



Life is slowly getting back to normalcy at the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur, three days after a clash between locals and police here left scores injured. Shops inside the camp alleys were seen open with people getting on with their day-to-day business. However, shops at the entrance of the area remained close where police personnel remained deployed, inset the photos were taken yesterday morning.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BNP gears up for CCC polls

Three leaders aiming to vie for mayor

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With BNP willing to contest the next Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) election, party leaders and activists are already gearing up to take the field in full strength.

At least three leaders of the party have expressed their interest to vie for the mayoral post in the polls -- likely to be held in the first quarter of next year, said BNP insiders.

The three aspirants are city unit president Shahadat Hossain, vice president Abu Sufian and general secretary Abul Hashem Bakkar.

On receiving green light from the party high command, local leaders have already started reorganising at ward level, party sources said. New committees for at least 29 wards out of total 41 have been formed since August, they added.

Shahadat and Sufian contested the 11th parliamentary polls from Chattogram-9 (Kotwali) and Chattogram-8 (Chandgaon-Boalkhali) constituencies respectively but they could not win.

Bakkar sought party nomination from Chattogram-9, but to no avail. Now, he wants an opportunity to prove his capability in the CCC election.

Contacted, Shahadat said he has been working for reformation of the ward level committees for a long time ahead of CCC election.

"If my party wants, I will seek nomination for the mayoral post," he said.

Sufian said top party leaders asked him to strengthen its activities to compete in the upcoming CCC polls. "My experience in the 11th general election was bitter. We still think there is no atmosphere for fair polls under the present Election Commission and government," said Sufian.

"We can't hold our party programmes due to hindrance from the administration," said the BNP leader.

About nomination for the mayoral post, Sufian said, "I will go for it if my party high command wants me to contest."

Several other BNP leaders think the present situation is different than that of the 11th parliamentary election. BNP-backed candidate AKM Ariful Islam was elected councillor in the July 25 by-polls to ward-17 of CCC, which boosted confidence of grassroots-level activists.

They said Ariful's win once again proved that their party is still popular among the masses.

Voters in the ward said they felt enthusiastic as both Awami League and BNP-backed candidates participated in the by-election.

"The election was free and fair... Law enforcers played a neutral role," said Taherul Islam, a resident of the ward. "We want the upcoming CCC polls in the same inclusive manner."

Alongside the CCC polls, BNP leader Bakkar said, the party is ready for movement to free its chief Khaleda Zia from jail. "Considering the issues, we are strengthening the party at grassroots level."

He said although he was interested to vie for the mayoral post, he had not got an

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DEATH OF KHULNA BUSINESSMAN

Body exhumed after 23 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty-three days after his death, the body of Emdadul Haque Lipon, a businessman of Khulna, was exhumed from a Tutpara graveyard in Khulna city yesterday for autopsy, under the direction of Narayanganj court.

Lipon's body was exhumed in the presence of District Executive Magistrate Ismail Hossain. A team of police from Khulna Sadar Police Station, along with investigating officer Nazimuddin from Ruppangj Police Station in Narayanganj, were present.

Executive Magistrate Ismail Hossain told The Daily Star that the body was sent to the morgue of Khulna Medical College Hospital for postmortem.

On September 13, former deputy secretary of BGMEA, Lipon, went out with three of his friends. Later, his friends told his family that Lipon drowned in a ditch near the 300-foot road under Ruppangj Police Station.

Lipon was buried in Khulna. The deceased's elder brother

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Five victims rescued in Ctg, three arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three alleged human traffickers and rescued five victims who were scheduled to be sent to Libya, from a residential hotel in port city's Railway Station area yesterday noon.

The arrestees are Md Ataur Rahaman, 38, of Sunamganj district; Md Jahangir Alam, 26, of Faridpur; and Md Jahangir, 34, of Munshiganj; said police.

Three of the five victims are from Nagarkanda of Faridpur district while two are from Brahmanbaria, said police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammed Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station said acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided a hotel in Station Road area and detained the eight, including the victims, in possession of 15 Bangladeshi passports.

"The five victims were brought to Chattogram from Dhaka. They would be sent to Libya via Chattogram Shah Amanat International Airport," said the OC.

Inspector (investigation) Kamruzzaman of Kotwali Police Station told The Daily Star the arrestees are brokers of a human trafficking gang, and lured the victims to send them abroad without any money.

"The victims told us that they were asked by the traffickers to pay Tk 3.3 lakh each after reaching and working in Libya," the police official said.

OC Mohsin said the kingpin of the gang is in Dhaka, and police were trying to arrest him.

A case was also lodged in this connection.

Must use creative technology for urbanisation

Says President Abdul Hamid on World Habitat Day

BSS, Dhaka

World Habitat Day 2019 was observed yesterday in Bangladesh and the rest of the world, in a bid to raise awareness among people about safe shelter.

United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic human rights to adequate shelter.

The day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

The theme of the year is "frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth".

On the eve of the day, President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages.

In his message, President Abdul Hamid said, "It is indispensable to use creative technology along with proper utilisation of resources to fulfil the demand of increasing urbanisation in developing countries."

In light of vision 2041, he said the government has taken various steps for building a sustainable and environment-friendly urban



President Abdul Hamid unveils the housing ministry's special publication in the capital, marking World Habitat Day.

PHOTO: PID

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Nine sites, houses to be turned into museums



The work of preserving the homestead of Nawab Faizunnesa underway. PHOTO: UNB

UNB, Cumilla

The number of visitors would exceed 80 lakh once the nine museums are opened to public. The government can earn a good amount of revenue from this tourism sector, said its officials.

According to the sources, a proposal for constructing the nine museums were sent to The Department of Archeology from its Cumilla office in January, 2018.

Talking to the news agency, Alam Imrul, director of Cultural and Tourism Organization, said, "The district has numerous archaeological sites. Through the nine more museums, the tourism sector here will flourish. It will also help boost hotel and restaurant business in the area."

Ataur Rahman, regional director of Cumilla-based archaeology department office of Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, said the work of preserving the homestead of Nawab Faizunnesa is underway and most of the renovation work of Sachin Dev Burman's house has been completed.

The construction of ticket counters for Ruppban Mura Bihar and Etkhola Bihar are underway. The archaeological significance of Cumilla will reach a new height after opening of the nine museums, he added.

Three historically important houses and six archeological sites are being developed as museums in Cumilla, aiming to boost tourism.

The houses will be developed as memorial museums while the archeological sites will be developed as open museums. The museums will preserve memories of renowned personalities of the region, said sources.

Of them, Laksham's homestead of Nawab Faizunnesa Choudhurani, city's Sachin Dev Burman's house, and Dhormosagor's Rani Kuthi will be established as memorial museums.

Kotbari's Ruppban Mura Bihar, Etkhola Bihar, Lotikot Bihar, Rani Maynamati's palace, Jagannath Temple or Seventeen-Jewel Temple in Sadar upazila and Lalmai's Chondimura Temple will be developed as open museum to attract more tourists in the district which is already famous for Maynamati and Shalban Bihar.

According to the district office of Archeology Department, around 40 lakh tourists visit Shalban Bihar and Maynamoti Museum in Kotbari as well as other private recreational places every year.



Sachin Dev Burman's house

Child dies from shock after witnessing road accident

STAR REPORT

Two people, including a four-year-old, died after a pick-up van ran over one of them over at Bakhrabad area in Debidwar upazila of Cumilla around 9:30am.

The deceased are Masum Billah, 21, and Mariam Akter, daughter of Ramjan Ali.

Ramjan said he, his friend Masum and Mariam were going to a restaurant. At that time, a pick-up van driver lost control of the vehicle, ran over Masum and fell into a roadside ditch.

Masum died on the spot. Seeing his dead body, Mariam screamed and lost consciousness. Ramjan took her to a nearby health complex where doctors declared her dead. She, however, was not injured in the accident, he added.

Cumilla's Civil Surgeon Dr Md Mujibur Rahman said she died of shock. "Sometimes one's heart can fail after experiencing a frightening or panic-inducing incident."

Md Monirul Islam, in-charge of Eliotganj highway police outpost, confirmed the incident. He said the van was seized and its driver was detained.

Meanwhile, at least eight people were killed and four others injured in other accidents across the country yesterday, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Jashore, two people, including a schoolgirl, were killed on the spot, and one was injured after a truck hit their motorbike in Kadomtola Khajura area in Sadar upazila around 7:15pm, police quoted locals as saying.

The deceased are Salam Hossain, 20, and his niece Maliha Akter, 14, daughter of Salim Mia and a ninth-grader at Jashore New Town Girls' School.

The injured is Maliha's cousin Taiyaba Khatun, 15, also a student at the school. She

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROHINGYAS' HEALTH Hasina Rahman wins Rotary award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasina Rahman, a member of Rotary Club of Dhaka Mavericks, has been named one of the winners of this year's "People of Action: Connectors Beyond Borders" award for her significant contributions to health of Rohingyas.

Along with her, Rotary International is going to give the award to six of its members around the world on the occasion of "Rotary Day at the United Nations" to be observed on November 9, said a press release yesterday.

The awards will be handed over during an annual event on that day at the UN Headquarters, New York.

Hasina is assistant country director of Concern Worldwide in Bangladesh, an Ireland-based humanitarian agency.

Rotary International said Hasina made remarkable contributions to ensuring nutrition and health services for Rohingyas -- particularly pregnant women and children.

By setting up a therapy centre at the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, she and her team provided services to over 5,00,000 women and children, says the Rotary website.



'Shun tax-dodging tendency' NBR chief urges all

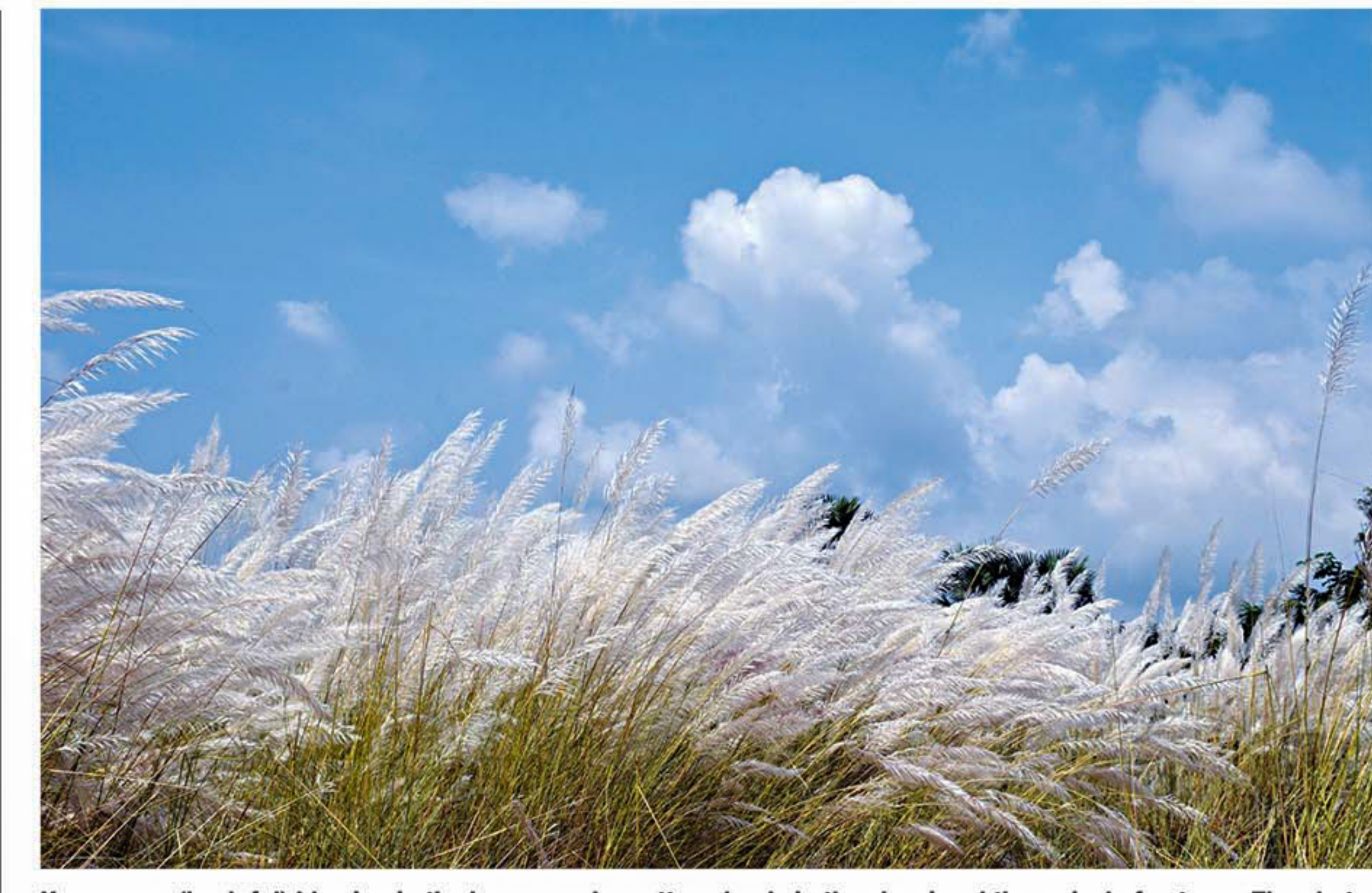
UNB, Dhaka

Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan yesterday urged all to shun the "tax-evading tendency" for the sake of continuation of the country's development.

"You all have to support the government so that the development trend continues. So, you all should shun the tax-dodging tendency," he said while addressing a discussion organised by Quantum Foundation in the capital.

Mosharraf said national income saw a four-time rise from 2006 to 2018.

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Kans grass (kash ful) blowing in the breeze under cotton clouds in the sky signal the arrival of autumn. The photo was taken yesterday at Barishal Sadar upazila's Dapdapia bridge-2 area.

PHOTO: TITU DAZ