

Iconic TSC soon to be erased

Decision to replace DU structure with multi-storied building sparks criticism

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In the wake of Dhaka University's birth centenary in 2021, the decision to bulldoze its historical Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) and replace it with a multi-storied structure shocked students, alumni, and residents of Dhaka.

TSC is the work of legendary Greek architect and planner Constantinos Apostolos Doxiadis. The mastermind behind planning the city of Islamabad, Doxiadis was also the founder of Ekistics, a school of thought that concerns the science of human settlements, including regional, city, community planning and dwelling design. He designed TSC in the early 1960s.

The adjacent building was later constructed as part of the so-called Decade of Development (1958-68) of the then Pakistani regime.

The structure exemplifies a modernist architectural sensitivity toward spatial needs for tropical climatic conditions. It blends local parameters of space-making -- particularly the indoor-outdoor continuum and generation of space around courtyards -- with international-style visual expression of building forms.

TSC's dome-shaped structure is considered an iconic landmark not only inside DU campus, but in the broader cityscape of Dhaka. It has been home to countless students who show up between or after classes for a cup of tea with friends, and holds immense nostalgic value for them on top of being a historically significant site.

GOVT MAKING WAY FOR MULTI-STORIED TSC

Public Works Department (PWD) of the government has already begun

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Yesterday's TSC soon to become yesteryear's... This all-too-familiar sight of the red and white dome is set to disappear as the government begins implementing its plan to replace the old TSC structure with a multistoried building.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

No DJ, no alcohol on New Year's Eve

Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No DJ parties will be allowed on New Year's Eve to usher in 2021, and all bars must be shut down in the capital before the evening on the day.

DMP commissioner Shafiqul Islam imposed the restriction yesterday.

Addressing a coordination meeting at the DMP headquarters on law and order and traffic management for Christmas and thirty-first night, the DMP chief said there would be maximum security in churches for Christmas day.

In addition, additional surveillance and security arrangements will be made in Christian-majority areas and institutions, he said.

Shafiqul suggested that it would be good for churches to organise multiple prayers in different times, for area-based residences.

On the occasion of thirty-first night, the DMP boss said people would not be allowed to gather in open spaces and organise any party.

"No space or room can be rented in the name of DJ party in hotels," he said.

However, hotels will be able to arrange programmes by their own in a limited scale

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Take steps to end border killings

BNP urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged the government to take effective steps to stop killings at the borders.

"We want an end to it (border killing). Our demand is that the government take steps immediately in this regard," Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said while speaking at an event organised to observe the party's "black flag programme", protesting border killing.

Talking to journalists at the party chairperson's Gulshan office, he said a total of 1,510 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed by Indian border force since 1962.

"Killing people in the border is a clear violation of human rights," he said.

Fakhru said his party's statements are not against people or the government of India. It is the issue of security of the citizens of Bangladesh.

Regarding Rohingya crisis, Fakhru said the government could not solve the problem. "India will remain silent, China will give veto and our government will say we have taken a great foreign policy. The government is saying so just to stay in power."

Referring to an interview of the foreign minister published in The Daily Star, Fakhru said, "Reading the article I became skeptical as to whose foreign minister he is? Is he the foreign minister of Bangladesh or India? In the entire interview, he tried to defend India."

SPs IN DISTRICTS

Be role models for people: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed has asked superintendents of police (SPs) in the districts to act as changemakers to serve people and become role models for others.

He was speaking at a programme at Police Headquarters on Sunday night, where top police officials and newly appointed SPs in 13 districts participated.

Benazir asked the SPs to put an end to the practice of brutality and behave amicably with citizens. "If you love people, you will get love in return," he said.

The police chief said he wanted to see a corruption-free, drug-free police force.

He stressed on implementing effective beat policing to have detailed information about law and order, criminals and crime trends in respective areas.

'I will go to court to save town hall'

Says Cumilla reserved seat MP Anjum Sultana Sima

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the move to demolish the historic Cumilla town hall to construct a "new and modern establishment", reserved seat lawmaker Anjum Sultana Sima yesterday alleged that Cumilla-6 MP AKM Bahauddin Bahar, one of the initiators of the move, is trying to do so for business purposes.

She said Saturday's public hearing over the acquisition of this century-old Birchandra Ganapathagar and Nagar Milonayton (the town hall) as a heritage property was nothing but a charade.

"Only the followers of the lawmakers spoke at the hearing. People of Cumilla do not want the town hall to be demolished," she said while speaking at a press conference at her office on the town.

For the last couple of months, activists and residents have been protesting the move to demolish the historic town hall, a centre for educational, cultural, intellectual and socio-political activities.

The "new and modern" town hall will include an auditorium, multi-storey

building, VIP lounge, car parking and other facilities, according to officials concerned.

There is also a four-storey market on the property, which is owned by lawmaker Bahar, an adviser to the town hall committee.

"The town hall should be renovated not demolished," Sima told the press conference.

"If MP Bahar doesn't change his decision, I will go to court to save the town hall... I will file a writ petition against his decision."

She also criticised the additional secretary to the cultural affairs ministry, who presided over Saturday's public hearing, and the town hall committee.

Established in 1885 in the heart of the town in Kandirpaar area, Cumilla Town Hall stands tall on a sprawling 3.4 acres of land.

It was constructed by Tripura King Birchandra Manikka Bahadur. A library and a two-storey auditorium were also built.

A witness to some of the most important events in our history such as the Language Movement and Liberation War, this town hall has been graced by the presence of many distinguished individuals.

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Case against Sylhet journo protested

Citizens' group forms human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Around a hundred people from all walks of life stood for freedom of press and protested the misuse of the controversial Digital Security Act at a human chain in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon.

The human chain was organised by Sankhubdha Nagorik Andolon in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar at Chowhatta area in the city.

They demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against journalists under the controversial law and urged government to ensure press freedom by scrapping the controversial law.

They also protested the case filed against Daily Ekattorer Kotha's Editor Chowdhury Mumtaz Ahmed and reporters.

At the human chain, its organiser Abdul Karim Kim said, "It has been 15 days of a case being filed against a reputed journalist Chowdhury Mumtaz Ahmed and six others. We are not only protesting the case but also the law under which the case was filed."

"The law is being misused to interfere with freedom of the press in all possible ways. Freedom of press is vital for democracy and we demand that the government

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Fire breaks out at Kalshi slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a slum in Dhaka's Kalshi area yesterday noon, gutting many shanties and valuables.

The fire originated around 1:50pm at the slum near Sabuj Bangla residential area, said Lima Khanam, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters.

Six firefighting units put the blaze out around 5:40pm, officials said.

Ershad Hossain, another fire service official, said around 55 structures were damaged, while locals estimate over a hundred homes were burnt. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

Md Rubel, a street vendor, claimed the fire originated from a home and spread to other parts of the slum.

In November, at least three major fires swept through three slums in Mohakhali, Mohammadpur and Mirpur areas, burning down several hundred shanties.

According to fire officials, flames from burners, short-circuits from substandard wires, burning mosquito coils, improperly discarding cigarette butts and arson attacks are behind most slum fires.

LOANS FOR COVID-19 RETURNEE MIGRANTS

Only 9cr of 200cr disbursed till now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Probashi Kallyan Bank has so far disbursed about Tk 9 crore from the Tk 200-crore special loan for coronavirus-affected returnee migrants' reintegration, the bank's acting managing director Abnus Jahan said yesterday.

Till November 20, the disbursed amount was only about Tk 4.6 crore, he told a discussion held at the capital's Probashi Kallyan Bhaban.

Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) organised the discussion, marking International Migrants Day.

The bank started disbursing the loan from September 21, after the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry announced the special scheme to support economic reintegration of the returnees.

WEWB provided the money from its fund to create the special loan. Jahan said they have been working to accelerate the disbursement process.

At present, the bank's total workforce consists of 260 employees, and it has 67 branches across the country, he said.

Addressing the discussion, Ahmed Munir Saleheen, secretary to the expatriates' welfare ministry, urged the ministry's officials and its different institutions to be proactive and pro-people while providing services.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Bangladesh National Parliament officers and employees' forum formed a human chain yesterday on Manik Mia Avenue, protesting the recent attack on the sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STEP ON WINNING PLATFORM

STEP 01

OPEN VACANCY

STEP 02

HIRING PROCESS

STEP 03

INTERVIEW

READY TO WORK

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- ☑ Must submit SSC Certificate, Last Academic Certificate & National Identity Card (JPG, size 200-300 kb) using the online application form.