

# Admirable but underappreciated

## BNCC and Rover Scout's diligent efforts to serve admission seekers

MD ASADUZZAMAN, JU

If one visits the examination halls of Jahangirnagar University (JU), they will find some energetic youngsters in uniforms in front of the entrances, managing the flow of admission seekers relentlessly from dawn to dusk. Some may be checking admit cards while others directing examinees and managing the gathering of guardians.

The uniformed individuals are JU students who are members of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and Rover Scout. Early in the morning, they announce the admission timings and request examinees to stand in line, continuing their duties till 5:40pm every day.

Around 100 members of BNCC and Rover Scout are working to serve four-five lakh people, including guardians and admission seekers. The JU admission tests started from Sunday and will continue till October 1 where 3,59,962 high



A BNCC volunteer organises lines of JU admission seekers.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

school graduates will be vying for 1,889 seats under six faculties and three institutes of the university.

"After checking applicants' documents, we allow them into the exam halls. We get little time between shifts to manage the huge number of admission seekers going in and out," said Junaid Hasan, cadet-in-charge of JU BNCC.

"Since Sunday, we have 50 cadets, including 20 women cadets, who are working to maintain the huge crowds throughout the day. Normally our reporting time is 7am and we continue till the last shift," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, several cadets and rover mates shared their experiences. They

mainly volunteer to serve the university and admission seekers, and they hardly get enough time to rest during the exam season.

Rokhsana Akhter, co-cadet-in-charge of BNCC, said, "Sometimes we face 'awkward' situations as some university staffers and students, who are unauthorised to enter the exam halls, ignore our instructions. They sometimes try to forcibly enter, and if we bar them, they start to argue."

Khalilur Rahman, senior rover mate of JU Rover Scout, alleged that some of their teammates were assaulted on Sunday in front of New Arts Building during the exam. They submitted a written complaint to the university.

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## Construction businessman stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man was stabbed to death by some unidentified people yesterday on Sonadanga Majid Sarani Road of Khulna city.

The deceased was identified as Mohidul Islam, 27, son of Sawkat Hossain of Jalma village under Batiaghata upazila. Mohidul was involved in construction and land-related business.

The murder happened in front of the Suzuki showroom on Majid Sarani.

Quoting locals, Md Momtazul Haq, officer-in-charge of Sonadanga Police Station, told The Daily Star that four people -- including Mohidul -- came to the showroom at around 4pm.

"Three people went inside the showroom. Mohidul stayed outside. Some unidentified individuals attacked Mohidul with sharp weapons and left the scene," said OC Momtazul.

"The three individuals Mohidul arrived with, came out and saw him lying in a

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## CASINO PROBE

# Culprits infiltrated AL: HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prime Minister's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam yesterday claimed that six of the seven men, whose names have appeared in the casino business investigation so far, were "creations of" BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Mosaddek Ali Falu.

"You [journalists] are saying it's [the ongoing drives] against Awami League. But it's not against Awami League. Awami League is a clean and transparent political party. The seven names that have surfaced in the casino business investigation so far, six of the seven are infiltrators... They don't belong to Awami League," Imam claimed.

He said the "demons of casino business" were created by BNP leaders, while speaking to journalists at Rajshahi Circuit House yesterday morning, after flying in to the city to attend a youth event organised by AL at Shilpakala Academy.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud was accompanying HT Imam.

The information minister told journalists that the "casino culture" was initiated in the country during the BNP era. "Khoka, Abbas and Falu had built this business," he alleged, before leaving the circuit house for the programme.

He claimed BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, among several other leaders, used to get Tk one crore every month from these casinos.

"As the party's top leaders were involved in the casino business, the BNP government did not take any action against them," the minister said.

He said the prime minister has directed to take action against anyone involved in corruption and illegal businesses -- irrespective of their political background.

Asked why action against casinos was delayed, the minister said, "We are conducting a combing operation against them now."

## Dengue claims 2 more lives

### Unofficial death toll rises to 155

STAR REPORT

Two more people died after contracting dengue in Khulna and Barishal yesterday.

In Khulna, deceased Md Abdur Rouf, 35, of Radhanagar village in Bagharpara upazila of Jashore had been suffering from fever for the last few days. He was undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

Rouf was admitted there on Monday evening in critical condition, said Partha Pratim Debnath, assistant registrar of the medicine department at KMCH. He died of dengue shock syndrome around 5am at the hospital, he said.

Atiar Rahman Sheikh, assistant civil surgeon of Khulna, told The Daily Star that 15 people including nine women died of dengue in Khulna. Of them, 12 died in KMCH.

In Barishal, Syeda Baru Bibi, 60, of Sadar upazila in Patuakhali died at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in the afternoon.

Dr Bakir Hossain, director of the hospital, said Syeda was admitted to the dengue ward on Monday. She died at 2:20pm while undergoing treatment, he added. So far, 10 dengue patients have died in the hospital since July 16, he added.

With Rouf and Syeda, 155 people have so far died this year after being infected with the mosquito-borne disease, according to sources at different hospitals.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), however, has so far confirmed 75 deaths from dengue. A total of 469 dengue patients were admitted to the hospitals in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which 338 were outside Dhaka.

The DGHS data shows that a total of 85,757 people were admitted to hospitals across the country this year, of which 46,415 were in Dhaka.

The number of current dengue patients undergoing treatment is 1,928, of whom 1,150 are outside the capital.

## GOPALGANJ UNIVERSITY PROTEST

# 2 students on hunger strike fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) fell sick yesterday during their indefinite hunger strike demanding resignation of the vice chancellor for his alleged involvement in corruption.

The students -- Mahmud, a second-year student of English, and Shimanto, a third-year student of agriculture -- are undergoing treatment at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

A section of students have been observing indefinite hunger strike on campus since September 19, the day when several thousand students started demonstrating for the removal of VC Prof Khondoker Nasiruddin.

Yesterday, the protesting students under the banner of "General Students of BSMRSTU" held a press conference in front of the academic building of the university where they brought 14 allegations against the VC.

The allegations include sexual harassment, nepotism in recruiting teachers and employees and

corruption in development projects including the construction of Shaheed Minar and Bangabandhu's mural on the campus.

After the press conference, protesters demonstrated for the seventh consecutive day, and vowed to continue their protests until their demand is met.

In wake of the ongoing students' movement, university authorities on September 21 declared a 10-day vacation ahead of Durga Puja and asked students to vacate dormitories, but students continued their demonstrations.

Meanwhile, lecturer Humayun Kabir -- who resigned from the post of assistant proctor protesting the attacks on students on September 21 -- filed a general diary (GD) with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station last night, seeking security.

In the GD, he claimed that some VC-backed teachers threatened him in person, saying he will face dire consequences, while some others threatened him on Facebook and spread misinformation about him.

"I am feeling insecure now due to such threats," he told The Daily Star.

## ATTACK ON CAMPUS JOURNALISTS

# Duja gives BCL 24-hr ultimatum

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to expel the activists who beat up three journalists on Monday.

Duja President Abir Rayhan and General Secretary Mahdi Al Muhtasim, in a statement, threatened to go for tougher movement if no actions are taken against the attackers.

The activists of BCL, a pro-Awami League student body, beat up three university reporters and snatched one of the victim's cellphone when they were capturing the alleged attack on Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists, in the presence of BCL DU unit president Sanjit Chandra Das.

"Although the DU unit BCL president Sanjit Chandra Das and general secretary expressed sorrow over the incident and

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## Still no permission for BNP rally venue

### M'singh event set for tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

BNP has been preparing for its first divisional rally in Mymensingh city on Thursday (September 26), but they have not yet been granted permission to use the venue, said BNP leaders.

During a press conference at its office in Mymensingh city's Horikishore Roy Road yesterday afternoon, Syed Emran Saleh Prince, divisional organising secretary of the party said they have taken all-out preparations to make the grand rally a success.

He added that BNP is holding meetings to organise the rally and leaflets are being distributed among people at ward, upazila, and union levels. Two meetings have already been held with leaders of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona districts of the division.

Eight sub-committees were formed to make the rally successful, said Prince. Posters have also been put up, but those don't include the name of a venue.

Disappointed that no permission was issued for the venue yet, Prince said they

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## Tk 5CR BANDARBAN TUNNEL

# Project changes hands with authorities in the dark

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

A tender-winner for constructing a tunnel in Bandarban bus terminal area has handed over the project to another contractor without acknowledgement of the authorities concerned.

Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) offered the tender for the Tk 5 crore project and MM Traders, a local construction firm, got it in 2017, said CHTDB officials.

Mong Kya Marma, owner of MM Traders, admitted that he handed over the project to one Raju Barua in exchange of five percent of the total budget.

When asked why he did so illegally, he replied, "It is very common here." Contacted, Raju Barua, who claimed to be a president of Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela, said he gave Mong the money and is implementing the project along with four others.

Dr Prakash Kanti Chowdhury, deputy secretary (member planning) of CHTDB, said, "Handing over a project to other contractor by taking percentage is totally illegal."

Asked about action, he said they did not know about the handover until this correspondent contacted him. "Now, we will look into the matter."

Ershad Mia, sub-assistant engineer of CHTDB, Bandarban, said they undertook the project to save hills.

Jumlian Amlai, president of Parbatya Chattagram Forest and Land Rights Protection Movement, Bandarban chapter, said, "The tunnel construction project is nothing but embezzlement of government fund as it will never prevent hillslide; rather the engineer and the ruling party contractor will benefit from this project."



A tunnel being constructed in Bandarban bus terminal area. Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board started the project in 2017. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Thousands of people gathered at BNP's rally in Sylhet Registry Office field yesterday afternoon, demanding the release of party chairperson Khaleda Zia. Below, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul waves to the crowd, accompanied by party members. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



## 'BNP not AL's opponent, public is'

# Mirza Fakhrul tells Sylhet rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the party is willing to help the government in the Rohingya issue, if the government is willing.

"He [Obaidul Quader] has urged us now to stand beside them in the Rohingya issue. After the influx began, we tried to help but the Awami League government was unwilling to take our help, and sent back our convoy on the way to Cox's Bazaar," Fakhrul said while addressing a public rally in Sylhet. He was speaking as chief guest at the rally, organised by Sylhet district and city units of BNP, at the Registry Office field in Bandarbar area, demanding release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Several thousand people joined the rally, despite BNP getting permission to hold it only yesterday morning, although they applied well in advance. A large contingent of police were present outside the field, but no untoward incident happened.

Mizra Fakhrul said, "Awami League claims they have made the country a role model for economical development. Maybe, that's why casinos are everywhere

now."

"They [AL] blame that the casinos were set during BNP reign, then what were they doing all these years sitting in office?" he questioned.

The BNP secretary general also said, "More than 500 people like Ilias Ali are missing; a thousand have become handicapped due to oppression; and 26 lakh of people are accused in political cases."

"The main opponent of AL is not BNP; it's the people of the country. And that's why they robbed the national election of December 30 a night before, with the help of administration, police and BGB, not with their own party men," he said.

Fakhrul said prices of gas, electricity and commodities are rising regularly, but farmers are being denied of fair price for their products.

BNP central standing committee member Khondokar Mosharrar Hossain said, "The country's judicial system is run by the instruction of the government, and that's why Khaleda Zia is in jail."

Regarding the ongoing drives at clubs, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Ctg Radisson Blu gives computers to schools

CITY DESK

Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View provided computers to some schools and madrasas for underprivileged children, says a press release.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Abul Hashem, CEO of Sena Hotel Developments Limited Chattogram; Bram Borrenbergs, vice president (human resource) of Radisson Hotel Group Asia Pacific; and Robin Edwards, general manager of Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View, along with James Tan, director of human resource, Radisson Hotel Group South East Asia Pacific; and various human resource leaders of Radisson Hotel Group handed over the computers to the authorities of the institutions at the hotel lobby yesterday.

The institutions are Fatima Batul Mahila Etim Khana; Lohagara Hafiza Madrasa; Hamim Academy; Mirkhil School; Shah Sufi School; Meherunnesa School; Katirhaat Ideal High School; Enayetpur High School; Mohammadia Primary School; Upolobdhi School; Jaago Foundation; Ucep, Al Humaira Hafezia Madrasa, and Youth Voice.

