



## Recognising role of women in all spheres

MJF organises photo exhibition at BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's contributions should be recognised to ensure sustainable growth in the country, speakers said yesterday at "International Women's Day 2019 Photography Exhibition and Book Launching" at Art Gallery-3 of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

"Women comprise half of this country's population. I believe no society, state or country can make progress by neglecting this half," said Awami League lawmaker Saguftha Yasmin.

Saying that women are hardworking, she said contribution of women should be publicly recognised to bring change in people's mindset.

The exhibition, "Source of Life", features photographs on the contribution of women in family, society, state and economy. A book containing the photographs was also released.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the purpose of the exhibition is to showcase indoor and outdoor activities of women.

"Our message is that there should be no discrimination when it comes to one's duties. No work is meant for a specific gender," she said.

Ekushey Award-winning photographer Sayeeda Khanam advised young female photographers to follow their passion, no matter how many obstacles they face.

The exhibition will continue till March 22.



Eminent photographer Sayeeda Khanam visits Manusher Jonno Foundation's photo exhibition at Shilpakala Academy with lawmaker Saguftha Yasmin. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Amend ridesharing guidelines

Experts, entrepreneurs call upon govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts and officials of ridesharing companies yesterday called upon the government to revise some sections of "Ridesharing Service Guideline 2017" for expansion of the sector.

They urged the government to change its decision of banning vehicles registered outside Dhaka to operate in the capital under ridesharing companies.

The speakers were addressing a roundtable on "Ridesharing Service Guideline 2017: Application, Limitations and Way Out" at CA Bhaban in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar. Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion in association with Pathao, Shohoz and Uber.

Hussain M Elius, chief executive officer of Pathao, said they found the guideline positive. However, some sections can have adverse impact on the sector, he said.

He said new vehicles are comparatively

safer and cost effective, but as per the guideline, no vehicle can be enlisted with any ridesharing company before one year of registration.

About government decision that vehicles registered outside Dhaka cannot operate in the capital, he said the decision will badly affect supply.

Road Transport and Bridges Ministry on January 27 took the decision and BRTA on February 19 gave four directives to 16 ridesharing companies, which sought registration, and asked them to give compliance letter within a week, said two BRTA officials.

Elius said many people are coming to Dhaka regularly and they usually come along with their vehicles, so ridesharing service can be useful to them. He also said such decision will not help reduce vehicles in Dhaka.

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## Nur still undecided on taking charge as Ducsu VP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly-elected vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) Nurul Haque Nur is yet to clarify whether he would take charge of his post or not, at the first executive meeting of Ducsu on March 23.

Since the election, held on March 11, Nur -- who boycotted the polls -- has been changing his decision in this regard.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said he would decide on taking over as VP after discussing with other panel members and taking opinion of other agitating platforms demanding fresh polls.

"Wherever I remain, I would work for the welfare of students like in the past. I did not participate in movements against quota and question leak to get applauds, but to do something to establish students' rights" Nur said.

On March 16, Nur along with all elected Ducsu and hall union representatives met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban.

Nur sought the premier's all-out cooperation in proper functioning of Ducsu.

The next day, he along with five panels called a sit-in programme for March 18, demanding reelection to all posts of Ducsu and hall unions.

During the March 11 polls, Nur's panel Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan

Parishad boycotted the election and demanded reelection, raising allegations of irregularities and rigging.

Nur was elected vice-president and one of his panel member Akhter Hossain won in social service secretary post.

The next day, the Ducsu VP-elect once again changed his stance, demanding reelection to all posts except VP and social services secretary posts.

But a few hours later, after holding discussion with other protesting student wings, Nur demanded reelection to all posts.

That same afternoon, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) president Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon, who was defeated in the VP post, congratulated Nur at TSC auditorium on campus, and Nur expressed solidarity with BCL to work together for ensuring rights of all students.

Hours later, he again said BCL men carried out several attacks on him, and that is still on his mind though they greeted him.

That night, some students of Ruqayyah Hall started a hunger strike in front of the hall gate on the campus demanding fresh polls to their hall union. On March 13, Nur went to meet the female protesters and to take their opinion whether he should take charge as VP.

The 28-year wait for Ducsu election ended in boycott by all major panels except BCL, amid

allegations of irregularities. On March 18, authorities set March 23 for the first executive meeting of the newly-elected student representatives.

### PROVOSTS DEMAND STEPS AGAINST ELECTION OBSERVERS

Provosts of the Dhaka University's 18 halls yesterday demanded that the university take necessary steps against teachers who allegedly observed Ducsu elections "illegally" and "spread confusing and false information".

They placed the demand at a meeting of the DU provost committee at Abdul Matin Chowdhury Virtual Classroom of the university, said a DU press release.

"They [the teachers] tarnished the image of the university in the name of polls observation," the press release added.

Talking to The Daily Star, DU VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said the demand will be presented at other forums of the university, before making a final decision.

On March 9, a group of teachers sought permission from authorities to observe the election, but the chief returning officer did not allow any.

However, they visited different polling centres during election, and issued a statement that night, demanding cancellation of the election on account of irregularities.

## Info minister says State Dept report 'biased'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government yesterday again rejected US State Department report that labelled the December 30 parliamentary election "lopsided".

"The report they published is biased," said Information Minister Hasan Mahmud while briefing reporters at his ministry office yesterday afternoon.

"They based their report on the accounts of some agencies -- the names of which are mentioned in the report," the minister said.

"We reject this report. In the true essence, the December 30 election was peaceful and participatory -- held in a festive atmosphere."

Reflecting on whether this report will put strains on bilateral relationships, the minister said it is unlikely, because "Trump administration congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after her re-election to the parliament".

About mention of human rights abuses in Bangladesh in the report, he said, "Human rights situation of Bangladesh is very good; we think the US should concentrate more on its own human rights issues."

The State Department report released on March 13 termed Bangladesh's parliamentary election "lopsided" and said it was considered marred by irregularities.

## Abu Zafar Obaidullah remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abu Zafar Obaidullah Smrity Parishad yesterday organised a memorial programme to observe the 18th death anniversary of renowned modern poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah, at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum.

National Professor Anisuzzaman graced the event as chief guest while renowned poets Asad Chowdhury and architect Rabiul Hussain were special guests. Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, the poet's brother, spoke on behalf of the family. Eminent thespian Nasiruddin Yousuff hosted the programme, presided over by Bangla Academy Director General Habibullah Siraji.

"Abu Zafar Obaidullah is great poet of Bangla Literature and I hope the forthcoming generations will remember him accordingly," said Professor Anisuzzaman in his speech analyzing his poetic brilliance. The chief guest concluded his speech with reciting one of the poems "Ami Bhalobasha Cheyechhilam" by the poet.

Poet Asad Chowdhury elaborated on Obaidullah's poetic genius with precise excerpts and allusions while Rabiul Hussain termed him a pioneering organiser of poetry and poets.

Elocutionist Hasan Arif recited the poet's timeless poem "Ami Kingbodontir Kotha Bolchhi". Noted singer Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury Moyna rendered a song set to



From left, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Rashed Khan Menon, Prof Anisuzzaman, Habibullah Siraji, Asad Chowdhury and Rabiul Hussain at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

tune from an Abu Zafar Obaidullah's poem "Kono Ek Ma Ke".

Abu Zafar Obaidullah was a prominent figure of the Language Movement and played a seminal role in Bangladesh's literature and culture.

In his poetry, Obaidullah spoke of the joys and sorrows, struggles and lives of rural people. The imagery and legends of Bengal were beautifully depicted in his poems. He was awarded with Ekushey Padak and Bangla Academy Award for his outstanding contributions to Bangla literature. He breathed his last on March 19, 2001.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Demonstration

Protesting Abrar Ahmed's death by road accident, Daffodil University students will organise a demonstration demanding justice and better traffic management.

Venue: Mirpur Road  
Time: 11:00am

### Exhibition

Manusher Jonno Foundation is organising a photo exhibition on Bangladeshi women's unaccounted contribution to family, society and state with support from UK Aid.

Venue: Art Gallery-3, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 2:00pm

### Lecture

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) will organise a public talk by Prof Oriana Bandiera on "Incentives for public service delivery".

Venue: BIGD, Mohakhali  
Time: 4:30pm

### Discussion

Jahangirnagar University's (JU) Institute of Remote Sensing will organise a lecture series titled "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Commemorative Lecture on Science and Society."

Venue: Zahir Raihan Auditorium, JU  
Time: 4:00pm



The first roadway slab being installed on the Jazira end of the Padma bridge in Shariatpur. The 2 metres in width and 22 metres in length slab was placed on the "7-F" span between pillar 41 and 42 yesterday. A total of 2,931 slabs will be set up on the 6.15km bridge.

PHOTO: FARHANA MIRZA

## Vision of Digital Bangladesh goes hand in hand with Digitalization in Textile printing

Special congratulation to Mr. Abu Sakhawat, owner of ROBINTEX GROUP to commence the vision of making his factory, the topmost digitally advanced business in Asia.



Mr. Abu Sakhawat & Mr. Luigi Milini (From Right to Left)

MS Italy's top-range model "Lario" is scheduled to arrive soon with the capacity of 75 linear meter/min & unlimited color possibility.

Print quality, high production speed matched up with minimum pollution & green technology makes this model the best in the world.



### MS LARIO

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It is our honour & pleasure to announce this revolutionary update.

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Let's digitalize our business & our country together as per our honorable PM's vision.

### For Further Information

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