

Parampara: An effort to appreciate history

Mobile libraries on Liberation War, Bangabandhu, PM roam DNCC streets

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Reading about Bangladesh's rich history gives us an understanding about the people's struggles, and helps us realise and value their sacrifices. The legacy and honour of our forefathers can also be imprinted in the minds of later generations, which means the youth will never lose sight of their roots.

Keeping all that in mind, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and publication house Charcha, in association with Centre for Research and Information (CRI), started "Parampara", a mobile-library initiative catering to books on the Liberation War, and life stories of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Two different mini-trucks, one coloured yellow and the other blue, carrying hundreds of books, regularly travel across DNCC's wards.

Yesterday, the mini-trucks were stationed at Manik Mia Avenue all day on the occasion of Victory Day.

Charcha Publisher Sabrina Islam said, "The initiative started in September to inform youths about the Liberation War, the Father of the Nation and his legacy. The libraries will travel to all DNCC wards, and anyone can browse the books."

"We hope that through this initiative, we will be able to kindle youngsters' interest in the subjects, and consequently, enrich their knowledge of

our glorious history," she added.

Marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary and the 74th birthday of Sheikh Hasina, the initiative was launched on September 28.

The books are from different publications, including Charcha, CRI, Bangla Academy, Pathak Shamabesh and Shrabon Prokashani. They are being sold at different discounted rates, depending on the publication house. The mobile libraries conduct activities from 10am-6pm every day except Friday.

Volunteers accompany each mini-truck and campaign for the library. Whenever a pedestrian passes by, the volunteers invite them to browse the books.

People are quite enthusiastic about the initiative, particularly youths, who leaf through the books with great interest.

"Ward-based libraries are not available, so such an arrangement will help people go through the books. It's a nice initiative by DNCC," said Robiul Islam, a private job holder who was browsing the books at Mirpur.

Nusrat Safa, a university student who stopped by the library, found a book about the Liberation War before going to her tutoring work.

She said, "There's a lot to learn from the Liberation War. Whenever I find books on it, I try to read them. It helps me to not only enrich my knowledge,

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Parampara's mini-truck attracted a lot of visitors out on a stroll at Manik Mia Avenue on Victory Day. PHOTO: COLLECTED



This group of children and elderly living in the streets may spend the day on an empty stomach, but their hearts are filled to the brim with the joy of experiencing an independent Bangladesh. To share that feeling with their fellow citizens on Victory Day, they intricately created their own martyrs' memorial with small paper flags. Fully in the mood for celebration, they also attached a speaker and turned the music up for the whole area to become lively. This photo was taken from Dhaka University area. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'India respects Bangladesh for founding values'

Says envoy Vikram Doraiswami

BSS, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Vikram Doraiswami has said India respects Bangladesh for the values on which the country was founded.

"The respect that we (Indians) have for Bangladesh comes from these (values). It comes from what Bangladesh is to Bangladesh," he said. The Indian envoy also said that the ideals and values of the Liberation War are the foundation upon which the bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh are flourishing.

He was speaking at an intergenerational dialogue titled 'Liberation War and Its Values - Across the Ages', held at the High Commission on Tuesday. It was organised by the Indian high commission in



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RHD takes measures for climate-resilient roads

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is preparing a guideline for building roads and bridges that would be resilient to climate events.

The department has taken the initiative under a Tk 3.85-crore project titled "Study on the effect of climate change and resilient design for highways of the coastal region," RHD officials said.

RHD's consultant Centre for Environment and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) has already carried out a pilot survey in Cox's Bazar.

On the basis of the survey, CEGIS would give recommendations considering all relevant issues of climate change, including highest flood level, project director Md A Awal Molla said.

"Then, we [RHD] will give our opinions and the guidelines will be finalised. Later, these guidelines would be followed while designing roads and bridges [of RHD]," he told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

The development comes at a time when the country is witnessing prolonged and frequent flooding, and climate change is blamed for it.

A total of 460 kilometres of roads under RHD

network were damaged by flood this year; RHD sought Tk 291 crore for repairing those.

On the other hand, a total 1,004 km of roads and highways had been damaged by floods last year and RHD had sought Tk 480.57 crore to properly repair those.

Experts blame poor planning ahead of road construction and ignoring impacts of climate change as the main reasons for floods causing so much damage to roads and resulting in high repair costs.

This was the first time RHD took a project for studying the effect of climate change and resilient designs for highway, said Awal Molla.

The project was supposed to be implemented in between July 2019 and September 2020 at a cost of Tk 4.37 crore. But they had to revise it due to Covid-19 situation; the project cost stands at Tk 3.85 crore and deadline is March 2021, he said.

On a pilot basis, CEGIS has conducted survey in Cox's Bazar, which is vulnerable for landslide and salinity -- two outcomes of climate change, said another official of RHD's Social and Environmental Circle.

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COVID-19 NEGATIVE TEST RESULT Saudia fined for flying 5 passengers without certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile court at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has fined Saudi Arabian airline Tk 2 lakh for carrying passengers to Dhaka without having Covid-19 negative certificate.

Ahmed Zamil, an executive magistrate at the HSIA, fined Saudia on December 15.

He told The Daily Star that Saudia brought 516 Bangladeshi expatriate workers -- who were in different detention camps or jails -- in two special and one regular flights on December 14 and 15.

Of the total passengers, only three had Covid-19 negative certificates, added Zamil.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh on Sunday said from now on any airline carrying passengers without coronavirus negative certificates will have to face flight suspension penalty for different terms.

CAAB came up with the strict directives following a number of airlines bringing passengers to Dhaka without Covid-19 negative certificates in recent weeks.

In some cases, several airlines also carried passengers having Covid-19 positive certificates.

An airline will face suspension for one scheduled flight for first time's mistake for carrying people without coronavirus negative certificates or taking Covid-19 affected passengers.

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CCC POLLS SCHEDULE

Most mayoral candidates for deferring Jan 27 date

AL contestant hails EC's decision

ARUN BIKASH DEY, CTC

Considering the ongoing coronavirus situation, many mayoral candidates including the one endorsed by BNP are not happy with Election Commission's decision to hold Chattogram City Corporation election at the end of January.

The candidates said they would face difficulties to mobilise their followers for election campaign amid Covid-19 pandemic. The coronavirus situation has not improved; rather, it has "worsened", they said.

On the other hand, the Awami League candidate welcomed EC's decision.

On Monday, EC Senior Secretary Mohammad Alamgir while briefing journalists in Dhaka declared that the EC would hold the CCC polls on January 27 next year.

The election -- which was originally scheduled to be held on March 29 this year -- had been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

BNP mayoral candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain told The Daily Star, "The EC should not go for any polls putting people

at health risk."

"The coronavirus situation has worsened compared to that in March when the EC postponed the election," he said.

"We have to understand that polls is for people, people are not for polls," he said. The EC should wait until the situation improves, he added.

Echoing him, MA Matin, Bangladesh Islami Front mayoral candidate, said, "If we have to go for polls amid pandemic, why did we waste one year of time then?"

"The EC should have talked to the stakeholders before taking the decision."

Islami Andolon Bangladesh candidate Jannatul Islam said, "I can't put my activists at health risk. The EC should have talked to all candidates too," he said.

However, AL mayoral candidate Rezaul Karim hailed EC's decision of holding the CCC election on January 27. "We will have to follow all precautions and health rules during the polls," he said.

"City dwellers have been deprived of civic amenities in absence of ward councillors and mayor for a long time," said Rezaul.

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Star HEALTHLINE



The slow-burning threat of LIFESTYLE DISEASES

The term 'lifestyle disease' can come as a new concept for many. The simplest description of it would be a disease that is caused by irresponsible health choices we make in our day-to-day life.

It is estimated that worldwide, approximately 14.2 million people between the age of 30 to 70 die succumb to lifestyle diseases every year.

Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, stress obesity and some forms of cancers can be listed as lifestyle diseases. Here are some ways to help you navigate this damaging disease and build healthy lifestyle habits.

A HEALTHY DIET: From diabetes to heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, indigestion and obesity, eating a healthy diet plays an important role in preventing lifestyle diseases.

Make sure your diet includes minimal junk, processed, packaged and deep-fried food, and contains more fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, leafy green vegetables, fatty fish, eggs, dairy products, etc. Try to consume home-cooked food most of the time and practise portion control to make a

healthy diet work for you.

REGULAR EXERCISE: Being physically active and is good for your heart, blood pressure, diabetes control etc. Exercising is an effective way to keep yourself fit and healthy, and lose weight. Maintaining a healthy weight is a great way to feel healthy and be disease-free.

HEALTHY BODY WEIGHT: A healthy diet and regular exercise can help you maintain a healthy body weight. Not being overweight is the key to preventing lifestyle-related diseases like type 2 diabetes, obesity, arthritis, hypertension etc. Maintaining a healthy weight is also important to prevent lethargy and for sound sleep and self-confidence.

ABSTAIN FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Smoking and drinking alcohol damages the heart and blood vessels. The risk from lifestyle diseases drastically reduces over time as a person quits smoking and drinking. This is almost as, or more, useful as common medicines that are used to lower heart disease risks such as aspirin, statins, beta-blockers, etc. Quit smoking for a younger you, good skin, more energy, better lung capacity, all of which leads to better breathing.



A child covers his eyes in fear of the needle while a health assistant pushes vaccine in his arm at Rampur Ward-25 office in Chattogram. Measles-rubella vaccination programmes have resumed countrywide and will continue until January 14. The ward was struggling to vaccinate nearly 900 children on Tuesday due to limited manpower, as long queues formed outside the centre.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN