



Under the banner of "General Job Seekers", a section of job applicants staged a rally in front of DU's Raju Sculpture demanding the lowering of application fees for all jobs.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## HC cancels appointment of three RU teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cancelled appointments of three teachers of Crop Science and Technology Department of Rajshahi University, as they were appointed without recommendation from the relevant planning committee of the department.

They are: Shamsun Nahar, Mukhtar Hossain and Rezvi Ahmed Bhuiyan.

The HC yesterday also declared illegal a job circular issued on July 30, 2019, under which the three were appointed. It ordered authorities to finish appointment for the three vacant posts within 30 days of receiving the certified copy of the verdict.

The bench of Justice Md Ashraf Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the verdict following a writ petition by Dr Md Ali Asgar, a professor of the department

and a member of its planning committee.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, a lawyer for the writ petitioner, told reporters that RU authorities issued a circular in November 2016 to recruit three teachers to the department, but they were ultimately not appointed under that circular.

Instead, authorities issued another circular on July 30, 2019. In it, candidates' qualifications were relaxed without consent from the department's planning committee. This prompted Dr Asgar to file the writ petition in August last year, he said.

The HC that same month issued a rule questioning the legality of the July 30, 2019 circular, Jyotirmoy added. Despite this, the three were appointed under the circular this month, although the rule was pending with the HC.

## Approval of fresh project

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footpaths at Motijheel Ideal School, Dilkusha commercial area, Baitul Mokarrom Link Road, south portion of GPO, Jatrabari intersection and Dholpur City Corporation Staff Quarter High School to stop floating markets on pavements.

About another issue, the LGRD minister said the government has taken project to supply water to Dhaka city dwellers supplying 70 percent water from surface water and 30 percent from underground sources by 2021.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Momtaz Begum from Manikganj-2, the minister said the government has taken three mega projects to construct water treatment plant in a bid to increase usage of surface water source and decrease usage of groundwater source in Dhaka city by 2021.

He also said the government has taken initiative to ensure eco-friendly, sustainable and people-oriented water supply system in the capital in line with the programme titled "Turn Around Dhaka Wasa."

## Govt sincere

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"The governing body of the institute also didn't take any decision over the ban on wearing scarves by girls," she said.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury from Sylhet-3, the prime minister informed the House that her government has taken plans to set up a technical school and college in each upazila.

Noting that the government is now preparing the country's second perspective plan-2041, Sheikh Hasina said there are two core targets in the plan.

They are making Bangladesh a developed country with over \$12,500 per capita income, and making poverty a matter of the distant past in the Sonar Bangla, she said while answering a question from AL lawmaker M Abdul Latif from Chattogram-11.

Responding to a query from lawmaker Morshed Alam from Noakhali-2, the prime minister informed the parliament that the government has taken a project titled "Skills for employment investment programme" to create 1 lakh drivers -- so that they can be employed at home and abroad.

While replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Fakhrul Imam from Mymensingh-8, Hasina told parliament that the government is intensively monitoring social media round the clock so that no individual, group or section can hamper peace and order by spreading rumour and misleading information.

## Councillor aspirants

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"I informed the leaders to look into the matter. If we can keep harmony [within ourselves], then people will welcome us," Atiqul said regarding steps taken from his side.

Termining it an "untoward incident", he also said, "It was not a clash between AL and BNP. It is a misunderstanding among ourselves. It's a big congregation and such an incident may take place; however, it is not expected."

"I expect everyone to have patience and create a fair environment [for the election]," he said addressing his followers.

Earlier in the day at the campaign, Atiq told voters, "Victory and defeat coexist in election. But we need to accept it and work together."

At the end of the first phase of his campaign at 2:40pm in Mohakhali, in a brief street meeting, he said, "Your vote is very valuable. You can vote for whoever you want, but vote for someone who will work for the development of your area."

He then moved towards Mirpur to start his second phase of the campaign for the day.

## Chinese returnees

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at a time. Their leave does not have any impact on the construction work, Quader said.

However, an executive engineer of the project told The Daily Star on Tuesday that around 250 of about 1,100 Chinese nationals who work at the Padma bridge and related projects were on leave.

He said they asked the Chinese nationals not to go back to their workplace within two weeks from January 22. Those in Bangladesh were asked not to visit China for now, he added.

There is apprehension that work on several mega development projects may be hampered if the situation over coronavirus does not improve soon.

Many Chinese nationals working under those projects are now home on leave to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Given the situation in China, they might not be able to return and join work on time, said officials linked to the projects.

They also said authorities of one of the projects have extended the leave of several hundred Chinese nationals by a week, and that there could be further extensions. Besides, several other project authorities were mulling similar steps, they said.

## Journos must evolve

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February, on www.banglatutorial-media.org. Anyone can take part in the course free of cost, on their computers or smartphones.

Upon completion of the course, participants will get certification from DW Akademie and Article 19.

**STUDY ON JOURNALISM EDUCATION LAUNCHED**  
A research publication on journalism education in Bangladesh -- conducted by Prof Jude William Jenilo, Fahmidul Haq and Shameem Mahmud -- was also launched at the event.

Speaking at the event, Prof Jenilo, head of mass communication and journalism department at University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh, said while the media industry is also becoming bigger, journalism education at university level is also expanding. He stressed creating a connection between the two.

**HACKATHON PROTOTYPES PRESENTED**  
The event also featured prototype presentations by six teams from DW Akademie's "Media Tech Challenge" hackathon, organised last year in collaboration with Rajshahi University's communications and journalism department, computer science and engineering department, The Daily Star, Radio Today and Channel I.

At the hackathon, participants came up with media tech solutions ranging from an artificial intelligence website to detect fake news to a crowd-sourced smartphone app for data collection on environmental pollution.

## Level playing field

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As loudspeakers blared songs in favour of the candidate, enthusiastic leaders and activists showered flower petals on him from both sides of the streets.

This correspondent found him ending his day's campaign in Roy Shaheb Bazar area at around 8pm.

Earlier in the day, Ishraque condemned attacks on his party men at different parts of the city recently.

"EC and law enforcers are yet to take any action against those who carried out attacks on our activists," he alleged while talking to journalists at his Gopibagh home.

BNP standing committee member Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain read out a written statement there.

### APARTMENT TO-LET

Semi-furnished apartment of 3000 sqft. at Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. 4 bed, 4 bath, living, family living, dining, kitchen and maid area. Fitted with AC, fan, washing machine, burner & microwave. Full backup generator, CC Camera, 24 hrs security, lift. Foreigners preferred.  
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### পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি ও জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিয়োগ বিধি মোতাবেক "গুণাকর আদর্শ ডিগ্রি কলেজ" ফরিদপুর, হান্দপুর এর জন্য শূন্য পদে অধ্যক্ষ নিয়োগ দেয়া হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে সভাপতি বরাবরে অগ্রাহী প্রার্থীদের প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আবেদন করতে হবে।  
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## UN, humanitarian bodies

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future and return to Myanmar when the conditions allow," said a joint statement of UN and global humanitarian community.

"When conditions become conducive and refugees are able to return to Myanmar in a safe, dignified and sustainable way, these efforts will also help children reintegrate into the Myanmar education system and society," the statement adds.

In Myanmar's Rakhine State, the UN and partners will also continue to provide educational support and assistance to Rohingya and other affected communities -- to the extent possible, said the statement signed by Athena Rayburn of the Save the Children and Mostafa Mohammad Sazzad Hossain of the UN Refugee Agency in Dhaka.

Rohingyas also welcomed the decision, saying it will help the Rohingya have a better and meaningful life.

"Rohingyas were not allowed education, mostly higher education in Myanmar. Bangladesh has not only sheltered the refugees, but has now decided to grant formal education. It reflects the greatness of Bengali nation," said Nay San Lwin, co-founder of Free Rohingya Coalition.

He suggested that Bangladesh government allows Rohingyas to study up to tenth grade, and allow them education in universities.

"We hope that the international community will come up to help the Rohingya," Nay San told The Daily Star from Germany yesterday.

About 400,000 Rohingya children currently live in refugee camps, and global rights groups have been demanding that the Bangladesh government allow them to have a formal education.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since August 2017, when Myanmar's military launched a crackdown against the Rohingyas.

## Illegal brick kiln demolished in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The district administration and Department of Environment (DoE) demolished an illegal brick kiln in Cumilla yesterday.

The joint drive starting at 11am continued for all-day long at Kalkarpur Amratoli in Sadar upazila.

Executive Magistrate Amit Datta, Magistrate Mehedi Islam, DoE Assistant Director Saokat Area Koli and its Inspector Md Nazrul Islam participated in the drive against NSB Bricks.

Koli said, "This brick kiln was being operated without any approval from the district administration. It was violating the environment law as well. Filter was never used in the kiln. Eventually, the rate of carbon dioxide it was emitting was very high."

Owner of the brick kiln was not available for comments.

## Request for Information

On Digital Solutions for Micro-merchants in Bangladesh

**Background**

UNCDF has been implementing Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations (SHIFT) programme in Bangladesh for accelerating uptake and usage of digital financial services in the country to expand financial inclusion through digital pathways. Funded by the European Union within "Poverty Reduction through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets" (PRISM) initiative, UNCDF's Merchants Development Driving Rural Markets (SHIFT-MDDRM) project aims to promote greater growth and competitiveness of retail merchants, particularly micro-merchants, in the distributive trade sub-sector in rural Bangladesh. SHIFT SAARC is trying to achieve the objective through implementing innovative business solutions leveraging technology and Digital Financial Services (DFS) at the micro-merchant end. The intervention aims towards tighter vertical integration with FMCG value chains, and; stronger horizontal integration with digital business solution providers including digital/mobile financial services (DFS/MFS) providers and m-commerce/e-commerce platforms.

UNCDF supported nationally representative studies that unprecedentedly looked into the socioeconomic profiles of retail micro-merchants, their business practices, access to technology and financial services, capacity building needs and major growth challenges. To that end, the project has already rolled out six private sector-led business innovation pilots that cater to the business needs of micro-merchants in Sirajgonj, Tangail, Sherpur and Jamalpur. The innovation models approach to test solutions to challenges identified in UNCDF's Micro-merchant Landscape Assessment.

**Request for Information (RFI)**

SHIFT SAARC Program of the UNCDF seeks information on business solutions targeting the micro-merchants. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit information from FinTechs/Social Enterprises/Financial Service Providers/NGOs/FMCG Companies or other corporates on digital solutions aimed at solving the business challenges of retail micro-merchants. The RFI is open to Bangladeshi FinTechs/Social Enterprises/Financial Service Providers/NGOs/FMCG Companies or other corporates and/or their coalitions who have already developed, prototyped, tested or piloted digital solutions for MSMEs, mainly for retail micro-merchants. Organizations whose solutions are already developed for other sectors but could be made to accommodate use cases of the retail micro-merchant segments are also encouraged to submit information. Foreign firms will have to form a consortium with local firms and also require regulatory approval or licenses wherever applicable. Please make sure that the core USP of the product/solution is not the same as those of 6 business innovation models that UNCDF is currently piloting (link below). The category of solutions UNCDF is looking for is as under:

Sl.	Products/Solutions	Key Features
1	Capacity building in the areas of business management and digital transformation	To offer digitally administered training to low literate to illiterate micro-merchants on business management, digital transformation process and impart skills
2	Digital integration with the value chain including payments options	To address a complete enterprise solution to micro-merchants businesses integrating all value chain partners
3	Leveraging micro-merchant profiles and transactions data for alternative credit scoring and data-driven retailer targeting for scale-up	To assess micro-merchants' transaction data and profiles for alternative credit scoring, offering a revolving credit line and tracking their credit behaviour for efficiently onboarding retailers at scale-up
4	Microinsurance services for the micro-merchants	To offer insurance services to cover the risks of the health of his/her and his/her family members and/or damages to the facility/merchandise to the micro-merchants through simplified features and low-value premium
5	Facilitating the digital onboarding of retailers in business registry (digital trade license) and with Financial Service Providers (eKYC)	To digitalize the process of trade license issuance and KYC requirements so that micro-merchants can easily get their business registered and comply with KYC requirements of FSPs and subsequently access financial services easily

**Submission of Application**

The interested FinTechs/Social Enterprises/Financial Service Providers/NGOs/FMCG Companies/ other corporates or their coalition are requested to submit a Product Brief (maximum 5 pages) in line with the prescribed format (link below). Only short-listed FinTechs/Social Enterprises/Financial Service Providers/NGOs/FMCG Companies/ other corporates or their coalition will be contacted for more information based on the merit and maturity of the said solution(s) and its relevance to micro-merchants' digital transformation, business capacity building, and growth prospects. Primarily selected applicants may be reached out for exploring potential avenues of collaboration. However, this RFI does not necessarily mean selection for contracting for implementation.

The potential FinTechs/Social Enterprises/Financial Service Providers/NGOs/FMCG Companies/other corporates or their coalition can submit information in the form of a Product Brief via e-mail to [shift.saarc@uncdf.org](mailto:shift.saarc@uncdf.org) addressing **Md. Ashraf Alam** (Country Project Coordinator, SHIFT in Bangladesh, UN Capital Development Fund, Bangladesh).

Please specify "Request for Information" in the subject line and attach documents about your organization or the consortium and some marketing/promotional materials on the solution(s). Information must be submitted by **five working days from the date of RFI publication**. For more information, you may call +8801714110792 | +8801819025985.

**Links**

- UNCDF's Micro-merchant Landscape Assessment in Bangladesh: <https://bit.ly/202Rj0y>
- 3 Digital Business Opportunities with Micro-merchants in Bangladesh: <https://bit.ly/2TUByKk>
- UNCDF-backed Mobile App for Micro-merchants: <https://bit.ly/36wdidY>
- Product Brief Format: <https://bit.ly/37vWwgi>
- Six Business Innovation Models UNCDF is piloting in Bangladesh: <https://bit.ly/30XRWFh>

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

Syed Tanveer Hussain, former Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh, devoted husband and loving father to his two daughters Tanya and Nazia, passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. A doa will be held in Banani tomorrow, 31<sup>st</sup> January, at 4pm (please call 01312938163 for details). We welcome your prayers so that his departed soul may rest in heaven.

**University of Dhaka**  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

**Certificate Course in 3D Animation and VFX**

The admission process for the 4th batch of the One year Certificate Course (2020 - 2021) has been started on the 3D Animation and VFX under the supervision of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Dhaka University. Interested candidates will be requested to apply through the following website within **12/02/2020**, Wednesday.

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Class Time: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM and 6:00 PM-9:00 PM  
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