

'A corruption-free, developed DSCC'

Promises mayor Taposh at his first board meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said he would not patronise any corruption, which exists in every nook and corner of the city corporation.

Addressing the first board meeting at Nagar Bhaban after taking charge, the mayor said he will root out corruptions from the city corporation during his five-year tenure.

Mentioning councillors as his main companions, the mayor said the city corporation's door is always open for them and he will keep them involved in different works of DSCC.

He sought cooperation from the councillors in solving issues such as mosquito control, waste management, waterlogging, road repairing works, freeing roads and footpaths from encroachment and traffic congestion.

Taposh said they have to make the foundation of building a developed Dhaka city and to achieve that they will have to work 24 hours a day.

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Seasonal fruits like sugar palms have started to hit the markets in Chattogram. Also known as palmyra or taal in Bangla, they are brought to Kadamtoli bazar from different districts of the country for sale. This summer fruit is widely popular because of its translucent, sweet jelly seeds. Each palm was being sold at Tk 5-15 depending on size at the market earlier this week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

DU students to be brought under health insurance

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday decided to bring all students of the university under health insurance.

The decision was taken at a meeting of deans' committee chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman, said a press release of the university. The details of the plan have not yet been decided. A six-member committee was formed to design a policy for ensuring medical facilities for DU students at different hospitals at minimum premium.

Members of the committee include dean of science faculty Prof Tofayel Ahmed; business studies faculty acting dean Prof Muhammad Abdul Moyeen; dean of medicine faculty Prof Shahriar Nabi; Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Institute of Health Economics, and Prof Hasina Sheikh of banking and insurance department.

If implemented, a total of 37,018 students of the university will be getting medical services at different hospitals at a definite premium.

Mentionable, it's mandatory to get medical insurance coverage prior to getting enrolled in universities in the USA and many European countries.

The meeting dictated that respective departments or institutes will fix the number of enrolling freshers upon considering the capability and capacity of the university, and international needs in order to ensure quality of education and produce more skilled human resources.

It also directed the departments to prepare a database to determine how they will achieve 17 goals and 169 targets of SDGs.

All departments were asked to submit the database by June 30 to the office of the registrar.

Boost allocation for edu sector: CAMPE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An education advocacy and campaign network yesterday demanded increased allocation for education sector in the upcoming budget as part of two/three-year-long Covid-19 response and recovery plan for the sector.

Campaign For Popular Education (CAMPE), in a memorandum submitted to finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, also demanded increased allocation for providing stimulus packages for teachers and ensuring their salaries.

The education rights organisation demanded at least 15 percent of allocation of the budget for the education sector, to continue the success in the sector and curb any kind of "catastrophic" situation.

CAMPE deputy director KM Enamul Hoque said that they submitted the memorandum through email.

In the memorandum, CAMPE also

demanded transparency, accountability and proper use of money while expending the allocated money.

It said a special two- or three-year recovery plan is needed to overcome the ongoing coronavirus situation. In that special recovery plan, emphasis should be given on special kind of teaching in classrooms.

It said that there should be focus on helping students return to their classrooms, reducing "unnecessary exams" and revising the academic calendar.

CAMPE welcomed the government's TV education initiative, although "many students still remain out of coverage of such education," they said.

It demanded allocation for uninterrupted internet service at all education institutions, as "the future of education will be ICT-dependent".

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BOAT CAPSIZE IN MEDITERRANEAN

Accused human trafficker held: Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a member of a human trafficking gang from Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet on Monday.

The arrestee, Rafiqul Islam, is an accused in several cases filed following the capsizing of a boat in the Mediterranean Sea on May 9 last year, said Obain Rakhaine, assistant superintendent of police and media officer of Rab-9.

A boat carrying around 80 migrants sank in the Mediterranean Sea on May 9 last year while making an illegal voyage to Italy from Libya. At least 37 Bangladeshis died, while 15 were rescued hours after being adrift at sea.

Redwanul Islam Khokon of Majhpara in Bishwanath upazila was among the victims. His brother Rezaul Islam Raju filed a case with Bishwanath Police Station on May 16 accusing Rafiqul Islam, his son Parvez Ahmed and daughter Pinki Ananya Priya and several others.

Okil Uddin, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, said, "Arrestee Rafiqul was handed over to the

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Tk 20 lakh spent in 21 days!

Four held over stealing Tk 80 lakh of National Bank; Tk 60 lakh recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A thief, his wife and two associates took part in the burglary and looted Tk 80 lakh from a vehicle of the National Bank in Old Dhaka on May 10.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police came up with the findings yesterday after arresting the four. A police team also recovered Tk 60 lakh from them, DB Joint Commissioner Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star.

Police said the thief allegedly spent the rest of the money in just 21-day on drugs, lawyer fees and donations in different mazzars.

The arrestees were identified as Hannan alias Briefcase Hannan alias Robin alias Rafiqul Islam; his wife Parveen; associates Mostafa and Babul Mia.

"We have learnt that Hannan, the ringleader, is wanted in around 30 cases,"

said Saifur Rahman Azad, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, yesterday.

On information, police arrested the four from different areas of Dhaka, Kishoreganj and Shariatpur and recovered the money from a rented house of Hannan in the capital's Dholaiarpur area, he said.

DB police also seized two firearms and bullets from Hannan and Mostafa's possessions. A Dhaka Court later placed the arrestees on a three-day remand for interrogation, he said.

Earlier, the DB joint commissioner revealed the information of the arrest at a midday press briefing at his Minto Road office. He said they made the arrest after analysing data and CCTV footage.

On May 10, a bag containing approximately Tk 80 lakh allegedly went missing from a vehicle of National Bank

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DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Habiganj journo Sushanta denied bail once again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday once again rejected a bail petition by Sushanta Das Gupta, publisher and editor of the daily Amar Habiganj and founder of AmarMP.com.

Habiganj district and sessions judge Amzad Hosain rejected the bail prayer, after hearing in the case filed under Digital Security Act.

Another bail appeal by Sushanta on May 27 had also been also turned down.

Sayeduzzaman Zahir, general secretary of Habiganj Press Club, lodged the case against Sushanta and three other journalists of the newspaper on May 21, said Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station.

Rabiul Islam, assistant superintendent of Habiganj police, said the journalist was arrested from his newspaper office in the town's Chirakandi area on same day.

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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

HC seeks report on situation in prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know the situation of inmates in jails and prison staff across the country following the coronavirus pandemic.

The court asked Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder to collect the information from the jail authorities and provide it to the court on June 15.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim came up with the order during a virtual hearing on a writ petition filed on May 17 by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, seeking it's directives on the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to protect the prisoners and prisons staff from coronavirus.

The bench adjourned hearing till June 15 after DAG Amit Talukder opposed the petition, saying that

the coronavirus pandemic has not deteriorated in the prisons.

The HC also asked the petitioner to monitor the situation inside the jails through media reports by this time.

Manir submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC requesting it to order the authorities to take measures to maintain social distancing among inmates and prison staff and other health guidelines.

In the petition, he prayed to the HC to ask the inspector general of prisons to submit a report to the court on the preparedness and steps taken in this regard.

Manir, in the petition, said there are reportedly around 74,000 prisoners in 68 prisons across the country where the accommodation capacity is for 41,244 prisoners.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Working-class people huddle on the back of a pick-up truck at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Commutes have become more difficult for them, especially with fares increasing due to social distancing measures.

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We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our valued clients, patrons, well-wishers and those on the frontline involved in the war against COVID-19. We pray for the eternal peace of those who have lost and sacrificed their lives. We express our deepest condolences to their bereaved families.



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