

NEWS IN brief

English spelling of five districts going to be changed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will change the English spellings of five districts to match them with their Bangla pronunciation. Today the Cabinet Division will place a proposal in this regard at a meeting of National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms/ Reorganisation (NICAR).

According to the proposal, the proposed spellings are: Chattagram for existing Chittagong, Kumilla instead of Comilla, Barishal instead of Barisal, Jashore instead of Jessore and Bogura instead of Bogra.

Earlier in 2000, the name of Nawabganj was changed to Chapainawabganj. During Ershad's regime name of the capital was changed to Dhaka from Dacca.

Another proposal for upgrading Mymensingh municipality to a city corporation will be placed in the NICAR meeting.

At present there are 11 city corporations. The government is planning to form eight more city corporations, sources said.

Man's body found in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged about 32, from Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj on Friday night.

The body was found by the roadside in front of Fazlul Huq College in Mograpara area, said Abdul Jabbar, inspector (operations) of Sonargaon Police Station. The man was wearing a purple T-shirt and jeans. There were also injury marks in the head.

The body has been sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

2nd GMM of JCI Dhaka East held

CITY DESK

Junior Chambers International (JCI) Dhaka East chapter has successfully completed its second General Members Meeting on 30th March 2018, at a Dhaka hotel, said a press release.

The meeting was presided over by Mahamud Un Nabi, local president of JCI Dhaka East. It was attended by board and the general members. Among the guests were JCI Bangladesh National President Fayaz Atiqul Islam and Senator Waqar Chowdhury.



Because of initiatives such as removing open dumpsters from streets, setting up roadside waste bins and planting trees taken by its ward councillor, the port city's Jamal Khan area has become a green and a clean one. Clockwise from top left, Schoolchildren walk past terracotta display depicting history of the country on the wall of Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School. Pedestrians walk on a clean and encroachment-free footpath while many sit on benches next to it to catch a breath. Trees adorn the median on a road in the area. Murals consisting quotes of various luminaries on the wall besides the Jamal Khan Road, stretching from Jamal Khan to Gani Bakery. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

A ward stands out

CCC councillor changes the face of Jamal Khan ward

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Jamal Khan Ward has regained its beauty, thanks to its councillor who took a spontaneous initiative to renovate the ward and keep it clean to further reinforce widespread recognition of the ward being a green and healthy one.

It all started in 2016, when Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)'s Jamal Khan Ward Councillor Shaibal Das Sumon undertook some laudable initiatives including removing open dumpsters and setting up of roadside waste bins for dumping solid waste, beautification of road islands and medians and tree plantation.

The ward of 0.78 square kilometer has a beautiful fountain at Jamal Khan intersection, which is the centre point, to welcome every passer-by. It gets even more dazzling when the decorative lights are switched on every evening.

Besides, attractive roadside seating arrangements for around 100 people have been made on one side of the intersection for

short relaxation or a little chat in between.

Sinthia Karim and Taposi Rudra, both ninth graders, said they reside in Paschim Bakulia and Chawkbazar wards respectively but regularly come to Jamal Khan for tuitions. It is a great place to relax under the open sky and in front of a fountain after long hectic classes.

"Our ward does not have any seating arrangement where walkers, especially students, can sit and take rest for a while. Therefore, we often spend some time here after our classes," Sinthia said.

Besides, an eye-catching terracotta design depicting history of the country was made on the boundary wall of Dr Khastagir Government Girl's High School in the intersection area which never fails to draw attention of the passers-by.

Spreading over 570 square feet area, the aesthetic yet educative terracotta design not only symbolises arts, beauty and taste but also speaks about many important events of the history.



Shaibal Das Sumon

Another sublime initiative made to refresh the residents' mind is the tile mural on the red brick boundary wall of Saint Mary's School which is also situated in the intersection area.

These murals, built over 560 square-foot area, represent 20 notable personalities and their quotations, including

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Michael Madhusudan Dutta, Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Lalon, Dr Muhammad

Shahidullah, and anti-British heroes Masterda Surya Sen and Preetilata Waddedar.

A retired schoolteacher, Ratna Raha, who lives in the area, said the ward is wearing a completely new look. It looks clean, tidy, beautiful as well as peaceful.

Under the cleanliness initiative, the proactive ward councillor, Shaibal Das Sumon, removed all the 32 open dumpsters from the ward and set up some 200 dustbins at every 100 feet of roads in important areas in last one year.

A pedestrian, Belal Chowdhury, told this correspondent that he had come to visit his maternal uncle in Jamal Khan area from Cox's Bazar after a year. It was a big surprise when he saw all the dumpsters on the footpath were replaced with nice green seating arrangements.

Belal, a higher secondary certificate (HSC) examinee, said, "Even last year, the roads were covered with garbage. I hardly wanted to get out of the house as there was a large dustbin on footpath, opposite Seniors' Club, and we had to

hold our breath every time we passed by it."

Contacted, town planner Engr Subash Barua said Jamal Khan Ward can be a good example for the other 40 wards in the city.

"I often go for a walk and feel delighted to see people from all age groups enjoy their quality time sitting on those roadside seats," said Subash.

"Other ward councillors should also take similar initiative to make the whole city a clean and green one," he added.

When contacted, the man behind all this success, Sumon, said, "Fund cannot be a constraint if a public representative really intends to make development in his area."

"I did not wait for government funds because I knew it would take so long. So, I arranged sponsorship from individuals and the corporate sector which provided the fund as part of their social responsibility programmes," he said.

"I have deployed six night guards to strengthen security in

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Event for women empowerment held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To uplift the spirit of women empowerment, Le Méridien Dhaka and ColoursFM 101.6 jointly arranged a daylong event yesterday, titled "Le Méridien Dhaka Presents 'Colours of Women'", said a press release.

The event themed "women empowering women", comprised 24 artists from all over the country who joined hands to enlighten the lives of 18 struggling women through their art.

The daylong event featured Live Art session by renowned artists, panel discussion and fundraising session for struggling women. Indonesian

Ambassador to Bangladesh Rina P Soemarno attended the event as the chief guest.

Kanak Chapa Chakma, Kuhu Plamondon, Naima Haque, Fareha Zeba, Bipasha Hayat, and many others participated at the event.

A session of panel discussion was also held with Tasaffy Hossain, founder, Bonhishikha-Unlearn Gender, Zareen Mahmud Hossein, founder, HerStory Foundation; Nooruddin Chowdhury, country

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Couple remanded for acid attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed a couple on a five-day remand in connection with a case filed over throwing acid on a youth last year.

The two were arrested by detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) from Notun Bazar area in the capital earlier yesterday.

The arrestees are Mowmita Dutta Annie, 26, and her husband Sumit Dhar, 30.

"The fugitives in an acid attack case were arrested from a house in the capital's Notun Bazar area under Bhatara Police Station," Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Md Kamruzzaman of CMP DB (North) told The Daily Star.

According to the case statement, a group of miscreants hurled acid on Tomal, 25, a technician of YOUNGONE factory at KEPZ in Chittagong, in February last year.

He was waiting in the Gani Bakery area in the afternoon of February 10, in the port city to meet a girl with whom he had developed a love affair through social media.

When he reached there, he sent a message stating his arrival to the Facebook ID named "Projapotr Dana", which in turn asked him to send a selfie.

As soon as Tomal sent a selfie to that account through messenger, he came under attack. Two to three men hurled acid on his face.

After the attack, they said: "now you know the consequence of slapping Mowmita", Tomal added.

Inspector Rajesh Barua of DB also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star that earlier Tomal had an affair with Mowmita for around two years.

Mowmita, who was already married to Sumit since 2015, did not disclose her marriage to Tomal.

An altercation ensued between them when Tomal came to know about the marriage and in a fit of rage he slapped Mowmita. She then threatened him of dire consequences.

Mowmita and her husband later opened up the Facebook ID named "Projapotr Dana" and contacted Tomal impersonating as a girl, said the DB official.

After some days, a message was sent to Tomal from that ID to meet in person in the Gani Bakery area. Once he went there, he came under the acid attack, he added.

Following the attack, his entire face was distorted and his two eyes were damaged. His father filed a case accusing the couple.

Soon after the attack, the couple left Chittagong and frequently changed their location, police said.

IO Rajesh said the couple primarily confessed to the crime while being interrogated.

Gazipur, Khulna city polls May 15

FROM PAGE 4

In 2013, four city corporations including Barisal, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Khulna were held on the same day and BNP-backed candidates won all four mayoral posts.

Polls to Barisal, Sylhet and Rajshahi city corporations would be held by October this year, said election commission officials, adding that a decision to that end would be taken after Ramadan.

Responding to a query, CEC Huda said they talked with the Local Government Division

and found that there were no legal complications in holding elections in Gazipur and Khulna.

In response to another query, the CEC said the commission was collecting new electronic voting machines, which would be used experimentally in some centres of those elections.

He also said that election commission would be more cautious in the national election and law-enforcement agencies would take more preparations to avert any untoward situations.

Nahid warns against question

FROM PAGE 4

Besides, question sets would be determined through lotteries, 25 minutes prior to the tests. Also, the examinees have been instructed to enter the centres 30 minutes before the exams begin.

The government took the initiatives as the question papers of almost all the tests of this year's SSC examinations had been leaked and circulated on Facebook pages hours before the tests began.

Meanwhile, terming coaching centres a "corruption hub", Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Iqbal Mahmud further urged the government, students, teacher and guardians to come forward to shut those down completely.

He was addressing a cultural programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium. However, Coaching Association, Bangladesh, in a press release, said the ACC chairman cannot make such a comment without any investigation.

Justice hindered due to use

FROM PAGE 4

Ali Asghar Shopon, public prosecutor of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5, said a victim files a case with strong determination. But, in many cases, she loses interest to get justice at the end, he said.

Ishrat Sharmin Rahman, clinical psychologist of National Trauma Counselling Centre of Women and Children Affairs Ministry, said women are suppressed because they cannot raise their voice in front of their male counterparts.

Rafiqat Rashid Mithila, head of early childhood development and girls' educa-

tion at Brac International, stressed the need for sex education in schools.

Nurul Islam, technical adviser to Economic Empowerment for Women in Asia, The Asia Foundation, emphasised a holistic approach to eliminate violence against women.

Humaira Farhanaz, national programme officer of gender, adolescent and youth at UNFPA, said national curriculum can play an important role in fighting this social malaise.

Sayed Ahmed, chief executive officer of IID, said women should not be objectified.

Quality teachers make

FROM PAGE 3

Former minister Syed Abul Hossain was awarded at the programme for his contribution to the education sector.

A total of four theme papers on different aspects of education and SDGs (sustainable development goals) were presented yesterday.

As many as 113 research papers and 18 abstracts will also be presented in the conference, said IER Director Prof Syeda Tahmina Akhter.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, advisor to a former caretaker government, chaired a session. Kazi M Aminul Islam, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, and Prof Sharifa Khatun, an Ekushey Padak winner and former director of IER, also spoke.

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