

## VICTORIA PARK

## A real greenery

Cheers 2,000 visitors a day

HELEMUL ALAM

The historic Bahadur Shah Park, well known as Victoria Park as its earlier name, is green with some 500 trees and the lone place that offers amusement for cross-section of people in Old Dhaka.

Every day more than 2,000 people including women and the elderly arrive there after and before dark to do exercise and spend leisure.

Paved walkways and sitting benches attract the city dwellers to the park that has two separate and clean lavatories for male and female inside and a fountain in the centre.

Victoria Park was renamed after Bahadur Shah in 1957, reads a board erected inside it by Bahadur Shah Park Morning Walkers' Association, a body of the local residents.

Small cultural activities are also held now and then in the park looked after by the walkers' association and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), according to locals.

A 50-year-old man, Monindra Ghosh, has been coming to Bahadur Shah for his everyday exercise over the last eight years.

According to him, people from Shakhari Bazar, Tantibazar, Bangla Bazar, Kaltabazar, Laxmi Bazar, Patla Khan Lane, and Dal Potti get there for a walk or jogging.

People have been increasingly coming there day by day, as this is the lone park located around the areas, said Ghosh.

He said guardians, especially women, of the students of St Gregory's and St Francis Xavier's turn to the park to do jogging or have morning walk.

An assistant professor of Jagannath University (JnU), Syad Sadial Ferdous, comes to the park for exercise for the last two years. JnU students often take rest and spend chatting with friends there, he said.

The walkers' association managed exercise equipment for its members in the park. Some 400 members come there for walking, jogging, and doing exercise every day, said the organisation's executive member Labibuddin Lablu.

Lablu said the exercise equipment has gone almost out of order, which needs replacement. "Our association try to solve any kind of problem at the park," he said.

Naznin, mother of a class IV girl at St Francis Xavier's School, said she often come to the park for walking after dropping her child at the school like many others.

Many a woman takes a walk in Bahadur Shah in morning and afternoon, as it is safe, said a teacher of Winston Ideal School, Tahmina Begum. She is a morning walker there for the last three years.

Bahadur Shah also is a place that people with hypertension and diabetes have found congenial to do exercise and thus check the diseases.

For the last five years Dr Din Mohammad Rumon has been coming to the park to control his blood pressure and diabetes.

Around 2,000 people of different age come to the park for walking and jogging in both day and night and majority of them are patients of diabetes and high pressure, he said.

**History of the park**

Bahadur Shah is a park in Sadarghat in the capital, Dhaka. It is now a war memorial and a tribute to the martyrs who fought in the first war of independence against British rule.

The conflicting sepoys and their civil compatriots were publicly hanged right there in the park place.

Built in 1858 at the initiative of Nawab Khwaja Abdul Ghani, it was called Victoria Park until 1947 and later renamed after Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal emperor.



A fountain inside historic Bahadur Shah Park, well known as Victoria Park, in Old Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

## Vessel with 2,200-tonne clinker sinks in Hatia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A lighter vessel with over 2,200 tonnes of cement clinker sank in Ramgati point of Hatia channel here yesterday.

The vessel, Crown-2, capsized around 1:00pm with 12 crewmen who were rescued by the boatmen close by.

Commodore AZ Nizam, executive director of Water Transport Cell (WTC), an organisation that coordinates lighter vessels, said the vessel was heading for Dhaka.

It was loaded with clinker from a mother vessel, MV KS Trust, at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and got stuck at a shoal during low tide in the morning and was waiting for high tide. As high tide came in the afternoon, the overloaded vessel tilted and sank, he said.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Deputy Conservator Capt Nazmul Alam said vessel movement through the port channel remained normal, as the accident occurred beyond the port channel.

## 4 robbers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Detective Branch of Police arrested four alleged highway robbers and seized their trucks and sharp weapons at Doyagonj in the city's Jatrabari yesterday.

Police said they arrested Nayeem Kalu, 35, Sohrab, 26, Golam Mawla, 32, and Tuhin Dhali, 29, who were on way to commit robbery riding a truck.

The gang members on the back of the truck fled as soon as detectives stopped the truck, said police.

## 13 get Ekushey Padak

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over Ekushey Padak to recipients at a function at Osmani Memorial Hall today, a day ahead of International Mother Language Day.

Thirteen eminent personalities will be awarded Ekushey Padak this year in recognition of their outstanding contributions in different sectors of national life, said an official announcement.

Recipients are Shawkat Ali, language movement posthumous; Mosharef Uddin Ahmed, language movement posthumous; Ustad Akther Sadmani, arts posthumous; Abdul Haq Chowdhury, research posthumous; and Amanul Haq, language movement.

They are joined by Baul Shah Abdul Karim Shah, arts posthumous; Jyotsna Biswas, arts; Nurjahan Begum, journalism; Alhaj Md Abul Hashem, social service; Md Hares Uddin Polan Sarker, social service; Mohammed Delwar Hossain, social service; Shahid Qadri, language and literature; and Abdul Haq, language and literature.



A team of different Rotary districts of the US and Canada led by Derek Hall called on Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at the VC's residence in the university yesterday. Other members are Rebecca Mc Lean, Todd DeGrasse and Molly Thurston. DU IBA Prof Rtn Iqban Ahmed, Rtn Deen Md Khan and Rtn Mahmudul Hasan were present on the occasion.

## Reshuffle in police department

## 24 senior officials transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a reshuffle in the police department, a total of 24 senior officials with the ranks from deputy inspector general to superintendent of police were transferred yesterday.

Police headquarter sources said in a letter signed by deputy secretary Mohammad Abul Kashem of Home Ministry passed the transfer order of the high police officials.

The sources said additional deputy inspector general of Barisal range Binoy Krishna Bala has been made maiden DIG of Rangpur range.

Additional police commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police Dr Mohammad Abdur Rahim transferred as DIG to Barisal Range, director Rab Sayeed Tawfiq Uddin Ahmed as commissioner to BMP, DIG Sylhet range Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuyan as DIG to SB, additional DIG Chittagong range Mohammad Mokbul Hossain Bhuyan as DIG to Sylhet range, DIG highway police Mohammad Sohrab Hossain as DIG to railway range, joint commissioner DMP Mohammad Humayun Kabir as DIG to high-way range.

The source also said SP of Narayanganj Biswas Afzol Hossain as add DIG to Chittagong range, AIG (police headquarter) Mohammad Lutfur Rahman Mondal as additional DIG to Rangpur range, SS CID Rafiqul Islam as additional DIG to Khulna range, SS SB Awrangajeb Mahbub as additional police commissioner to KMP, SP Nibash Chandra Majhi of Cox's Bazar as additional DIG to Rajshahi range, SP Gazipur SM Mahfuzul Huq Nuruzzaman as additional DIG to Dhaka range, commandant of PTC Khulna Abdullah Al Azad Chowdhury as additional commissioner to SMP.

It added, AIG police headquarter Shahab Uddin Qureshi as joint commissioner to DMP, AIG police headquarter Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun as additional DIG to SB, AIG headquarter Barrister Mahbubur Rahman as joint commissioner to DMP, AIG Ibrahim Fatemi as joint commissioner to DMP, SP Tangail Mizanur Rahman as SP to Dhaka, additional commissioner Abdul Baten of DMP as SP to Gazipur, SP Mofizuddin Ahmed as additional commissioner to DMP, SP Madaripur Sardar Tamiz Uddin Ahmed as additional commandant traffic and driving school in Dhaka, AIG police headquarter Shah Alam as SP to Thakurgaon and SS CID Mohammad as SP (OSD) to police headquarter.

Ex-leaders for elections to student bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some former student leaders yesterday stressed the need for elections to student bodies at different universities and colleges across the country to revive healthy student politics and protect the rights of students.

According to them, student leadership could not flourish in last few decades and student politics is now on the verge of decay for the absence of the elections. So it has become an urgent need to hold the elections within the shortest time possible, they said.

The opinion came from the unveiling ceremony of a book titled "Bangladesher Chhatra Andolaner Oti Bortaman O Bhabishyat" (Present, Past, and Future of Student Movement of Bangladesh) at Dhaka University (DU).

The book is authored by Awami League (AL) leader M A M M U D U R R A H M A N Manna, also former vice-president (VP) of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU).

AL leader Tofail Ahmed said student politics should be controlled by students and their elected representatives only, not by national leaders.

"During our time, the national leaders cared for us, but they did not set us in leadership. But today, the national leaders set their chosen men in student leadership. This is the main reason for decay in student politics," Tofail, also the former VP of DUCSU.

Former AL general secretary Abdul Jalil said now the country's politics is not controlled by politicians; rather politics has gone into the grip of businessmen and millionaires.

Demanding elections to all student unions, AL leader Suranjit Sengupta said student leaders should learn democratic practice from their student politics.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim criticised the so-called civil society men who talk for de-politicisation of students and said opportunity should be created for the youth for healthy student politics.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, and former president of DU Teachers' Association Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan were present at the event.

## West Bengal seeks WB fund for Sundarbans

BSS, Kolkata

The West Bengal government has sought funds from the World Bank for the development and restructure of the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans.

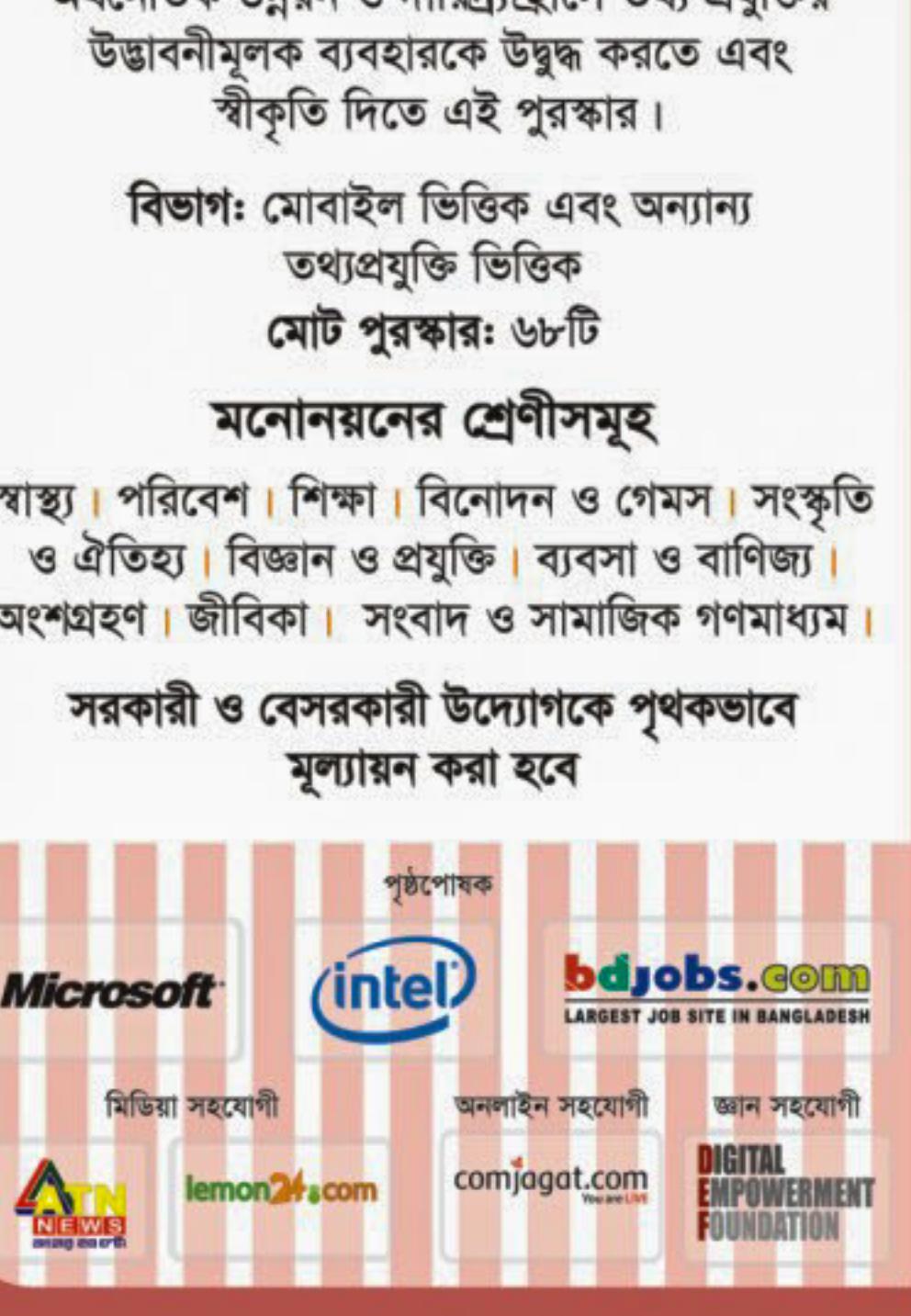
Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Friday said, "We have told the WB that we have to get the money. Experts of the bank have already visited the Sundarbans, which witnessed a devastating cyclone Aila. We will get funds from the bank."

Bhattacharjee told this to a Left Front rally at Kultali in South 24 Parganas district. Cyclone Aila ravaged large parts of the West Bengal's delta region in 2009. Nearly three lakh families were affected in South 24 Parganas in the wake of the cyclone.

"We will build infrastructure that will help the people of the Sundarbans combat cyclones like Aila. We will set up long dams that will save houses during cyclones," said the chief minister of Indian state.

"For that land has already been acquired. We need more money." Bhattacharjee said bridges and roads were being constructed in the region. "We will carry out more works if more fund is ensured."

He claimed that it was the Left Front government in West Bengal, which provided leasehold of land to the poor.



## My heart speaks in Bangla

Feel the spirit of 21st February with your Grameenphone mobile

Download your favorite Welcome Tune:

Songs	Singer/Band	Code
O Amar Bangla Maa Tor	Kolpona Anam	505621
O Amar Desher Maati	Kolpona Anam	505622
Bangladesh	Shahid	505399
Ei Bangla Maati te	Kolpona Anam	505615
Amar Bangladesh	Rajib & Muhin	505651
Priyo Bangladesh	Fahmid Nobi	505666
Valobashi Bangladesh	Rajib & Rinku	505672
Eki Oporup Rupe	Shakil Anam	505618
Bangladesher Grishmo	Dolchut	505675

Dial 2665 to know:

- History of Mother Language Day
- Significance of Mother Language Day
- Language Movement History outside Dhaka
- Event information for the occasion

IVR charge Tk. 2/minute

To download Welcome Tune, dial 4000 or follow the steps below:

Go to message option  
Type your code  
Send to 4000  
wt xxxxx  
4000

Charge: Tk. 15/tune and Subscription fee Tk. 30/month

&gt; 15% VAT applies to all charges

Stay Close | grameenphone