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Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Rehman Sobhan and National Professor Anisuzzaman unveiling a portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during The Daily Star's 29th anniversary celebration at the capital's International Convention City Bashundhara last night. Right, Mohammad Soinuddin Miah and Abdur Rashid, who were honoured by The Daily Star as change makers, with renowned development journalist Shykh Seraj and Mediaworld Ltd Chairperson Rokia Afzal Rahman. PHOTO: STAR

Hail the power of one

Star celebrates its 29th anniversary, honours 2 individuals for remarkable feats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wider social impact small individual actions can have and the immense transformative power one single person can harness are often underestimated. There are far too many in the society who are content with injustices and inequalities around them, or resign themselves to sufferings they endure.

But Mohammad Soinuddin Miah and Abdur Rashid -- both farmers -- are not among them.

Soinuddin refused to accept that people in his village -- Chakgagadhar in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila -- would not have a road to go to the

nearest market. Tired of stomping through thick mud and waiting for the authorities to build the road, he picked up the shovel himself.

The earth came from his own lands, and after four years of perseverance, Soinuddin single-handedly built a 1.5km clay road, five feet in width and three feet in height.

On the other hand, Abdur Rashid's heart went at the plight of children with disabilities. He saw first-hand how parents in his village -- Dakkhin Dalgram Parshurampara in Lalmonirhat -- hid such children from the society, and how the children never learned of a world outside their homes. The remote village had none of the

facilities required by children with special needs.

And so Kaliganj Pratibandhi Bidyalay was born. While founding the school in the village, Rashid gave up 20 decimals of his 35 decimal homestead land, the only property he owns. All the funds needed to run the school are also managed by him.

There are now more than 200 students in the school, where those who cannot see, are taught in Braille, and those who cannot hear, are taught using sign language.

What Soinuddin, 45, and Rashid, 60, did is by no means a small feat and its extraordinariness

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UNIFORM ADMISSION TEST UGC all set; 4 major univs still undecided

"We are doing this as the guardians want a hassle-free admission system."

UGC CHAIRMAN PROF KAZI SHAHIDULLAH



WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

From this year, all public universities have to enrol students through a centralised admission test as the University Grants Commission is all set to introduce the new system to reduce hassles of admission seekers.

The UGC will start work at full throttle next month on the procedures and methods of the admission system styled "Central Admission Test".

However, four leading universities -- Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University -- are still undecided about adopting the new system.

They will inform the UGC, the statutory apex body for higher education, about their decision after discussing the issue at their respective academic council, one of the highest bodies that deal with such matters, the vice chancellors of the universities said after a meeting with the UGC high-ups at the latter's office.

"We have unanimously decided that a central admission test will be held this year to enrol students at public universities," UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah told reporters, emerging from the meeting attended by the VCs of 12 major public universities.

"We are doing this as the guardians want a hassle-free admission system."

The UGC chair said none at the meeting expressed

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A homecoming for champions

Triumphant young Tigers return to Dhaka after lifting the 2020 ICC Under-19 World Cup

MAZHAR UDDIN

There were incredible scenes as a cavalcade of at least 300 motorbikes showed up to the home of cricket in Mirpur yesterday afternoon with a brass band, preparing to head towards the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to receive the 2020 ICC Under-19 World Cup champions.

Around 3:00pm in the afternoon, a convoy from the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium including Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan and board directors went to the airport to receive the heroes, who were scheduled to land at 4:55pm.

Meanwhile in Mirpur, a huge crowd had gathered in anticipation of welcoming the team, creating a festive

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The Bangladesh Under-19 side, who won the country its first ever World Cup by defeating their Indian counterparts in the ICC Under-19 World Cup final in South Africa on Sunday, celebrates with the trophy in front of their countrymen at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

No one is above the law: HC

'No unfit vehicles to be allowed on roads'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issuing a stern warning against the operation of unfit vehicles on roads, the High Court yesterday said vehicles without valid fitness documents will not be allowed to run in Bangladesh.

"No one is above the law and compliance of law is the precondition for a country's development," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam said while hearing on a suo moto rule on this issue.

The bench had issued the rule on March 27 last year following a report published on The Daily Star on March 23 under the headline "No fitness docs, yet running".

In the rule, it asked the authorities concerned of the government to explain why their inaction to bar unfit vehicles and unlicensed drivers should

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Rate of new cases drops

COVID-19 UPDATE	1,115 DEATHS	44,730 confirmed cases in mainland China	The virus spread to at least 25 countries
	45,653 confirmed cases		

AFP, Beijing

The death toll from China's coronavirus epidemic climbed past 1,100 yesterday but the rate of new cases per day fell.

As Beijing scrambles to contain the outbreak, the number of people infected on a cruise ship off Japan's coast rose to 174 -- the biggest cluster outside the Chinese mainland.

Another 97 people died in China, raising the national toll to 1,113, while more than 44,600 people have now been infected by newly named COVID-19 virus. Two more people died outside China.

The World Health Organization warned the virus posed a "very grave threat", but that there a "realistic chance" of curbing the outbreak.

Most of the deaths and majority of cases have been in central Hubei province, whose capital, Wuhan, is the epicentre of the outbreak. Some 56 million have been

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bKash

বই পড়ার আনন্দে বিকশিত হোক সবাই

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