



Machines and construction materials are left next to a gaping hole after the authorities concerned dug up the road for developing the drainage system. The work is being done without taking public safety measures like enclosures or fencing. As a result, travelling on this road on the north side of Bangladesh Bank towards Kamalapur Railway Station has become quite risky. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Over 25 illegal brick kilns operating in Bogura

**DoE says these are the top polluters in cities and towns**

UNB, Bogura

Defying law and posing serious threats to the environment and public health, over two dozen brick factories continue to operate in Bogura municipality area.

The local administration and the Department of Environment (DoE) are yet to take any visible measures against them although the law prohibits setting up such brick kilns inside municipal areas, said sources at Brick Manufacturing Owners' Association.

Several months back, three brick factories were dismantled during a drive of the authorities concerned. Since then, not a single brick kiln in the area has been removed, said locals.

Wishing anonymity, many said the brick field owners are bribing the officials concerned to continue their business.

The administration and DoE however rejected the allegations.

Meanwhile, brick kilns owners are preparing to produce bricks for the next season, saying that a writ petition is currently being heard by the High Court.

Nazmul Hasan Shuvo, manager of SNB brick factory in Madla Hellenchapara, said they will stop operation if they do not get permission. He also turned down the claims about bribing government officials.

Atiqur Rahman Badal, general secretary of the district's brick manufacturing

association, and Fuara Khatum, upazila nibabhi officer of Shahjahanpur, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

DoE Inspector Maqbul Hossain said there had been a hearing at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change over brick factories in municipal areas.

"But no order has been issued in this regard," he said, adding, "We'll implement the decisions taken by the ministry."

Hossain pointed out that the lack of manpower is preventing them from properly monitoring the areas. "That's why illegal brick kilns continue to operate," he said.

### TOP AIR POLLUTER

According to the DoE, brick kilns are the top air polluter in major cities in the country, particularly during dry season when most bricks are made, turning the air quality of these places "severely unhealthy".

Continued exposure to poor quality air can cause heart diseases, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, and respiratory infections, including pneumonia. It could also cause stroke, according to the WHO.

The UN health body estimates 37,000 Bangladeshis die due to air pollution every year, the average age of the victims being just 38 years.

## 2nd death anniv of Prof Hannan

CITY DESK

The second death anniversary of Prof MA Hannan Feroz, founding vice chancellor of Stamford University Bangladesh, was observed on Wednesday.

A mild mahfil was held at the university's head office in the capital's Dhanmondi, said a press release.

Water Resources Deputy Minister AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, political leaders, and faculty members, employees and staff of the university were present at the mahfil.

Prof Hannan's wife Fatinaaz Feroz, chairperson of the university's Board of Trustees, requested all to pray for her late husband.

The university remained closed on Tuesday to show respect to Prof Hannan.

### Demonstrators

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this regard. Such incidents are a matter of concern for us. I urge the university administration to look into the matter so that every teacher feel safe."

### STRIKE CONTINUES

Meanwhile, as part of the continuing strike, protesters yesterday halted weekend master's course classes and activities at different departments. Early in the morning, a numbers of students separately took position at different faculties, and barred classes and examinations of the weekend courses.

The demonstrators -- who have been demanding removal of the VC over irregularities -- vowed to continue their all-out strike on the campus till their demand is met.

Last week, the protesters formed a "VC removal Mancha".

The protest erupted on the campus on August 23, demanding a judicial inquiry into the reported involvement of the vice-chancellor in corruption and mismanagement of Tk 1,445 crore development projects on the campus.

## An ordeal of unending queues

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One of them is Mohammad Dulal, 50. The Bogura resident came to the outdoor on October 18 around 9:30am with pain in his head and left arm. These correspondents saw him in a line to see a doctor in the afternoon.

"So far, I had to stand in three lines. Now I'm waiting to see a doctor. Who knows how many more queues I have to take?" said Dulal as he perspired profusely. "It's very humid. People will get sick just standing here."

In a separate queue not far from Dulal, was Tumpa Begum. The Nimtoli resident with a child in her arms was waiting for medicine. "I came here around 10am. My husband could not get the day off, so I had to bring along my six-month-old," she told this newspaper around 1pm, as the baby in her arms kept crying in discomfort.

Wishing anonymity, a medical officer said the number of doctors and staffers are severely inadequate to handle the rush of patients. "It gets stuffy and humid here due to the huge

number of people. We have to step outside from time to time just to catch a breath of air."

The DMCH outdoor service, located beside Central Shaheed Minar on Dhaka University campus on the first and second floors of a three-storey building, has been at the same place since the 1960s. The number of patients has increased sharply in the last 20 years, but the outdoor department has seen no expansion.

### INITIATIVES

Contacted, Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of DMCH, was at first surprised to hear about Sanjida's experience.

After he was told about other allegations and complaints, he said, "We do have some crisis and some people exploit the situation. We are trying to take care of those. Whenever someone complains of mismanagement or misconduct, we take steps right away."

Regarding middlemen taking money from patients for quicker

service, the director said, "Whenever we hear anything of that sort, we catch that person and hand him over to police. The outdoor is a busy place; that's why they take advantage of that."

"The outdoor sees around 4,000 patients every day who visit with their family members; it's hard to handle such a large number of people with the current manpower and infrastructure," the director added.

The hospital is planning to upgrade services, he said.

"To start with, we need more space. We are planning to expand the outdoor. There is an open space behind the Shaheed Minar between the Nursing College and the medicine store. We're thinking of constructing a shed there to shift the ticket counters," the director said. "We will shift some departments there as well to ease the pressure."

He said they also need to increase the number of doctors, nurses and staffers. "We will send a proposal to the health ministry in this regard soon," the director said.

## Police await green light

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In the confessional statements, the accused mentioned names of several top election officials and their associates who knew about the forgery, and disclosed how it had been committed in a well-organised manner, said investigators.

Two other FIR-named accused -- technical experts Satya Sundar and Sagar -- are on the run, said police.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner of CMP CT unit Mohammed Shahidullah said, "We have learnt of several names from the trios' statements. We are verifying those with utmost importance."

"We are also communicating with the higher authorities in this regard. If evidence is found against them, they will be brought to book," added the DC. He did not elaborate further for the sake of investigation.

CT officials said it's not possible to use the official devices including laptops, signature pads and other instruments, seized from the arrestees, for a long time without the knowledge of EC officials.

The evidence is related to device and technology. So, it's important to arrest them [the EC officials and staffs] soon as they may destroy or erase those," told a CT official, who is also a member of the investigation team. "We're prepared and waiting for the arrest order," said the official.

Asked, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Inspector Rajesh Barua of CT unit declined to comment.

On September 15, Anti-Corruption Commission found that using official devices, several syndicates provided Bangladeshi NID to Rohingyas through forgery in exchange of huge amount of money, using the official computers.

ACC said several laptops of EC, directly connected to NID server, were stolen and EC has no official data about the missing laptops yet.

Police and passport officials said some Rohingya refugees were making Bangladeshi passports using forged NID cards with the help of some locals and Rohingya brokers.

The Rohingya people were using fake names and addresses while applying for the identification documents. EC officials still cannot say exactly how many Rohingyas have secured the cards through the illegal means.

After the incident, Double Mooring Thana Election Officer Pallabi Chakma filed the case accusing five people and several unknown in connection with the forgery.

## Promoting women entrepreneurs

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President Dr Asif Iqbal, Malaysia World Chamber of Commerce President Dr Datin Malliga Subramaniam, and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbulul Alam also spoke at the ceremony. CWCCI President Monwara Hakim

Ali chaired the event.

CWCCI Senior Vice President and also Chairperson of the fair committee Dr Munir Mahbub delivered the welcome address.

She said entrepreneurs from Iran, India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bahrain, Qatar

and others will attend the event. There will be 300 big and small stalls as well as 15 pavilions.

CWCCI has been organising the fair since 2007. The sponsors are Brac Bank, Basundhara Group, City Bank, UCBL, Ispahani Group, Teletalk and Mati-Ta, among others.

## None will be spared to keep

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feature film "Operation Sundarbans", based on the role of Rab and surrender of robbers. The film's director Dipankar Dipon, producers and actors were present.

At the end of the ceremony, the minister handed over crests to journalists and law enforcers who were active during the robbers' surrender, and also offered gifts to

the surrendered robbers' families.

Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khalek; lawmakers of Bagerhat-2 and Bagerhat-4 -- Dr Mozammel Hossain and Sheikh Jamay; reserved seat MP Gloria Jhorna Sarkar; and Director General of Rab Dr Benazir Ahmed, were present at the ceremony, among others.

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Dhaka – 1229, Bangladesh  
E-mail to: nsuhr@northsouth.edu  
Website: www.northsouth.edu

project has been taken to conduct a feasibility study for constructing tourism facilities in the Chattogram Hill Tracts area.

Steps have been taken to construct the Sheikh Hasina Tower at Khurshuk in Cox's Bazar; establish an exclusive tourist zone on 95 acres of land and Hotel Labanya at Laboni point of Cox's Bazar.

Another project is underway to introduce a sustainable climate resilient tourism system at Tangar Haor in Sunamganj at a cost of Tk 1 crore.

Talking to the news agency, a senior official at the civil aviation and tourism ministry said both domestic and foreign tourists will be offered better facilities after the implementation of these projects are completed.

The official mentioned that the country earns over US \$100 million from the tourism sector.

"Once implemented, these projects will help Bangladesh earn much more," he said.

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## JSC, JDC exams

FROM PAGE 3

November 13.

At a press conference on Tuesday regarding the exams, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government has ordered all coaching centres to remain closed between October 25 and November 5 to ensure fair examinations.

The minister directed authorities concerned to remain careful so that rumours over question paper leaks cannot spread on social media.

Examinees would have to enter the exam halls 30 minutes ahead of the tests, she said, adding that details of latecomers would be reported to respective education boards.

All physically challenged students will get 20 minutes extra, while visually impaired ones and those with cerebral palsy will be provided with writers.

Besides, examinees with autism, down syndrome and cerebral palsy will be given 30 minutes extra, and will be allowed to get the help of teachers, parents or designated assistants during the examinations, according to rules.

No one, including teachers and office staffers, can bring any electronic device within 200 metres of the examination halls, said the minister, adding that legal action would be taken against outsiders entering the centres during, before, and after the exams.

### M'SINGH BOARD TO HOLD EXAMS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Meanwhile, Mymensingh Education Board will conduct public examinations for the first time starting today, with the JSC and JDC exams.

The exams will be held in 12