

3-storey building for street dwellers opens in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will construct 50 modern public toilets in the capital within the current fiscal year, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon said yesterday.

He gave the assurance while inaugurating a public toilet and a three-storey Pavement Dweller Centre on DSCC land on Miazan lane in Maniknagar in the capital.

Sajida Foundation, Concern Worldwide, and WaterAid jointly built the toilet and the centre.

Through the centre, different kinds of essential services and capacity building activities will be carried out for pavement dwellers. They will be able to get safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and take rest in the centre which also has bathing facilities and separate toilets for differently-abled people.

Khokon said he would consider allotting more land for such centres and had a plan for constructing more community centres following local councillor's demand.

Executive Director of the Foundation Zahida Fizza Kabir presided over the event.

Twenty women 'rescued while being trafficked'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday detained 20 women in Chittagong City Gate area suspecting them to be victims of human trafficking.

They were going to the capital from Cox's Bazar to catch a flight to Saudi Arabia today on a domestic help visa, said Sadip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Akbar Shah Police Station, quoting the women. They were later sent to Dhaka under police protection for verification of their passports and other documents, he added.

Sadip said the women told police that travel agency officials would give them their passports at the airport.

The OC said the travel agency sent scanned copies of their passports to police. "But we could not verify the scanned copies and informed the immigration authorities," said Sadip, adding that the immigration authorities will verify their documents and take steps accordingly.

HC asks DMCH to bear acid attack victim's treatment cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to provide treatment to Nazma Begum, an acid victim of Chandpur, for free until she fully recovers.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also directed police to arrest in 72 hours the miscreants who threw acid on Nazma, and to submit a report in this regard before it in two weeks.

Manzill Murshid, who moved the petition before the HC, told The Daily

Star that some local terrorists threw acid on Nazma in Kachua of Chandpur on October 2 as she had given statements to police against some influential people in a rape case.

Nazma's husband Ismail filed a case with Kachua Police Station on October 3 against seven people but police have not arrested any of them as they are reportedly very influential, he said.

Manzill also said Nazma was admitted to DMCH for treatment, but she was released from the hospital before full recovery as she could not pay for

some medicines.

A Bangla national daily published a report on the incidents on October 23.

Following the report, Manzill, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, filed the writ petition as public interest litigation with the HC on November 22.

The home secretary, inspector general of police; deputy commissioner; superintendent of police, Chandpur; officer-in-charge of Kachua Police Station; investigation officer of the case, and the director of DMCH have been made respondents to the rule.



Survivors and family members of those who died in the Tazreen Fashions fire stage a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the third anniversary of the disaster, demanding compensation and trial of the persons responsible for the blaze which left at least 112 dead and 114 injured.

JU officers strike for leader's release

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Officers Association of Jahangirnagar University yesterday observed a daylong work stoppage demanding release of their general secretary, Abdur Rahman Babul, who was picked up from the campus by detectives the day before and later shown arrested on the charge of destructive activities during the protest movement by the BNP-led alliance.

Babul is also president of Dhaka district Jatiyatabadi Svechhasebok Dal, an associate organisation of BNP, said sources. Babul was denied bail and sent to jail yesterday.

Rallying in front of the vice chancellor's office, the officers said he has affiliation with a particular political party did not mean he was involved in destructive activities. They demanded the university authorities' initiative for getting him freed.

JU Teachers Association (Juta), JU Employees Association, and JU Employees Union expressed solidarity with the officers' demand.

Abdus Salam, president of the Officers Association, announced that the officers would refrain from work from 7:30am to 2:00pm every day till the release of Babul.

Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique said arresting someone was a legal process; the university administration had nothing to do there.

NEWS IN brief

Rabab made new envoy to Japan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Rabab Fatima, director general (East Asia and Pacific) in the Foreign Ministry, as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan, said a press release yesterday.

A BCS cadre of the 1986 batch, she served at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London and the International Organization for Migration. Earlier, she served in Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UNOG in Geneva and Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing.

US embassy closed tomorrow

CITY DESK

The US Embassy Dhaka will be closed tomorrow in observance of Thanksgiving Day, an American national holiday, said a press release yesterday.

The closure also includes the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Education USA Student Advising Center. Emergency services for American citizens will be available. Please call 5566-2000 and ask for the duty officer.

More allocation must for attaining SDG of primary education: Experts

CITY DESK

To achieve the sustainable development goal (SDG) in primary education, Bangladesh needs to put particular emphasis on quality and budget, said experts at a sharing of research findings at Brac Centre in the capital yesterday.

The event titled "Access to primary education: Obstacles in the hard-to-reach areas", was organised by Brac Advocacy for Social Change programme.

ASM Amanullah, sociology professor in Dhaka University, presented the research findings.

Ctg road crash kills man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A person was killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a truck after a tempo hit the three-wheeler from behind in front of Chittagong Diabetic General Hospital in Khulshi area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The deceased was Abu Bakkar Siddique, 37, driver of the auto-rickshaw. He hailed from Hatiya upazila of Noakhali.

Police seek permission to exhume body

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arrestees for four days each. According to the case, filed by Misanur Rahman, inspector (operation) of Uttara East Police Station, their probe found that Miyata had been living in City Homes Hotel in Sector 6 for a couple of years and was abducted by her so-called business partners and their accomplices from the hotel on October 26.

The case statement added that the accused confined her to Fakrul's flat in Bashundhara residential area and asked her to bring money from her relatives for release.

At one stage, on October 29, they killed Miyata and decided to hide the body, the statement said, and later the body was taken to Maruf's Uttara residence.

They hid identity of Miyata and buried her at the city corporation-run graveyard at Sector 12 identifying her as Halima Begum, wife of late Babul Mridha of Jessor.

The statement also said that the Japanese

embassy officials declined to file any case, so police did it. Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, through text message, convened a press conference at 11:00am on this issue but later cancelled the programme for "unavoidable reasons".

But a police officer said the briefing was cancelled on request from Japan embassy officials.

A deputy commissioner of DMP said Miyata was involved in garment business and had been living in Bangladesh for many years. Her visa expired in 2006 and since then she was staying illegally here, he added.

The arrestees claimed that they did not kill Miyata but rather took her to Bashundhara residential area as she owed the hotel huge money as rent, the officer said preferring anonymity.

Miyata died of a disease but they buried her secretly to avert problems, he said quoting the arrestees.

Pakistan meddled in Bangladesh's affairs

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BNP's statement is similar to Pakistan government's, they said.

Replying to a query, SCF Vice President Harun ur Rashid said that by challenging SQ

Chowdhury's execution, BNP challenged the country's judicial system. "We want the trial must go on and verdicts of the pending cases against those who are in custody will be executed as soon as possible," he said.

Govt trying to cut workplace deaths

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The concluding day had three sessions. It began with a plenary session moderated by Dhaka University Professor Ahmed Kamal. There were three more speakers from ISSA who talked about industrial safety, among other issues.

After a short break, an open discussion conducted by Dr Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, took place.

The speakers encouraged a healthy atmosphere at every workplace. They agreed that although Bangladesh is moving ahead in industrial development, hazardous incidents may undo the progress and worsen the situation.

Among others, Olaf Peterman, president of ISSA, Special Commission of Prevention; and Prof David Christiani, Harvard University, were present at the closing ceremony.