



Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions demonstrate for the third consecutive day yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, demanding enlistment under the government's Monthly Pay Order scheme. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Dhaka could benefit

FROM PAGE 3 of architecture, and utilisation of space ensued after Prof Kleine got on stage. The latter part of the talk revolved around Dhaka and its architecture. When talking about the Bait Ur Rouf Mosque, Prof Kleine said what he mostly liked about the space is that one does not feel like they are filling it up with their presence. At the same time, he lamented the lack of public spaces. He also pointed out the degrading air quality in Dhaka. "After [taking] 20 steps outside our apartment [we realise] the air is unbearable in Dhaka... We have to find solutions..." Water and its use were an important part of the talk. Prof Kleine elucidated on how Venice developed its architecture by not going against water but by using the geography to its advantage. He also talked about Berlin and its utilisation of water, and finally explained how the waterways in

Dhaka can be used for the better. Later on, Prof Kleine compared some of Dhaka's unique architecture with that of abroad, and then focused on Hatirjheel, which prompted a discussion on the two professors' initiative to build a public structure there. "So idyllic, right?" Prof Kleine said while pointing to a picturesque photo of a part of Hatirjheel. "But because of the sound of the Moghbazar flyover, it's terrible. We need a high wall; we need architecture to block off the sound. This wall should be something for public [enjoyment]." Finally, Prof Kleine showed everyone models/renderings of a curved wall with a waterfall in the middle and bike lanes above. The wall would have space for people to relax and enjoy. Local students, guided by Prof Kleine, planned and designed the structure at a four-day workshop. After a brief question and answer session the two professors bid adieu by stating how satisfying their journey was.

## Youths the changemakers

FROM PAGE 3 then how can we address others' sufferings?" The MJF executive director also said the overall development of Bangladesh will not be ensured if the country's marginalised and underprivileged people -- like the residents of hill tracts and char areas -- are left behind.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Khandker Lutful Kabir said, "Youth is power. They can shape the future of Bangladesh. Each of them is a changemaker." The youth club President Arefin Rahman Himel and Secretary General Sanzida Zaman, among others, spoke at the programme.

## Teachers seek

FROM PAGE 3 As per the rules, the educational institutions first come under MPO facilities and then the government enlists the teachers in the payroll. According to leaders of the federation, the number of non-MPO educational institutions is 5,242, where around 80,000 teachers are working without any pay, some for more than a decade. This is because the institutions do not have the ability to pay the teachers while the government stopped bringing these institutions under its payroll for, what they said, a fund crunch. After a suspension of six years by the then BNP-led alliance government, the Awami League-led government revived the MPO facility in 2010 as per its electoral pledge, enlisting 1,624 private secondary and higher secondary schools and colleges in the MPO scheme. The rest of the non-MPO teachers have been organising various protest programmes since then. Currently, more than four lakh teachers and employees of over 26,340 secondary schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutes are receiving MPO facilities.

# Oikyafront to form human chain in Dhaka on Mar 30

UNB, Dhaka Jatiya Oikyafront will form a human chain in Dhaka on March 30 to press for its various demands, including the annulment of gas-tariff hike proposal. Leaders and activists of the alliance will form the human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 11am. Besides, Oikyafront will hold rallies and public hearings in different divisions and districts in April demanding re-election and cancellation of the 11th parliamentary polls. Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna announced the programmes at a press conference after a joint meeting of steering committee of the alliance at its Paltan office.

Manna said they will form the human chain also to register their protest against the government's failure to ensure road safety, mismanagement in upazila polls, snatching students' votes in Ducusu polls, destroying election system and limitless financial inequality and plundering by the government. "We'll also hold rallies or public hearings in all divisions and different districts in April to spread our movement across the country," he said. The Oikyafront leader said people did not go to cast their votes in the recent upazila polls as they lost their confidence in the election system after "vote robbery" in the national election. Under the circumstances, he said their alliance has decided to continue

its movement to realise their demand for a fresh national election. Manna said their meeting also chalked out a two-day programme to mark Independence Day. As part of the programmes, he said leaders and activists of Oikyafront will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar at 9am on March 26. The alliance will also will hold a discussion on March 31 at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president ASM Abdur Rob, BNP standing committee member Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Gono Forum executive president Subrata Chowdhury and general secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu, among others, were present.

## Man stabbed to death in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar A man was stabbed to death allegedly by a youth in Savar outside the capital on Thursday night. The deceased -- Shafiqul Bari Chowdhury Bakul, 52 -- was a businessman. Police said he had an affair with a woman who lived with his 22-year-old son in the area. When the youth found Shafiqul and his mother together at her house, he killed the man with a knife out of anger, said Savar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge AFM Sayeed. Shafiqul's family filed a murder case with the police station against the woman and her son, who has been on the run since the incident, said the OC. Police arrested the woman, he added.

## Over 35cr free textbooks distributed this year

BSS, Dhaka As many as 35,21,97,882 textbooks were distributed free of cost among 4,26,19,865 primary and secondary level students in the academic year 2019. "We have distributed free textbooks among all students from primary to secondary levels. Like previous years, we have successfully distributed textbooks on the first day of the current year so that students can begin their studies smoothly," National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Chairman Prof Narayan Chandra Saha told the news agency. "This successful distribution was made possible because of coordination and sincere efforts of all officials and employees concerned." Teachers play an important role in distribution of textbooks among the students, mentioned the NCTB chairman.

## Digital map highlighting

FROM PAGE 3 In March 2018, the centre published report on mass killings, mass graves, mass graveyards and torture centres in 10 districts -- Nilphamari, Bogura, Natore, Kurigram, Pabna, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Narayanganj, Bhola and Khulna. They found 1,749 incidents of mass killings in those districts. This year, they published report on Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Narail, Panchagar, Moulvibazar, Jashore, Lalmonirhat, Brahmanbaria, Cox's Bazar and Barishal where 4,180 incidents of and information on mass killings, mass graves, mass graveyards and torture centres are found. "There is politics behind mass killings. In 1971, Pakistan did it to suppress us and turn us into their colony permanently," he said. The noted historian said the governments, after the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, attempted to erase the incidents of mass killings from history. Muntassir said they will gradually incorporate all locations of 64 districts on the map. "If we can publish it on Google, more people will know the truth about Bangladesh. We need more financial support for that," he said, seeking support from the government. State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid termed it a good initiative and said they will continue their support to the Centre.

## Fight for freedom

FROM PAGE 3 "Capitalism is now turning into fascism but the October Revolution has taught us how to fight against capitalism," he said, urging all to be united to work for a humanitarian world through establishing socialism. Among others, BSD General Secretary Khaliqzaman, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Saiful Haque, Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) General Secretary Mubinal Haider Chowdhury and Ganosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki spoke at the discussion.



Passengers and helper of a human-haulier try to push this vehicle out of water after it stopped in the middle of Dhopagul-Fatehpur road in Sylhet around noon yesterday. All it took was a little morning rain for the road to go under ankle-deep water. Locals say due to slow pace of ongoing development work in Saheb Bazar area, the situation has been like this for over two years. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Young at 71

FROM PAGE 5 and composes songs. Matlubul is proud of students like Abdul Ahad Shimul who is a multiple "Mr Bangladesh" title holder. "In bodybuilding, a significant aspect is one's character," he says. "No one can sustain growth without a disciplined life. A healthy diet, enough sleep, and proper utilisation of time are important." Matlubul says he has dedicated his life to inspiring the youngsters to stay fit and shape a healthy society.

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Members of Gulshan Society at the launch of a programme to beautify Gulshan lake in Dhaka yesterday. The photo was taken near Gulshan-Niketon bridge. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN