


Bangladesh in a short walk

|| ARUN BIKASH DEY ||



PORT CITY CHRONICLES

Visitors relax on the steps of the replica of Ahsan Manzil at Chattogram's "Mini Bangladesh" theme park. Below, an aerial view of the National Parliament replica.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

For those who haven't had the fortune to visit the major landmarks and monuments of Bangladesh, the "Mini Bangladesh" theme park in the port city can serve as something of a snapshot.

Officially named Shadhinata Complex, the park has simply become Mini Bangladesh to those who love it. It displays replicas of a total of 14 national landmarks, including Jatiya Smriti Shoudha, Shaheed Minar, Ahsan Manzil, Parliament House, Curzon Hall, Kantajir Temple, Lalbagh Fort, Bara kuthi, Sona Mosque, Paharpur Bihar, Saint Nicolas' Church and Darbar Hall.

The park boasts a variety of amusement rides too, all for the visitors' pleasure. To add to these, it has an artificial lake with boats for hire.

A 24-storey high revolving restaurant stands at park premises. It's a treat not only for the diners but also for their eyes. Sitting at the table, one gets to see almost all of the city while enjoying the meal.

The Shadhinata Complex park is located beside Kalurghat Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in the port city. While it's a favourite for Chattogram locals, the crowd is not limited to them. With such a spectacular setting, Mini Bangladesh attracts people from all over the country.

For example, Sayeed Hasan came to the park all the way from Cumilla. "I wanted to visit the park after coming across it on the internet," Sayeed said. "It really is a beautiful theme park." Sayeed's visit from online knowledge shows the park has managed to gain a following on the digital space too.

The park's construction was initiated in 2006 by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. A private organisation built the park on 16.37 acres of land on condition of build, operate and transfer (BOT). The same company operated the park from 2006 to 2009. After this, Chattogram City Corporation ran it from 2010 till 2015. Since then, Well Enterprise has been running the park. The company has leased it for five years.

This many replicas of national and historical monuments together.

"I haven't visited most of the landmarks displayed here, but at least I'm getting a taste of them with these replicas," she said. "It's like visiting the whole country in a few minutes' walk."

"These replicas feel almost real," Monifa Sultana, another student, enthusiastically said while coming down from the stairs of Ahsan Manzil.

"I've never had the fortune to visit the real Ahsan Manzil, only knowing of it through photos and videos. It's great that I get to have a glimpse of it from this very well made replica," she told The Daily Star.

However, there were some grumblings about the high price of entry.

Tickets to the park are priced at Tk 150 for adults and Tk 120 for children, with one free ride, park manager Mohammad Ali told this correspondent.

"The tickets should remain below Tk 100 for adults and Tk 50 for students and children," Sayeed from Cumilla said.

Asked about the high price of tickets, Mohammad Ali said, "Despite our wish, we're unable to reduce prices due to the high maintenance cost of the park. We incurred heavy loss after we leased the park from the ministry and had to install many rides at a high cost."

"We have recently invested Tk 40 lakh to introduce a new kids' zone, but we are a little

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Govt to open more foreign missions

Minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday in the parliament said the government is working to increase the number of foreign missions of Bangladesh to 100 from the existing 77 within 2021.

The minister said this while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Syed Abu Hossain.

"The ministry has plans to gradually open missions in diplomatically important countries," he said.

The ministry has recently completed the administrative process to open missions in Bucharest (Romania) and Chennai (India), while cabinet has approved a new consulate general in Florida (USA).

New missions in Wellington (New Zealand), Dublin (Ireland), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Guangzhou (China), Sao Paulo (Brazil), and Frankfurt (Germany) have also been approved.

Never to return home

Bus runs over mother, daughter after hitting auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SAHAR

Maleka Begum (22) and her family of four had gone to visit her uncle Kamrul Khan in Ashulia's Dendabar area four days ago. The family was scheduled to return home yesterday, but their residence at Faridpur's Alamdanga stands empty after a tragic road accident at Nabinagar left Maleka and her 3-year-old daughter Fatema dead.

The family had boarded two battery-run auto-rickshaws around 7am yesterday to reach Nabinagar bus counter. However, as they reached gate no-3 of the National Memorial, a bus hit their auto-rickshaw from behind and left four, including the mother and daughter, injured. They were immediately taken to the Gono Shastho Hospital, where doctors declared critically injured Fatema, Maleka, and driver Jewel Rana (40) dead.

The killer bus of Kaba Paribahan was going to Paturia from Gazipur, said Nurul Huda Bhuiyan, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station. Other then the three who died, Nupur (19), a relative of the family, sustained minor injuries from the collision, Nurul Huda confirmed.

What makes the accident even more tragic is that the trio didn't immediately die after the bus had hit their vehicle. In fact, they might have even had a chance of being let off with minor injuries, received from being thrown to the ground by the force of the collision. They only suffered the critical and ultimately fatal injuries after the bus ran them over as they lay helpless on the ground, the SI added.

After the doctors declared them dead, police recovered the bodies and handed them over to the grieving family.

Maleka's uncle Kamrul told The Daily Star yesterday evening that at first he thought it was just an accident.

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Registration for 5th season of Spelling Bee starts



PHOTO: COLLECTED

CITY DESK

Spelling Bee is back this year.

Dan Cake has joined hands with Champs21.com to organise the 5th season of the English spelling competition initiated by The Daily Star.

In this regard, an agreement signing ceremony was held at the head office of Dan Cake, says a press release.

Hosted by Champs21.com, the competition, also an initiative of The Daily Star, first started in 2012.

At the ceremony, Firoz Ahmed, chief operating officer of Dan Foods Ltd, said, "Spelling Bee is committed to building a confident and skilled generation for the nation. Dan Cake is delighted to be a part of this wonderful initiative."

Russell T Ahmed, CEO of Champs21.com, said, "Bringing back spelling bee makes me very hopeful and optimistic that we will be able to not only teach our students to be better spellers but also help them become leaders of tomorrow."

To participate in the contest, students of classes VI to X from both Bangla and English mediums can visit www.champs21.com

The competition comprises of three rounds -- online game play, divisional and TV.

Top 96 spellers will appear in the TV round to contend for the champion's title. The champion will be awarded with a trophy, Tk 5 lakh and air ticket for a trip to Washington DC.

RANGPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Glitch causes kidney dialysis suspension

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Kidney dialysis at the nephrology department of Rangpur Medical College Hospital remained suspended for four days until yesterday as its water treatment plant is not working due to a technical glitch.

As a result, the 25-bed nephrology ward of the hospital has been wearing a deserted look as patients have to leave when they are informed of unavailability of treatment.

The plant unit in-charge Mokhesur Rahman said on an average 60 kidney patients take dialysis service at the hospital on a daily basis.

Hospital sources said the water plant is an important part of dialysis system, but it stopped functioning on Wednesday, forcing the hospital authorities to suspend the service.


The suspension order was announced on Wednesday and Thursday, they said.

Mokhesur Rahman said high officials of the healthcare facility were informed about the glitch and steps are being taken in this regard.

Many kidney patients are still visiting the hospital everyday as they are unaware about the situation, he said.

Hospital sources said 14 dialysis machines are currently working at the unit. Treated water collected from the plant is essential to run dialysis

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Radwan Mujib Siddiq hands over a set of all the editions of graphic novel "Mujib" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Centre for Research and Information (CRI) stall at Bangla Academy, on the first day of the book fair yesterday. National Professor Anisuzzaman was also present on the occasion. This graphic novel, an initiative of CRI, is based on "The Unfinished Memoirs", an autobiography written by Bangabandhu.

PHOTO: BSS

GOPALGANJ SCIENCE, TECH UNIVERSITY

15 hurt as students of two depts clash

STAR REPORT

At least 15 students were hurt in a clash between students of two departments at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj yesterday.

Three of the injured were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital and the rest received primary treatment.

University sources said an altercation ensued between a second-year student of political science and a first-year student of law department over a trifling matter at 11am.

The political science then student beat up the other student. Being informed, students of law department rushed to the spot, triggering a clash, said Proctor Rajiur Rahman.

Students of both the departments equipped with sticks and rods attacked each other, according to witnesses.

Chairmen of the departments along with the proctor went to the spot, but initially failed to bring the situation under control, campus sources said.

The clashes took place in phases. Students of political science department allegedly ransacked several rooms of law department and harassed some teachers. Similar allegations came from students of the other department.

The proctor said they would take legal actions against those involved.

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Memo No. 212

Date: 30/01/2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl	Tender/Proposal ID, Reference No. & name of works	Last date & time for tender/proposal selling & security submission	Tender/proposal opening date & time
1	e-GP/32/GRD/2019-2020 (Tender ID # 417469) Emergency earthwork & sand backfill to Swamp at Tongi Sub-Division Office Compound abandoned pond under Gazipur Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	16 Feb 2020 16:00	17 Feb 2020 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Saifuddin
ID No. 601964
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GD-221

63 PSTU students to get gold medals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Sixty-three students are set to receive gold medals for academic performance at the second convocation of Patuakhali University of Science and Technology (PSTU), to be held on February 5.

Abdul Hamid, president and university chancellor, will present the students with the medals.

Of the 63, 10 are from Faculty of Agriculture, 10 are from Faculty of Business Administration, 10 are from Computer Science and Engineering Faculty, four are from livestock faculty, and six are from Faculty of Disaster Management.

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