

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

Parents demand no fee hike for 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of guardians of students enrolled at English-medium schools yesterday demanded that all such schools not increase tuition and session fees for the next three academic years, taking the pandemic into account.

They made the demand while talking at the launching ceremony of Bangladesh English School Parents Association at National Press Club. They also demanded forming a regulatory body to monitor activities of these schools.

The association also arranged a roundtable on “English-medium Education: Opportunities and Challenges during Covid-19” at the ceremony.

Parents said access to online education should not be cancelled due to delayed or non-payment of tuition fees during this crisis.

Prof Masud A Khan, the association’s convener, said there is a perception that only students coming from rich families get enrolled at English-medium schools, which is not true.

He urged all the schools to meet their demands as they are rational.

Organisers said their major objective is to press for their rational demands to address

the “unethical issues” of school authorities over the decades. They are against any commercialisation of education.

MP Prof Habibe Millat, the association’s advisor, said in absence of regulatory bodies, it has become difficult to oversee these schools.

Jahirul Islam, the association’s co-convenor, placed a 14-point demand at the event.

The points include forming school management committees, incorporating guardians as representatives; creating child safeguard policy to control bullying, racism, physical harassment and abuse; all schools following same grading system; and having websites with detailed information like reports on school environment, audited financial statements, admission and tuition fees.

Several guardians, while talking at the programme, said many school authorities are barring students whose parents failed or delayed to pay tuition fees. This is humiliating for parents and puts mental pressure on students.

They send their children to English-medium schools aiming to make them global citizens, but in many occasions, education quality of many of these schools are low.

RMG workers block highway for salary, vacation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of a garment factory in Tongi blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for an hour yesterday, demanding full salary of July and 12-day vacation for Eid-ul-Azha.

The workers of Viyellatex Ltd gathered in front of the factory at Sataish area around 9am and blocked the highway around 10am.

The blockade created a gridlock for nearly three kilometres on both sides of the highway.

Police dispersed the agitating workers by firing tear shells and cleared the road around 11am.

Factory authorities recently announced that the workers will get 15 days’ salary, Eid bonus and eight-day vacation for Eid-ul-Azha, a worker said, wishing

anonymity.

But a few days earlier, workers started demanding their full salary, including full bonus, and 12-day holiday, he said.

Gazipur Industrial Police Inspector Md Razzakul Hayder said factory officials were scheduled to discuss with BGMEA to resolve the matter, but workers started protesting before that.

An administrative employee of the factory, seeking anonymity, said authorities were following government guidelines regarding holidays. Even then, they had extended the vacation on humanitarian grounds, but workers did not accept.

Now, the factory will follow BGMEA’s recommendation after discussion, he added.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rajshahi doctor arrested for ‘rape, blackmail’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A doctor of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital was arrested yesterday, allegedly for raping an apprentice lawyer under threats of releasing her private photographs and videos, said police.

Law enforcers took in Dr Shakhawat Hossain (40), an ophthalmologist, when he went to her room at the city’s Bheripara, and shown arrested in a case filed by the 27-year-old victim, filed with Rajpara Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Shahadat Hossain.

The woman met Rana in March 2019 while she was sub-letting a room with a friend in the area, the OC said, quoting the woman. Rana, who lives in the city’s Tikapara, developed a relationship with her, he said.

The case statement said Rana lied to her about being unmarried and established a physical relationship with the promise of marriage. He also captured private photos and videos of her during the relationship, he said.

Yesterday, when Rana went to her room and attempted to rape her, her roommate heard her screaming and called 999, police said.

Rana confessed that he had extramarital affairs with the woman and claimed that their relationship was based on mutual understanding, said Golam Ruhul Kuddus, additional deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, adding that they would look into the allegations.

The allure of

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‘THE MILLION DOLLAR GIFT’

About the process of the scam, CID officials said the arrestees are members of an organised racket, who swindle money from people in the name of developing friendship on social media and alluring them with expensive gifts.

They befriend people, pretending to be citizens of countries like the US or UK.

After a while, they call people through their Bangladeshi associates and identify themselves as custom officials to collect money as customs duty for the expensive gifts, said investigators.

For the last two weeks, over dozens of people have submitted complaints to the CID control room in this regard, said Sheikh Md Rezaul Haider, additional deputy inspector general of CID. These rackets use educated Bangladeshi youths to communicate with their targets, he said.

“They call the so-called Bangladeshi friends in three to four phases using different numbers -- first as courier agents, customs officials and then as embassy officials. By this time, that person is

convinced that an expensive gift is waiting for him,” he said.

They do not even stop to think why would someone send them a gift worth a million dollars, that too in such a way over social media, he also added.

While demanding the courier charge or customs duty, the scammers would tell people that they do not do cash transaction, and the recipient has to pay the fees through a bank account, said investigators.

According to a first information report of Pallabi Police Station, filed on July 22 against 12 Nigerians and one Bangladeshi arrested for duping people on Facebook, the syndicates used an agent banking account and account of a trading company to collect the money.

Rezaul said they are looking into the matter as to how they were able to continue duping people through these accounts.

Meanwhile, people should remain alert and inform law enforcers if they receive such strange offers online, said the CID official.

Withdraw Vat

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Rahman, Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs President Rokia Afzal Rahman, Brac Bangladesh Executive Director Asif Saleh, former University Grants Commission Chairman Nazrul Islam, educationists Syed Manzoorul Islam, Mohammad Kaykobad, MM Akash, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Action Aid country director Farah Kabir, cultural activists Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid and Ilias Kanchon issued the statement.

All educational institutions have remained closed since March 17. The closure was extended till August 6.

As a result, education of about four crore students in the country, from primary to university level, has been affected. Currently, many institutions are offering online classes through different platforms.

Yet, online education remains inaccessible to many, mainly in rural areas.

Besides the cost, the speed of mobile internet connection, while moderate in urban areas, is quite poor in most rural locations, where broadband providers are almost absent.

Ex-CMSD chief

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On May 22, the government replaced Brig Gen Shahidullah with Additional Secretary Abu Hena Morshed Zaman as the CMSD director after the face mask scam created much debate in which the CMSD supplier provided ordinary masks in packets labelled as N95 masks.

Later, the health ministry also formed a probe committee in this regard which has submitted its report at the end of May.

Neither the report has been published nor any action against the scammers has been taken yet.

4 killed as pickup ploughs into crowd

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Four day-labourers were killed and two injured when a pickup ploughed into a crowd in Bogura yesterday.

The deceased are Rashidul (50), Abu Zafar (45), Azgar Ali (45) and Montu (44), said police.

Quoting witnesses, Humayan Kabir, officer in-charge of Bogura Sadar Police Station, said some 10 labourers were waiting for potential work on roadside in front of Bogura Sadar Upazila Parishad Office in Matidali around 5am.

Suddenly, a pickup skidded off the road and hit them, injuring six of them.

Locals and co-workers rushed them to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Rashidul, Zafar, Muntu and Azgar dead.

The injured are: Khajer Uddin (50) of Gaibandha and Moidul Islam (38) of Rangpur. Khajer is in a critical condition, said the OC, quoting doctors.

The driver and helper managed to flee the scene with the vehicle, he added.

ACCUSED IN MURDER CASE

Cumilla Jubo League leader expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Jubo League central committee has expelled Alamgir Hossain, a joint convener of its Cumilla city unit, supposedly on charges of “being involved in anti-organisational activities”.

To this effect, a letter, signed by central Jubo League secretary general Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, was issued on Friday night.

It states that the expulsion came as per Jubo League president Sheikh Parash’s direction.

A murder case was filed against Alamgir Hossain, also a councillor of ward-23 under Cumilla City Corporation, and his five brothers for killing a local trader in front of a mosque during Juma prayers on July 10.

Three of his brothers was arrested in connection with the murder , said police.

Rekha Begum, wife of slain businessman Akter Hossain, filed the case in which Alamgir was the key accused who is

now on the run, said police.

Akter’s brother Shahjalal Alal, also a local Jubo League leader, told The Daily Star, “I am happy with the central committee’s decision. I hope we will get justice for my innocent brother.”

Cumilla Sadar South Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam said, “We are trying to arrest all the accused. We are yet to get the autopsy report. When the report comes, we will be able to submit a charge sheet.”

Neither the absconding councillor nor any of his family members could be reached for comments by this correspondent, despite repeated attempts.

Earlier, regarding his involvement with the murder and possible consequences, Abdullah Al Mahmud, convener of city unit Jubo League, had said the incident was not necessarily political.

Asked if any action will be taken against Alamgir, he had said, “It is not in my jurisdiction. The central committee [of Jubo League] will decide.”

Gonoforum

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Gonoforum leaders said the government needs to ensure temporary shelter and necessary relief assistance for the flood victims.

“We strongly demand the government provide necessary relief after providing shelter to the helpless people,” the statement said.

Dr Kamal and Reza Kibria also urged the government to take steps for providing the affected farmers with saplings, seeds and loans as soon as floodwater subsides.

They bemoaned that no government has taken proper initiatives for training on flood control.



Giving in to his children’s repeated request, their father took them for a bike ride around Dhaka University campus on Friday. Although the bike barely fits everyone, the parent said a short ride was worth it as the children finally got a break from staying at home for months.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



EASTERN BANK LIMITED
Head Office, 100 GULSHAN AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

INVITATION FOR BID

Eastern Bank Limited invites sealed bids from bona fide/eligible suppliers for Anti Malware Solution for ATM & Cash Recycler Machine (CRM).

Interested bidders are requested to collect the RFP document electronically by sending email from their official email address to bidit@ebf-bd.com mentioning name of the company, authorized contact person, mailing address, telephone & mobile phone numbers on or before **Wednesday, 29 July 2020.**

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document must be submitted in two separate envelopes, clearly marking 'Technical' and 'Financial' on the envelopes, to the Chairman, Purchase Committee, Eastern Bank Limited, 100 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 on or before **Monday, 10 August 2020 by 5:00 PM latest.**

Regent MD

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After hearing both sides, the magistrate turned down his bail petition and issued the remand order.


Police arrested Mizanur from his village home in Gopalganj on Friday.

On July 20, Md Rezaul Karim, an administrative officer of Ekshid Corporation Ltd, filed the case with Uttara Paschim Police Station against Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed, its Managing Director Masud Parvez, Mizanur Rahman, employees Dwipayana Basu and Anindya Basu.

According to prosecution, it was alleged that the complainant, on behalf of his company, signed an agreement with Regent Hospital Uttara branch on April 9 to conduct Covid-19 tests on their 76 labourers, who are working under the Dhaka Metro Rail project.

Under the agreement, the hospital was supposed to take Tk 3,500 for the test on each labourer.

But later, the complainant came to know that the hospital supplied fake Covid-19 certificates even though they paid Tk 2.66 lakh, the case statement added.



Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management
Plot No.4, Main Road No.1, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216. Tel: 9003031-35

WANTED

(a) FACULTY MEMBERS

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), which imparts training to bank executives and also runs MBM/EMBM degree programs, invites applications for filling total **05 posts** (1 post for each discipline) of **Lecturer** in the discipline of Finance, Marketing, Banking, International Business and Computer Science/Computer Science & Engineering. Requirements of the positions are mentioned below:

Requirements:

(i) At least three 1st class/division including Bachelor's (with honours) and Master's level examination without any 3rd division at any stage. Degrees under grading system CGPA 4 is equivalent to 1st division in SSC & HSC level; CGPA 3.5 (out of 4) is equivalent to 1st class in Bachelor's/Master's level.

(ii) Preference will be given to persons having prior teaching/training/research experience and having publications in reputed journals.

(iii) Maximum age is 30 years as on 05 April, 2020 but may be relaxed for outstanding candidate.

*For applicants holding degree(s) under grading system CGPA 3.6 and above (out of 4) at Bachelor's/ Master's level is preferred.

Benefits:

Pay Scale-Tk. 40,600-1,105*4-45,020-1,260*6-52,580/-

House rent allowance @ 60% of basic pay, Medical allowance @ 10% of basic pay & Conveyance allowance of Tk. 3,000/- per month and other benefits as per BIBM Employees' Service Regulations would also be admissible.

N.B. It is mentionable that persons applied for any of the above posts against previous circular (The daily Star & The Daily Ittefaq, dated:14.03.2020) do not require to apply further.

(b) COMPUTER OPERATOR

BIBM invites application for filling 03 posts of **Computer Operator** in the pay scale of **Tk. 14,820-880*7-20,980-940*11-31,320.**

Requirements: (i) Graduate (ii) 03 years experience in computer using operating systems, MS Word, MS Excel, (iii) Experience in hardware maintenance will be preferred. Persons having 3rd division/class (or CGPA less than 2.5) in any public examination(s) are ineligible to apply. (iv) Maximum age is 30 years as on 01 July, 2020.

House rent allowance @ 60% of basic pay, Medical allowance @ 10% of basic pay & Conveyance allowance of Tk. 1,500/- per month and other benefits as per BIBM Employees' Service Regulations would also be admissible.

Application showing the personal profile inclusive of details of academic qualifications, work/teaching/training/ research experience, publications (in case of Faculty Members) with attested copies of educational certificates, mark sheets, a character certificate from a Class 1 Officer of the Government, other certificates and two passport size recent photographs (duly attested) along with Bank Draft/Pay Order for Taka 1000/- for Faculty Member, Tk 200/- for Computer Operator (non-refundable) in favor of BIBM should reach the Director General, BIBM by 25 August, 2020. **Only short-listed candidates will be subsequently communicated.**