

RU admission seekers' plight

RU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for the honours programme of Rajshahi University (RU) under 2018-19 session begins today, and like every year, aspirants are facing serious accommodation crisis. For those who have no relatives or acquaintances in the city or its surrounding areas, the sufferings have escalated as most residential hotels, rest houses and private dormitories are already booked. Around 88,543 admission seekers and their guardians have already started swarming the city for the two-day tests. Many RU students are helping out as much as they can in this regard. Robiul Alam, who lives in the city's Binodpur area, said, "Three of us [RU students] share a room, still we have taken in seven admission seekers." Even the university dormitories are packed to the brim. The 17 halls, 11 for male and six for female students, with a capacity of 8,000 students, are accommodating more than double the capacity. Rana Talukdar, an aspirant, staying at a hall, said, "Eight of us are crammed into the room." Finding no other alternatives, many are also staying at mosques on the campus. Many aspirants alleged that owners of private dormitories are charging them extra. Meanwhile, two admission seekers were reportedly robbed off their valuables around 1:00am on Saturday night. RU Proctor Prof Lutfor Rahman said, "We have instructed the hall authorities to remain empathetic to the admission seekers and accommodate them as much as possible." "We have also requested law enforcers to take actions against private dormitories charging students extra." He said they were also implementing tight security measures in and around the campus during the tests.

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The law clearly states it's illegal and there were protests by locals, yet the Sadar upazila sports field, now known as Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium in Sylhet's Shahi Eidgah area is once again being set up as a venue for Sylhet International Trade Fair 2018, denying children and youths their right to play. In March last year, the field was declared Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium by the National Sports Council (NSC), ushering development work on the field, which was finished in the middle of this year. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated 66 upazila-level mini stadiums -- named after Sheikh Russel -- including the Sadar upazila sports field in Sylhet, through a videoconference. Still, work for setting up the fair, scheduled to be held next month, is continuing in full swing. This has been a recurring theme for the ground, which is used more often for trade fairs and cattle markets than serving as a sporting ground. The Daily Star also published a report headlined, "Fair playing foul", on November 11, 2017, highlighting the issue. Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) is organising the fair, after the field was allotted to them by the district administration. Last year, it was arranged by Sylhet Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI). The field used to be under the supervi-

Fair playing foul again



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Work goes on in full swing to turn Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium into a trade fair.

sion of Sadar upazila but after it was declared Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium, Sylhet District Administration (SDA) became its custodian. According to organisers, SDA allotted the field to them following an approval letter from the Ministry of Commerce, recommended by the Ministry of Finance. But the act to protect open fields, gardens and natural water reservoirs says in a bid to protecting open fields, gardens and natural

water reservoirs, lease or rent for any other purpose is completely prohibited (section 5, act 36, 2000). A person may face up to 5 years in jail or Tk 50,000 fine or both for breaking the law. During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that the organisers have put up a huge banner, mentioning that the fair would start soon. Bamboo stalls were being set up all around the field and other structures were being erected in the middle.

The newspaper also spoke to a few locals in the area, who seemed agitated by the recurring decision of the authorities concerned. Mobarok Hossain, a businessman, said, "The field was developed for sports. Just last month, a cricket tournament was held here. But now, they have stopped all sporting activities and started messing it up." "We protested then and are doing so now, but all our protests fell on deaf ears," he said. Another local, Mohammad Mizan, said, "At least we are lucky that they [authorities] did not allot the field for cattle market this year." Abdul Karim Kim, secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Sylhet, said, "Instead of holding the fair on the field, the organisers can arrange it inside a convention hall or community centre." Kim, also the coordinator of Concerned Citizens' Movement, said, "Also, there are unused open land in the city, where such events can be held." Last December, when the field was allotted to SMCCI by Sadar upazila authorities, Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of Sylhet Sadar upazila, had said it would be for the last time, and after completing the development works on the field, it would not be allotted for such purposes again. Contacted, Ashfaq, also vice-president of Sylhet district unit of Awami League, said, "The field is now in possession of district administration, not Sadar upazila. They gave permission to SCCI to hold the fair."

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Father Marino Rigon laid to rest in Mongla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Father Marino Rigon, a recipient of "Friends of Liberation War Honour" -- who died in October last year in Italy, was laid to rest yesterday at Shelabunia Church cemetery in Mongla of Bagerhat. Honouring his last wish, Father Marino's mortal remains were buried at the cemetery of the church that he founded, after he came to Bangladesh in 1953 to spread the teachings of Christianity. Earlier, the coffin with his remains arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on a Turkish Airlines flight. It reached Bagerhat around 9:45am and the burial was completed by 3:00pm, said Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Mongla Police Station. A guard of honour was given to the Father at the churchyard, where people

from all walks of life paid tributes to him at Mongla Upazila Parishad ground, the OC added. Khulna city Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Superintendent of Police in Bagerhat Pankoj Chandra Roy, and Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Tapan Kumar Biswas were present on the occasion, among others. Italian national Father Rigon was given honorary citizenship of Bangladesh in 2009 and was conferred the "Friends of Liberation War Honour" award in 2012, for his support and contribution during the country's war of independence in 1971. During Bangladesh's Liberation War, Father Rigon was at Baniarchar Church in Gopalganj. He provided support and medical treatment to sick and injured freedom fighters, and actively took part in the war. After Bangladesh's its independ-

ence, he made Shelabunia of Mongla his permanent residence. Father Rigon translated 40 books throughout his life, including Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore, 350 folk songs by Lalon Shah and Naksikanthar Maath, Sojan Badiyar Ghaat and a number of poems by Jasim Uddin. "I have Rabindranath in my head and Lalon in my heart," Francis Sudan Halder, former headteacher of St Paul's High School, quoted Father Rigon as saying often. He also established 17 institutions including St Paul's High School, St Paul's Hospital and St Paul's Sewing Education Center (a Naksikantha workshop for women). In 2014, when the priest fell gravely ill with cardiac disease, his brother took him to Italy. Father Rigon breathed his last at age 92 on October 20 in 2017, in Vicenza.



A contingent of police gives guard of honour to Father Marino Rigon on the premises of Shelabunia Church in Mongla of Bagerhat.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PKSF CONFERENCE

Teens promise to work for country's welfare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than seven hundred teenagers at an adolescent conference yesterday took an oath to work for the welfare of the country as well as for humanity. They also promised to keep themselves away from extremism, negative thinking and harmful activities, and build self-confidence. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), a government-run institution to fund rural development and provide training, brought the boys and girls together at the conference -- held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre -- through a competition. The 710 teenagers were selected through a talent hunt, under which they took various tests on history, traditions and culture of Bangladesh. They were selected from 1 lakh participants from 11,000 educational

institutions from across the country.

The participants took part in the conference as future change agents and would work in various areas including social awareness-building for sustainable development. Speakers at the conference enlightened the teenagers on different issues and challenges Bangladesh is facing today, and how to overcome those. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith in his chief guest's address said, "We've defeated poverty in many respects. But 3 crore people are still below the poverty line. Of them, 1 crore are extreme poor." To ensure development of this huge number of people, it is necessary to continue the trend of progress for seven to 10 more years, he said. Only then the poverty level will come down to below 10 percent.

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Development conference at ULAB

CITY DESK

To highlight the importance of project design and implementation in addressing sustainable challenges, a session was held on the closing day of the 3rd Annual Conference for Sustainable Development at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Dr Saleemul Huq, director, International Center for Climate Change and Development, presided over the session, in which country's leading development experts participated, said a press release. Chief guest Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, secretary to the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, stressed collaborative sustainable development strategies in all the sectors. Carolyn Roberts, a professor of environment at Gresham College, London; Dr Sultan Ahmed, director general of Department of Environment; Md Khurshid Alam, assistant country director, United Nations Development Programme; Prof HM Jahirul Haque, vice chancellor, ULAB; and Kazi Inam Ahmed, member, ULAB Board of Trustees, also spoke.

JOB REGULARISATION Sylhet Palli Bidyut workers go on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Meter readers and messengers of Palli Bidyut Samity in Sylhet enforced an indefinite strike yesterday to press home their four-point demand, including regularisation of their jobs. Their other demands are reinstating all certified employees, who left their jobs on completion of agreement, to their previous positions, reducing work pressure and withdrawal of the district quota system. The demonstrators held a gathering in front of the offices of Sylhet Palli Bidyut Samity 1 and 2 with placards reading their demands. They said they will continue the strike until their demands are met. Samity officials said following the strike, preparation of electricity bill will be disrupted. Anuj Chowdhury, one of the meter readers, said each of them used to read 2,000 electricity meters and each messenger handed over copies of the bills to consumers on a monthly basis. But now, one person -- either the reader or the messenger -- has to do the entire work due to manpower crisis, he said. Like him, many other meter readers alleged that some officials trying to put work pressure on them so that they quit their jobs. The demonstrators said the number of meter readers and messengers is only 100 who have to cover the entire district. The general managers of the Samity 1 and 2 could not be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts.

Rajshahi concert pays tribute to Ayub Bachchu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ayub Bachchu was slated to perform at a concert in Rajshahi yesterday, and while his fate was written otherwise, thousands of music lovers of the city, and the performing musicians at the event, paid rich tributes to the recently-deceased rock icon. The concert, titled "Shekorer Sandhaney" held at the city's Liberation War Memorial Stadium, began with a one-minute silence to pay respects to Bachchu, who passed away in the capital on Thursday of a cardiac arrest, at the age of 56. And then, as the organisers played one of

his most iconic songs "Sei Tumi" on the loudspeakers, the audience sang their hearts out in unison, waving the flashlights of their cell phones in the air. Other performers at the concert, including Abdul Kuddus Boyati, Chisti Baul, Oyshee, Ringku, Jane Alam, Reshmi, Pulok and Shamim also remembered Ayub Bachchu, dedicated their songs to Bachchu, a pioneering guitarist and the founder of popular band LRB. More than 10,000 people enjoyed the concert, organised by the cultural affairs ministry with an aim to spread the ideologies of the Liberation War and promote the government's development activities.

Selfless. Smart. Stylish. Our grandmother was a force to be reckoned with, a woman with a big heart and many talents. With each passing year, we deeply mourn the loss of this amazing person.

She would have been overjoyed with the coming of two great grandchildren to the family. We miss her every day and cherish the precious memories we made together. We hope to continue to share her stories of laughter & wisdom with the new generation.

Tahmina Khan died three years ago today. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

TAHMINA KHAN
Nov 9, 1937 - Oct 22, 2015

বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন
আইইবি ভবন, রমনা
ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

স্মারক নং-১৪.৩২.০০০০.০০৭.৫৩.৯৯৪.১৭.১৯৯৫ তারিখঃ ২১-১০-২০১৮

VSP লাইসেন্স নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন (বিটিআরসি) হতে গত ১৯-১১-২০১৭ তারিখে জারিকৃত VSP লাইসেন্স নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তির আলোকে যে সকল VSP লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি/মালিকগণ VSP লাইসেন্স নবায়নের আবেদন করতে ব্যর্থ হয়েছেন তাদেরকে আগামী ০৫-১১-২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র মূল্যায়ন ফি এবং ভ্যাট বাবদ সর্বমোট ৫৭৫০/- (পাঁচ হাজার সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ কমিশনের চেয়ারম্যান বরাবর লাইসেন্স নবায়নের নিমিত্ত আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। লাইসেন্স ফি, প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রের তালিকা ও অন্যান্য শর্ত সম্বলিত বিবরণী বিটিআরসি'র ওয়েবসাইট (www.btrc.gov.bd) হতে সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উল্লেখিত ০৫-১১-২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে যে সকল সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি/মালিকগণ VSP লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে ব্যর্থ হবে তাদের আবেদন উল্লিখিত সময়ের পর গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং তাদের লাইসেন্স মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণে বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে। এছাড়াও যে সকল সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি/মালিকগণ তাদের VSP লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য আত্রাহী নন উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট কমিশনের সকল বকেয়া পাওনা পরিশোধ করে তা বর্ণিত সময়ের মধ্যে কমিশন-কে লিখিতভাবে অবহিত করার জন্য একই সঙ্গে অনুরোধ করা হলো। যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান তাদের লাইসেন্সের বকেয়া পাওনা পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হবে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে বিটিআরসি হতে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

এম. এ. তালেব হোসেন
পরিচালক (লাইসেন্সিং)
লীগ্যাল এন্ড লাইসেন্সিং বিভাগ
বিটিআরসি

জিডি-২৪৩২