

FAO, DNCC provide carts to food vendors

Earlier similar food carts were distributed among vendors in Dhaka South
STAFF CORRESPONDENTS

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul Huq yesterday handed over 82 street food carts to trained vendors at a ceremony in the capital's Mirpur so that they can cater hygienic food for the commuters.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) provided the carts to DNCC.

The vendors among whom the carts were distributed were trained by FAO on how to prepare and preserve food in a hygienic way.

Annisul said providing safe food carts was a part of the city corporation's efforts to serve the city residents and improve public health.

FAO Bangladesh Deputy Representative David Doolan said like Bangkok, Dhaka city would turn into a city of safe street food with this effort.

He also requested the DNCC to monitor performance and activities of the vendors.

DNCC Chief Executive Officer Md Mesbahul Islam, who chaired the programme, said the selected vendors would run their business with DNCC trade licence.

So they have to remain conscious of quality of the food, added Mesbahul.

Earlier, Dhaka South City Corporation in mid-April this year handed over 80 such food carts to many trained vendors, provided by FAO as part of its ongoing "Safe Food" programme.

Around six months ago, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh too handed over 100 carts to vendors selling food in Motijheel area.



Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul Huq inaugurating the distribution of food carts among the street vendors yesterday at DNCC Zonal Office in the capital's Mirpur.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Violence, irregularities ruining electoral system

Claims SHUJAN; says 71 people were killed during ongoing UP polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's electoral system stands on the verge of ruination due to massive violence and irregularities during elections in unions, upazilas, municipalities, and city corporations, said civil society organisation Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) yesterday.

If the situation continues, the next parliamentary election scheduled for 2019 might not be free and fair, said SHUJAN secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, at a press conference on the ongoing union parishad (UP) polls at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Election to 725 UPs was held on March 22 in the first phase, 639 UPs on March 31 in the second phase, and 615 UPs on April 23 in the third phase.

Besides, election to 743 UPs is slated for May 7 in the fourth phase,

733 UPs for May 28 in the fifth phase, and 724 UPs on June 4 in the sixth phase.

At least 71 people were killed and 6,000 people injured in violence over the UP polls, claimed SHUJAN.

Last year, election to Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations and municipalities in different districts was held. The upazila parishads went to polls in 2014.

All the elections were marked by irregularities and violence, according to media reports.

At the conference, SHUJAN central coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarker read out a written statement, saying violence, killing, nomination trading, and other irregularities had raised many questions over the UP elections.

In the three phases of UP polls, Awami League's chairman candidates won in 1,379 UPs and BNP's in 168

UPs. Such a huge difference in voting results seems unbelievable, said the statement.

It also criticised political parties for nominating "few" female candidates. Women made up less than 1 percent of AL and BNP nominated candidates, SHUJAN said.

Majumdar said nowadays brandishing of firearms openly had become common during elections, and it was alarming for the electoral system.

"Seeing the overall situation in UP polls, I fear that how the 2019 parliament election will be held," said Muhammad Jahangir, SHUJAN's national committee member.

He urged all, especially from the youth and students, to protest the "controversial" polls.

SHUJAN President M Hafiz Uddin Khan also spoke.

3 'BCL men' in jail for snatching

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three persons, whom police claim are Bangladesh Chhatra League men, were denied bail by a Barisal court and sent to jail yesterday for allegedly snatching six cellphones and Tk 1,170 from six Barisal University students.

Shakil Mridha is joint convener of BCL Bandar Thana unit while Foysal Haoladar and Rakib Hossain are activists, claim police.

Barisal district BCL General Secretary Abdur Razzak said Shakil was associated with BCL but he did not know of the remaining two's affiliation.

Sourav Talukdar, one of the victims, filed a case, stating that while enjoying a boat ride on the Kirtankhola river on Wednesday some BCL men led by Shakil arrived on a trawler near Laharhat, beat them and snatched their belongings.

Police recovered the phones and money.

NEWS IN brief

Sunday's HSC exam rescheduled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has rescheduled the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations, scheduled for Sunday, due to the 24-hour hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Sunday's examinations under the eight general education boards and technical education board will be held on Monday while the examination under madrasa education board will be held on May 22, a top official of Dhaka Education Board told The Daily Star.

Man 'kills wife' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly hacked his wife to death over a family feud in the capital's Kalyanpur yesterday.

The deceased was Jharna Begum, 35, wife of Abu Sayeed, a rickshaw-puller, police said.

The couple lived at a rented room on the 2nd floor of a three-storey building. They had five children.

Sayeed swooped on his wife with a sharp weapon and killed her following an altercation in the afternoon, said police.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College for an autopsy. Police arrested Sayeed.

Jubo League man shot dead in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo League activist was shot dead by unknown miscreants in Sharkerhat of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong last night.

Nur-e-Elahi Jewel, 32, of Mirzapur in Hathazari was chatting with people near the electoral booth of Awami League's chairman candidate Nurul Absar of Mirzapur Union Parishad after a campaign for Nurul, said police. "All of a sudden he was shot in the chest," said Moshid Dola Reza, additional superintendent of police of Hathazari circle.

Jewel was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

RU student dies 9 days after fall

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jarjij Hossain Rajib, a Rajshahi University masters student, who was injured after falling off a coconut tree on April 26, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Rajib, 22, of Duragapur upazila, received serious injuries in his head and legs after the fall.

His body was sent to his village for burial.

2 die as train hits truck in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two people were killed and one injured when a train hit a truck in Jokarchar area of Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday.

Police said Lalmoni Express train hit the truck while it was crossing the rail track.

The accident occurred because there was none to guard the level crossing, police said.

Focus on training, friendly workplaces for midwives

Closing ceremony of 3-day national conference on Sexual, Reproductive Health Rights told marking International Day of the Midwife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to deploy 24,000 professional midwives in phases to drastically reduce maternal and neonatal deaths and improve their health, officials said yesterday.

"We plan to recruit midwives in phases over the next years," said Dr Habib Abdullah Sohel, line director of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health unit of the Directorate General of Health Services.

He was speaking at a discussion on Quality Education for Midwives in Bangladesh at the closing day of the three-day National Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights at the capital's Bangla Academy organised by the Dutch and Swedish embassies, UN Population Fund and Unicef in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with secretarial support of the Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program.

According to the government data, maternal mortality rate now is 170 per lakh births though the target was to reduce it to 143 by 2015 as per the MDG.

Under-five child mortality is 46 per 1,000 live births, which is better than

the MDG target of 48, said Dr Habibe Millat MP.

Over 60 percent of the pregnant women have their deliveries done at home without adequate care, he said, adding, teenage pregnancy is also a reason behind this.

In 2010, the prime minister announced recruiting 3,000 professional midwives in five years. Accordingly, 3,000 posts were created.

Since 2012, private and public nursing colleges and universities trained 600 professional midwives who have completed their three-year diploma courses. They will be deployed soon, officials said.

However, 1,289 certified midwives have been recruited at the Union Health Centres and Upazila Health Complexes.

"First we will have to prepare the 3,000 and then create posts for other 3,000. Gradually more will be trained and recruited," said Zahid Malik, state minister for health, in one of the two discussions organised separately by The Daily Star and the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in cooperation with UNFPA.

Pronita Raha, instructor at the National Institute of Advanced Nursing, said Bangladesh lacks the

quality faculty, and special focus should be given to their development.

Dr Jahir Uddin Ahmed, interim chairperson of the Department of Midwifery and Nursing at Brac University, said as the government has established a new cadre of the midwives, it has to have a clear job description, conducive working environment and logistics.

In a different session, UNFPA Country Representative Argentina Matavel urged the young students to be respectful of their midwifery profession and commit to helping every woman and child they attend.

"Providing midwifery education and midwifery deployment to the communities could yield a 16th fold return on investment in terms of lives saved and costs of caesarian sections avoided," said Johan Frisell, Swedish ambassador in Bangladesh.

The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the International Confederation of Midwives and the Bangladesh Directorate of Nursing Services conferred Midwives4all Award 2016 to Jesmin Akhter, a dedicated midwife of Bangladesh as the International Day of the Midwife 2016 was observed worldwide yesterday.



Olivier Loreaux, director of Food and Beverage of Le Méridien Dhaka, speaks at the launch of the second edition of Dhaka Restaurant Week, an initiative of food portal www.foodiez.com.bd, at Le Méridien Dhaka yesterday. From left, Tajdin Hassan, head of marketing of The Daily Star, Ashiqur Rahman Rean, founder of #foodiez, Jesmin Zaman, senior marketing manager of Square Toiletries Ltd, and Syed Talat Kamal, deputy director of communications of Grameenphone, were present.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ali Akbar Khan, a businessman, died in Bangkok on Wednesday.

His namaz-e-yanaza will be held today after the Juma prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, said a press release.

Saleha Begum
CITY DESK

Saleha Begum, former associate professor of University Laboratory School and College, died on April 28.

She was the wife of former additional secretary and chairman and finance director of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation late M Anwar Hossain FCA.

Kuwait to help build oil

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The joint statement containing 23 points, covering entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern, called for ending bloodshed and preserving independence and territorial integrity of Syria and stressed improving the humanitarian situation there.

Both called for comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East based on UN Security Council resolutions, and the establishment of a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state.

Both called on Israel to refrain from any unilateral actions including continued settlement construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and its Holy Sites, and

urged both sides to continue their negotiations to reach a "two-state solution".

Both welcomed the agreement reached between P5+1 and Iran, stressing the importance of commitment towards the agreement's implementation.

Sheikh Jaber stressed the importance of normal relations between Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries based on the principles of respect for sovereignty of states and non-interference in internal affairs as well as commitment to good neighbourliness.

Hasina extended an invitation to Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah through Sheikh Jaber and accepted Sheikh Jaber's invitation to visit Kuwait.

BYLC youth leadership

FROM PAGE 4

present opportunity for participants to compete for the BYLC Youth Leadership Prize, where they will design and produce projects that address pressing developmental challenges.

The 10 best project ideas will have a chance to win Tk 8 lakh each.

BYLC will be hosting information sessions in a hundred universities across Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Barisal, Khulna, Kustia, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet. The admissions phase will continue from May 5 to June 10, 2016. The silver sponsors of the summit include Renata Limited, Adcomm Limited, Majumder Group, Abdul Monem Limited, F-commerce platform Shop Up and the IT partner is Aamra Limited.

Suspended

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with criminal offences on August 19.

The High Court on April 12 stayed for six months the suspension order.

The Supreme Court upheld the HC order.

The ministry suspended Mannan again on April 19, citing the reasons that charges brought against him were accepted by a Gazipur court.



Panel discussants yesterday at a dialogue on Quality Education for Midwives at the closing day of the three-day National Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights at the capital's Bangla Academy.

PHOTO: STAR