

Denying children playtime causes irreparable physical, mental damage

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Excessive pressure of studies, lack of playgrounds and a perceived insecurity of the outdoors deny children the opportunity to play in the capital, according to findings of a study disseminated in the capital yesterday.

The findings were presented at a discussion titled "Children's right to play in Dhaka city" organised jointly by The Daily Star and Save the Children at The Daily Star Centre. The study, conducted with 300 children and as many parents of 600 households from Kalyanpur slum, Dhanmondi, Dhaka University residential area and Mirpur, was led by Salma Akhter, a sociology professor of Dhaka University.

According to the findings, girls play less outdoors than boys in fear of insecurity, and parents worry about the possibility of their girls being sexually harassed.

"Denying children the opportunity to play causes irreparable physical and mental damage [to them]," said Laila Khondkar, director of Save the Children. "And for play opportunities to be in place, it does not necessarily require heavy physi-



Speakers at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

cal resources but a favourable mindset of adults."

The study, sponsored by Save the Children Bangladesh, found that 80 percent children con-

sidered that they could play outside, had open space been available in their neighbourhood.

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Ctg commuters suffer

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Shuvagata Chowdhury, a physician, echoed him. He said now owners and drivers of the vehicles would make sure they have proper documents and vehicles are fit to ply the roads.

Contacted, Tarun Dasgupta, general secretary of Chittagong City Service Owners' Association, alleged that many vehicles were impounded by the mobile courts for trivial reasons. "Suppose a window of a bus was slightly broken, the vehicle was still dumped," he alleged. "For this reason, many vehicles remained off-road."

He also alleged that drivers and transport workers were harassed.

Denying the allegation, Ziaul Haque Mir,

an executive magistrate of BRTA, Chittagong, said drivers who showed proper documents were not only welcomed by the mobile courts but also given flowers and bags to keep their documents safe.

Asked about the allegation of dumping vehicles for trivial reasons, he said, "If a glass of a vehicle is broken, is it fit? Why should we not dump those?"

NM Manjurul Haque, another BRTA executive magistrate, said the sufferings would be over soon.

"Due to our drives, vehicles are plying the city roads following regulations. Many owners and drivers are also applying for proper documents," he said. "We will continue our drives against unfit vehicles."

Ensuring free

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such as the Bengal delta, he said, adding, "These linkages are difficult and complex."

Peter de Vries, an expert on water management at the Dutch embassy, said the delta plan's integrated elements are knowledge and research-based activities while regional dimension is another important element of it.

Philippus Wester, principal investigator of HI-AWARE, ICIMOD; and KS Murali, senior programme officer of International Development Research Centre, New Delhi spoke at the event, among others.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE Defence lawyer seeks Babar's acquittal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The defence lawyer for former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday completed closing arguments and sought acquittal from all charges brought against his client in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Advocate SM Shahjahan made the plea after placing arguments for over two hours at a special court set up beside the Old Central Jail in Dhaka.

After the defence closed his arguments, Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, one of the prosecutors for the case started placing counter-arguments, which will continue on September 10-12.

Shahjahan sought acquittal for his client stating that the prosecution has completely failed to prove the charges.

A total of 225 prosecution witnesses and 20 defence witnesses have testified during the proceedings, which started October 23 last year.

On August 21, 2004, a grenade attack killed 24 AL leaders and activists and injured over 300 others.

Ivy Rahman, the then Mohila AL president, was among the deceased. AL Chief Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped with an ear injury.

CID arrests fake

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Kader Sarkar alias Nurunnabi, 40, and Abul Kalam Azad alias Bullet, 43.

Police seized 24 passports, including nine with fake visas, 10 fake demand letters of different countries and a total of Tk 7.95 lakhs from them, Enamul Kabir, special superintendent of CID (DMP South) said in a press briefing yesterday.

"They took Tk 20 lakhs from seven job-seekers," Enamul said, allegedly by making false promises of jobs abroad.

They made fake visas and issued counterfeit smart ID cards as well, and then blackmailed the job-seeker for more money, the police official also said.

Tipped off, a team of CID conducted a raid at the fourth floor of a six-storey building in Nikunja-2 area and arrested the nine brokers, who ran an agency named "Sheba".

A case was filed with Khilkhet Police Station in this connection.

City polls

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political parties, EC officials, law enforcement agencies, media and civil society to strike a coordinated plan for future elections.

He also suggested the government sign a memorandum of understanding with the political parties for creating a secure environment in the country before and after the national polls.

Sujan's central Convener Dilip Kumar Sarkar read out a paper in which he elaborated the socio-economic backgrounds of mayors and councillors of Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporations.

He said the "Khulna Model" was followed in the Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporation polls. In Khulna City Corporation election, the main opposition was driven out with the help of law enforcement agencies, polling agents of BNP were barred to carry out their duties and the EC played a silent role, he added.

"Apart from that, voters were held hostage by giving them bait of development," he said, adding that voters were told if they do not vote for the ruling party, development will be stalled.

Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal city corporation polls were held on July 30, 2018. Awami League mayorial runner A H M Khairuzzaman Liton won the RCC polls while BNP candidate Ariful Haque Chowdhury won the SCC election.

The EC is investigating the irregularities that took place during BCC election, and its result is yet to be declared officially.

Dhaka hopes for start of Rohingya repatriation 'soon'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday said they are expecting to begin the Rohingya repatriation soon by sending the first batch of over 3,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

"We are thinking of beginning the first batch of repatriation soon. I can't tell you the date at this moment. Clearance for over 3,000 Rohingya names is given. Let's see," Ali told reporters yesterday after attending a seminar titled "Rohingya Crisis: Challenges and Ways Forward" at National Defence College (NDC) in Dhaka.

The minister said he cannot tell further on the issue but mentioned Bangladesh will remain cautious.

Over 700,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar to Bangladesh after being forced out of their homes during last year's military operation which UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein compared, at the time, to ethnic cleansing.

Meanwhile, regarding repatriation, UN Secretary General António Guterres said at the Security Council meeting on August 28

that conditions are not yet met for the return of Rohingya refugees.

He said UNHCR, UNDP and the Myanmar authorities finalised a Memorandum of Understanding in June this year that establishes a framework for cooperation to create conditions for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh. The MoU is also aimed at helping to create improved and resilient livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State. However, all of this requires a massive investment -- not only in reconstruction and development for all communities in one of Myanmar's poorest regions, but also in reconciliation and respect for human rights, he said, adding, "I do not yet see the needed commitment for that investment to take place."

Earlier, a Bangladesh delegation led by the foreign minister paid a four-day (August 9-12) visit to Myanmar, including some parts of the worst-affected northern Rakhine State, and saw the "trail of widespread devastation" suffered by the people who lived there.

Aman Moudud art gallery opens in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

institution.

"This institution would create a space for children where they can learn about music and art in a joyful atmosphere," he said.

Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, daughter of renowned poet Jasimuddin and mother of Aman, said they built the gallery and library in memory of her son and parents.

Moudud Ahmed said, "My son wanted to set up an art gallery and library where children would be able to take part in creative practices."

Acclaimed artist Monirul Islam presided over the programme where Bengal Group Chairman Abul Khair and Prime Minister's Energy Affairs Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury also spoke.



Chittagong Customs House officials yesterday recovered nearly six kilogrammes of gold worth Tk 2.55 crore from two Bangladeshi passengers at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong. The recovered gold, consisting of 45 gold bars and 762 grammes of silver-coated gold wires, will be deposited to Bangladesh Bank.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Request for Bids

giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise owned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, for sustainable development with worldwide operations. We offer the experience, the regional and technical know-how of GIZ in the global market and provide international clients with expertise in terms of economic and result-oriented services.

For the Adaptation of Climate Change into the National and Local Development Planning (ACCNLDP) project, GIZ requires the services of an individual consultant (Development Planning Expert) for a study on Current Practice of Integration of National and Local Development Planning System in Bangladesh and develop a model process for integrating the national and local development plans. The objectives of this assignment are- i) to provide a comprehensive overview on current practice on the ground regarding the development planning practice both at the national and the local level; ii) to devise the possible mechanism to consider the local development plans while preparing the national development plan as well as the mechanism to consider the national plans/ goals while preparing the local development plan and project development/implementation at the local level; iii) to develop a model procedure for five pilot LGIs together with Planning Commission (PC).

GIZ is looking for an individual consultant which has extensive working experience in this field with the following competencies:

- At least 15 years of experience in the relevant field of national planning/ local level planning/ urban planning/ local government.
- Proven working experience in national plan/ regional plan/ local development plan preparation will be added value.
- Understanding the cross sectoral issues and manages it in a comprehensive arrangement.
- Understanding the roles and the rules of business of different stakeholders regarding the development planning activities at national and local level.
- Having a good understanding of national plans (e.g. 7th Five Year Plan, Bangladesh Delta plan) as well as local development plans/ master plans.

Interested consultant can collect the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) & other relevant documents via e-mail request through contract-bangladesh@giz.de

Interested consultant with relevant and proven experience shall submit their Technical and Financial offers in a sealed envelope describing rates and terms within September 20, 2018 to the reception desk of GIZ Office Dhaka, Simpletree Anarkali, Plot-3, Block-CWS(A) 89 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. The envelopes shall be addressed to "GIZ Contracts, Procurement & IT-Unit" denoted with remark "Consultancy (Development Planning Expert)- Study the Current Practice of Integration of National and Local Development Planning System in Bangladesh and develop a model process for integrating the national and local development plan".

GIZ reserve the right to accept or reject the offer in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in any or all of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

1. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our Babu Bazar Branch, Dhaka.
2. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our Gouripur Bazar Branch, Cumilla.
3. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our Matlab Bazar Branch, Chandpur.

Please visit our website: <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by 18 September, 2018 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by 19 September, 2018 (before 11.00 A.M.).

Syed Abdul Mazid
General Manager

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Vacancy Announcement

Summit Oil & Shipping Company Ltd (SOSCL)

**SUMMIT OIL & SHIPPING CO. LTD.
MADANGANJ TANK TERMINAL**

Senior General Manager, Fuel Terminal Services

Summit Oil & Shipping Co Ltd (SOSCL), a concern of Summit Group the largest infrastructure conglomerate in Bangladesh is seeking an energetic, visionary and engaged individual to join with us as the Senior General Manager, Fuel Terminal Services stationed in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Experience and Qualifications

S/he must be an experienced engineer with more than 7 years of experience in senior management position in the fields of petroleum fuel shipping, especially terminal management, distribution and fuel inventory management for the power plants with approximately monthly handling of about 1,00,000 Metric Tons. S/he will be required to travel to offices of SOSCL outside of Dhaka. S/he will be reporting the Managing Director, SOSCL.

- Be a Graduate Engineer of Mechanical/ Chemical / Petroleum background.
- 12+ years related experience with leadership experience
- Familiar with related government rules and regulations
- Rapport with relevant government agencies is preferred
- Be fluent in English and Bangla

Remuneration

Handsome salary and other benefits will be commensurate with experience and negotiable for deserving candidate.

Application Procedure

Eligible candidates are requested to apply with recent CV and photograph addressing to the Managing Director, SOSCL Summit Centre (2nd Floor), 18 Karwan Bazar C/A, Dhaka 1215 by September 15, 2018, Tuesday. Email: soscl@summit-centre.com