

## New OCs join eight police stations in Cox’s Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Chattogram Range of police has appointed new officers-in-charge at eight police stations of Cox’s Bazar, in a series of overhauls after major (ret’d) Sinha’s killing.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Chattogram Range issued an order in this regard on Thursday.

Mohammad Hafizur Rahman, who was serving at Sirajganj district police, has been appointed at Teknaf Police Station, a station that was at the centre of discussion after Sinha’s death.

Sheikh Munir-Ul Gias was appointed at Cox’s Bazar Sadar, Ahmed Sanjur Morshed at Ukhiya, Mohammad Abdul Hai at Moheshkhali, Shaker Mohammad Jobaer at Chakaria, KM Azmiruzzaman at Ramu, Saifur Rahman Mazumdar at Pekua and Md Jalal Uddin at Kutubdia. All officers-in-charge have already assumed office.

Besides, three joined as additional superintendent of police at Cox’s Bazar district police and Cox’s Bazar Sadar circle.

In an unprecedented move, the police administration transferred 1,487 of its members, from constable to inspectors, from Cox’s Bazar. They were dispatched to different police ranges in the last week. This is the biggest transfer move of district police in recent history.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Footpaths illegally encroached by makeshift shops is nothing new, but one that’s set up right by the stairs of a footbridge is especially inconvenient. Pedestrians at the capital’s Mirpur must deal with this very problem, as they have little space to move through, and are compelled to just dangerously walk across the road.

## Second derailment in 24 hours halts Dhaka-Narayanganj rail link

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Train communication between Dhaka and Narayanganj remained suspended since yesterday morning following the derailment of a metre-gauge commuter train in Narayanganj city.

This was the second derailment on the track within 24 hours.

Quoting witnesses, Station Master of Narayanganj Central Railway Station Golam Mostafa said a compartment of the Dhaka-bound train veered off the tracks in Ukilpara area around 10:30am.

The derailment cut off the rail link of Narayanganj with Dhaka, said the station master.

However, no casualty was reported in the incident, he confirmed.

The railway station authorities have already informed the authority of Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital for a relief train to remove the derailed compartment from the rail tracks, Golam Mostafa said.

Earlier on Thursday, four compartments of another metre-gauge train derailed in the city, halting train communication between Dhaka and Narayanganj.

UNHRC SESSION IN GENEVA

## Article 19 demands release of Kajol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Article 19 has made a statement at the ongoing session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva demanding immediate release of Shafiqul Islam Kajol, a jailed photojournalist and editor of periodical Pakshakal, in cases filed under the Digital Security Act.

The UK-based human rights body, which works to protect freedom of expression and right to information, also called on the Bangladesh government to take action against those responsible for the inhumane treatment of Kajol, said a press release.

It made the call during the general debate at the 45th regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva yesterday.

The statement raised the issue of ongoing attacks on journalists in different countries of the world, including Bangladesh.

In this context, Article 19 Bangladesh and South Asia Regional Director Faruq Faisal said, “Kajol has been in jail for almost four months. His bail application has been rejected 13 times so far. The process by which Kajol has been detained has created a negative perception in the international arena about the situation of freedom of expression in Bangladesh and the protection of human rights.

“Therefore, in order to save the image of the country on the world stage, the government should immediately release Kajol,” he said.

## RAMNA PARK

## Petition seeks inquiry into position, possession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition has been filed with the High Court seeking its directive on the home secretary to conduct an inquiry into the position and possession of Ramna Park including its natural environment and cost for its reconstruction during and before the pandemic.

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition to the HC on September 24 as a supplementary to his September 8 writ petition that sought an order on the government to reopen the park in 24 hours.

In the supplementary petition, he said the authorities concerned are destroying the natural environment of Ramna Park by cutting its trees and grass and by changing its land, footpaths in the name of so-called reconstruction, causing a loss of crores of taka. Tk 47 crore has reportedly been allocated for the so-called development and reconstruction of its lake and some other things. The lawyer told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC may hold hearing today on both the petitions.

On September 8, Advocate Eunus Ali Akond filed a writ petition with the HC seeking its directive on the secretary to the ministry of housing and public works to reopen Ramna Park in Dhaka in 24 hours so that people can walk and move.

The HC on September 17 wanted to know why the authorities concerned of the government are not reopening the park. On September 24, Deputy Attorney General Noor-Ul Sadik informed the HC that Ramna Park was closed for people’s safety and security during the Covid-19 pandemic. The authorities will reopen it if the HC orders, he said.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam on Thursday fixed September 27 for passing order on the petition.

On September 8, Eunus submitted the writ petition as public interest litigation, praying to HC to issue a rule asking the housing and public works secretary to explain why closure of Ramna Park should not be declared illegal.

## A fairer ladder to climb up

*Police Headquarters to hold centrally-supervised exams to promote subordinate officers, in a bid to ensure transparency*

SHARIFUL ISLAM

From now on, Police Headquarters (PHQ) will hold centrally-supervised examinations for departmental promotion of lower-tier police officers, to bring an end to discrimination that many deserving candidates have allegedly long been facing.

As per the existing system, officers of a unit get promoted to that unit’s vacant posts after passing the examination. As a result, officers of other units do not get promotion despite obtaining higher marks in tests, because of post shortage in respective units, said PHQ officials.

To bring a change in the system, PHQ has already formulated a detail guideline on holding exams of subordinate officers for promotion in seven posts, such as constable to assistant sub-inspector (ASI) or equivalent, ASI to sub-inspector (SI) or equivalent, constable to nayek, and nayek to ASI or equivalent.

After holding the test centrally, it will prepare a merit list based on candidates’ successful results and will fill up vacant posts of any unit from the list serially, said officials at the headquarters.

Out of over 2.02 lakh members of the police force, 1,39,483 are constables, 7,748 are nayeks, 27,287 ASIs and 25,233 SIs, said Md Nasirul Islam, assistant inspector general (AIG, recruitment and career planning 02) at PHQ, during issuance of the guideline to unit heads on August 17.

A PHQ official said as almost 50 percent of SIs who investigate cases come after passing departmental promotion exams, this new system will help meritorious candidates get promotion.

“This will also result in quality investigation of cases,” he told this newspaper.

AIG (Media) Md Sohel Rana at PHQ said this attempt will bring a paradigm shift in promotions of subordinate officers.

“It will ensure a fair promotion and bring out more competent officers as investigators,” he told The Daily Star.

Till now, respective units would take promotion exams of its subordinates, with unit chiefs being head of exam committee. Additional superintendent of police (ASP)-ranked officials from PHQ would visit units as invigilators during the exams.

Allegations were rife against unit heads like district SPs for favouring their personal staff -- such as drivers, body-guards and candidates they knew -- in written and viva exams.

Citing an instance, an AIG at PHQ said last year, an ASP made a surprise visit to a district during promotion exams and found several examinees copying from books.

Such irregularity was taking place before the district SP’s eyes, who was present at the exam centre.

Another police official said as very few posts fall vacant in many units, promotion seekers desperately try to get transferred to different larger units where more posts fall vacant.

Due to this, an unhealthy atmosphere of corruption, nepotism and irregularities has formed, he told this newspaper.

There are instances when even ministers make requests for their bodyguards, who are police officers, to get them transferred to larger units or get favours in promotion exams, he said.

He further said higher officials of the department also often make similar requests for their personal staff.

## Victim’s mother

FROM PAGE 3

morning,” the SP said yesterday. He confirmed all the criminals were settlers.

A case was also filed with Sadar Police Station.

The victim is now being treated at home as the family is unable to afford her treatment at the hospital, said her mother.

Meanwhile, rights body Ain o Salish Kendra expressed grave concern over the rape incidents at Khagrachhari and Sylhet MC College.

Incidents of violence against women and children have become frequent in the Chattogram Hill Tracts due to a culture of impunity, it said.

## 14th death anniv of Prof M Nabi

CRY DESK

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Prof Emeritus M Nabi Alam Khan.

He was former professor and head of cardiac surgery at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. He was also former professor of thoracic surgery at National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital.

Relatives and well-wishers are asked to pray for salvation of his departed Soul.



## Smoke and

FROM PAGE 3

The Daily Star has copies of the reports.

But yesterday, Saiful backtracked on the arrest of two others along with Mizan, saying only one person was arrested on Friday night.

When asked about Saiful’s previous statement, the SP told the reporters that they only arrested Mizan from that house. So far, four persons have been arrested over Nila murder case, he added.

The Daily Star tried to reach Shirajul Islam Shiru -- father of Sakib -- for comments, but his phone was found switched off.

On Thursday, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Mizan’s parents Abdur Rahman (60) and Nazmunnahar Shadika (50) in the murder case filed by the victim’s father, and they are in two-day remand under police.

On Tuesday, police arrested Selim Palowan (28), an associate of Mizan, for alleged involvement in the murder.

On Sunday evening, Nila -- a 10th-grader of Aced School -- was going to a hospital with her brother Alok when they were intercepted by Mizan, who had been pursuing Nila for a romantic relationship, according to her family.

Mizan then forced Nila into an abandoned house, where he stabbed and left her. Upon hearing her scream, locals rescued and rushed her to Enam Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

A day later, Nila’s father filed a case with against Mizan and his parents, and three to four unnamed people.

Locals alleged to this newspaper that Mizan was a member of “Shakil and Sakib” gang. Members of the gang extorted people and businesses, and were often involved in stalking girls and peddling drugs, said locals of Savar’s Dakkhin Para. Shakil and Sakib are sons of Awami League joint secretary of Savar Municipality Shirajul Islam Shiru.

Meanwhile, over a thousand residents of Savar under the banner of at least 25 organisations yesterday formed a human chain at Ganda area beside Dhaka-Aricha highway demanding capital punishment to Mizan and culprits involved in the murder. Dr Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and local MP of Savar, municipality mayor Hazi Abdul Goni, and Savar Upazila chairman Monaurul Alam Razib, among others, were present.

## HSC examinee electrocuted while playing cricket in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student died of electrocution after he touched a tin-shed house while playing cricket in Dhaka’s South Kamalapur area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased is Ferdous Hasan Shuvo, an HSC examinee from BAF Shaheen College.

The mishap happened when Shuvo along with some others was playing cricket in an alley around noon, said Shahadat Hossain Fahim, his neighbour.

As the ball got stuck in a nearby tin-shed house, Shuvo climbed up an electric pole and touched the tin roof while trying to fetch it.

The shed possibly came in contact with live a wire and Shuvo was electrocuted, he said.

He passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 1:30pm.

Hailing from Sirajganj, Shuvo was eldest among three siblings and used to live with his family in Kamalapur.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost, said the body was kept at the hospital mortuary for autopsy.

## Changing lives thru’ counselling

### Seven street children on journey to rehabilitation

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Seven children, between ages 6-14 years, used to eat, sleep and breathe in the streets of Sylhet city, with no one to look out for them. For years, they begged, pick-pocketed and even mugged, and at one point of their problematic lives, got addicted to sniffing glue, commonly known as “dandy”.

But their bad days seem to have ended. A kind-hearted initiative of Electronic Media Journalist Association (EMJA) and a group of volunteers made a life-changing impact on these kids, as they got education, counselling and rehabilitation at a shelter.

“It started out in the very first days of the pandemic. As thousands became jobless, we decided to arrange a food programme for the city’s floating population on May 9,” said Ashrafal Kabir, former president and coordinator of EMJA’s initiatives.

He said, “For 100 days, we fed more than a hundred people, including 30 kids. After stopping the food support, we decided to rehabilitate the kids through counselling. On August 19, we took 13 of them to our temporary shelter at Mohammad Ali Gymnasium.”

“It wasn’t easy. Families of three kids took them away, and another three ran away. But the remaining seven showed us hope. For 21 days, we gave them shelter, food, recreation and most importantly, professional counselling,” Ashrafal said.

On September 10, the kids were handed over to the custody of Sheikh Russel Children Training and Rehabilitation Centre in Sylhet, at a programme where government officials concerned were present.

Biman Talukder, a volunteer of the initiative, said, “All we needed was support from people, and we received it. These kids live a free life; rehabilitating them in a closed compound is hard. They need more time and open space, and a lot of care for recovery. It’ll take a long time to change their mindset.”

EMJA President Mahbubur Rahman Ripon said, “When we started our food initiative, we realised that these kids live a risky life. We came to know that the Department of Social Services tried to rehabilitate them before, but failed due to lack of proper counselling and guidance.”

“That’s what we focused on and finally handed them over to the centre, with a hope that this time they might stay there,” he said.

“These kids aren’t ordinary, so they can’t be easily rehabilitated. But they need proper care and physiological support, for which appropriate counselling is key. We’ll be following their status at the centre, as long as they’re okay with institutionalisation,” Mahbubur said.

EMJA will continue such initiatives, and other organisations should come forward to give these kids a better life, he added.

Nibash Ranjan Das, deputy director of Department of Social Services, said, “The initiative is simply splendid. We tried before, but could not succeed due to lack of proper counselling. EMJA realised this and has done a wonderful job. We are hopeful that these kids might be rehabilitated this time.”

“We have a post of psychologist at the centre, but it is still vacant. There was one life-skills trainer who used to take care of counselling, but he was transferred. Now, we seriously need facilitation of proper counselling for such kids,” he said.

“Once they are institutionalised, we will transfer them to the ‘Sishu Paribar’ for boys, where they can live and study until they are ready to enter society with dignity,” he added.



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WaterAid

# Request for Proposal



WaterAid Bangladesh is an international not-for-profit organisation, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere. WaterAid has been working in Bangladesh since 1986.

WaterAid is inviting financial and technical proposal from bona fide research consultancy firms/organisations for an assignment titled:

**‘WASH Accounts for Bangladesh: Tracking financing of sanitation, hygiene, and drinking water at the national level’.**

The WASH Accounts is an initiative of WASH sector actors and the Government of Bangladesh supported by WHO, Unicef and WaterAid.

The detailed request for proposal, including the terms of reference can be found at this link:  
[www.wateraid.org/bd/rfp](http://www.wateraid.org/bd/rfp)

The deadline for proposal submission is **18 October 2020**  
Proposals should be submitted in **WaterAid-Tender-TA@wateraid.org**

A pre-bid meeting will be held to discuss the RFP on **5 October 2020**. Interested firms/organisations having required qualifications are invited to participate in the pre-bid meeting through confirmation of their participation via email to **ZarifRasul@wateraid.org** by **3 October 2020**.

WaterAid Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the proposals without showing any reasons whatsoever. Any form of persuasion shall result in disqualification.