

'ILLEGAL' APPOINTMENT  
SC allows  
BSMMU docs to  
appeal against  
HC verdict  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed 110 doctors to move appeals against a High Court verdict which declared illegal their appointment as medical officers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). It also asked the doctors to submit concise statements of their appeals in four weeks after the SC's reopening on October 30 following its annual vacation. The court also asked the BSMMU authorities to submit their concise statements on the appeals in two weeks after the doctors submit theirs. A concise statement contains points on which arguments are placed in an appeal.

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A man carries gas-filled cylinders hanging precariously on the sides and back of his bicycle tied with the help of flimsy chains in the capital's Tejgaon area amid traffic yesterday. This process of delivering the flammable cylinders not only puts the rider at risk but also could trigger a deadly disaster and needs immediate intervention of the authorities concerned to come up with a proper method of transporting these flammable cylinders.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Grabbers eye N'ganj temple land

Iskcon leaders allege at press conference  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land grabbers and influential quarters are hatching a conspiracy to occupy lands of a temple at Vingrabo area under Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj, leaders of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Iskcon) alleged yesterday. The "miscreants" have been threatening to kill Hindu devotees and obstructing them from performing religious rites for the last one year in the temple run by Iskcon, they claimed. The allegations came at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club but no "influential" or "miscreant" was named. Reading out a written statement, Iskcon President Satay Ranjan Barai said Hindu devotees have been performing religious rites since 2000 at the temple, covering around 422 decimals of land. On August 23, a group of 20 to 30 people vandalised signboards and nameplates of the temple, he alleged. "We seek cooperation from all to end evil efforts to grab lands of all temples, including the one in Rupganj," said Satay. Around a dozen Iskcon leaders who were present claimed that the recent attack on a temple in Sylhet was launched centring a land-related dispute. At least seven persons were injured following an attack on a Hindu temple in Sylhet city on Friday.

CHARGE OF THEFT  
HC questions nine  
kids' detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of detaining nine children by Mohammadpur police in May this year. The court issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why their detention and sending them to jail without specific allegations should not be declared illegal. The HC came up with the rule following a petition filed by the rights organisation "Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation" (CCBF) seeking explanation about the detention. CCBF submitted the petition last week, saying that Mohammadpur police reportedly detained them on May 26 on charge of "theft". The petitioner said the children were brought to a court prison in Dhaka, but they were not produced before it on that day, adding that the police violated the Children Act-2013, as they did not determine their ages and produce them before the child desk of the police station. Home secretary, officials concerned of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, inspector general of police (IGP), Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner and its deputy commissioner (south), officer-in-charge of the police station and director general of the directorate of social welfare have been made respondents to the rule, the petitioner's lawyer Abdul Halim told The Daily Star.

MIR QUASEM TRIAL  
Somoy TV  
submits talk  
show video  
to SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of the private television channel "Somoy TV" yesterday submitted the footage of a talk show it aired on August 30 on the trial proceedings of executed war criminal Mir Quasem Ali, to the Supreme Court. SC Registrar General Syed Aminul Islam received the footage from Ahmed Towfiq ur Rahman, senior manager (admin and operations) of Somoy Media. On August 31, the SC ordered the TV authorities to submit the recorded version of the talk show by yesterday to examine

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CATTLE MARKETS  
DCCs set to double revenues  
on competitive bidding

Two mayors' role to ensure fairness, prevent influence makes it possible

HELEMUL ALAM and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Competitive bidding process and less influence of "powerful" syndicates helped two Dhaka city corporations to earn more than double revenue from the makeshift cattle markets this year. The scenario was quite opposite in the past several years when the syndicates used to manipulate it and win the bidding by offering less price and the city corporations were deprived of the revenues. This year there will be 22 makeshift cattle markets in the capital -- 14 under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and eight under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). The earning of DSCC was Tk 3.23 crore in 2014 from 10 markets which was around Tk 4.38cr in 2015 from 10 makeshift cattle markets but this year it's going to be around Tk 9.94cr.

DSCC		
YEAR	EARNINGS (CR)	NO OF MARKETS
2016	9.9(expected)	14
2015	4.38	10
2014	3.23	10
DNCC		
YEAR	EARNINGS (CR)	NO OF MARKETS
2016	8.19(expected)	8
2015	6.88	7
2014	6.88	9

The DNCC earned Tk 6.93cr from seven markets in 2014 which was Tk 5.9cr from five markets in 2015 and this year it will be around Tk 8.19cr. Sources in the city corporations said this year both the mayors played active roles to remove those anomalies to increase the corporations' revenues.

The mayors even cancelled bidding documents of at least three councillors as they cannot directly take part in any tender under the city corporations. Tenders have been called two to three times in at least three to four cattle markets to get higher quotations and remove syndication, according to the sources. In many cases bidders offered more than double to three times money than those of the previous years. Also, the number of participants in the tender processes were much higher this year. For instance, highest 23 bidders took part in the tender of East and Club ground at Dhupkhola, which was three to four in the previous years. Bidders are now focusing on making profit

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Legal water for Dhaka  
slums next year

DWASA Managing Director Taqsem tells  
views-exchange meeting

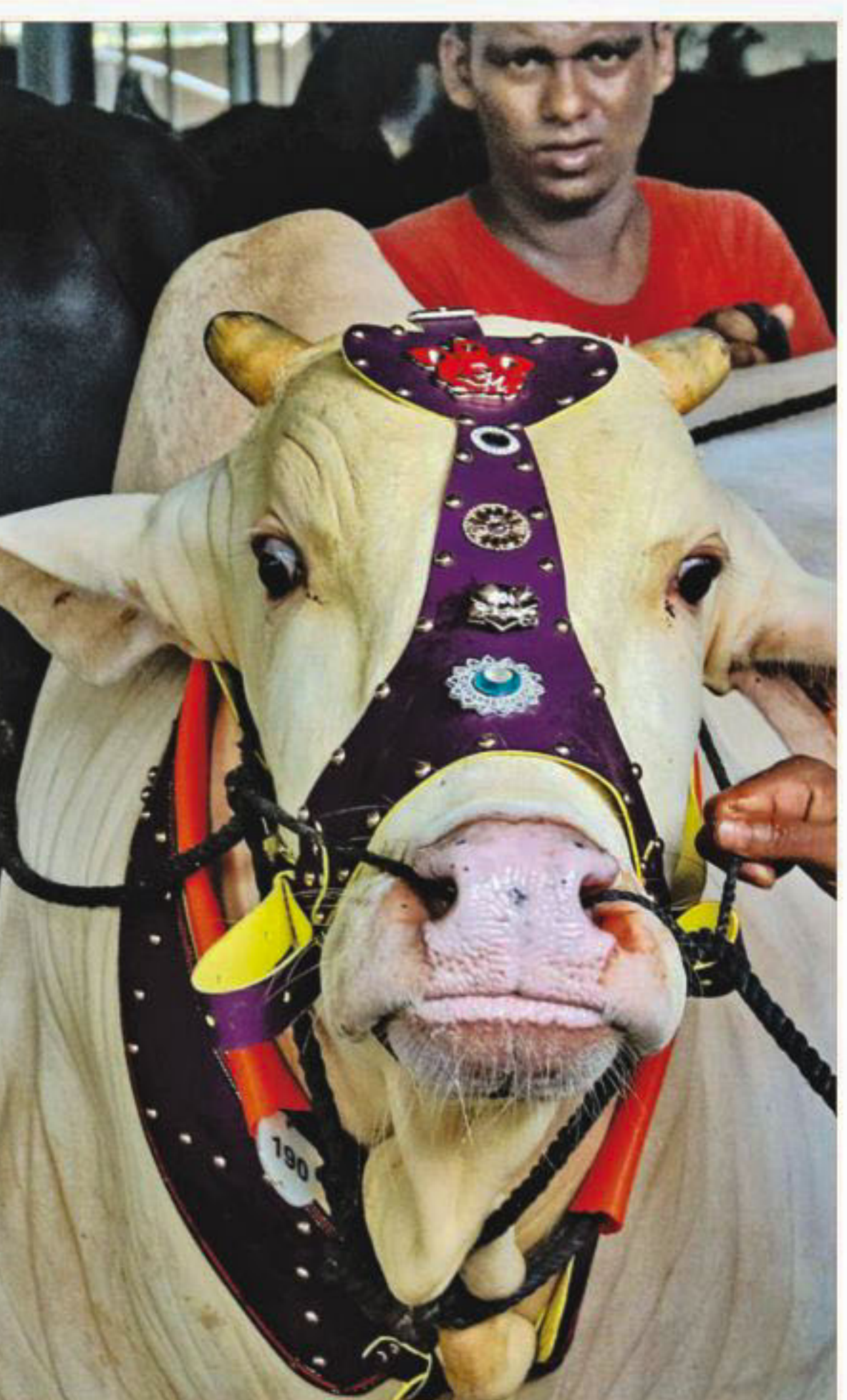
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that 50 percent of slum dwellers are getting water through the legal supply network, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) Managing Director Taqsem A Khan yesterday assured that the rest would be able to avail the facility by December 2017. Addressing as chief guest a views-exchange meeting at Jatiya Press Club on proposals of citizens for a people-friendly water supply management, he said many of the around 20 percent of the capital's population living in informal settlements were dependent on illegal connections. The inclusion will ensure people-friendly water management, he added at the programme organised by Nagorik Adhikar Sangrakkhan Forum (Nasaf) with the assistance of Resource Integration Centre and Manusher Jonno Foundation. One Dhaka North City Corporation councillor, Jahirul Islam Manik, said many

people of the low income group were taking illegal connections on failing to get legal ones following standard procedures. The illegal connections leak and taint the supply, affecting others who subsequently get dirty and malodorous water, he said. Former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan said DWASA should keep a separate budget for low income groups, otherwise they would be deprived of their fundamental rights. He suggested forming a powerful monitoring cell to reduce alleged corruption in DWASA. Suggesting that DWASA also emphasise improving sewerage network, Stamford University Bangladesh Vice Chancellor Dr M Feroze Ahmed said in many cases, rivers surrounding the capital were being polluted for the poor sewerage network. He said DWASA took an initiative to bring water from the Meghna and Padma rivers and treat those and it would increase the tariff.

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QURBANI HAATS	PRICE (2015)	PRICE (2016)
DSCC		
Jigatala Hazaribagh field, Hazaribagh	46 lakh	66.1 lakh
Rahmatganj playground, Lalbagh	8.3 lakh	9.15 lakh
Meradia Bazaar, Khilgaon	40.2 lakh	51.3 lakh
Sadek Hossain Khoka field, Dholaikhal	58.05 lakh	1.55cr
Moitree Shongho field, north Shahjahanpur	5.9 lakh	7.2 lakh
East & Club Field, Dhupkhola	44 lakh	93 lakh
Balur Maath, Gopibagh	26.4 lakh	1.99cr
Open ground adjacent to Shashan Ghat, Postogola	11.1 lakh	15.2 lakh
Hazi Delwar Hossain playground, Lalbagh	1.95cr	1.06cr
Open ground near Buriganga embankment, Kamrangirchar	4 lakh	5.5 lakh
Kitchen market, Jatrabari	Not leased	75 lakh
Open ground beside Kamalapur Stadium	Not leased	38.2 lakh
Donia College ground and adjacent open ground, Jatrabari	Not leased	1.33cr
Shyampur Balur Maath, Kadomtoli	Not leased	41 lakh (not decided)
DNCC		
Open ground between sector 15 & 16, Uttara	1.09cr	1.25cr
Open ground of Banarupa Residential Project, Khilkhet	1.51cr	2.41cr
Open ground of Eastern Housing, Mirpur-6	43.16 lakh	51 lakh
Bhasantek Benarashipalli ground	Not leased	1.6cr
Indulia, Badda, Daudkandi, Badda, Baghapur, Badda	Not leased	1.01cr
Asian City Project ground	Not leased	1.25cr
Sayeednagar, Bhatara	Not leased	15.65 lakh
Bangladesh Police Housing land, open space adjoining 300 feet road near Kuril flyover	2.34cr	1.11cr (not decided)



This battered and broken sculpture, at the entrance of the Kalurghat BISIC industrial area in Chittagong, was built to beautify the city. But due to incessant dumping of waste, lack of maintenance and indifference of the authorities concerned it remains in a derelict state. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

DMC asks police to take  
away militants' bodies

Writes letter to DMP as mortuary overflows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College (DMC) authorities urged Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to take necessary steps to take back the bodies of 13 militants, who were killed in different operations in and outside the capital, from its mortuary as the morgue's normal activities are being hampered due to a dearth of space in it. "We requested the police to take steps to evacuate our mortuary by either removing the bodies or taking them back, as we are facing difficulties because of the shortage of space in the morgue," Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department at DMC, told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that they wrote to Shahbagh Police Station last week, informing them of the matter. There are 20 boxes in the mortuary to keep dead bodies and eight of them were damaged. Now, the 13 militants' bodies have long been occupying the rest of the boxes, Sohel mentioned.

"So, there is no space to keep any new body," he added. Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed to The Daily Star that they had received a letter three or so days ago from the DMC authorities. "The DMC authorities requested us to take necessary steps for removing the bodies," he said. But Masudur Rahman, DMP deputy commissioner (media), said they were not aware of any such letter. The deputy commissioner added that families were yet to apply to them to take the bodies back. "So, whom will we give the bodies," he questioned. Of the 13 bodies, nine are of militants who were killed in the Kallyanpur operation and have been left in the morgue for 40 days, said morgue sources. The remaining bodies are of militants killed in Narayanganj and in the capital's Rupnagar.

SEDITION CASE  
SC stays bail  
for Manna  
till Oct 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till October 30 a High Court order granting bail to Nagorik Oikyo Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna in a sedition case. The apex court passed the order following a government petition seeking a stay on the HC judgment, and adjourned hearing on the petition till October 30. It also asked the government to file a leave-to-appeal petition against the HC verdict within the same period. The HC on August 30 granted him bail on grounds that he has been in confinement for 18 months, but charge sheet against him in the case has not been submitted to the trial court as yet.

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