



Large potholes at places and muddy surface have made travelling on this road in front of Kamalapur BRTC bus depot a risky and challenging task. Buses leaving or arriving at the depot are often seen facing difficulties negotiating this stretch. The situation worsens when it rains. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Mother-daughter go missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A woman and her daughter have been missing since Thursday in Narayanganj, after they left home in the district's Rugganj upazila, their family members claimed.

The missing Mausma Khaton, 33 -- who suffers from speech impediment, and her daughter Jannati Silmon, 6, live in Shahi Mosque area of the upazila.

Masuma's brother Arman Ahmed lodged a missing persons diary with Rugganj Police Station on Thursday night, blaming



Masuma's husband Jahangir for it.

"Jahangir is a drug addict. He told my mother over phone that Masuma and her daughter went out at 11am on October 24 and did not return," Arman alleged.

Jahangir also said he does not know where his wife and daughter went that day.

"Neighbours informed me about them going out, then I informed this to my mother-in-law," said Jahangir.

Rugganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahmudul Hasan told this newspaper they were trying to find the duo.

Delay in probe reflects state's

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noted academic Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, adding that his murder brought to the fore the potentiality in adolescence and also the insecurity in which the country's adolescents are living.

Besides demanding justice for Taqi, people have to be vocal for a change in existing state mechanism to speed up the trial process, he further said.

Pointing to the speedy disposal of the case over Feni's Nusrat Jahan Rafi murder recently, Prof Choudhury said such justice has not been served in Taqi murder, due to "interference".

Taqi's father Rafiqur Rabbi said in recent years, speedy trial took place in some

sensational cases, with some of those being completed in six months.

However, some incidents like the murders of Taqi or Sagar-Runi did not see such result because the country's criminal justice system is "at mercy" of those who run the country, he alleged.

Those who "control" criminal justice system and enforcement of law have to create an example of righteousness to earn people's trust, said Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam.

People of Narayanganj consider the city a "prison" due to activities of its one or two families, said Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, without mentioning any name.

Country's lone Ethnological

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some places were falling off. It can not only damage valuable exhibits, but also hurt visitors.

Prof Nasir Uddin of the anthropology department at Chittagong University said the museum's infrastructure was not developed properly. "It's not advanced enough to portray the diversity of culture or race, let alone the country's history."

"It looks like as if random samples of some extinct species are kept in this museum. A thorough and intensive study has to be done to upgrade it to global standards," he opined.

INITIATIVES FELL SHORT

To spruce up the museum, authorities collected 500 new exhibits as part of a project between 2014 and 2017.

Expressing concerns, officials said it will be difficult for them to display those due to the existing space constraint.

Artefacts from other countries were also brought in with an aim to attract more visitors, they said, adding that due to inadequate space they were unable to display those. Even some segments of Berlin Wall were also brought in but could not be displayed till now.

"We're also facing a manpower shortage," said the acting curator. He said an extended gallery has to be set up to showcase the new items. "Also, we need to make the exhibitions more visitor-friendly and incorporate detailed information about the displays."

He also informed that in July 2018, Asaduzzaman Noor, the then minister for cultural affairs, while visiting the museum announced to modernise it. "We haven't heard anything from the ministry since then," he said.

Contacted, Dr Md Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, secretary to the cultural affairs ministry, told The Daily Star on October 24 that they have already taken various short, mid and long-term measures to enrich the country's museums, including the Ethnological Museum.

A perfect

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for children -- one junior section for children aged between three to six years, and a senior section for seven and above.

With children involved in creative activities at the zones, some instructors appointed by the organisers also worked with them to draw pictures, make puppets, doodle and host their own puppet show.

A stall named "Iccheghor" was also part of the event, where children talked about their dreams and ambitions.

On the main stage, the most enjoyable part of the fair was programmes like magic and puppet shows.

Besides the engaging activities for children, there were stalls from Goofi, Babuland, Yoda, Ikrimikri, Styline, Mayurpangkhi and Batterylow. They brought a range of products and experiences for both children and parents.

"My son loves to watch cartoons. So I bought some educative books on cartoons" said Tamanna Khan, mother of six-year-old Tommo.

Tamanna, a private service holder, hopped that the fair would help her son become more creative and innovative.

Besides parents, teachers of various schools also visited the fair with their students.

"Over 10,000 children visited the fair on the first day. I think the day is a true celebration of a child's genius, imagination and creativity," said one of the organisers Ahmadul Ameen, assistant manager of Light of Hope. He stressed on organising such fairs at others parts of the country.

The event, which was sponsored by Evaly Limited, one of the largest e-commerce companies in Bangladesh, will continue till 5pm starting from 10am today, said organisers.

'Workers Party still in 14-party alliance'

Says Rashed Khan Menon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

After facing a chorus of criticism from his alliance for saying people could not vote in the December 30 parliamentary polls, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday reaffirmed that his party is still a partner of Awami League-led 14-party alliance.

"Workers Party was one of the partners of the 14-party alliance, and since they still send us [organisational] letters, it means we are still in the alliance," Menon claimed while talking to journalists after attending the district council of his party at its office near Gymkhana in Narayanganj.

Menon said he was issued a letter from the alliance and asked to give answers clarifying his recent remarks. "I talked to the co-coordinator of the alliance and will give answers formally after discussing with my party members over the issue, though I have clarified my remarks before journalists earlier several times," he said.

Addressing a conference of his party's Barishal district unit in the city on October 19, the lawmaker had said, "Although I was elected in the election [11th parliamentary polls], I am testifying that people couldn't cast their votes in that election. They couldn't vote in the union parishad and upazila parishad polls."

On October 20, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader questioned whether Menon would have made the claim had he been a minister. The same day, Menon claimed that his remarks have been projected partially, sending a wrong message.

'Prepare for 4th industrial revolution'

Speakers urge youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday called upon the youth to prepare for the 4th industrial revolution.

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Jahangirnagar University and South Asian University organised the "3rd International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence" at ULAB.

Speaking there, UGC member Prof Dr Sazzad Hossain said automation will replace conventional jobs, and the government is taking steps to make youths ready for the challenge.

Among others, Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, ULAB VC Prof HM Jahirul Haque, and Dr Lawrence Ma -- President of Hong Kong Blockchain Society, spoke at the conference.

Missing for months

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two to three days ahead of time, which creates problems as they have prior appointments with stakeholders, scheduled a month ago.

Contacted, Councillor Abdur Rauf said, "I regularly attend meetings. However, I'm a heart patient and could not join several of them recently." When asked if he had received the notice, he said, "Yes, I have. I'll reply within next week."

Councillor Mujibur Rahman also said he could not attend meetings due to illness.

Meanwhile, some councillors do not even know the rules regarding meetings. Even those who attended regularly are not much aware of it.

Councillor Afsar Uddin Khan (ward-1), who only skipped once, said, "I only knew if a councillor skips meetings for three consecutive times, he or she gets a show cause notice."

Councillor Shafiqul Islam of the newly-added ward-39 said, "I'm not sure about the exact rules... but everyone should attend [meetings] regularly."

Contacted, Local Government Division Deputy Secretary (City Corporation) Foyzul Haque said, "Mayor is the head of city corporation. If he thinks that a councillor is not attending meetings for no good reason and violating the existing law, he can submit a written complaint to the ministry [LGD]. The ministry will take steps."

Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "People have selected the councillors as their representatives, but they are not attending meetings regularly. It's not acceptable."

"More than 90 percent [councillors] attend meetings, but some do not, and it has come to my attention. I have already sent notices to the absentees. We will take action against them as per law," added the mayor.

Woman confesses

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During a primary interrogation yesterday, the arrestee also told police that she tortured Jannati before her death.

Police arrested Roksana from Mohammadpur area following a case filed by the victim's father Janu Mollah with Mohammadpur Police Station on Thursday.

Police is now looking for Roksana's husband Sayed Ahmed, who went into hiding after filing of the case.

On Wednesday around 12:30am, the employer took Jannati to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital in an unconscious state where doctors declared her dead on arrival, and informed police, according to GG Biswas, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Prof Selim Reza, head of forensic department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, who conducted the autopsy, told The Daily Star they suspected that Jannati might have died from internal bleeding.

Jannati had been working for Roksana for three years.



Researcher and filmmaker Anwar Hossain Pintu speaks at an event organised by Cadet College Club Literary Society at Cadet College Club in Gulshan yesterday. As part of the daylong programme, a "literary adda" was held, followed by screening of Satyajit Ray's Charulata, based on the novella Nastanirh by Rabindranath Tagore.

Protesters

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Mosque after Juma prayers.

They staged demonstrations there for around half an hour, demanding highest punishment of the police personnel who were allegedly involved with the killing of four persons in the clash between police and religious zealots in Bholra on Sunday.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in hate speech spread through Facebook.

The Narayanganj unit of Hefazat-e-Islam also held a demonstration in front of DIT Central Railway Jam-e-Mosque in the town yesterday, demanding punishment of killers and those involved in spreading hate speech.

230 SPs not assigned duties

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there would be 597 posts for SPs but number of additional SP will be 924, according to the proposal sent to the home ministry.

SM Aktaruzzaman, additional deputy inspector general (O&M) of PHQ, told The Daily Star, "We had to take the decision to abolish additional superintendent posts and increase SP posts, as there was too much of a post shortage in the department's top tier."

The government will not need any additional budget to increase the posts, as 230 officials are already getting the financial benefits of SP, said the official.

If new posts in the top tier are not created, then BCS cadre officials will not get their desired promotion to higher rank due to shortage of posts, which would be a hindrance to their professional advancement, he added.

BACKDROP

On July 4 last year, PHQ sent a proposal to the home ministry to give in-situ promotions to 495 police officials, stating that "competent officials" have been serving in the same positions for a long time, as suitable posts were not created at the upper level of police.

The ministry gave in-situ promotions to 230 additional SPs to SPs on November 7 last year.

An officer, who joined police cadre in 1991 through the 12th BCS but is still working as an additional DIG, said if the proposal is approved by the government, it will definitely work as an encouragement for officers.

Service will be improved and crime rate will also come down, as several SPs will divide the work among them, which is now being taken care by one SP, added the officer.

PROMOTION POLICY MUST BE FOLLOWED: OFFICIALS

The increase of new posts in the department's top tier may create opportunities for BCS cadre officers for higher promotions, but the promotion policy also needs to be followed strictly to ensure discipline in the force, said several senior police officials.

An officer, who joined police in 1995 through the 15th BCS, told The Daily Star recently that he got promoted to the post of SP in 2005, and has been stuck in the post for the last 14 years.

"My juniors have already been promoted to senior ranks, which is embarrassing. I think the government

also needs to look into it, along with increasing posts," the officer added, requesting not to be named.

"If the promotion policy is followed strictly, and made free of political influence, then the discipline and enthusiasm will be at no shortage in the force," said another officer of the batch.

LONG WAY TO GO

According to officials of PHQ, the government in the last two tenures increased 82,000 manpower in the police force. During the period, the post of top tier officials only increased four times but it was supposed to increase 16 times, they said.

A person who is joining service in admin cadre getting the promotion smoothly rather than a person, who join in police cadre, said an official of PHQ.

"Police needs at least 967 posts for SP, 394 posts for DIG, 293 posts for additional IGP (grade-II) and 46 posts for additional IGP (grade-I) to ensure smooth promotions in the force," said a high official of PHQ, requesting anonymity.

Under the present situation, a BCS police cadre only has 1.5 percent chance to get promotion up to grade-I or grade-II posts, the officer added.

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