

## Rajuk fines five building owners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A mobile court of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhya (Rajuk) partially dismantled five buildings in Narayanganj yesterday for constructing the structures without its approval.

During the drive in Bhuigarh and Madaninagar areas of Sadar upazila, Rajuk officials also fined the owners Tk 8.50 lakh in total.

Sheikh Taufikur Rahman, Rajuk authorising officer, said the court fined Saiful Islam Farhad Tk 3 lakh; Habibur Rahman Ferdous Tk 2 lakh; Mamunur Rashid Tk 2 lakh, Zakir Hossain Tk 1 lakh and another Zakir Hossain Tk 50,000 for violating Rajuk's rules.

Executive Magistrate (zone-8) Jiasmin Akhter led the drive, which started in the morning and continued till 5pm, he added.

"We will continue our drives against such illegal structures," said Taufikur.



Dhaka Union of Journalists' election will be held tomorrow, and Jatiya Press Club has been littered with candidates' pamphlets, posters and cards. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Bangladesh must adapt

FROM PAGE 3

of these oppressed people are from a particular religion and ethno-national identity.

From the ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar to regulations imposed by the National Register of Citizens in India, breach of human rights based on identity has been a major disturbing trend, he added.

Parvez Karim Abbasi, an assistant professor of Economics at East West University spoke of the existing and upcoming threats due to the new coronavirus pandemic, which he terms "close to being a global epidemic".

Mentioning that China was the sixth largest economy during the spread of SARS virus, and is now the second largest, he said, "Global supply chain is deeply dependent on China. If the economy of China doesn't recover quickly, the entire global economy will suffer."

Referring to an Oxford Economics forecast of one trillion US dollar loss of global GDP by 2020 due to the novel coronavirus, he said, "It is important how China recovers."

In face of such a pandemic, Bangladesh is very ill-prepared, he added.

Brig Gen Mohammad Shahedul Anam Khan, former associate editor of The Daily Star, highlighted the role of China and India.

"Asia is emerging -- led by China and India. The world must accept it," he mentioned.

"China and the US are decoupling on

the technology front in the 21st century. Developed countries have become toxically polarised," he said.

"Climate change matters as never before; however, the climate issue has been forced to take a back seat," Shahedul Anam Khan added.

Along with these, risks like failure to take climate action and tackle infectious diseases like coronavirus -- are endangering the world, he said.

Parvez Ahmed, managing director of CompTech Network Systems, spoke about the challenges due to latest technology including 5G, artificial intelligence and blockchain.

"Everything in the future world will be driven by 5G and other technologies, where security would be a major issue. But the third world [countries like Bangladesh] still have no capacity to cope with it," the MD of CompTech said.

Ta'eb Salim Abdullah Al Alawi, head of the Mission at the Oman embassy; Rear Admiral ASMA Awaal, former ambassador and assistant chief of Naval Staff; Bambang Prihartadi, minister councillor of the Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka; Frank Grützmaier T'court, deputy head of Mission (political and cultural affairs) of the French embassy; Brig Gen Gyasuddin A Chowdhury Bir Bikram; Brig Gen (ret'd) Mirza Ezazur Rahman; and Kevin Ellerbrock, political officer of US embassy in Dhaka, also participated at the discussion.

Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman, president of BIPSS, moderated the session.

## A world of

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Inun Ripa, a former student of DU's Women and Gender Studies department, has published the translation of a Korean book titled "The Vegetarian" from Shomoy Prokashon.

The psychological fiction, originally written by Han Kang, was first published in 2007.

Saptadipa Nilanzana, a master's student of social anthropology at Stockholm University in Sweden, has published her first poetry book "Apon Bani Koho" from Tumpa Prokashoni.

Shima Parvin, a master's student of Islamic studies at DU, has written a poetry book -- titled "Onubhuti Moynatodonto" -- that has been published by Karubak Prokashoni.

MJ Babu, a final year student of DU's geography department, has published a psychological crime thriller titled "Dementia" from Eha Prokashoni, said the respective book writers.

Meanwhile, "Sangma on a Wheelchair", a biography of differently-abled Joshiah Sangma Chibol (24), an elected member of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu), has been a hit at the fair.

The book, authored by Sumana Chisim, a Bangladeshi-born rights activist and writer now living in the USA, tells Chibol's story.

Thokbirim publication has brought out the book, which is available at its stall in the little mag corner of the book fair, said Chibol.

## Imran Rahman's 12th death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the twelfth death anniversary of Imran Rahman, former managing director and chief executive officer of Brac Bank Ltd.

An alumnus of BAF Shaheen School, Mirzapur Cadet College and Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University, Imran, died in Toronto, Canada at the age of 45, said a press release.

On this occasion, Qurankhwani and destitute feeding programme will be held in the capital.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of Imran's departed soul.

## India pressing

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"lot of mechanisms" for a sustainable solution to the crisis. "India is the only country which shares borders with both Myanmar and Bangladesh... We do support safe, secure and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas."

Disaster Management and Relief Secretary Shah Kamal and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mahub Alam Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

## Electrocuted SSC

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Board (Kaliakair zonal office), said although the area is under their jurisdiction, the electric line belonged to Tangail Rural Electrification Board.

"We knew that the wire hung low, and it was decided that it would be removed this week. Unfortunately, the incident took place before that," he said.

He also blamed the contractor's negligence in this regard. Javed Masud, inspector (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station, said the victim's father filed a case against two officials of a firm named "Sarder construction".

The inspector did not disclose their names for the sake of investigation.

## Act now to save

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Prof Manzoorul Kibria, professor of zoology at CU, said the country lost a huge watershed by building the Kaptai dam, which has reduced the Karnaphuli to almost a canal.

He also said a huge amount of water is being extracted from the Haldia and Karnaphuli to cater to the need of port city residents, which is costing the rivers its biodiversity, flora and fauna.

Prof Kibria urged the authorities concerned to protect the two rivers from pollution by making sure that every industrial unit has a functional ETP (effluent treatment plant).

Prof SM Shamsul Huda underscored the need for awareness and participation of people in watershed management.

Prof Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain of environmental science at CU moderated the workshop, presided over by Dr Rakibul Amin, country director of IUCN.

Golam Mawla, divisional forest officer; Dr Rafiqul Haidar from Bangladesh Forest Research Institute; Shibendu Kastagir, superintending engineer of Water Development Board; Dr Mohammad Moslem Uddin Munna, associate professor of Department of Oceanography at CU, were present at the discussion, among others.

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## Role of political cinema

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The lecture zoomed in on four Bangla films: Zahir Raihan's "Jibon Theke Ney" (1970) and Tareque Masud's "Matir Moyna" (2002) from Bangladesh; Srinal Sen's "Calcutta 71" (1972) and Satyajit Ray's "Pratidwandi" (1970) from India's West Bengal.

All four of these use the cinematic form to provoke revolutionary vision into their audiences, Prof Junaid said.

In his paper, Prof Junaid analysed the films from various vantage points -- aesthetics, cultural and political impact, and legacy etc.

He also discussed the place of political cinema in the contemporary film landscape of both Bengals.

"We have to ask what is the problem with our cultural climate that we can't produce movies like Ghuddi and Surja Dighal Bari that we used to have in the 80s," Prof Junaid said.

He also lamented the lack of attention Bangla cinema gets from the international film audience, especially since many great works and directors originate from this region.

For example, works like Raihan's should occupy a significant place in world cinema canon, yet he's a virtual unknown in the anglophone world of cinema.

"A portion of the blame falls on us for not being able to spread word about his work," he said.

Zahir Raihan had to employ metaphors in order to circumvent state surveillance -- as he was a marked man in the Pakistani government's eyes -- as well as social taboo.

"What Zahir Raihan had to go through

to make "Jibon Theke Ney", Jean-Luc Godard or Akira Kurosawa didn't have to endure," he added.

Satyajit shed his classic cinematic language -- that of lyricism and subtlety -- in order to raise the conscience of his audience with his Calcutta trilogy that started with "Pratidwandi".

This he expressed not only with his plot, but with the overall aesthetics of the film, Prof Junaid observed.

Mrinal Sen employed the fourth wall-breaking technique (attributed to German playwright Bertolt Brecht) to unsettle the audience and provoke them into thinking more, he observed.

He also influenced his audience to take a more active role in film consumption, he added.

Meanwhile, Tareque Masud, much like Ritwik Ghatak, broke away from Western aesthetics and heavily employed rural imagery, using elements of the Baul culture and symbols such as the village mela in "Matir Moyna", to put his ideas across to the audience.

This use of symbolism, Prof Junaid said, is not a coincidence, as "great filmmakers do not take a single shot without any purpose."

Dr Ahaduzzaman Muhammad Ali, former professor of DU's mass communication and journalism department, chaired the session.

Dr Ahrar Ahmad -- director general of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation -- in his welcome speech, spoke of the significance of Prof Naadir Junaid's paper, and of the importance of political cinema in the nurturing of a culture of critical thinking.

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