



Located on one end of Fuller Road, this cluster of sculptural busts by Shamim Shikder commemorates the legendary names associated with Dhaka University and the birth of Bangladesh, but these intricately carved figures are collecting dust and moss as uncontrolled shrubbery grows around them. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

‘RECRUITMENT BUSINESS, SPREADING PROPAGANDA’ Ruqayyah Hall authorities cancel two students’ seats

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University’s Ruqayyah Hall authorities have decided to cancel seat allotment of two resident students for raising allegations of recruitment business, and spreading propaganda through a recorded phone call.

The duo -- Shotontro Jote leader Shrobona Shafique Dipti and hall union’s Assistant General Secretary Falguni Das Tonni -- were also served show-cause notice respectively for the two allegations on January 15.

“You provided false information from your Facebook account claiming that there were irregularities centring appointment of some staffer posts, which were proved wrong during investigation. Since you played the primary role in tarnishing the image of [this] hall and circulated untrue information, the decision of cancelling your seat allotment was taken unanimously at the house tutors’ meeting,” reads the notice issued to Shrobona.

Falguni was accused of recording a conversation in which she spoke with a staffer named Shahin Rana about the “recruitment business” and circulating it on Facebook.

Both students were asked to respond to the notices within seven days, explaining why their seat allotment should not be

cancelled.

On September 3, a group of students of the girls’ dormitory at a press conference alleged that Ruqayyah Hall Union vice president, general secretary and other Chhatra League leaders of the dormitory had taken around Tk 21 lakh from three individuals for cleaner and security guard appointment.

A conversation between Falguni and hall staffer Shaheen Rana was also leaked at that time.

On September 3, a three-member probe committee was formed by the university administration which after conducting a four-month long investigation, stated that they found no evidence of “recruitment business”.

Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman presented the investigation report on December 29, which said propaganda was spread intentionally to tarnish the image of the university.

A copy of the notice to Shrobona was forwarded to Prof Mahbuba Nasreen, director of DU’s Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, of which Shrobona is a master’s student; DU proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani and to the student’s guardians.

No copy of the notice to Falguni was sent to her department, rather copies were sent

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Manifestos only now, a week before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With elections to the two Dhaka city corporations just a week away, mayoral candidates from Awami League and BNP are only now gearing up to unveil their electoral manifestos -- elaborating their plans to improve services of city corporations for citizens.

AL mayoral aspirant Atiqul Islam is scheduled to reveal his manifesto at 10am today at a city hotel.

While campaigning yesterday at Gulshan, he told journalists, “There will be surprise in the manifesto.”

He started his campaign in Kalachadpur area (ward-18). His campaign covered Shahjadpur, Bashtola, Gulshan-2 kitchen market and Banani market.

Local Awami League councillors from general and reserved seats were present at the campaign of the immediate past DNCC mayor.

Meanwhile, BNP candidate Tabith Awal started his campaign from Mirpur-6 Kacha Bazar yesterday, and went through several wards in the area.

During a brief street meeting, he said, “People are our strength. We are getting their support. We do not want any untoward incident and no matter what happens, we will never break any electoral rule.”

“Voters are looking forward to the polls day. If they can cast their votes, we will definitely win,” he added.

Raising objections against the use of EVM, he also said, “We are requesting the EC not to use EVM considering all issues.

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Dhaka needs more women behind the wheel

Says Quader at certificate-giving
event of Brac driving school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the number of road accidents would reduce if a greater number of woman drivers are in charge.

“Women drive vehicles abiding by rules and in cool head. They are not substance abusers. They do not talk on mobile phones while driving. So, the more women will be appointed as professional drivers the lesser will be the risks of road accidents,” said Quader.

The minister was addressing a programme to hand over certificates to the women who successfully completed a driving course at Brac Driving School in Dhaka, said a press release.

Quader said they want other institutions to come forward to help women gain self-dependence. The aim of these initiatives will simply go in vain if women fail to get jobs even after successfully completing such months-long courses, he said.

“So, both the government and private sectors have to clear their way to recruit women drivers. The government will consider this issue with more importance from now on,” he added.

Kazi Rowshan Akhter, secretary to the ministry of women and children’s affairs, said a Brac research shows that 94 percent women public transport users face sexual harassment.

“Women drivers in our country also deal with many challenges. We have to join hands in finding the root

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Steps to be taken to stop privatisation of railway

Says minister

UNB, Dhaka

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon yesterday said steps will be taken to stop privatisation of railway to ensure good governance.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the new committee of Bangladesh Railway Stramik League at railway rest house in Kamalapur.

Leaders of the organisation placed a 24-point demand at the meeting. The demands include taking initiatives to cease privatisation of railway, and not renewing lease of trains and catering service of all inter-city and mail trains to private organisations.

The minister said, “The BNP-led government took the decision to privatise the railway and destroyed it. Our government is working tirelessly to develop this sector with special care.”

He also hinted that the

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DB arrests 8 kidnappers

Two abductees rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested eight kidnappers and rescued two teenagers from Dhaka’s Demra area last evening.

The two were allegedly abducted from Mohammadpur last Tuesday.

The victims are -- Khalid Hasan Dhrubo (19), a first year student of Dhaka College, and his nephew Tanzim Al Islam Dibos

(17), an A-Level student.

“Tipped off, we conducted an operation at their den in Demra and arrested the eight,” Shahadat Hossain Suma, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star.

The law enforcers seized uniforms of police, DB vests, three wireless sets, a pistol, three toy guns, a private car, three

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Promoting young changemakers

Brac, Ashoka join hands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To further uphold the legacy of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Brac has joined social entrepreneurs’ global platform Ashoka, and have launched an initiative named after the Brac founder to promote young changemakers.

As part of the initiative, Ashoka Innovators for the Public, which supports a global network of social entrepreneurs, nominated 15 youths from across Bangladesh who are working on impactful social ideas.

Selected by a jury panel, they are the first batch of “Sir Fazle Hasan Abed Ashoka Young Changemakers” who will vie for Ashoka’s global edition of “Young Changemakers Programme”.

Brac and Ashoka formally launched the initiative at a programme yesterday at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

This was part of Ashoka’s “Everyone a Changemaker” framework, and Bangladesh is the fifth country to unveil the initiative after the US, Brazil, Indonesia and India, said organisers.

The “Young Changemakers Programme” focuses on the role of youths as influencers and co-leaders.

Their social initiatives in different fields including

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‘Inform people of legal remedies’

Young lawyers expect from Star



Participants at the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young lawyers yesterday at a discussion recommended that people be made more aware of legal remedies available at local and district levels, so that every matter is not brought to the higher courts.

At the invitation of The Daily Star, the lawyers gathered at the newspaper’s office to respond to the question “How can The Daily Star strengthen the rule of law in the country and guarantee constitutional rights of every citizen?”

Participants observed that people are being deprived of remedies due to complexities in the legal system, and hence they are losing trust in the judicial mechanism.

They further suggested to make people aware of sectoral laws and policies -- including those dealing with medical and educational services, banking sector, road safety, consumers’ rights and food safety.

On another note, they expressed the

view that the general standard of law reporting needs to be improved, adding that legal terms are often misused, and implications of several judgements have not been fully covered in newspapers.

They recommended follow-up stories on major legal observations and on proceedings of public interest litigation, and suggested regular training for law reporters and news editors for accurate reporting on legal issues, including the Supreme Court verdicts and orders.

They also emphasised better briefing by lawyers on their respective cases, and more discussions on major judgements to this effect.

The lawyers also stressed holding roundtable discussions on draft laws and advocating for modernisation of laws that are backdated and have failed to serve the purpose. Newspapers can contribute to promoting policies through advocacy on different legal issues, they said, adding that journalists can use the

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