

## Sust reopens Jan 18 with bars on dorm residence

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

The Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (Sust) will reopen on January 18, and before that only those students who have been allotted seats will be allowed in dormitories, Registrar Ishfaqul Hossain said after an emergency meeting of the syndicate last evening.

Vice Chancellor Md Aminul Haque Bhuyan chaired the four-hour meeting.

Sust was closed indefinitely on November 20 after two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed, killing an activist from outside the campus.

Meanwhile, the three-member probe committee, headed by Prof Ilias Uddin Biswas, could not file its report yet because he "could not talk to the students" amid closure of the university.

The committee, however, was not given any deadline to finish the investigation.



**Rakhal Nritta, a traditional dance which takes place at the festival of Maha Rash Leela in Madhavpur of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj. The photo was taken on June 11 last year by the runner up in the "Festival" theme of the inPixel photo contest of The Daily Star.**

PHOTO: MD AKHLAS UDDIN



## Dhaka to host regional UN peace meeting

**UNB, Dhaka**

Bangladesh will host a regional consultation of "Secretary General's High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations" in Dhaka on January 20-22, says a handout.

Representatives from 31 countries and 20 panel members will take part in the meeting.

## Undergrad freshers get reception at Brac University

**CITY DESK**

The orientation programme of undergraduates under spring-2015 at Brac University was held on its Mohakhali campus yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor (VC) Syed Saad Andaleeb, Pro-VC Fuad Hassan Mallick, Chairperson of Mathematics and Natural Sciences department AA Zia Uddin Ahmad, Brac Institute of Language Director Syeda Sarwat Abed, Dean of Student Affairs Office and Teaching Learning Centre Riaz Partha Khan, and Firdous Azim, chairperson of English and humanities were present there.

# Waste management mess plagues Ctg city

**ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg**

Chittagong city residents have been suffering due to poor garbage and sewerage management, which is slowly turning the city into an unlivable place.

Locals and civil society members have expressed dissatisfaction at how the Chittagong City Corporation is managing the waste.

Even, the road transport and bridges minister, Obaidul Quader, remarked how dirty the city was at a programme in Chittagong recently.

Rubbish heaps are seen everywhere, and it is difficult to walk around the city due to bad odour, said the minister.

SM Nazer Hossain, president of the Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Chittagong unit, said the situation was far better even some five years back.

The city corporation seems to be uncoordinated in managing the waste, and workers can be seen collecting rubbish around noon and even during rush hours, he said.

Most dustbins are situated at busy intersections and entrances of kitchen markets like Muradpur Forestry Gate, Reazuddin Bazar, Aturar Depot, Chawk Bazar, Jamal Khan Intersection, Nasirabad Housing Society entry point, Bahaddarhat and Kamaphuli Market.

Pushpal Barua, a resident of Rahattar Pool area, said the dustbin near Chawk Bazar Kitchen Market always spreads malodour.

He further said the situation worsens during rain. "Garbage is washed away from the dustbin due to rain and ends up all over the road."

Sometimes, rubbish enters roadside drains and clogs those up leading to waterlogging, Barua said.

Dr Aniruddha Ghosh, associate professor of medicine at Chittagong Medical College, said garbage in Bangladesh, unlike in developed countries, is not categorised, and spots are not earmarked for those different types.

Hence all sorts of rubbish, including biomedical waste, are put

in the same dustbin creating serious public health hazards, he added.

Tajminur Rahman, assistant director at the Department of Environment (DoE), shone light on the impact garbage has on the environment.

Garbage washed away by rainwater pollutes ponds, canals and rivers, while the underground water is contaminated through leaching, he said, adding that methane gas, emitted from rotten waste, leads to air pollution.

According to CCC officials, around 1,350 tonnes of garbage is disposed of every day by around 50 lakh inhabitants of the city.

The 1,900 conservancy workers of the city corporation manage the garbage, with its 70 mini-trucks carrying waste from 1,350 dustbins and 94 containers to two landfills.

Shafiqul Mannan Siddique, chief conservancy officer of CCC, admitted that the corporation cannot manage the garbage due to "inadequate manpower and equipment

and financial crisis".

"We need at least 4,000 conservancy workers and 200 more vehicles for proper garbage management at present," he said.

He pointed out that a lack of public consciousness has also contributed to the city's dirty environment. "Many residents throw rubbish here and there instead of in dustbins."

Siddique said the CCC organogram needs to be changed to recruit more manpower.

Mayor M Manjur Alam said that due to workforce crisis, the conservancy workers collect garbage twice a day--at 8:00am and 6:00pm.

He added a couple of years back they sent a proposal to the local government ministry regarding changing the organogram.

According to CCC officials, the local government ministry and the public administration ministry both have approved the proposal which is currently pending with the finance ministry.

# Last year saw no labour market expansion

**UNB, Dhaka**

Existing labour markets overseas could not be expanded to ensure jobs for more Bangladeshis while no new one could be created last year, state official records.

According to a report of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University, immigration rate decreased by 32 percent in 2014 from 2012 while increased by only one percent from 2013.

According to Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL), the government sent 7,107 workers to Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, the Maldives, and South Korea in 2014 whereas 8,585 workers were sent there in 2013.

Sources at the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), under the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, said no new labour market was created in the Middle East last year.

But BMET Director General Begum Shamsunnahar said labour market was created in three to four countries last year. However, she neither could specify the number nor mention the names of the country.

But she added that some 4,18,449 workers went to 160 countries in 2014 through

government and private agencies.

Meanwhile, only 5,191 workers were sent to Malaysia through the government-to-government contract in 2014.

About the number, Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies President Abul Bashar said, "We can send at least five lakh workers to Malaysia every year for construction, servicing, agriculture and industries sectors, if government allows us for the sectors."

Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said the Malaysian government had already opened the four sectors along with the plantation sector for Bangladeshi workers under g-to-g contract. "But I won't let the recruiting agencies sell workers," he warned.

The RMMRU report also mentioned that due to the failure to expand labour market, illegal migration has increased in 2014.

According to United Nations High Commission for Refugees, some 87,000 Bangladeshi workers illegally went to Malaysia through the country's sea route last year.

About human trafficking, the BMET DG said the government also enacted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013.

However, the RMMRU termed the law weak as no case has been filed under the act yet.



**The overflowing garbage containers at the intersection of the narrow Station Road in Chittagong city recently.**

PHOTO: STAR

# President should intervene

**FROM PAGE 3**

January 3.

Reading out the statement, SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar criticised the government for limiting the political space of the BNP, and condemned its "unwarranted meddling" in media.

At the same time, he demanded punishment for the people perpetuating violence and killing general people and damaging public properties.

The January 5 elections saw 153 out of the 300 members of parliament

elected uncontested, and the BNP which boycotted it called it "the day democracy was annihilated".

Khaleda Zia announced the blockade demanding a fresh general election under a non-party administration.

In the run-up to that controversial election, a period of widespread violence leading to scores of civilian deaths, SHUJAN and other civil society organisations had repeatedly called for political dialogue, to no avail.

SHUJAN reiterated that the last

year's vote was "one-sided" and called for a fresh, inclusive parliamentary election within the shortest possible time.

Speaking on the occasion, local government expert Tofail Ahmed, also an executive member of SHUJAN, called upon people to break the silence and raise voice collectively to solve the crisis.

"Whenever a one-person rule prevails in a country, it paves the way for the rise of militancy and terrorism. We don't want to see that in Bangladesh," he viewed.

### Cotton crafts make

**FROM PAGE 4**

in Nilphamari and Saiful Alam of "Soft Tech Handicrafts" of Debiganj upazila in Panchagarh narrated their successes.

Entrepreneurs Chandona Ghosh, Rokeya Begum and Shilpi Begum of Thakurgaon, Shahana Begum of Badarganj upazila in Rangpur and Abdus Sahed of Kurigram and "Karchupi" artisan Arzina Begum of Syedpur also described their successes.

Value chain specialist of the "Samridhhi" project Tahmidur Rahman Ratan at Rangpur Regional Office said the beneficiaries were earning better through income generation activities.

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