MIRPUR'S BUZZING CULINARYHOTSPOT

| MH HAIDER |



Nothing beats good food and great

company. To amplify that experience,

imagine a band playing your favourite songs

while you indulge in scrumptious dishes

from a variety of choices -- all in one place.

Mirpur DOHS Gate-1, this place is a perfect

Situated beside the road leading to

stop not just for the grub but also for its

energetic vibe. The location has it all --

lively crowd, talented musicians and a

whole heap of fun.

Dhaka.

attractive menus with reasonable prices,

The area is caught up in a whirlwind

of hangouts. With a cluster of food courts

area now plays host to people from all over

"All this is quite a recent development,"

and a few independent restaurants, the

said Nusrat Ahmed, a university student

With friends meeting up or families

known as "Sagufta Road", has become a

looking for a dine-out, the road, commonly

The notion of food courts hit off quite

a long time back in our city, and it may be

argued that people have not grown tired of

it. Case in point: the food courts on Sagufta

Road. The large crowds at these food courts

"Weekend evenings are rather packed,"

are a testament to their popularity.

and a resident of Mirpur DOHS.

hub for food enthusiasts.

A crowded Daruchini Food Village.

said school teacher Senjuti Das who often comes here with her family, from Lalmatia,

on Fridays. "They usually have live music during the weekends and on special occasions, which of course makes the experience even better." She said one of her favourites is Time Pass Cafe at the food court called

Daruchini Food Village. "I love their chicken chaap and luchi. And of course, no meal is complete without a glass of ice tea -- a perfect balance of tea and sugar with a citrus twist to give it a

smooth finish," she said smilingly. "Can you believe the bill came up to around Tk 150!" she said. "The play-zone for kids is also an added advantage."



Conversations over food at Park Foodiez.

Perhaps, one of the reasons food courts in general are popular is the diversity of cuisines they offers under one roof. Park Foodiez, for example -- another

food court on the same road -- has a plethora of eateries. From kebabs to momos or pizzas to muffins -- it will surely have something to satisfy a gourmand's taste buds.

The food court also has an eatery called Ching's Kitchen, which offers "flavours of Bandarban".

However, many feel that eateries in the area should focus more on flavours and quality.

"The nachos or tortilla chips were not up to the mark. They weren't crispy enough," said Mirpur resident Waliul Hasib.

His friend Raihan Ahmed saw it differently. "I think the appeal of Sagufta Road is about enjoying decent food amid live music at reasonable prices -- there are many budget-friendly options here."

Judging by the crowd and vibe, decent food and good times without breaking the bank -- that's what this culinary hub at Mirpur promises.

Do you have a Dhaka Vibe story to share? Email us your ideas or reports to dhakavibeds@ gmail.com

Child protection committees at grassroots in the offing

Rights and development activists announce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing concerns over violence against children, rights and development activists yesterday announced that they would form "child protection committees" at grassroots and national levels across the

They made the announcement from a protest rally, demanding justice for and putting an end to violence against women and children, at Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) arranged the rally where members of some 35 rights and development organisations attended. Once formed, the child protection

committees will conduct awareness generating campaign and monitor incidents of violence against children, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said. The committees will also conduct

survey to learn who the perpetrators are, how police is playing its role, and to what extent law is being implemented, she said, presiding over the rally. "It is our duty to protect our children.

Why do we think only police and the government will do it?" she asked.

cause, she wondered whether this would help the government combat the menace. "Let us know how we can assist you to this end," she said.

"We call upon the government to join this initiative... We cannot sit idle. We will do it [stop violence against children] collectively," Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said.

She said protests should continue so that no child has to face violence, urging everyone -- irrespective of age -- to join the movement.

"We are forgetful... So many children

and women have experienced violence and we forget all about them after a few days of noice," Rasheda said, adding that such a platform would help towards the protests and overcome the said national forgetfulness.

Some 176 girl children became victims of rape between December, 2018 and April, 2019 in the country, according to a declaration paper which was read out at the rally.

Also, some 199 women became victims of rape in the past five months, says the paper, referring to news reports published

> "We are forgetful...So many children and women have experienced violence and we forget all about them after a few days of noise."

in nine national dailies and data collected by Ain O Salish Kendra and MJF.

During this time, 22 girls and 58 women were sexually harassed, it adds. Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive

Expressing her commitment to the officer of Brotee, said as conscious citizens, everyone should take protest violence against children and women. The government has sufficient initiatives.

> However, incidents of sexual violence were not monitored properly, said Advocate Jannatul Ferdaus, project coordinator of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association. The courts have public prosecutors who

> are responsible for dealing with cases of violence against women and children, and ensuring punishment of the perpetrators, she said.

> However, these did not happen to a great extent, she added.



A child holds up a banner demanding safety for women and children at MJF's rally in Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

PALASH KHAN

Rajuk's building construction approval goes online

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After around 3.5 years since it was launched, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday started the journey of automated building approval with land use clearance and construction permit online.

These are two fundamental approvals required for constructing a building in the capital, and have so far entailed untold harassment of service seekers with manual applications.

An official Rajuk press release said applicants from now on would be able to submit applications either for land use or construction permit by registering at the Rajuk website: cp.rajukdhaka.gov.bd

If faced with technical problems, an applicant may seek help from a designated

hotline: 01992-000666, it said. Public works minister SM Rezaul Karim inaugurated the service yesterday at Rajuk.

The then public works minister in December 2015 launched the automation of building approval services, with a view to put an end to public sufferings, allegations of bribery and unwanted

On a pilot basis, the service has so far been provided for land use in Rajuk zone-5, including Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Lalbagh, Sutrapur and Kamrangirchar. So far, roughly 700 land use permits have been issued in the zone.

Despite the government's strong desire to digitise all Rajuk services, the automation could not gain momentum in the past years due to poor progress in procurement of equipment and trained manpower.

Complete digitisation would help service seekers get this important service from home, said the press release.

Bangladesh selfsufficient in food

Food minister says

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has become self-sufficient in food production under the leadership and directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said yesterday.

"As we've attained sufficiency in food production, we're now looking for ways to provide people with more nutritious food," he said.

The minister made the remarks at "National Level Discussion Meeting on Promoting Nutrition among the Adolescents", organised jointly by World Food Programme (WFP) and Shornokishoree Network Foundation (SKNF) with support from the government. The event was held at Cirdap auditorium.

The discussion focused on promoting nutrition project for adolescents and demonstrating benefits of fortified rice (pushti chal), a modification of regular rice with SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Former

Freedom comes with responsibility

Info minister tells World Press Freedom Day discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the role of media is undeniable for progressing towards a developed nation.

"Since taking charge, I have been working relentlessly to ensure the highest freedom of media as well as journalists. But there should be responsibility along with freedom...," he told at a discussion at Jatiya Press Club.

Marking World Press Freedom Day, the press club organised the event titled "The Scenario of Mass Media: Perspective Bangladesh", with its President Saiful Alam in the chair.

Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the discussion as special guest while GTV chief editor Syed Ishtiaque Reza presented the keynote paper.

Dr Hasan said media is the fourth organ of the state. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman struggled to establish a multidimensional country, he said, adding that the country is now moving forward under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said just three years ago, Bangladesh graduated to developing country from a least developed one and this has been possible only for Sheikh Hasina's leadership.

Dr Hasan, also publicity and publication SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

DHAKA TODAY

EXHIBITION Bonsai Exhibition 2019 Venue: Cadet College Club, Gulshan 1 Time: 12pm

MUSIC Stories for Sale Venue: Charcha, Mohammadpur Time: 6:30pm

ART EXHIBITION Bodyspace Mindscape by Wakilur Rahman Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia Time: 3pm

EXPOSITION Bangladesh Denim Expo Venue: ICCB Time: 12pm

MUSIC Into the Future Organiser: Bottom's UP Venue: Jamuna Future Park Time: 3pm

ART EXHIBITION Summer Splash! Organiser: Art for the Soul Venue: The Create Space Time: 12pm

CAR MEET **Auto Rebellion Underground 2019** Venue: Jamuna Future Park Time: 2pm

DIALOGUE Media for Democracy Venue: Dru Auditorium Time: 10am



Workers' rights activist Nazma Akhter leads a procession of RMG workers from Dainik Bangla intersection in Dhaka on Wednesday, marking May Day. A number of workers' groups observed the day through various programmes in the capital and elsewhere. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangladeshi volunteer named YouthLead ambassador

CITY DESK

A Bangladeshi volunteer who campaigns against child marriage and violence against women -- including running a sticker campaign on Dhaka public transport -- has been named as a youth ambassador in a prestigious new programme celebrating and promoting the work of young people worldwide, said a press release.



becoming YouthLead ambassadors, picked from nearly 1,500 applicants around the world. Joseph, 30, from Barguna, is the president of the Voluntary Services Organisation (VSO) Alumni Association in Bangladesh. He will now take his place as an ambassador for the YouthLead.org programme, founded by the United States Agency for International Development. The VSO Alumni Association in Bangladesh is a group

of 450 young people who have completed a volunteer programme with the organisation.

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