

Nowhere to play

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Almost half of the field has been cordoned off to build a swimming pool while rest of the open space has been rented out for a month-long expo.

It is the present scenario of Chittagong Outer Stadium, one of the few playgrounds in the port city.

Not just the Outer Stadium, most of the city's playgrounds remain abuzz with activities all year round. But unfortunately, children are not a part of that.

The sight of children playing or running around freely under the open sky has become rare lately as most of the fields are being used to hold fairs or rallies.

Also, access to some is limited or restricted as construction work is going on to turn a playground into a park.

As a result, children are being deprived of a healthy life without open spaces that are crucial for their mental and physical growth, according to experts.

Many of the residents complained that a lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned is responsible for the prevailing situation.

The Outer Stadium is being used as a venue for holding fairs and exhibitions on a regular basis. The recent month-long Jamdani expo that started on October 2 ended yesterday.

Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha is the owning and controlling authority of the arena.

This correspondent tried to get in touch with its joint general secretary Shahabuddin Shamim for his comments but he did not receive any phone calls despite repeated attempts. On the other hand, vice-president Hafizur Rahman declined to make any comment.

There are approximately nine large playgrounds in the city for around 60 lakh residents. Of them, access to Jamburi Field in Agrabad area is limited due to construction works as it will be converted into a park soon.

Laldighi Maidan remains occupied most of the time with rallies while Railway Polo Ground is often rented out for holding fairs.

Besides, parade ground (Chittagong College field), Shaheed Shahjahan field at Pahartoli, Government Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College ground, Jamia Ahmadiya Sunia Alia Madrasa ground, Saint Placid's High School ground and Chittagong Collegiate School ground need maintenance.

Prof Dr Anupam Sen, a social scientist and

vice chancellor of Premier University, Chittagong, said open spaces and playgrounds are crucial for children's mental and physical growth.

"It is the duty of the government to create more open spaces and playgrounds, not to destroy the existing ones," he said.

Ashish Bhadra, former captain of national football team, said Chittagong is lagging behind in sports due to a shortage of playgrounds.

Criticising the construction of a park on Jamburi Field, he said, "It was unnecessary. We need playgrounds, not parks..."

Educationist Anwara Alam, former principal of Agrabad Mohila College, said, "It's a matter of regret that the city is losing its playgrounds... Playgrounds are crucial for children."

The experts recommended holding fairs, rallies and exhibitions in auditoriums or convention centres. The existing practice of occupying open spaces continues to deprive children of games and sports.

Asked, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) panel mayor Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud Hasni said, "We are trying to renovate the fields managed by us."

Regarding building more playgrounds, he said, "Where will we get open space in the city? There is no open ground in my area at Dewan Bazar. The same scenario prevails in most of the areas."

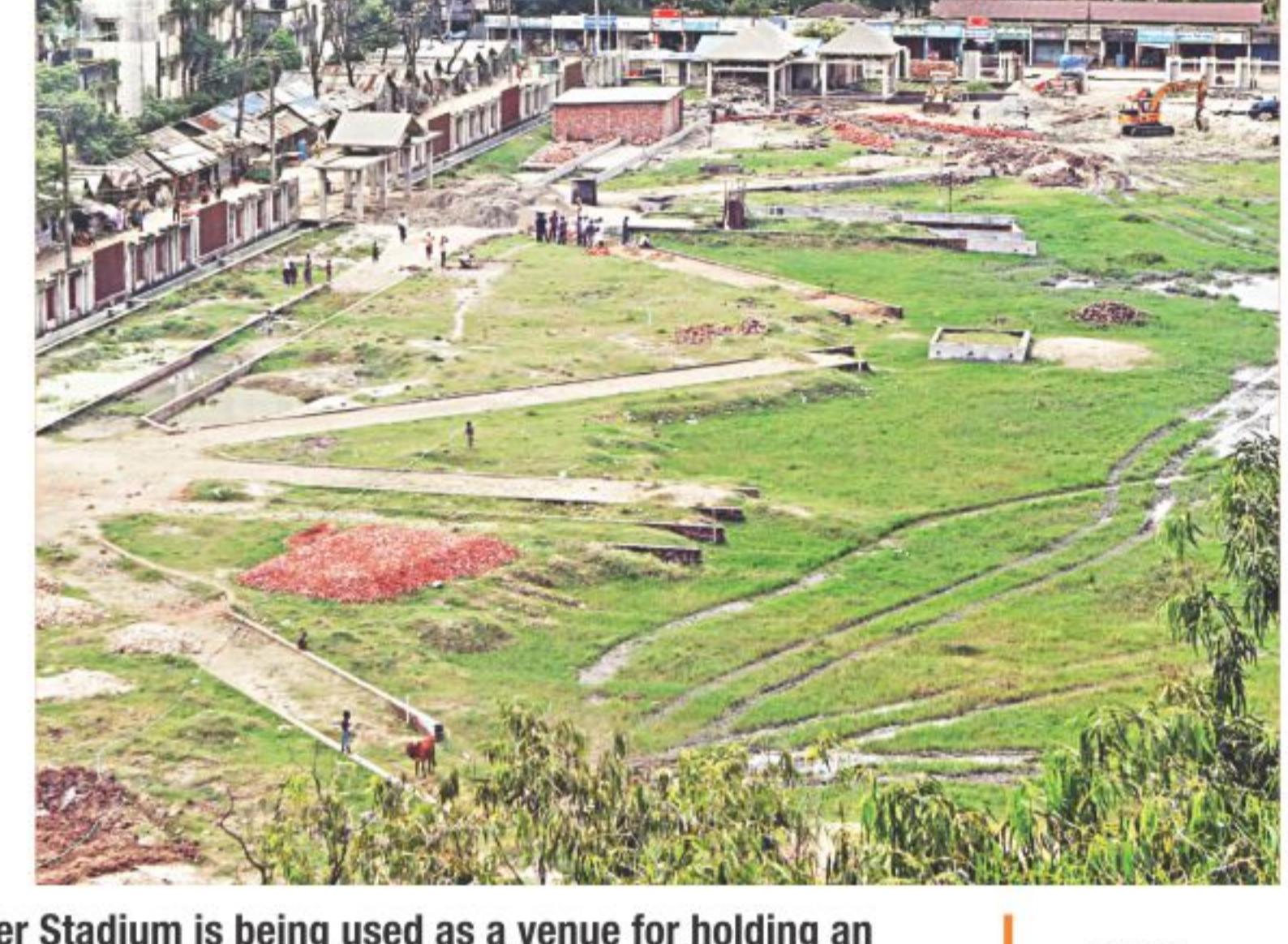
Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Zillur Rahman said he had already instructed the authorities of the schools and colleges to protect their respective playgrounds.

Protecting playgrounds is important for ensuring healthy upbringing of children. "The education ministry is also strict in this regard..." he added.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain said fairs and expos should not be allowed on the playgrounds as it impedes children's right to play.

Asked, why the Public Works Department is constructing a park on Jamburi Field, he said there is also a crisis of parks in Chittagong city. A park is being constructed for the sake of the city dwellers."

"If we had not chosen the place, where would we get space to construct the park?" he asked.



WHERE WILL THE CHILDREN PLAY? While a portion of the Chittagong Outer Stadium is being used as a venue for holding an expo, top, the other part of the arena has already been cordoned off to build a swimming pool, bottom left. Construction work goes on inside Jamburi Field to turn the playground into a park, bottom right. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Winter is almost here! Workers in the port city's Asadganj wholesale market are passing busy times packing and storing the warm clothes inside their warehouses. Soon, the imported garments will be distributed to various markets across the country. The photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Landlord killed 'by tenant over rent dispute' in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A landlord was killed allegedly by his tenant over a rent dispute in Miapara area of Khulna city on Monday night.

Babu Biswas rented the house of Shahidul Islam six months ago, Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station, quoted locals as saying.

However, Babu did not pay rent for the last three months, prompting Shahidul to quarrel with him on the day, said Mizanur.

At one stage, Babu stabbed Shahidul in the chest and neck and fled the scene, said the OC.

Shahidul was declared dead at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

His wife Ratna Rahman filed a murder case, accusing Babu.

The OC said they are trying to arrest Babu.

Money matters!

ANWAR ALI with ARAFAT RAHMAN, Rajshahi

Even a few years back, Rajshahi University (RU) used to conduct the first-year admission tests in a day or two.

Apart from the university, most colleges and schools in Rajshahi city were turned into admission test centres then.

But the same admission tests have been being taken in a number of days recently. This year also, the tests are being held in five days starting on Sunday. Allegations run rife that the university authorities have made the arrangement only to gain financial benefits.

If the tests take place in other centres outside the university, the authorities have to pay outside invigilators too, said some university teachers and officials.

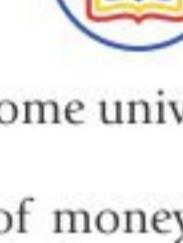
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RU ADMISSION TEST

shifts, admission test is also being taken with different question papers, he said, alleging that the quality of the evaluation process is under question.

The shifts were created to increase the number of tests. The increased number of tests creates a scope of getting more money," he added.

Ahmed Shafi Uddin, Rajshahi divisional president of Sushasone Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), said, "The step to avoid colleges and schools was nothing but to increase the shares of money among the university staff."

Some teachers and officials, wishing to be anonymous, also said the university has been practising this for the last few years aiming to be

benefited "financially".

As the admission tests have been dragging on since Sunday, many of the seekers, who are currently staying in Rajshahi, are the worst sufferers. Many of them complained that they are facing acute accommodation and transportation crises.

An applicant, Tania Rahman, said she purchased admission forms of seven units paying around Tk 4,000 whereas she paid less than the amount for buying forms of Dhaka University.

At the same time, some quarters are cashing in on the helplessness of the applicants

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Road accidents kill four

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in three districts in the last two days.

In Chittagong, Ambia Khatun, 60, wife of late Abu Musa, was killed after an unidentified vehicle hit the elderly woman in the city's Bibir Hat area yesterday.

Meanwhile, Sekandar Hossain, 60, son of late Syed Aminur Rahman, was injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying him was hit by a truck in Raosan upazila yesterday.

He was declared dead at CMCH.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports, a boy was killed and two others were injured as a bus rammed a three-wheeler in Rothkhola area of Muksudpur upazila in Gopalganj on Monday.

The deceased is Sumon, 16, son of Abu Talab from Bordia village in Muksudpur.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds, bicyclist Kolin Uddin, 75, died when a motorbike hit him in Sandhoroi village of Ranishankoil upazila on Monday night.

HC wants report on N'ganj land grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the forest and environment secretary to visit Kajla Beel area at Rupganj upazila in Narayanganj and to submit a report on the alleged damage of its environment and land grabbing in seven days.

The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in two weeks why their inaction to protect the lands, ponds and canals in the Beel area should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of land, home and forest and environment, chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, director general of department of environment and its deputy director (enforcement), deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Narayanganj and five others concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the order and rule on Monday after hearing a writ petition seeking necessary order from it to protect the Kajla Beel from encroachment.

Four locals including one Badsha Miah have submitted the writ petition to the HC following a report published recently on a national daily under the headline "Rupganj Krish Jamite Abason Prokolpo (housing project in the agricultural land in Rupganj).

According to the report, a housing firm has been grabbing lands of farmers and a government canal in Kajla Beel area by filling up with earth.

The hired goons of the housing firm have also been threatening the farmers, the report said, adding that cultivation of paddy on hundreds of acres of land is being hampered as water cannot be pumped out due to encroachment of the canal.

Advocate Taimur Alam Khandker appeared for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder stood for the state.

Scholars Bangladesh Foundation to observe 'NRB Day' on Dec 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scholars Bangladesh Foundation, a non-profit organisation, will observe December 30 as "Non-resident Bangladeshi (NRB) Day" to recognise the contribution of Bangladeshi living abroad to the country's development.

On that day, 17 persons will be given "Scholar of the Year" award in nine categories - Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Award, Tajuddin Ahmed Memorial Award, Ravi Shankar and George Harrison Memorial Award, Dr Qudrat-i-Khuda Memorial Award, RF Khan Memorial Award, RP Saha Memorial Award, Mohammad Ibrahim Memorial Award and Fazle Hasan Abed Memorial Award.

INVESTIGATION WITHOUT CASE HC summons CID inspector of Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Satkhira police to appear before it for calling a fish businessman to his office despite having no specific case against the businessman.

CIP Inspector Sheikh Mesbah Uddin has been directed to appear before the HC on November 5 to place his explanation over the notice he issued to Abdus Samad Gazi, son of Kashem Gazi, from Sreeula area of Ashashuni upazila in Satkhira, to appear before his [CID] office for an investigation.

The court stayed the effectiveness of the notice sent by the CID inspector and issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why initiating investigation against Samad without any case should not be declared illegal.

Home secretary, inspector general of police, officer in charge of CID of Satkhira and its inspectors Mesbah Uddin and Mintu Chowdhury, who has lodged a complaint with the CID office against Samad, have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah issued the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Samad, challenging the legality of the notice issued by CID Inspector Mesbah against him.

Citing from the petition, Samad's counsel Md Uzzal Hossain told The Daily Star that CID Inspector Mesbah Uddin on August 23 sent a notice to his client Samad to appear before his office on October 29 for an investigation as one Mintu Chowdhury has lodged a complaint against him.

The CID official has not mentioned in the notice what the allegation Mintu has brought against Samad, he said, adding that CID cannot initiate any investigation against anybody and cannot ask anybody to appear before its office under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) without any specific case.

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Ref: DACGO/Recruitment/2017/1955

Date: 24 October 2017

Vacancy Announcement

for Director Engineering & Material Management

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, the national flag carrier of Bangladesh, is looking for a dynamic, experienced and result-oriented candidate from Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Director Engineering & Material Management (DE & MM) on contractual basis**. The incumbent will be responsible for overall aircraft engineering activities, establishing policies concerning all aspects, coordinate/liaison with ICAO, other airlines & Government/CAAB/other agencies with a view to simplification & standardization of engineering activities in accordance with company requirements. The required terms and conditions are:

Qualification: B.Sc in Engineering in Mechanical or Electrical & Electronics or Aeronautical/Aerospace/Avionics from any reputed Institute or University. Candidates must have minimum 2nd division/class or equivalent in all educational degrees.

Age: 45-55 years as on 15-11-2017. Age may be relaxed up to 57 years of age in case of exceptionally qualified candidate.

Work Experience & Skill: At least 10 years' practical experience in any executive position of aircraft maintenance organization. Sound knowledge on engineering and maintenance methodology, strong understanding of aircraft engineering and maintenance system/management and knowledge of international aviation and safety regulations are essential. Knowledge on related software is preferred.

Remuneration: Negotiable. However, the applicant may indicate the expected remuneration. Interested candidates fulfilling the requisite qualifications are requested to send their applications to mgrempp@bdbiman.com along with a recent passport-size color photograph and other relevant certificates (academic/professional documents/certificates) (maximum limit of any single attachment is 300 kb) on or before **15 November 2017**. Application by post/courier is also acceptable. Internal candidates may also apply through internally approved channel.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

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GD-2269