere effort to ensure food safety.

"When our country achieves LDC graduation in the future, we will need to improve the qualify of our food items," he said adding, "People who adulterate food products should be excluded from the trade associations and blacklisted."

Ashrayan homes

59,133 houses in the third phase.

With the success of the Ashrayan Project-1 the government initiated for the Ashrayan Project-2. And under the project, a total of 39365 houses have so far been allocated among poor, bring their total number of houses to 2,15,827

In 1972 after independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had initiated the programme for housing of the poor. But, after his brutal murder in 1975, the rulers kept the programme in abeyance, leading to increase the number of homeless people due to river erosion and other natural disasters.

So, the Ashrayan Project, envisaged by Sheikh Hasina was just reinforcement of the footprint of Bangabandhu for welfare of the toiling messes

Under the Ashrayan projects the government has rehabilitated 5.54.597 families and out of them 2,16,704 families were rehabilitated in different programmes under various

Through contributing the shelter to ultra-poor, the Prime Minister has boosted up the confidence of the downtrodden people to live with their basic rights of shelter, alleviate their poverty and live in the society with dignity.

Of course, after getting their homes, the beneficiaries would expresstheir gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina for making their dream true and lives meaningful. Under their project, their prime minister handed-over the deeds of the two-decimal land and keys of the two-room

home with separate kitchen and veranda to the beneficiaries.

government for welfare of the country's poor who can now tating".

Amena Begum, a 49-year-old of the district narrated BSS 2017, just before the war on drugs began. about her long sufferings with sick and physically challenged children.

Amena used to work as a maidservant from house to house,keeping her children unsafe in a makeshift slum. Now, hence the number of addicts, they feel.

she has a shelter in the Ashrayan project.

Pramila Karmakar married RanjitKarmakar30 years back and had beenliving in a rented house. The couple, day labourers by profession, has given marriage their three daughters, but could not arrange their own home in their struggling life.

"When my sons-in-law came to my house I could not provide them a place to sit. Now, I am very happy as I'm owner of a home," Pramila said.

A 42-year-old Arefin from Dolnarchar of Daudkandi said, "I never imagined that I would have a permanent house on my own land."

Arefin planted vegetables and fruity trees around his house, attracting attention of local people.

He also runs a shop in a corner of the house and lives with is only daughter and mother.

"I loved this home very much and after coming here I did not even go anywhere for a moment, Arefin said as tears rolled down his cheek.

Daudkandi Upazila Parishad chairman Muhammad Ali Sumon told BSS that every human being has a fundamental right to have access to their housing. Ashrayan project is a real manifestation of realizing the rights of the people.

Many underprivileged people, including transgender, tea garden worker, leprosy patients have found their shelter in the Ashrayan project in his area, the chairman said, extending gratitude to the Prime Minister and her government for taking this great reformative initiative.

Daudkandi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohinul Hasan recalled the prime minister's announcement on the occasion of the Mujib Barsha, saying they are working to ensure that none would be left without home in the country.

Under the Ashrayan project a total of 487 homeless people were enlisted in Daudkandi Upazila and out of them 300 houses were already handed over. The remaining houses would be allocated in the month of June, the UNO said.

Myanmar not

issue, he said, "It is unfortunate that the repatriation has not begun even after Bangladesh knocked on the door of the International Court of Justice.

"Although several countries showed interest in taking Rohingya people, the number is insignificant," he said, lamenting that the repatriation pledge at the field level is yet to be realised.

Momen, at the time, warned that security of the region will be in jeopardy if the Rohingya crisis continues.

The drug

shop was meant to be the start of a romantic story.

But for Jennifer, 26 at the time, it was the beginning of a crash which would have long-term repercussions.

"He introduced me to yaba. Then after a few months, our relationship ended. I was very sad at the time and continued

to use the drug," Jennifer recalls. Even though she had determined not to speak to him, Jennifer recalls, with regret, calling the same man to get some more supply of the crazy medicine.

"Eventually, I began contacting the dealers directly. I was so consumed by the habit that I could not even hold on to a steady job."

Jennifer returned to the US a year later, starting another journey – this time one of rehabilitation.

But not everyone's story ends the same way.

According to physicians and experts, 90% of addicts are juveniles or youth, and of those 85% are addicted to yaba.

The Madok o Nesha Nirodh Sangstha (MANAS), an antidrug organisation, puts the number of drug users of different kinds at 80-85 lakh people.

The organisation suspects that the number will cross 1

In a more conservative estimate, the DNC says the number The Ashrayan project is a life-changing initiative of the of addicts is around 60 lakh, which they said wasn't "devas-

According to the DNC, the number was 30 lakh back in

Instead of controlling addiction, the organisation's plan is

Anti-drug drives would lower the number of peddlers and

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

eradication of supply.

Office of the Executive Engineer Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi Phone-0247-812276; Fax-772279

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:

e- Tender ID No.	Name of the work	Last Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender/Pro posal Closing Date and Time
828644	Change of Useless Parts of Total 5 Nos lift of MACPUARSA(MP) and Sunny Brand at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.	30-May-2023, 11:00	30-May-2023, 12:00
835142	Installation of Collapsible Gate with Grill at Varendah & Coloring including Various Civil-Sanitary-Electrical Works at Old Male/Female Student Hostel of Rajshahi Nursing College.	30-May-2023,	30-May-2023, 12:00
835171	Change of Brunt Out useless HT Switch Gear & HT Cable of 630 KVA Substation at Rajshahi Medical College and Alteration of Service Cable of Pump Adjacent to Charumama Canteen From Nursing College to Hospital Feeder.	30-May-2023, 11:00	30-May-2023, 12:00
835188	Extension of Professor's Office Room of Surgery Department with Ancillary Civil-Sanitary-Electrical Repair Works at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.	30-May-2023, 11:00	30-May-2023, 12:00

This is online tender where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered Banks' Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

> **Executive Engineer** Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi Email: ee_raj2@pwd.gov.bd

An expert, however, says the DNC approach needs more al area.

Narcotics history writer and North South University professor M Emdadul Haque points out two reasons behind the drug surge in the country – high demand among the community and hefty cash rewards.

'Most of the drug peddlers get into the business as they get large amounts of cash in return for risking their lives. If you can't disrupt the supply chain they [drug lords and peddlers]

would smuggle narcos at any means and cost," he said. "The war should be against the demand. Otherwise, the socalled 'drives' won't have any effect," he added.

As the numbers demonstrate, the anti-drug campaign may indeed need some tweaks.

Quader wants to

of the party, I want to know from Mirza Fakhrul when the day (fall of the government) will come. I have been hearing this for the last 10 years," he reiterated.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said these while addressing the first triennial national conference of Awami Olama League at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) here.

The AL leader said BNP has to wage movement to bring down the government and the AL men are busy waging movement to save lives of the countrymen.

'We have to hold the peace rallies in this regard," he added. AL General Secretary further said that the people of the country will decide when the time of this government will

"The people of this country will also decide who will lead

this country in the future," he added. Reminding BNP of AL's popularity, reputation, strength and dedication to work for the people, Quader said BNP would be wrong to consider Awami League a drop of morning dew on taro leaf.

The minister said BNP is involved in waging movement to overthrow the government whereas Awami League is busy holding movement to protect people's lives

"People of the country think that Bangladesh will not lose its way if Sheikh Hasina is in power," he continued.

From a least developed country, he said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has turned Bangladesh into a developing country despite facing various difficulties.

Referring to Russia-Ukraine war and the difficult times of corona pandemic, he said:"Due to the war crisis, the price of fuel and the dollar increased so that the price of daily necessities also increases. Moreover, we have to import many products from abroad."

Reducing the import of some products will increase people's suffering, he addeed.

Despite all these things, Quader said Bangladesh remains better than other countries of the world as it has a leader like Sheikh Hasina.

He criticized a vested quarter that spread false propaganda about the pro-people leader and the Premier Sheikh Hasina.

He also lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her enormous contribution to maintain massive development spree in the country for which she is being praised in the internation-

১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

With Bangladesh Awami Olama League Convener Dr K M Momen Siraji in the chair, the conference was addressed, among others, by AL Publicity and Publication Secretary Dr Abdus Sobhan Golap.

Bangladesh seeks int'l

Muhith called upon the international community to remain vigilant so that the returnees under pilot project are not exposed to further persecution.

"The presence of humanitarian and development actors in the Rakhine will act as an important confidence building measure. We also urge the regional countries to support the returnees and help them reintegrate in Myanmar society," he

The meeting held in in-person format was participated by all Security Council members and a large number of member States from the ASEAN.

The Council members discussed the current humanitarian challenges in Myanmar including in the aftermath of Cyclone

They also expressed support for the efforts of ASEAN in addressing the multifaceted challenges of Myanmar.

On the Rohingya issue, the majority of the members expressed support for the safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified return of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar, while calling upon Myanmar to improve the condition in Rakhine.

Unquestioned

of Revenue (NBR) offered the tax privilege with the hope that people who have their money in foreign lands will bring it back, in a bid to augment direct tax collection, the secondbiggest source of revenue for the tax authority.

Under the rule, a taxpayer can show their cash, bank deposits, bank notes, convertible securities and financial instruments in their returns by paying only a 7 per cent tax on the amount. The money will have to be transferred through the banking channel and banks will deduct the tax from the money to deposit it to the state coffer through automated challan.A senior official of the NBR said there has been no response from such black money holders."We have not received any tax under the provision of the offshore tax amnesty so far."The scope, which drew a lot of criticism from various quarters since such amnesty discourages honest taxpayers and provides incentives for non-compliance, will end on June 30 this year. Two other officials said the benefit is unlikely to continue in FY24. The opportunity to legalise black money without facing any questions from any government agency might not be offered in the upcoming financial year. In 2020-21, the NBR granted the opportunity.

It received a huge response as well and 11,859 taxpayers showed their black money in their tax return files and paid Tk 2,064 crore in tax in the year, NBR data showed.

The tax authority discontinued the opportunity in 2021-22 and imposed rules that taxpayers will have to pay a 25 per cent tax on the undisclosed amount and a 5 per cent penalty on the payable taxes.

This time, the responses were lukewarm, said officials.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর

স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।

২	সংস্থা		স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।			
•	ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষের	নাম	সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হা	সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।		
8	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা		ফরিদপুর।			
_	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান		২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের জন্য পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য, অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ এবং			
¢			नितन সাম्श्री (थानारे ।			
৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানের নম্বর		জেহাফ/দরপত্র/পথ্য, মনিহারি-বিবিধ, ধোলাই/২০২২-২৩/৫১৫			
٩	তারিখ		১৮/০৫/২০২৩ খ্রি:			
Ъ	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি		উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)			
৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিয়ে	শর উৎস	রাজ্য বাজেট, জিওবি			
3 0	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম		লট-১ : পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য; লট- ২: অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ; লট- ৩: ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলাই			
22	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তা	রিখ	২১/০৫/২০২৩ খ্রি: তারিখে			
35	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শে	ষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/০৬/২০২৩ ব্রি: ভারিখ, বেলা ২:৩০ পর্যন্ত।			
20	দরপত্র দাখিলের তা	রিখ ও সময়	০৫/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: ভারিখ, বেলা ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত।			
78	দরপত্র খোলার তারি	থৈ ও সময়	০৫/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: ভারিখ, বেলা ১২:৩০ টা।			
3 ¢	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারীর	র কার্যালয়	তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।			
১৬	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর	কার্যালয়	তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।			
١٩.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থা	7	তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।			
	দরপত্রদাতার নৃন্যতম যোগ্যতা		১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ও বৈধ ধোলাইকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২) স্ব স্ব গ্রুপের (সংখ্রিষ্ট কাজের) ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদ (২০২২-২৩), ভাটি রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভারসহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে।			
7 Þ	দরপত্রদাতার নৃন্যত	ম যোগ্যতা	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্ণওভার	সেহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সন		
7 P	,		সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা	সেহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সন	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
> b	লট নং		সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্ণওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ	সেহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সন দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
	नि मः नि-১	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ	সেহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সন দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে।	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
79	लिंग नश् लिंग्- ১ लिंग्- २	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ	সেহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সন দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/-	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া সমাপ্তির সময়	
> >	नि मः नि-১	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/-	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া সমাপ্তির সময় ৬০ দিন	
	लिंग नश् लिंग्- ১ लिंग्- २	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা; লট-৩: ৪০০ ব্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
\$\$	লট নং লট-১ লট-২ লট-৩	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; ফ দরপত্র দলিলের মৃদ্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা; লট-৩: ৪০০ ব্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
<u>ځ</u> ه خه	লট নং লট-১ লট-২ লট-৩ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবস্থত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; ফ দরপত্র দলিলের মৃল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাথ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা; লট-৩: ৪০০ ব্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	লট নং লট-১ লট-২ লট-৩ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুমঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা কর্মকর্তার নাম	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; হু দরপত্র দলিলের মৃণ্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাথ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর ডাঃ মোঃ ছিন্দীকুর রহমান	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালাপ এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা; লট-৩: ৪০০ ব্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া সমাপ্তির সময় ৬০ দিন //- (চারশত) টাকা। ত (অফেরংযোগ্য) সিভিল সার্জন-ক	
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	লট নং লট-১ লট-৩ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা কর্মকর্তার নাম কর্মকর্তার পদবী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; হ দরপত্র দলিলের মৃল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মা তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর ডাঃ মোঃ ছিন্দীকুর রহমান সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর। সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হা ফোন: ০৬৩১-৬২৫৮০ E-mail: faridpur@hospi.dghs.gov.bd	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টি-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা ; লট-৩: ৪০০ ধ্যমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে এর অনুক্লে সোনালী ব্যাংকে জমা দিতে হবে	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
\$\frac{2}{2}\$	লট নং লট-১ লট-৩ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আ্বাহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আ্বাহ্বানকারী প্রত্যুক লটের খ ব্যাংক এর পে-১ খ) ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপণ	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুষঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা কর্মকর্তার নাম কর্মকর্তার পদবী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের জন্য নির্ধারিত দরপত্র জামানত (গ মর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট এর মাধ্যমে ফ সর্বনিদ্ধ দরপত্র/দর গ্রহণে বাধ	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; হ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মা তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর ডাঃ মোঃ ছিন্দীকুর রহমান সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর। সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হা ফোন: ০৬৩১-৬২৫৮০ E-mail: faridpur@hospi.dghs.gov.bd ফেরতযোগ্য), সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জমা দিতে হবে। যু নয়।	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা ; লট-৩: ৪০০ গ্রমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে এর অনুকুলে সোনালী ব্যাংকে জমা দিতে হবে সপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	লট নং লট-১ লট-২ লট-৩ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী ক্রপত্র আহ্বানকারী ক্রপত্র কান্ট্রবরণ ক) প্রত্যেক লটের খ ব্যাংক এর প্রে-খ খ) ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপণ গ) বাজেট বরাদ্ধ, ৪	পথ্য ও পথ্যানুমঙ্গিক পণ্য স অন্যান্য মনিহারি/বিবিধ পণ্য ব্যবহৃত লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলা কর্মকর্তার নাম কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের জন্য নির্ধারিত দরপত্র জামানত (গ্ মর্জার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট এর মাধ্যমে ক্ব সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র/দর গ্রহণে বাধ	সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট), ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক টার্পওভার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। যা দরপত্রের বিবরণ রবরাহ ও কম্পিউটার আনুষঙ্গিক পণ্য সরবরাহ ই লট-১: ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা; হ দরপত্র দলিলের মৃল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাথ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর ডাঃ মোঃ ছিন্দীকুর রহমান সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর। সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেনারেল হা ফোন: ০৬৩১-৬২৫৮০ E-mail: faridpur@hospi.dghs.gov.bd ফেরতযোগ্য), সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জমা দিতে হবে।	সহ ব্যাংক ব্যালান্স এবং ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সদ দরপত্র দলিলে বিস্তারিতভাবে উল্লেখ আছে। টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ ১,৩৯,০০০/- ২৭,০০০/- ১৮,০০০/- টে-২: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা ; লট-৩: ৪০০ গ্রমে কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ টে এর অনুকুলে সোনালী ব্যাংকে জমা দিতে হবে সপাতাল, ফরিদপুর।	দ এবং পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার	

(ডাঃ মোঃ ছিদ্দীকুর রহমান) সিভিল সার্জন-কাম-তত্তাবধায়ক জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফরিদপুর

UK-Bangladesh

Bangladesh because of the quality of products Bangladesh produces. Besides, the policies adopted by the Bangladesh government for international trade in the last 14 years are remarkable," he said.

Clothing emerged as the driving force behind this growth, representing a staggering £3.3 billion or 91.9% of all UK goods imported from Bangladesh. Among other top goods imported from Bangladesh were textile fabrics (£74.7 million or 2.1%), fish & shellfish (£45.7 million or 1.3%), mechanical power generators (£38.7 million or 1.1%), and road vehicles other than cars (£33.9 million or 1.0%).

On the flip side, the UK's top exports to Bangladesh featured metal ores & scrap, amounting to £317.2 million or 57.0% of all UK goods Bangladesh imported. Mechanical power generators (intermediate) followed closely behind, with exports valued at £32.5 million or 5.8%. Aircraft (£29.1 million or 5.2%), General industrial machinery (capital) (£23.3 million or 4.2%), and Electric motors (capital) (£22.4 million or 4.0%) completed the list of top exported goods.

Bangladesh's growing prominence in the UK's trade landscape is evident, with the nation becoming the UK's 50th largest trading partner in 2022. Accounting for 0.3% of total UK trade, which signifies the mutual benefits derived from their robust economic ties.

In addition to trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) between the two nations has also been noteworthy. In 2021, the UK's outward stock of FDI in Bangladesh reached a substantial £816 million, reflecting the confidence of British investors in the country's potential. However, due to data disclosure limitations, information regarding the inward stock of FDI from Bangladesh to the UK in 2021 remains unavailable, according to the UK's Department for Business and Trade.

In 2021, the total UK FDI abroad was £1.8 trillion. In 2021, the top destination for UK FDI was the United States, accounting for 26.1% of the total UK outward FDI stock, followed by Netherlands (8.8%) and Luxembourg (7.2%).

The total UK market share in Bangladesh was 1.1% in 2021 for goods and services. This is a decrease of 0.2% from 2020. The UK market share in Bangladesh was 0.8% in 2021 for goods only. This is an increase of 0.2% from 2020. The UK market share in Bangladesh was 2.6% in 2021 for services only. This is a decrease of 2.5% from 2020. In 2021, around 1,000 UK VAT-registered businesses exported goods to Bangladesh and around 1,100 UK VAT-registered businesses imported goods from Bangladesh.

Trend of trade increasing

According to the UK's Department for Business and Trade report, Bangladesh and UK's trade balance in 2013 was £2.4 billion. In 2014 it dropped to £2.2 billion and then increased again in the following two years to £2.6 billion and £2.9 billion respectively. In 2017, the trade value crossed the £3 mark to £3.6 billion. From 2018- 2021 the figures consistently stayed above £3 and were respectively £3.5 billion, £4.0 billion, £3.1 billion and £3.1 billion. In 2022 the trade volume saw a jump to hit a record of £4.7 billion.

A recent study by Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID) says that by 2030 UK apparel exports will be worth \$4.5 billion. Meanwhile, exports of other products outside the apparel sector will increase from 0.7 billion to 1.3 billion dollars.

Economist Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) said, "This growth would have been more prosperous if the political and economic conditions of Bangladesh had been better."

He added that initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations land. with other countries will further increase trade.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi told The Business Standard, "This growth is due to Bangladesh's contemporary export policies, bilateral relations and Bangladesh being debt

He expressed optimism that it will only continue to grow as the Bangladesh government has already signed several agreements with the UK.

Once the agreements come into effect the growth trend will further go up," added the minister.

1000 pieces of yaba

char area on the west bank of Brahmaputra river. In the operation, 1000 pieces of Yabas were arrested along with the drug dealers of the area, Habibur Rahman, Mohsin Mia and Ripon Mia. They were doing Yaba business in Charanchal. Ulipur police station OC Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman said, 'The arrested accused have been sent to the court on Friday morning with a case under the Narcotics Control Act.'

Wild elephant

was confirmed by BGB Mymensingh Mymensingh Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Md. Ismail Hossain.This evening, Mymensingh battalion commander Lt. Col. Md. Ismail Hossain confirmed this news in an e-mail message. The meeting discussed in detail ways to protect the border cropland and livestock from wild elephant attacks as well as how to protect the local people from possible attacks by elephants. Earlier on the same issue, a flag meeting was held between the Indian Border Guard Force BSF and BGB at 26 places in the said district on Thursday.

1,300 sued, 13

Khulna Metropolitan BNP Member Secretary Shafiqul Alam Tuhin"We have so far detained 13 individuals in connection with the case."The arrestees are – Sohail Rana, 20, Gazi Salauddin 42, Md Ataur Rahman, 48, Md Sekandar Sheikh, 60, Md Shaikhul Molla, 34, Md Wahid Sheikh, 32, Md Russell, 24, Rabbi Chowdhury, 29, Mahbub Gazi, 26, Moniruzzaman Mamun, 42, Md Raju Sheikh, 41, Md Alif Milan, 31, and Md Russell, 27.

The clash unfolded on Friday afternoon when the BNP organised a protest rally at the Khulna Press Club premises, demanding the government's resignation, the implementation public activities. of its 10-point demand, and an end to mass arrests.

At that time a large number of law enforcers were deployed in the area to maintain law and order. As the BNP activists began chanting slogans following the arrival of senior leaders, tensions escalated, leading to a clash between the police and the demonstrators.

BNP activists reportedly hurling brickbats, while the police ient". responded with charging batons, tear gas, and rubber bullets.

Around 20 BNP leaders were injured in the confrontation. Expressing his dissatisfaction with the events, Khulna Metropolitan BNP Convener SM Shafiqul Alam Mana stated, "It was us who were attacked by the police yesterday. Now it is we who are being sued.

"We don't have the freedom to speak. BNP leaders and activists cannot be suppressed by attacks and cases."

Maize making

was low. Farmers did not have interest to allocate their lands to cultivate the crop. Three decades later, the picture has

changed a lot. The maize is now grown widely in his village in the market," said the minister. and the district too thanks to the demand for the grain among feed millers that offers farmers a guaranteed market and

"All the farmers in the village are now cultivating maize. They are producing 10-12 metric tonnes of maize in each hectare of land due to availability of improved seeds. We are giving more priority to maize cultivation as the profit is three times that of the cost. We cannot make much profit by cultivating other crops," said the 67-year-old Kasem.

Not only in his area, but cultivation of the crop has expanded massively in recent years because of huge demand for the cereal grain, making it a significant cash crop for famers in

During the current financial year 2022-23, farmers have rown the grain on more than 14 lakh acres, showed estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

A decade ago, in fiscal year 2011-12, farmers cultivated the grain on 487,000 acres. They bagged nearly 13 lakh tonnes of maize in that year, said Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data.

During the fiscal year 2020-21, Bangladesh produced 40 lakh tonnes of maize in the fiscal year, up from 35.69 lakh tonnes the previous year, according to BBS.

Growers said the demand for the grain is so high in fact that buyers, such as poultry feed makers, pay in advance before collecting maize directly from them.

Maize cultivation is particularly popular along riverbanks and char lands as it offers better yields compared to other crops grown in such areas.

At present, around 5 lakh farmers grow maize on about .50 lakh hectares of land across the country with each hectare yielding up to 11 tonnes of the grain.

Farmers say their interest in maize cultivation gradually grew after seeing that they are getting the expected profit.

It costs between Tk 10,000 and Tk 12,000 to cultivate maize on one bigha of land, which produces some 35 to 45

Each maund (37 kilogrammes) of maize can then be sold for Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,100, ensuring a profit of at least Tk

Besides, there is less risk in growing maize as it can be produced twice a year while seasonal crops could lead to losses the harvest fails.

Mizanur Haque, senior vice president of the Bangladesh Maize Association, said the grain has become highly popular among local farmers as it has helped them achieve financial

But while maize cultivation is increasing day by day, about 20 to 30 per cent of the domestic demand is still met through

Some 55 to 60 lakh tonnes of maize are now produced each year as demand has risen in line with the growing number of poultry feed and bakery companies in the country.

"So, maize is playing a vital role in the economic development of farmers in our country," he added.

Dr Jahangir Alam, an agricultural economist, said that domestic maize cultivation has expanded at a rate of about 10 per cent annually over the years.

"If this trend continues, we may not have to import maize after the next few years," he added.

Supen Chandra Das, a farmer of Madhupur village in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur, said maize cultivation requires low investment and effort while offering bumper yields.

He then pointed out that he makes of a profit of more than Tk 1.20 lakh every year by growing maize on six bighas of

"There are concerns over marketing for other crops but we are never worried about marketing for maize," Das said.

"Maize farming has put a smile on our faces," he added. Sahidul Islam, a representative of the Bengal Poultry Feed Company in the Baura area of Lalmonirhat, said they require

45,000 tonnes of maize every year. About 80 per cent of this demand is met through local

sources while imports make up the rest. "We buy maize from om farmers at a fair price and pay in

advance," he added. Sources at the DAE in Lalmonirhat said that maize is being cultivated on 41,000 hectares of land in the district, particu-

larly in shoal areas of Teesta river. Didarul Islam, a farmer in the Char Jorgach area of Brahmaputra river in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said he

cultivated maize on 12 bighas of land this year. "Maize farming has brought prosperity to my family," he

added. Aftab Uddin, additional director of the Rangpur DAE, said they provide farmers all kinds of support for maize cultiva-

"Maize farming has brought smiles among farmers in the

region, especially char areas," he added. However, they strongly demanded to organize such an eye camp on a larger scale. They hope that more patients will get free eye treatment.

Sylhet Mayor

possible under this government. It is envisioning a plan to steal votes by using electronic voting machines (EVM) in the polls

"I will not take part in any election under this government," Ariful told the rallv.

BNP has announced that they will not participate in the five city corporation elections. But, there were rumours that BNP central committee member Ariful Haque will contest as an independent candidate. Ariful Haque's various statements and activities at different times increased the buzz and curiosity of the city dwellers.

So far eight candidates have collected nominations for the election in Sylhet. The last date for submission of nomination papers is 23 May, and the deadline for withdrawal is 1 June.

Meanwhile, Awami League nominated mayoral candidate Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, Jatiya Party nominated mayoral candidate Nazrul Islam Babul and Islami Andolan Bangladesh's Mahmudul Hasan have already started holding

Onion prices double

perishable market to factors such as adverse weather conditions and transportation issues.

The minister emphasised that, apart from onions and sugar, Around 4:30pm, both sides began chasing each other, with the prices of essential commodities are currently "conven-

> The onion import statement by the commerce minister echoes similar remarks made by the agriculture secretary less During a press conference in the Secretariat, Agriculture

> Secretary Wahida Akter said that the ministry might allow onion imports if prices do not decline. Surprisingly, the announcement by the agriculture secre-

tary led to a further increase of Tk 10-15 per kg in onion

Addressing the instability in the sugar market, the commerce minister on Friday expressed concern over unscrupulous traders taking advantage of global price fluctuations. "We have set the prices. However, this is yet to be effective

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has sent a letter to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), requesting the continuation of the duty rebate facility on sugar imports until August

31 due to a significant increase in global sugar prices. Besides, the ministry has sent a letter to the agriculture ministry, seeking permission for onion imports in response to market volatility, as confirmed by a commerce ministry offi-

The official also mentioned that on April 11, the ministry had sent a letter to the revenue board, urging the extension of the VAT rebate facility on soybean and palm oil imports and production until June 2023, instead of April 30.

However, no response has been received from the board regarding these two pleas, he added.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), commented that consumers are facing a dire situation when a government minister openly admits that prices of certain essential commodities are beyond their control.

The Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) recently released a report revealing that a group of refiners were manipulating the local market for essentials such as

Hossain urged the authorities to take strict action against these wrongdoers based on the findings of the BTTC report.

Singer Nobel

court took cognisance of the case and directed the authorities concerned to file a probe report by 9 July.

This, however, is not the first time that the singer got caught in a controversy.

Last year, a legal notice was served to Noble for making offensive remarks against the writer of the Bangladeshi national anthem Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The singer won the 2nd runner-up position in the West Bengal TV reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa in 2019 and received the "Viewer's Choice" award for his powerful covers of fan-favourite classic songs from James and Ayub Bachchu.

Distribution of

Alliance Leader Mostafizur Rahman Suman, Shariful Islam, Jasad Chhatra League Mirpur Upazila Branch President Mir Mukhtishur Rahman Mirza and others.

Distribution

district administration. Upazila Parishad Chairman and Upazila Awami League General Secretary Kazi Mahmudur Rahman Dablo attended the certificate distribution ceremony under the chairmanship of Union Parishad Chairman Md. Tarek Hossain and UP Secretary Aloptagin Mukul as the chief guest. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sohag Chandra Saha was present as a specia guest.Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer Md Mozammel Haque, Deputy Administrative Officer Akeem Uddin, Steno Typist-CA Kabir Hossain, Union Awami League convener Md Nazrul Islam, UP members Abu Kalam Azad, Ataur Rahman, Shamim Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Tarif Hossain Pradhan were also present., Raitu Haque, Aibul Haque, Noor Zaman, Antajul and reserved female UP members Anwara, Fatema, Bijli and upazila administration employee Shahjahan Siraj, village police and trainees among others. It is known that this certificate was distributed among 35 trainees of the 11th batch of nakshi kantha making and 43 trainees of the 9th batch of integrated subjects of vegetable cultivation, livestock (cow, goat and sheep) and family poultry rearing and making of paper bags and thonga in that union. is done At the time of distribution of certificates, training allowance of 1 thousand 700 rupees has been given to each person.

Brahmanbaria Yabas

Squad Commander of RAB-14 Monammad Akkach Ali said that an operation was conducted at forest conservation. Development should not come at the cost Nandanpur of Brahmanbaria on the Comilla-Sylhet highway based on the information that a gang was smuggling drugs from the border area of ??Cox's Bazar. At that time, a suspicious mini truck was searched and two people were arrested along with 26 thousand 700 Yaba tablets hidden inside the chassis. The detainees admitted to drug trafficking in different parts of the country. The value of seized Yaba is estimated at 80 lakhs. A case under the Narcotics Control Act is being filed in this

Overhead transmission lines in Hatirjheel going underground as part of DPDC's megaplan

Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC) has finally started the work to lay underground cables that will replace the high voltage overhead transmission lines in Hatiriheel area.

"We have already laid 2.2km of 132 kilovolt (KV) underground cables, out of a total length of 3.5km. We hope, by next year people will not see any overhead cables in Hatirjheel," Bikash Dewan, managing director of DPDC, told UNB.

He informed that the cables are being laid underground through digging the roads in southern part of the Hatirjheel area and cables reach the Moghbazar through Rampura Bridge area.

The Hatirjheel Lake was artificially created in a vast area of Gulshan, Tejgaon and Rampura as part of the city's beautification and environmental protection plan. But the overhead cables were out of place with the plan.

Removing overhead cables from Hatirjheel is a part of the DPDC's larger plan to take all its overhead cables underground from different areas in the city's central, west and

The DPDC undertook a "Power Distribution System Upgrading Project" to improve its network and system in its command area in Dhaka city and signed a contract with the Chinese contractor TBEA in September in 2019 to implement the China-funded Tk20,500 crore mega project.

DPDC officials said that earlier they completed the design of the project in which a total of 190km of overhead electricity cables will be removed and taken underground from different areas in the city.

Of these, about 115km are of 11 KV overhead lines, and 75km are 0.4 KV lines, they said, adding that all kinds of overhead electric cables will go underground and no cable will remain visible in a particular part of Dhanmondi area that includes Sat Masjid Road, Mirpur Road, City College and Greenherald School area.

Under the project, 40 substations will be set up in the city and cables in Dhanmondi residential areas will be laid under-

Taking overhead cables underground from Jahangir Gate in Cantonment to Motijheel is also included in DPDC's other similar project which was already completed.

"Of the areas, implementation work of the project in

Dhanmondi area is in progress," said Bikash Dewan, adding work will be started gradually in many more areas.

DPDC officials said the equipment for the project has already arrived from abroad.

Under the project in the Dhanmondi area, pole-mounted

transformers are being replaced with box-type transformers. Some 36 box-type transformers, 296 of 6-way ring main units (RMU), 34 of 3-way RMUs and 130 LV Cabinet will be installed to facilitate the underground cabling system, they

They said the project was supposed to kick off in January 2020. But the Chinese engineers who were responsible for designing the works got stuck in their hometown Wuhan following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Officials said most of the materials, equipment and system were brought to the country for the Dhanmondi pilot project.

Bikash Dewan said once the project is implemented, it will play a vital role in improving the power distribution system and substantially check the unexpected interruption in power

There are widespread allegations from the consumers that interruptions take place frequently in many areas in the city.

DPDC officials admitted that it happens due to a weakness in the distribution system despite the fact that there is no shortage in electricity supply.

Under the power distribution system upgrading project, the capacity of a number of substations will also be improved, they added.

Lack of coordination

Before starting the fieldwork, DPDC has invited both the city corporations, internet service providers (ISPs) and cable TV operators to join the project for its proper implementation through better coordination.

But the power distribution company's call received bi response from other authorities.

"So far, we have not received any response from other utilities to our appeal," said the managing director of DPDC.

"But I heard the city corporations and ISPs are taking up separate projects to take their cables underground," he added. The city's overhead cables, especially the internet and cable TV lines, have created a huge pressure on electricity

lines which often pose a serious threat to public safety. "It not only tarnishes the beauty of the city, but often becomes a cause of threat for public safety," said Sajjadur Rahman, a city dweller.

Destroying the last line of defence

Staff Correspondent

The coastal people of Cox's Bazar and Chattogram are left exposed to the wrath of natural disasters as a vast swath of mangrove forest -- which serves as a natural shield against cyclones -- was cleared up over the years to develop economic zones and shrimp farming along coastal belts.

According to the World Bank's estimate, mangrove forests globally protect millions of people and several billions worth of property each year from cyclones and tidal surges.

Over the last decade, the government leased out around 41,000 acres of mangrove forest to establish economic zones, tourism parks, and energy structures in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, according to the forest department's data.

Besides, around 12,500 acres of mangrove forest were grabbed by politically influential people for shrimp farming n Moheshkhali and Chakaria upazila, the data showed. However, the amount of land grabbed is higher than the

official records as encroachment continued unabated over the

last two decades, sources in the forest department said. "The coastal areas are protected by the mangrove forest. For example, mangrove forests in Satkhira and Bagerhat bore the brunt of cyclone Aila in 2009 and saved millions of people from its wrath," said Prof Khondoker Mokaddam Hossain of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability

Studies at Dhaka University. "We have to maintain a balance between development and of forest and environment," he added.

In Chakaria upazila, an entire forest known as "Chakaria Sundarbans", was wiped out from the south-eastern landscape following a government policy of promoting shrimp farming by the then Ershad government by clearing the for-

acres of forest -- which had an area of 48,000 acres -- to people with political connections for shrimp farming. The rest of Chakaria Sundarbans has been encroached on over the years Mokaddam Hossain said apart from the disappearance of

In 1989, the then government leased out a total of 21,000

forest in Moheshkhali into a shrimp farm, increasing the vulnerability of the coastal people. In Chattogram, Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) built the Mirsarai Economic Zone over an area of 30,000 acres of mangrove forest, felling 5.2 million trees.

More trees had to be felled for the eco-tourism park on

Chakaria Sundarbans, influential people turned the mangrove

Sonadia island The coastal island of Moheshkhali, Saint Martin's Island, Kutubdia, Sonadia and Chakaria lost their mangroves due to massive land grabbing for shrimp farming, local environmen-

tal activists said. Nazmul Huda, deputy director of the Department of Environment (DoE), said they filed around nine cases against the clearing of the mangroves in Chakaria, Sonadia,

Moheshkhali and the Bakkhali river in Cox's Bazar. The mangrove forest was encroached in Cox's Bazar chiefly to build homes and in the rest of the district for shrimp farming, said Nazmul, who has been transferred recently

from Cox's Bazar office to Narsingdi. Seeking anonymity, officials of the Department of Environment (DoE) said they cannot take action against such deforestation as the perpetrators are politically influential.

Kalim Ullah, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's (Bapa) Cox's Bazar unit, said mangroves not only saves people from cyclones, but also protects islands from erosion. Every year, coastal residents lose their homes to erosion in the absence of mangroves.

"Wiping out mangroves gradually in Chakaria, Sonadia and Moheshkhali for shrimp farming and salt production has left coastal people without any natural shield," he said.

He suggested that a task force be formed consisting of various government agencies to stop the onslaught on the forests.SM Rubel, convener of Nagorik Andolon -- a citizen's platform in Moheshkhali upazila -- said influential people started ravaging the mangrove forest in Moheshkhali in 2003, which is still ongoing." Mangroves used to save us from any natural disaster. But now there is no natural shield for the coastal people left on the island," he said.

Mohammad Abdur Rahman, divisional forest officer of Coastal Division, Chattogram, said they filed at least 30 cases against encroachers.

"We cannot stop encroachment as we don't have the human resources, vehicles, and speed boats required to conduct drives there. We cannot ensure the presence of a patrol team required to stop the menace in the forest due to our shortage of human resources," he said.