

FOLK FEST REGISTRATION

Fury over sharing of private data

Online ticketing service provider Shohoz.com has shared sensitive data of registrants wishing to attend the three-day Dhaka International Folk Fest (DIFF) with a third party, causing uproar on social media.

The online registration partner of the popular event -- which is free and opens today at the Bangladesh Army Stadium -- asked attendees to provide the scanned copy of their National ID or passport to register, among other details.

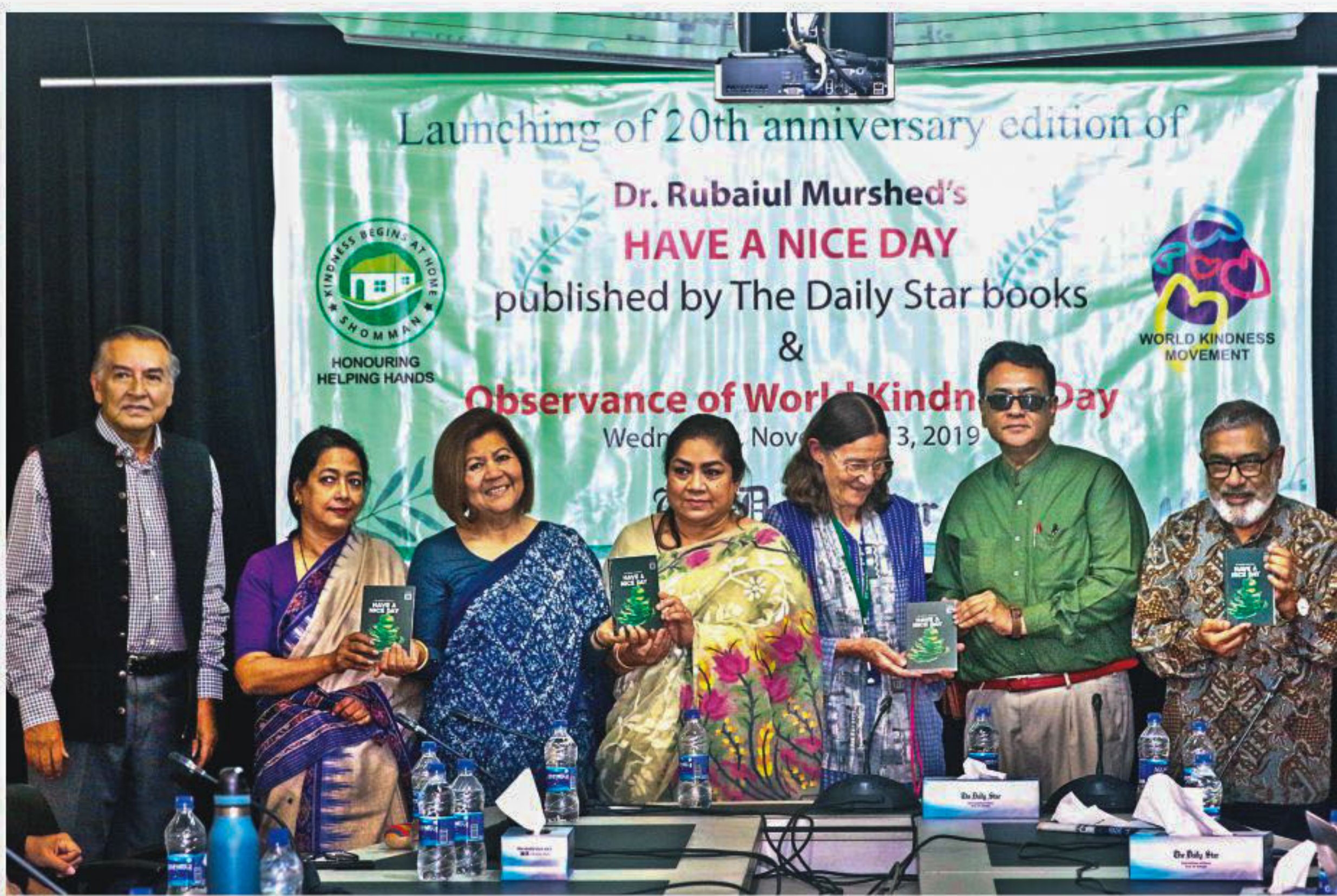
They then reportedly shared those with Dmoney Bangladesh Ltd, a newly-launched digital financial service company, and the official digital payment partner of the event.

Attendees only came to know about it on Tuesday night, when they received an email from Dmoney that their accounts have been created with the service, and they would be "notified upon the verification" of their "NID and bank information."

"Neither Shohoz nor the organisers of DIFF had the right to share sensitive information like NID with a third-party without my explicit consent. Both of them should provide a proper explanation for this blatant violation of privacy," read the post of a Facebook user.

Contacted, founder and managing director of Shohoz, Maliha M Quadir, yesterday said they took prior consent from those who registered through a clause in the terms and conditions.

However, on that topic, an aggrieved registrant



Dignitaries at the launch of 20th anniversary edition of Rubaiul Murshed's "Have a Nice Day", published by Daily Star Books. The event was organised at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, in observance of World Kindness Day.

Kindness matters Speakers at book launch emphasise on empathy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, World Kindness Day was observed in Bangladesh yesterday. It is a day that encourages individuals to overlook boundaries, race and religion.

Introduced by World Kindness Movement, the theme of the day is empathy -- to feel the pain of others and extend kindness.

To mark the day, a book launching ceremony and discussion was held at The Daily Star Centre, jointly organised by Shomman Foundation and this newspaper.

Addressing the programme, speakers emphasised the importance of kindness for a happy and healthy society as well as for countering violence.

Rubaiul Murshed, founder of Shomman, said people are not conscious about the rights of helping hands -- a term Murshed uses to denote domestic workers, chauffeurs, gardeners, liftmen and security guards.

Pointing to the condition of house helps, he said they are deprived of proper pay, food and place to sleep. Also, there is no time limit to their work, he added.

Usually, they do not get a weekly day off. Employers do not pay attention to the mental and physical health condition of domestic helps, who in many cases suffer for that reason. This in turn affects their work as well, especially while handling children, said Murshed.

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CLIMATE MIGRANTS Development of marketable skills needed: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marketable skills development is the key to employment and improving living conditions of the climate migrants and urban poor, said experts and high officials at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh, one of the worst victims of the impacts of climate change, has witnessed a relentless flow of people from rural areas into the urban centres -- in search of better life, they said.

With little or no skills that are marketable in urban areas, they find themselves in appalling situation in the squalid slums with no access to basic amenities.

Manfred Fernholz, first secretary, delegation of

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Fair contest, not rivalry Says Momen at closing of Dhaka Global Dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Wealth creation in the region must be for all in line with "fair distribution and competition", instead of geo-strategic or political rivalry, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

"We need to have fair competition, not geo-strategic or political rivalry," he said while addressing the closing session of "Dhaka Global Dialogue 2019" at a hotel in the capital.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam and Chairman of Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Sunjoy Joshi also spoke at the session, titled "Convergence of Regional initiatives for Optimising Common Benefits".

Nahim Razaq, member of parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of foreign affairs, Bangladesh, moderated the session.

The foreign minister said peace and stability are crucial for sustainable growth and development.

"If there is no peace, there cannot be any development," he said while responding to

a question at the closing session. For peace and prosperity of the region, he said, they need to create a conducive environment for all. Next, the minister added, they have to engage among themselves based on mutual trust and respect for mutual benefit.

He mentioned that they often look just in terms of capacity of a few large economies or their needs, but they must get the narrative right -- addressing the key concerns of smaller communities or relatively weaker economies is a must in "our collective journey".

Momen said through Safta (South Asian Free Trade Area), regional trade is expected to grow robustly over the next few years. In South-East Asia, by next year, Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) would emerge as a seamless economic space.

He also said under ESCAP (The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Asia-Pacific regional economic integration is moving to the next level, and the BCIM

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71pc never had blood sugar tested Says study; World Diabetes Day today

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Shakhawat Hossain (52) has been bedridden for the last three months, due to a surgery on his left toe on August 19 this year. A week before the surgery, he had an injury in the toe caused by a toenail. As he is a diabetic patient, since 2014, medication did not work on the injury and there was no option other than surgery.

"The situation got worse in less than a week, and I was suggested to have surgery. Since the surgery, I've been bedridden. I can't do anything and my family is very worried for me," said Shakhawat, father of two and an employee at Jahangirnagar University.

In 2014, Shakhawat learnt about his diabetes all of a sudden, when he sought medical consult for drastic weight loss and weakness. The non-communicable disease has also impacted his family, as he is the sole earning member.

With World Diabetes Day today, there are over 73 lakh detected

diabetes patients across the country, and the disease puts immense burden not just on the patients but also their loved ones.

Physicians say that most of the diabetes cases are preventable through maintaining a healthy lifestyle and diet. Sixty-five percent of diabetes patients have been brought under treatment till date, according to Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, a new study reveals that the number of diabetes patients is higher than the traditional estimate. Diabetes has been detected in some 25.6 percent people who were, until then, unaware of their status, according to the association.

The organisation conducted the screening on one lakh people across the country throughout the month of November 2018, as part of World Diabetes Day campaign.

"It was not a representative study as people from all classes were not targeted. So the number could be

lower; though it is higher than the traditional estimation," Prof AK Azad Khan, president of the association, told The Daily Star.

According to Bangladesh Non-communicable Disease Risk Factor Survey 2018, some 70.8 percent people of the country have never had blood glucose test in their lifetime.

Prof Azad also said, "It is a fact that type-2 diabetes (out of type-1, type-2 and gestational) is the most common (around 90 percent of total patients). Seventy percent of those cases are preventable if a healthy lifestyle is maintained."

He also pointed out that alongside fast food and lack of physical activity, use of tobacco and tobacco products increase prevalence of diabetes.

Prof Azad said, "It has been scientifically proven that those who start smoking at a young age are at 25 percent accelerated risk of diabetes."

Coming down heavily on production of tobacco and tobacco

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Bus runs over six-year-old

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old child was run over by a Turag Paribahan bus at Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

The deceased is Md Milon, son of Qayum Mia -- a resident of the capital's Dholaipar. Among three brothers, Milon is the youngest, said cousin of the deceased Saddam.

Talking to journalists at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Saddam said the accident happened at around 2pm.

Severely injured Milon was immediately taken to DMCH, where doctors declared him dead at around 3pm, he said.

Jatrabari Police Station officer-in-charge Majharul Islam confirmed the incident. "We have seized the bus and arrested the driver."

He said the boy ran onto the street while crossing the road with his mother, when the bus hit him.

REMARK ON NOOR HOSSAIN Ranga apologises at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Chief Whip and Jatiya Party lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga last night in parliament sought unconditional apology for making derogatory remarks over Noor Hossain.

He made the apology while delivering his personal statement under section 274 of the rules of procedure.

Speaking at a discussion on November 10, Ranga termed Noor Hossain -- a young pro-democracy activist who was shot and killed by police in 1987 during the anti-autocracy movement against HM Ershad -- a drug addict.

Lawmakers slammed him at the House over the remarks on Tuesday.

Ranga yesterday said he had already apologised to the family of Noor Hossain.

Regarding his remark over Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ranga said if he had said anything wrong about Bangabandhu, then he seeks "unconditional apology" for it as well.

Ranga claimed that he did not call Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "corrupt and terrorist".

"Again, I want to say that if I made a mistake, I am seeking unconditional apology," he added. "I am taking all the blame on my own shoulder," he said.

On Tuesday, Awami League lawmakers Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Tahzeeb Alam Siddique; Jatiya Party MPs Kazi Feroz Rashid and Mujibul Haque Chunnur; Gonoforum MP Sultan Mohammed Mansur and Tarikat Federation Chairman Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandy raised the issue at the House, and came down heavily on Ranga.

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT She'll go abroad if she gets bail, says Selima

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sister Selima Islam yesterday said Khaleda will go abroad for treatment if she is freed on bail, as her condition is not improving.

Talking to reporters after meeting her sister at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Selima said, "She [Khaleda] can neither stand up nor sit upright. She needs advanced treatment."

She also said doctors are regularly visiting the BNP chief, but there is no sign of improvement. "She can't even lift her hand to eat."

Five family members, including her younger brother Shamim Eskandar, went to meet Khaleda around 3:30pm, said BNP chairperson's media wing member Shamsuddin Didar.



Family, friends, and well-wishers yesterday offered prayers at Humayun Ahmed's grave in Gazipur's Nuhash Palli on the writer's 71st birth anniversary.

'It's intended to mislead people' Indian High Commission on fake letter

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday alerted about a fake news being circulated in the media, describing it as a deliberate attempt to create misunderstanding about India in public domain and mislead people in Bangladesh.

"It's most egregious and wrong on part of those who are deliberately circulating fake and incorrect information to create misunderstanding about India...", the high commission said in a fake news alert.

It has come to their notice that a letter said to have been written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Indian chief justice is being circulated in the local media. "This letter is completely fake and malicious. It's intended to mislead people in Bangladesh and create social disharmony," it said.

In a verdict recently, India's Supreme Court awarded Hindus control of a disputed religious site in the town of Ayodhya for the construction of a temple. The top court also ruled that Muslims will be given five acres of land at an alternative site in the northern Uttar Pradesh state.

The constitution of India guarantees right to freedom of religion in Article 25.

The Indian prime minister has appealed to all citizens to respect the judgement and strengthen India's long tradition of amity, unity and harmony.

The government of India says it is committed to ensuring their tradition of goodwill and harmony among all communities as well as their deep respect for safeguarding all the places of worship, the high commission added.



A City Corporation truck unloads scrap leather to dump them at Hazaribagh Beribadh area, although processing leather there is unauthorised. They, however, claim that the leather is processed at factories in Savar and brought to Hazaribagh for cutting. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DHAKA TODAY LECTURE: Mediation and Restorative Dialogue in Education. BOOK FAIR: Non-fiction book fair. LECTURE: On Socrates and Plato. WORKSHOP: Exploring the Internet of Things (IoT). FAIR: Tax Fair.