

DU appoints lecturer ignoring ineligibility

DU CORRESPONDENT
The Dhaka University authorities appointed a lecturer of philosophy who did not fulfill an application condition. Moreover, they also appointed four more lecturers while two posts were advertised. The appointee secured GPA 3.19 on a scale of 5.00 in his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams, while the required minimum was GPA 4.25. The five lecturers joined the philosophy department Sunday, said Prof Dr Pradip Kumar Roy, chairperson of the department. The university syndicate, the apex decision making body, finalised their appointment on Tuesday. Confirming it to The Daily Star, a syndicate member said, "It has now become a common practice of the university to appoint more teachers than the number of advertised posts." DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star, "The selection committee chose more teachers because of the vacant posts at the department." Asked about the ineligibility of an appointee, he said, "The selection committee, comprising some of the department's teachers, selects them according to their manners, overall performance, and teaching quality. Top scorers are not always good at teaching." Prof Maksud Kamal, a syndicate member, said the syndicate had the power to appoint more lecturers based on the need of the department.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles Khurshid Jahan Smrity, wife of ruling Awami League lawmaker of Gaibandha Manzurul Islam Liton who was shot dead by armed assailants at his house in Sundarganj on Saturday evening, on the south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

DNCC removes 100 structures to widen road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday removed over 100 structures in the capital to widen the road. Executive magistrate of DNCC, SM Ajjor Rahman, led the drive that began at 12:00 noon and ended around 5:00pm. He said they have removed the illegal structures stretching for around 400 metres of a road from Badsha Faysal Institute to Jannathbagh Physical Centre, which remained a barrier to the 60-foot-wide road planned by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakka (Rajuk). However, around 40 families complained that they were evicted without any proper compensation. One of them named Zakir said they were ready to leave the place for the road in exchange for compensation, but alleged that DNCC did not take any initiative in this regard. Complaining of not getting proper time to shift their house, Helena Begum, another evicted person who was living there for the last 30 years, said they were asked to leave the place verbally by the local councillor but did not get any written notice in this regard. Meanwhile, during the drive, a small clash took place between a group of evicted people and some people loyal to ward (29) councillor Nurul Islam Raton. They threw brick bats at each other but a mobile court team brought the situation under control. Nurul Islam said he personally helped 30 families before the drive and held a series of meetings with them in the last two months. Most of the residents have left after getting the help but a vested quarter is trying to take advantage of the situation, he added.

OIC meets Jan 19 to take actions against Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states will meet in Kuala Lumpur on January 19 and are expected to identify and take a tough resolution against Myanmar over Rohingya fleeing violence in Rakhine state since last October's army crackdown. Meanwhile, Myanmar has proposed sending a special envoy to evaluate the situation, said a highly placed source at the foreign ministry yesterday. The ministers are expected to mount the pressure calling to address basic human rights and humanitarian issues and ensure that the minority community members safely return with dignity, said diplomatic sources yesterday. State Minister Md Shahrar Alam is expected to place a position paper of Bangladesh, said foreign ministry sources. The OIC Groups held emergency meetings in Geneva and Brussels last December proposing further engagement with the international community, particularly the United Nations and European Union, to coordinate further action to alleviate the plight of Rohingyas.

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Shawkat Osman inspired a generation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Discussion on the novelist's 100th birthday told
The writings of novelist Shawkat Osman not only met the demand of readers, but also played a significant role in creating a progressive generation who fought against communalism and anti-liberation forces, a discussion was told yesterday. Novelists like him are rare and valuable assets of the Bengali literature, and readers could make him immortal through reading his books and upholding his spirit, the speakers said. The discussion was part of a programme marking Osman's 100th birth anniversary, organised in Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of the capital's central public library. Kathashilpi Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad and Bangladesh Uddichi Shilpighosh jointly organised the two-day programme, starting yesterday. The writer of "Jononi" and "Kritodasher Hashi" was influenced by a wave in the Bengali literature in the late 1930s when the creations of the writers were multi-dimensional and satiristic, they said. He had great courage; he was never afraid of any anti-people force, and with that spirit, he wrote Kritodasher Hashi during the then autocratic regime of Pakistan, they said. "The writings of Shawkat Osman incited the Bengali people against all evil forces and inspired the nation to move forward," said Abu Hena, former chief election commissioner. Writer Ahmed Rafiq said Osman was committed to changing the society, and he strongly maintained the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism and socialism together.



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Rajuk to free roads occupied by buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakka (Rajuk) will lead eviction drives to remove all illegal structures from the roads of ward no 11 and 14 of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), said an official. Rajuk "promised us that they will conduct eviction drives with the support of local councillors and police," said Chief Executive Officer of DNCC Mesbahul Islam, after a meeting of the city corporation. A total of 1,171 houses have been built occupying adjacent access roads in the capital's Mirpur and Kalyanpur areas, and it was a key point on the agenda of DNCC's 2nd inter-organisational coordination meeting yesterday. Another key issue was cleaning water-hyacinths from the ponds and ditches of Wasa and Rajuk to control mosquito breeding. Mesbahul said they verbally agreed to clean the water bodies. "If they do it, our task for mosquito control programme will become easier." Rajuk Chairman M Bazul Karim Chowdhury, National Housing Authority Chairman Khandaker Akhtaruazzaman, Executive Engineer of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Atiqur Rahman, DNCC officials, and ward councillors, among others, were present at the meeting.

15 lakh new voters included in draft of updated voter list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Around 15 lakh new voters have been included in the draft of the updated voter list, said Election Commission (EC) yesterday. The draft list was revealed yesterday and it will be scrutinised till January 27. The final voter list will come on January 31. Earlier from November 25 to December 15 last year, the EC collected data of tentative voters, said an EC press release. Currently, there are around 10.14 crore voters in the country.

Two women on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday placed two female militant suspects on a six-day fresh remand each in a case filed over a raid at a militant hideout in the city's Dakkin Khan area on December 24. Trisha Moni, wife of the militant outfit "Neo JMB" leader Maynul Musa, and Jebunnahar Shila, widow of Maj (ret) Jahid alias Murad, surrendered during the operation with their two children on that day. Metropolitan Magistrate Sattayabrato Shikder passed the order after Saidur Rahman, inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit and also investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court with a 10 days' remand prayer for them. No lawyer represented the suspects. They had two children on their laps. In yesterday's remand prayer, the IO said the two gave important information about the militants, which was being verified. But they did not answer many questions. So they need to be remanded to find out more information in this regard, the IO said.

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Deadline for removal of illegal truck bumpers extended again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government for a second time yesterday extended by one month the deadline for removing illegal parts, including bumpers, from trucks and covered-vans. The extension came "following request of transport owners", Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary MAN Siddique told The Daily Star last night adding, "This is the last time and the deadline will not be extended." "We will take legal action against those who will fail to comply," he said. On last October 13, an inter-ministerial meeting set November 30 as the deadline.



President Abdul Hamid talks to Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju who led a 16-member delegation during talks at Bangabhaban yesterday on formation of the next Election Commission.

PHOTO: PID



Some of the marble plaques containing names of martyred Liberation War freedom fighters of Sylhet have gone missing from the lower part of this memorial locally known as "Tilagar Protirodh Juddho" at Tilagar while the authorities concerned have apparently turned a blind eye to the issue for the last couple of years. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Martyrs' memorial left to decay in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sylhet
A memorial locally known as "Tilagar Protirodh Juddho", built at Tilagar in Sylhet to commemorate the martyred freedom fighters of the district, is left to decay as its marble plaques are coming off in absence of much-needed supervision by the authorities concerned. Built in 2005 by the Public Works Department (PWD), the purpose of the initiative was to accommodate the names of all martyred freedom fighters of 1971 on the structure's marble plaques. During a recent visit to the area, the structure has been found in a worn-out condition as five out of 12 marble plaques have already gone missing. The locals said the condition has been the same for the last few years. Mridul Kanti Das, a resident in Tilagar area, said the memorial has reached its present condition due to the negligence of the authorities concerned over the years. Sumona Bosak, a student of Sylhet MC College, said the memorial helps people learn the names of martyred freedom fighters. She demanded that the structure be rebuilt. Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Bhabatush Roy Bormon of Sylhet city unit said, "This is tantamount to insulting the martyrs. Memorial should be renovated as soon as possible." The names of the freedom fighters, which have been missing with the missing marble plaques, have to be restored, he demanded. AM Jillur Rahman, former executive engineer of public works department in Sylhet, who has recently been transferred elsewhere, acknowledged the dilapidated condition of the memorial. He then said the memorial would soon be renovated. This correspondent could not reach the new executive engineer, Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, despite repeated attempts over the phone.

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