



SHOPNER DOKAN

Giving the less-privileged an opportunity to shop

|| SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM ||



DHAKA VIBE

Children browsing clothes at the Dhanmondi Rd 7 shop.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Minutes after a banner reading "Shopner Dokan" was put up, displaying bags of clothes in various colours and sizes at Dhanmondi Road-7, children from the area excitedly gathered to pick their attire for Eid.

Shopner Dokan is an initiative that sets up temporary shops at various locations of the country every year for children who cannot afford to buy Eid clothes. What makes it different from other charity events is that children can choose the clothes they want from a stock -- as one does when shopping for Eid. The clothes are either free or organisers accept a nominal token price.

On Saturday, 26 shops were set up across the country co-organised by Community Development for Peace (CDP).

The initiative is the brainchild of AKM Naeem Zaman and was first organised with the help of Ishita Rashid and Rokia Moni in 2017.

"He [Naeem] saw a few underprivileged kids play 'shopping' with their siblings and

that is when it struck him -- how these kids usually don't get a chance to shop for Eid clothes," said Ivana Asfara, an organiser of the Dhanmondi shop.

Once everything was set up, parents rushed to the spot with their children -- from toddlers to school students -- and contemplated on what to take.

"When they [buyers] see our shop at first, they're hesitant to ask about the price. When they realise the clothes are free and they can choose for themselves, the reaction of joy is indescribable," Naeem Zaman said.

Volunteers treated the children with the respect regular shoppers at malls get, and the little ones even got to try on several clothes before deciding on their final choice. Boys got to choose from t-shirts and panjabis while girls from salwar kameez and frocks. Some volunteers even put henna on eager children's palms.

Chatto gram had its own Shopner Dokan at a location behind Chatto gram Shopping Complex

at Panchlaish area, according to our correspondent in the port city. Children were seen busy buying their clothes for Tk 2-5.

"At first, I did not believe I could buy clothes for Tk 5. Now I own this frock, and I'm happy," said Fatema, an eight-year-old buyer. The organisers sold clothes to at least 560 children living in various slums across the city.

When asked what draws them to take part in this initiative, Lamia Tabassum Guria, a volunteer at the Dhanmondi shop, said, "Shopner Dokan came to me as an opportunity to put smiles on the faces of some young ones ... That contentment is the reason I participate."

Shopner Dokan is enabled by individual donations and financial support from CDP. Both Naeem and Ivana hope that this initiative will spread rapidly to more locations in the coming years.

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

'Win the trust of your voters' PM urges MCC mayor, councillors

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked public representatives to win the hearts of people and gain their trust and confidence.

"You're public representatives, because people cast their votes. You have to win their trust and confidence... you have responsibilities and duties towards them," she said.

The premier was speaking at her office, during the oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected Mymensingh City Corporation Mayor Ekramul Haque Titu and its 44 new ward councillors, including councillors from reserved seats.

"If you work for people, in the interest of people and if you can win their hearts, then you'll see people putting their trust and confidence in you, and they'll repeatedly give you the opportunity to serve them," she said. The PM asked the public

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'Prepared to spend Eid at Raju Sculpture if needed'

Post-deprived BCL faction resumes protest

DU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday resumed demonstrations, alleging that the controversial new central committee is being validated. On May 19, they halted demonstrations after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directly ordered ousting of controversial individuals from the committee.

They started a sit-in at 1:30am yesterday, at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture at

Dhaka University, after BCL's central unit issued a notice saying the new committee would pay respects at the mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhanmondi today.

"By placing wreath at the base of Bangabandhu's mural, the new controversial committee will get validated," BM Lipi Akhter, president of Ruqayyah Hall Chhatra League, told The Daily Star.

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Between iftar to sehri, according to age and height-weight, at least 8-12 glasses of water should be taken everyday. To avoid dehydration, excessive tea or caffeine should be avoided in sehri, as these act as diuretics and more water is excreted in urine, thereby increasing water demand of body. Excessive salt should be avoided in food which helps prevent dehydration. Further rehydrating mineral e.g potassium rich food like dates, mango and banana should be added in iftar and sehri which contribute in preventing water craving of body. Patients having kidney disease & diabetes need additional precautions during Ramadan depending on their current health status, for which they should consult a Nephrologist.



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77pc C-sections unnecessary

Those who need it don't have access: Save the Children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More babies are born in the country through C-sections done unnecessarily on affluent mothers while destitute women who desperately need the procedure do not have access to it, according to Save the Children.

Last year 8,60,000 C-section procedures were carried out -- a 51 percent increase from the previous year. Seventy-seven percent of the operations were medically unnecessary. Parents paid USD 483 million in out-of-pocket expenses for these unnecessary C-sections, which gets down to an average cost of USD 612 per case.

While these operations could be avoided, 3 lakh women who desperately

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ATTACK ON DUCSU VP Quota reformists' platform issues 48hr ultimatum

DU CORRESPONDENT

The platform of quota reform activists yesterday issued a 48-hour ultimatum, demanding justice over the assault on Ducsu vice-president Nur and other activists of the organisation in Bogura on Sunday.

Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, issued the ultimatum at a human chain, joined by over 100 students, at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla on Dhaka University campus.

"No perpetrator who attacked [us] previously have been brought to book yet. That is why this attack was launched in Bogura. We have also urged the Chhatra

League central leaders to ensure punishment of the attackers after proper investigation. We would wage a tougher movement, if the attackers were not identified and punished by the next 48 hours," said Hasan.

They also published a list of attackers, which they claimed to have prepared by scrutinising video footage.

According to the list, the attackers include BCL's Bogura Government Azizul Haque College unit general secretary Abdur Rauf, Bogura district unit president Naimur Razzak Titas, joint general secretary Taqir Islam Khan and publicity secretary Md Mukul Islam.

TIB concerned over law for social orgs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concerns over the proposed draft of The Volunteer Social Welfare Organisations (Registration and Control) Act 2019.

In a press statement, the graft watchdog also demanded that the government change, modify and cancel the sections which are unclear, repressive and conflicting.

It also called for the draft to be amended before approval, through discussions with stakeholders and involving experts concerned.

TIB Executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in the statement said they were informed through mass media that social welfare ministry has prepared the draft of a new law, for registration and control of different local and foreign volunteer, private and social welfare organisations.

A number of sections and sub-sections of the proposed law will create serious obstacles in activities of the organisations, he said, adding that chances of its misuse will also be created.

Iftekharuzzaman said according to sub-section 11 (1 and 2) of the draft law, there is a provision of all registered organisations being re-registered every five years, and if any organisation fails to make the renewal on time or is rejected, it will be dissolved.

Sub-section 17 (1, 2, 3) has a provision of cancellation of registration of an organisation based on report of "show-cause", and dissolving the organisation from the date of cancellation of registration, the statement reads.

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Uttara gets circular bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Circular bus service on Uttara-Sonargaon Janapad and Airport-Sector No 12 routes was launched yesterday with an aim to ensure hassle-free movement of commuters and to ease traffic congestion in the city.

A total of 10 air-conditioned BRTC buses will ply the roads, according to a press release.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam formally inaugurated the service at Rabindra Sarani in the area; Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon was present as the chief guest.

Addressing the programme, Mayor Sayeed Khokon said that public transport and traffic jam in the capital are major concerns. "We, the two mayors, are working relentlessly in line with the

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