

Trade fair begins on playground again in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet International Trade Fair (SITF) began on the city's Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium in Shahi Eidgah area yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen inaugurated the month-long event organised by Sylhet Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI).

Occupying a playground to organise the trade fair has been criticised by the city dwellers; but neither the organisers nor the administration has taken the matter seriously.

Amid criticism, SMCCI got permission for the field from National Sports Council on December 31 last year and the Ministry of Commerce permitted to hold the fair on February 2 this year.

Sylhet Sadar upazila playground was upgraded to Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium in 2018 and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 21, 2018.

Since the day of inauguration, not a single notable sporting event was organised at the stadium; but two SITFs

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PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Khatiza Begum Runa (left), a government official and motorbike commuter, routinely helps other girls and women train to ride two-wheelers. The photo was taken yesterday morning at CRB area.

Women taking the wheel in port city

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Breaking away from conservative societal norms, more and more women are taking control of their vehicles on the roads in Chattogram, both in the city and across the district.

While women on scooters or behind the steering wheel can be seen sometimes in the capital, the scenario in the port city was quite different even a few years ago. However, that is now changing gradually, despite some inconvenience faced in obtaining licenses.

According to sources at the Chattogram office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), a total of 1,262 driving licenses have been issued to women in the last 10 years, with some 500 of them in the last three years.

In different upazilas under the district, workers of different non-government organisations are also using motorbikes and scooters more, said local sources.

"Among the total number of licenses given, 428 were issued for users in the district while 834 were issued under the metropolitan circle," said Shafiqul Islam, administrative officer of Chattogram BRTA.

The officer said, "The number of women applicants for licenses has been increasing, as students and job-holders are using bikes or scooters to save time and avoid the hassle of public transport."

However, BRTA is yet to introduce a separate cell for women for their applications and exams to get license.

Khatiza Begum Runa, assistant revenue officer of Chattogram Customs, has been riding her motorbike to work for a while now. She also helps women learn motorbike driving, providing informal training in the city's CRB area.

*Female license seekers have to take part in license exams standing in

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'MUJIB BORSHO CELEBRATION' Three arrested for extortion in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested three individuals on charges of extortion in the name of "Mujib Borsho celebration" in Chattogram city's Kotwali area.

The arrestees are -- Riaz Ahmed alias Razu (40), Shahjahan (45), and Batul Barua alias Dano (38).

Shah Md Abdur Rauf, additional deputy commissioner (south division) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said they arrested the trio based on complaints from a businessman.

The arrestees demanded Tk 20,000 for "Mujib Borsho celebration", the businessman said.

"They are drug addicts. They set up this name-only club to extort money whenever any celebration approaches, to buy drugs," the ADC said, adding that the group has been active for over a year.

The police official said the arrestees extorted around Tk 35,000 -- in name of such celebration -- from businesspersons in Agrabad and Nandankanan areas.

According to police, the trio along with two others went to a shop named Three Home Sketch last Monday and demanded Tk 20,000. As the shop owner was outside, its employee Modhusodon Das refused to pay them.

The five then verbally abused and threatened him and left the shop saying they would come back for the money on Friday.

They went to the shop again yesterday, and demanded Tk 20,000.

This time, the shop employees informed law enforcers, who rushed there and arrested the three.

Two other members of the group managed to flee, police said.

AL rebels resolute to contest CCC polls

Despite party restriction, aspirants eye councillor posts; last day to withdraw candidacy today

ARUN BIKASH DEV, Ctg

Many Awami League rebel candidates for the Chattogram City Corporation councillor race are determined to contest the polls, despite the party's strict order of not to do so.

Of the 41 general wards, 14 incumbent councillors have failed to get party nomination for the election, scheduled to be held on March 29. Of them, 13 have submitted their nomination papers to the returning officer.

Today is the last date for withdrawing candidacy.

Meanwhile, AL leaders are trying to convince them and warned of disciplinary action if they do not withdraw candidacy.

To this end, the party leaders recently had a meeting with them at Theatre Institute Chattogram. Sources said the nomination-deprived candidates argued that they were popular in their areas and were denied nomination due to "conspiracy".

Many argued that as the councillor race will not be held with party symbol (boat), the race should remain open to all and they should be given a chance to prove their popularity.

Engr Mosharraf Hossain, AL presidium member and coordinator for CCC polls, at the meeting warned them against it. He said the nomination was declared by the AL local government nomination board led by the prime minister.

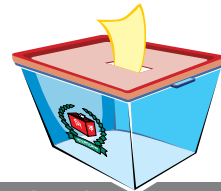
Those who were nominated by the party would contest the polls, he said.

According to AL insiders, none of the rebel candidates assured the leaders of withdrawing candidacy.

Meantime, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader is supposed to come to the port city today and sit with AL leaders and activists. A decision in this regard may come from the meeting, said party sources.

Contacted, Tareq Solaiman Selim, incumbent

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CTG CITY POLLS 2020

HISTORIC MARCH 7

One speech in thousands of voices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Around 19,200 students from 128 schools in Khulna city participated in a programme at Khulna Zila Stadium yesterday, to celebrate Bangabandhu's March 7 historic speech.

Khulna District Administration organised the programme under the auspices of Child Integrity and Shishu Bangabandhu Forum, which began with hoisting the National Flag and placing floral wreaths at Father of the Nation's portrait.

Wearing "Mujib coats", the students stood in 100 rows

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|--|--|--|
| Senior Finance Officer 1 (one) post GSS-I | Pay Scale: US\$ 241-6x5-271(EB) 9x5-316(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules. | M. Com/MBA with at least 2 (two) years relevant experience in line with the job requirements. Competent to handle financial matters independently using computer software, such as budgetary control, fund release, maintaining accounts and finance in Tally software, desk monitoring and audit. Experience in financial management of foreign/donor agency and large government enterprise will be of added advantage. Computer literacy is a must. Should be capable of preparing Annual Budget, claim of contributions from the Member States, preparing the relevant document for presenting in the Governing Board. Capable of providing the relevant financial matters/documents to the Regional Audit Team and reply to the queries, should have good knowledge in foreign currency dealing. Age: Maximum 35 years as of 31st March 2020. |
| MIS Officer 1 (one) post GSS-I | Pay Scale: US\$ 241-6x5-271(EB) 9x5-316(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules. | MS/M.Sc in Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Electrical and Electronics with at least 2 (two) years' experience in system design, programming, installation, operation, maintenance of data base system, LAN, WAN and website management in programs. Knowledge in Apache Server, PHP, ASP, NET, MySQL, CSS/HTML etc. will be of added advantage. Preparation of computer aided presentation materials, report writing and communication with audience in discussion forum, meetings and training classes are the key prerequisites. Age: Maximum 35 years as of 31st March 2020. |
| Office Assistant 1 (one) post GSS-II | Pay Scale: US\$ 185-6x5-215(EB) 7x5-250(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules. | Graduate with minimum 3 (three) years relevant work experience and good speed in typing. Should have skill and ability to prepare official correspondences/documents independently. Must be conversant with and having practical experience in MS Office (Word, Power Point, Access and Excel). Age: Maximum 40 years as of 31st March 2020. |

For more details, please visit www.sarso.org.bd or www.sarso.org

E. Devendar
Director General

GD-450

Two children among 12 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

The deathtrap of road accidents created many a new tragedy over the last two days, as 12 people were killed and at least 21 were injured in separate incidents across the country, report our correspondents and news agencies.

In Panchagarh, separate road crashes killed a boy and a schoolgirl in Tentulia and Panchagarh sadar upazila on Friday evening, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

In Tentulia, five-year-old Rajiul Islam was killed after being hit by a battery-run easy bike. The accident occurred as Rajiul was playing with an abandoned bicycle tire in front of his house on Bhajanpur-Bhutipukur road at Prodhangach village in the afternoon, said police and locals.

After the easy bike hit him, Rajiul was left in a critical condition. He was rushed to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

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Four 'JMB' men held in N'ganj

BSS, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-11) claimed to have arrested four members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Narayanganj early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Sarkar alias Mashrur Anwar, Mohammad Kausar Alam alias Farhad Nur, Asif Imtiaz Mohammad Ribat and Hafez Md Rakibul Islam, said Rab officials.

They were arrested from signboard area under Sadar upazila of the district, they added.

"Some JMB members gathered in the area early in the morning to plan and launch subversive activities," Lt Col Imran Ullah Sarker of Rab-11 told a press conference at Rab headquarters in Siddhirganj.

On information, a Rab team raided the area and arrested them with huge number of books and leaflets on jihad, added the official.

Filing of a case with Siddhirganj Police Station was underway as of filing of this report yesterday evening.

50 held over drug offences


BSS, Dhaka

Police have detained 50 people in the capital over various drug offences.

Teams from different police stations and DB conducted the drives from Friday 6am to yesterday 6am, said a DMP release.

Police also recovered 2,444 yaba tablets, 187 grammes of heroin, 417 grammes of cannabis, two bottles of local wine, 155 bottles of Phensedyl and 49 sedative injections. At least 41 cases were filed.

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