

Inaccessibility to public spaces prime barrier to dev of youths with disabilities

Physically-challenged Development Foundation scholarship distribution ceremony told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inaccessibility to public spaces is the foremost barrier that frustrates the abilities and development of physically challenged youths, said a high official and persons with such disabilities at a scholarship distribution ceremony in the capital yesterday.

Existing buildings, establishments and transport systems lack the required facilities like ramps, wheelchairs and special toilets, said Department of Youth Development Director General Anwarul Karim.

Physically-challenged Development Foundation (PDF), an NGO, organised the ceremony presenting scholarships, worth Tk 12,000 and Tk 18,000 a year, to 40 differently-abled university students. The number of recipients last year was 17.

Karim said his department was striving towards ensuring accessibility in all upcoming buildings and establishments and businesses like banks should help advance the cause with their CSR funds.

Md Jahidul Islam, a youth with cerebral palsy working at ActionAid, said he had to struggle hard since childhood to overcome social hostility.

"Don't think what you do not have; thrive on what you have," said artist Raghib Uddin Ahmed.

M Naser Alam, chief adviser to PDF, said they started the scholarship scheme with scarce resources, awarding just one Chittagong University student in 2012.



Chittagong city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin sees off a friendship motor rally of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal on the premises of a hotel in the port city before its departure for Dhaka yesterday. To start seamless transit of passengers, cargo, and personal vehicles among the countries, the rally started following an agreement on June 15. Setting off from Bhubaneshwar in India on November 15, the motorcade entered Bangladesh on Saturday and will conclude its journey in Kolkata on December 1.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC commissioners free of chairman's control

Appellate Division upholds HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that scrapped the provision of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) law, which had put its commissioners under the control of its chairman.

The Appellate Division passed a "no-order" on a petition filed by ACC Chairman M Boduuzzaman seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

A four-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, however, said the ACC chairman could file a leave-to-appeal petition with the SC against the HC judgment.

ACC chairman's lawyer Khurshid Alam

Khan told the Daily Star that his client would file a leave-to-appeal petition.

He said the HC judgment would remain in force until the SC passed a further order.

Meanwhile, ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin's lawyer Syed Mamun Mahbub, who opposed the ACC chairman's petition, said the commissioners would take every decision unanimously.

No commissioner will remain under control of the chairman following the SC order, he added.

Following a writ petition, the HC on November 19 declared Section 12(2) of the Anti Corruption Commission Act, 2004 illegal, saying the section curtailed the independence of the ACC commissioners.

Iran condemns attack on Shias

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Iran has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks, including attacks on religious congregations at Husseini Dalan and on a mosque in Bogra in Bangladesh, and hoped that the government would bring the perpetrators to justice.

There is no doubt that the ones responsible for all these are intending to disrupt the peace and harmony between people of different religions and sects in this country, said a statement of the Iranian embassy yesterday.

Written exams to follow MCQs for SSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The multiple choice questions (MCQ) type exam will take place before the written tests for the first time in the SSC and equivalent examinations to be held on February 1 next year.

There will be a gap of 10 minutes between the MCQ and written tests, according to the routine published by the education ministry yesterday.

JU GEOGRAPHY DEPT Teachers' class boycott continues

Administrative activities resume as Officers' Association ends protest

JU CORRESPONDENT

The administrative activities at Jahangirnagar University resumed on Saturday as the Officers' Association withdrew their protest following assurance that the university authorities will pursue legal options within its limit to have one of their colleagues released from detention.

Abdur Rahman Babul, an administrative officer and chief of Dhaka district unit of BNP's wing Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebok Dal, was picked up on November 23 and was later shown arrested for destructive activities.

The next day, the JU Officers' Association started work stoppage demanding the authorities' intervention for getting him released.

However, the geography and environment department teachers continued class boycott, starting November 15, demanding legal action against their colleague Prof Manzurul Hassan, who is accused of threatening them.

HIV/AIDS still not risk for Bangladesh

Inu tells Prothom Alo, SCB roundtable; says awareness, fund needed to prevent transmission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As per HIV/AIDS prevalence rate and the number of people living with this, AIDS is still not a serious threat to Bangladesh, however, it can rise suddenly due to the lack of proper knowledge and awareness, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said at a roundtable yesterday.

At the roundtable titled "HIV/AIDS Awareness: Our Responsibilities" held at the office of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo in the capital, the minister said the funds allocated for HIV/AIDS programmes are not sufficient; moreover, the officials are reluctant to properly utilise the funds.

At the event, jointly organised by Prothom Alo and Standard Chartered Bank, Inu assured all of persuading the government to increase the fund in the next budget for preventing AIDS.

Meher Afroz Chumki, state minister for

Iranian women and children affairs, said floating prostitutes should be included in the AIDS prevention programmes besides brothels and awareness should also be raised among teenage girls.

Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo, said campaigns, assistance and initiatives of the government are very important for controlling and treating HIV and the newspaper is also strengthening its campaign with assistance from Standard Chartered Bank for fighting the deadly disease.

Prof Dr Nazrul Islam, virologist and former vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, urged the health ministry to keep medicine supply smooth and available for such patients.

Abdul Qayyum, associate editor of Prothom Alo, moderated the roundtable where Saima Khan, advisor, UNAIDS Bangladesh, also spoke.

The Daily Star

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Photography Exhibition

10 AM to 4 PM at ULAB Campus B, Lobby

Film Show

4 PM to 6 PM at ULAB Campus B, Screening Room

Tomorrow we will be at

North South University

Photography Exhibition

10 AM to 5 PM at Recreation Centre

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It's unacceptable

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hospitals by the staff then the pharmacies would not store and sell them.

They alleged pharmaceutical companies were marketing physicians' samples to "evade tax". If the companies did not supply the samples to the pharmacies then they would not stock and sell them.

They said food supplements and Indian drugs are brought through the borders. So if those were not allowed to enter the country, the pharmacy owners would not have stocked them. And if the doctors did not prescribe those, the pharmacy owners would not stock any.

It seems it was all others' faults and their members were simply "innocent!"

So now, one may ask, don't they know stocking physicians' sample for sale is illegal? Don't they know selling government hospital drugs is illegal and a punishable offence? Don't they know stocking unauthorised food supplements and foreign drugs is illegal?

So if the pharmacy owners are fined for egregious breaking of law, then how can they feel they are being treated unjustly?

Unauthorised drugs and



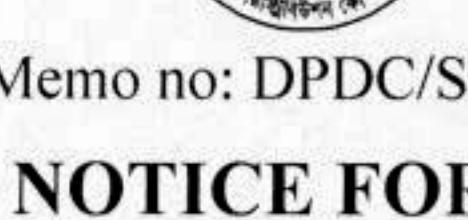
Pharmacies kept closed till 2:00pm in Chittagong city's Chawkbazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD

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Memo no: DPDC/SED/PD (PPMS-3 NOCS)/2015/676

Date: 29/11/2015

NOTICE FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, last date of submission of international tender for procurement of "Design, Supply, Installation, Interfacing with existing Pre-Payment System, Testing & Commissioning of Pre Payment Metering System at NOCS Satmasjid, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar & Mugdapara Divisions on Turn Key basis." against tender invitation no. DPDC/SE/PD(PPMS for 3 NOCS)/2015/525, date 23.07.2015 is hereby postponed.

Fresh date of tender submission for the above mentioned tender will be informed later on.

A.H.M Mohiuddin, Project director
Prepaid Metering Project, DPDC

Drug runners, terror outfits might use courier services

Rab tells media in Ctg after seizure of 1 lakh Yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Due to a lack of monitoring, drug peddlers and militants may use courier services to transfer money and contraband drugs, Rab officials said yesterday following a seizure of a good number of Yaba from an SA Paribahan office in Chittagong the day before.

Rapid Action Battalion seized over one lakh Yaba from the Paribahan's Dhanialpara Branch on Saturday night and arrested Manager Md MA Momin, 44, and Assistant Md Shamshuddin alias Shabuj, 26.

Documents of transaction of money worth Tk 82 lakh in the last two months were also seized from the office.

Rab-7 officials were addressing a press conference at its headquarters in Patenga.

The arrested two, however, claimed to be innocent, the officials said.

The Yaba pills were found in a wooden wardrobe, which was supposed to be sent to Narayanganj, they said.

Rab suspects the money was actually transferred by Yaba smugglers, who are yet to be traced.

Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed of Rab-7 said the courier service providers delivered the money after keeping the customers' mobile phone numbers only.

He suggested the authorities of courier services to take national identity numbers and other relevant documents of the customers so that they can be identified.

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