

Shaymoli, a northern place in Dhaka was named as this area was covered with lots of green in 1957 when Abdul Gani haider, a social worker of Becharam Douri came here and built his own house. The local people sat together in a meeting lead by Gani to name their residential area. Former Minister Hafizuddin was present in the meeting where the participants proposed to name this area as Shaymoli.

College admission proving tough for students

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Students who passed SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examinations this year are awaiting a tough battle for admission as the total number of seats in colleges is 23 percent lower than that of the total eligible students.

Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) statistics suggest that around 1.06 lakh students may not be able to get admission in HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) level due to the shortage of seats.

A total of 4.66 lakh students passed this year's SSC examination but the colleges can enrol only 3.60 lakh students. In Dhaka, the number of colleges is 130, but hardly 15 of them have good reputation and these are to face intense pressure.

The total seat capacity in the reputed colleges in the city is

almost equal to the number of students who secured GPA-5 under Dhaka Education Board this year. But brilliant students from all over the country will seek admission in these colleges.

"If my daughter, who got GPA-5, does not get chance in a reputed college, she might not be able to continue with good results in HSC," said Khademul Islam, a guardian.

Abul Bashar, another guardian, pointed out that the academic environment and exam system have improved in recent years that resulted in good performances of students in SSC exams but they face problem in continuing their good results in HSC.

"When all the students with GPA-5 will not get chance in reputed colleges, then where will my son enrol with GPA 4.94?" said Asiqur Rahman, an anxious guardian.

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The number of students who got the highest grade GPA-5 is 24,328 in this year's SSC exams under different education boards. It is feared that many of them despite having such brilliant results will not get chance in reputed colleges in the capital. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon however said the actual seat capacity in the colleges across the country is higher than that revealed in the Banbeis statistics

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"The problem is all the brilliant students rush to the colleges in the cities, especially Dhaka. If a student can obtain GPA-5 from Kachua (the minister's own area), I believe he could also make it in the HSC from there. But if all these students come to Dhaka,

how will the colleges in Kochua get good students?" asked Milon.

"You have seen the number of students with good results has been increasing in the last four years and from next year you will see an increase in the number of good colleges as well," assured Milon. "Many colleges will emerge as reputed ones when they will get these genuinely brilliant students," he explained.

Admission procedure in the colleges in the capital has already started and it will complete by the next month.

Notre Dame College, Dhaka College, Viqarunnisa Noon School and college, Ideal College, Dhaka Commerce College, Dhaka City College, Holy Cross Girls School and College, Residential Model School and College, Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, Adamji Cantonment School and College, BAF Shahin School and

College, Rifles Public School and College are the few names with good reputation but these colleges can take only 15,000 students.

"Naturally these colleges will prefer the students with GPA-5. So we can't blame them for not enrolling my son with GPA 4.84," said Rokeya Rahman, another guardian.

Viqarunnisa College started selling admission forms on June 15 and it will continue till today. Forms for Dhaka College and Dhaka City College will be available up to July 20.

The last date of collecting form from Rajuk Uttara Model School and College is today. This college has kept a 10 percent quota for the brilliant students from outside the divisional cities.

Notre Dame College has already closed the distribution of admission forms.

city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"I do not suffer from any political meanness"

-- Sheikh Hasina
Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition
Said at a meeting with AL grassroots level leaders at her Dhanmondi office on termination of around 60 army officials by the alliance government, mentioning no army officials were sacked on political grounds when AL was in power, on Tuesday.
Source: The Daily Star

"The black money holders will not have the opportunity to whiten their money in future if their names come out"

-- Saifur Rahman
Finance Minister
Said at a press briefing after meeting the newly appointed Tax Ombudsman at the secretariat and further said that names will not be revealed even in case of instructions from parliament, on Tuesday.
Source: The Daily Star

"They do not need to pay tax on words!"

-- MA Aziz
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)
Said at a press briefing slamming the opinions of legal experts who have termed the EC's method of updating the voter list as wrong, on Sunday.
Source: The Daily Star

"I think he (Ershad) talked with the prime minister about his personal problems and nothing else"

-- Muhammad Qamaruzzaman
Joint Secretary General, Jamaat-e-Islami
Told reporters about the meeting between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, on Thursday.
Source: The Daily Star

"I don't know what the impacts of land filling are. I don't want to know the rules when no one is abiding by the rules even to save wetlands"

-- Akkas Ali
Planning to build a multi-storey building filling up a pond at Mirpur
Told reporters, on Monday.
Source: The Daily Star

"There is no need to hold any discussion on these issues in parliament"

-- Jamiruddin Sircar
Speaker, Jatiya Sangsad
Told parliament as he disposed 185 notices submitted by the opposition lawmakers demanding discussions on unabated corruption, price hike of essentials, criminal activities, power shortage and repression on opposition activists, on Wednesday. Source: The Daily Star

"We want to inform the Election Commission (EC) about the problems we are facing. But none of us was allowed to speak"

-- A district election officer
Told reporters after a high-level meeting at EC, on Thursday.
Source: The Daily Star

The harassment goes on...

CNG 3-wheeler and taxicab drivers still demand more than metered fare

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Harassment of passengers using CNG run three wheelers or taxicab in the city has reached its peak as drivers continue to demand more than the metered fare and refusing short-range trips.

Drivers of these vehicles often show excuses of paying extra money to vehicle owners as rent of the vehicles for the extra charge.

To address and solve the problems related to the CNG run vehicles, the communication minister Nazmul Huda formed a committee in early April this year and the committee had already submitted their recommendations to the ministry, one of the committee members told Star City.

"But the ministry ignored the recommendations and passengers continue to be harassed," he added.

The drivers often are unwilling to use metres for any trip and even if they do agree, they demand at least Tk 10 to 25 more under the pretext of increased daily deposits on the vehicles.

They also do not agree to make any short-distance trip even if they are offered more than the metered fare.

Bozlar Rahman, driver of a CNG run three-wheeler,



A passenger arguing with a CNG driver over extra fare at Farmgate. Such scenes have become a common sight on the road sides because of the drivers' demand for extra fare for any journey -- short or long.

of traffic here? It is impossible for me to leave the post to check a CNG driver," he said.

A top communication official told Star City that in the recommendations for solving the problems related to the CNG vehicles, the committee increased deposit of CNG three where from Tk 300 to Tk 475 and fare for the first two kilometres from Tk 12 to Tk 13.

He said the committee also recommended an increase of fare Tk 0.50 per kilometre to balance the maintenance cost and income of the drivers.

Setting up easy reaching complaint boxes for passengers was also recommended to prevent drivers and owners from extra collections, he said.

"Building awareness among the owners, drivers and passengers against the extra fare collection was also emphasised in the recommendations so that an environment grows against charging extra fare," he added.

When asked about the present situation, the official told Star City that he tried to get four taxicabs to get to the ministry and failed to get even one, although he had told the drivers who he was. "They did not care at all," he said.

"All sides are suffering as a proper management is absent here," he said.

defended his extra collection. "The daily deposit was Tk 300 when metres were introduced, and now the owners ask between Tk 550 to Tk 600 from the drivers as deposits," he said.

"Apart from the deposits, on an average I have to spend at least Tk 50 daily on the police," he said.

"It is not possible to manage such costs if I do not charge the pas-

sengers extra," he added.

Harun ar Rashid, a CNG three-wheeler owner told Star City that the extra collection from the drivers is not unjust, as price of the spare parts has almost doubled within a short period.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities said that passengers could complain to the police against the drivers to get rid of the harassment and "we

made the number of police control room available on the back of the vehicles," to help them.

But passengers, who were waiting for taxicabs or three wheelers in different places of the city, expressed their frustration over the inaction by the police in such cases.

Nasimul Haque a passenger who failed to get a CNG three-wheeler at Kawran Bazar on

Thursday morning lost his temper and began to argue with the driver.

After the incident, he told Star City: "I complained to the police constable standing nearby but he did nothing against the CNG driver and told me to look for another."

When asked, the police constable accused by Nasimul told Star City, "Don't you see the flow

STAR PHOTO



Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury

Dhaka: Yesterday, today and tomorrow

The Daily Star (TDS): What memorable event about Dhaka you will never forget?

Serajul Islam Chowdhury (SIC): The most memorable event of our generation was February 21, 1952, the Language Movement. I was only a student of Intermediate at that time but still I went to the old campus of Dhaka University (DU) on that day. Although I didn't see the firing, I saw the police lobbing teargas shells at the students. I left the scene after teargas shells were hurled at us. And that's why I could not witness the firing on the martyrs.

TDS: What memory of Dhaka you cherish most?

SIC: The surrender of Pakistani

army on December 16, 1971 in Dhaka was a memorable event because we were manumitted from the repression of the autocratic rule of then West Pakistan.

TDS: How was everything in the city when you came to Dhaka?

SIC: When we came to Dhaka in December 1947, following the partition of India and Pakistan, the city was like a suburb. We had to study using lantern and go to school on foot. There was no electricity, no proper sewerage system, and no good transport system. There were buses but those were not in good condition. But there were no pollution or crowd. We could go to cinema as those had a decent environment. There were some restrictions

on women's movement, but Dhaka was comparatively safe.

TDS: How have the changes in the city affected your life?

SIC: After the Partition, Dhaka changed gradually. The city started expanding and dividing into two parts: north and south. We were separated from our friends and relatives and community life was partially lost. We moved to northern part of the city. Gradually illegal establishments encroached upon the Buriganga and there had been a population explosion. Many unplanned development took place, which was not desirable. These changes affected our lives.

TDS: What do you envisage for Dhaka in the next twenty years?

SIC: The transport system must be improved and underground transport system should be introduced. I want to see resurrection of the Buriganga. Other water bodies also should be recovered. I want to see more community centres where people can socialise with each other. I want to see more open spaces and parks for recreation. Finally, I want tree plantation programmes to be taken up.

Veteran educationalist and litterateur Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury spoke to Novera Deepita of Star City.



The surrender of Pakistan army followed by the boisterous return of Freedom Fighters on the streets of Dhaka remains the most memorable event for Prof Chowdhury.