

A breathing space in Dhalpur

DSCC opens Outfall Staff Quarter Park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a much-needed playground, walkway and a rooftop garden, "Outfall Staff Quarter Park" was inaugurated yesterday in the city's Dhalpur area to provide a new green space to residents.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon inaugurated the park. DSCC built it on a 12-katha land, with an estimated cost of Tk 3 crore.

The park also has a library and hall room for people to rest and recuperate after a walk.

"We are modernising 19 parks and 12 playgrounds in the city. Including this one, we have already opened a few of them," said Mayor Khokon at the inaugural event.

The mayor also inaugurated a 90-flat staff (garbage management) quarter building in the area, constructed at the cost of Tk 17 crore.

All the flats have separate electric connections, solar and sewerage system and power substation, he said.



One of the perks of the newly opened park in Dhalpur is the rooftop garden where residents can enjoy the greenery while strolling around. Inset, children running on the playground, shining bright under lights.

PHOTO: COURTESY



HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK Documents reach HC after death verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Documents of the Holey Artisan cafe attack case reached the High Court yesterday. The HC will use these documents to examine the court verdict that sentenced seven militants to death.

Officials of the Dhaka court concerned gave the documents, including the judgment, to the HC, special officer of the HC Md Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Officials concerned of the HC received the documents, he said, adding that HC authorities will now prepare paper books for hearing the death reference.

If a lower court sentences any person to death, its

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Brac aims to reach 250m people by 2030

Board formed to support global scale-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac, one of the largest development organisations in the world, is scaling up its global ambition to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Brac aims to reach at least 250 million disadvantaged women (and their dependents), youths, and people living in poverty around the world, including in Bangladesh, within the next ten years, according to a press release.

Brac Founder and Chair Emeritus Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said, "With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we made a commitment to the people of the world to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. With ten years to go... we need to set in motion an accelerated path."

He further said, "With 47 years of experience in working with people of Bangladesh and 17 years of international



Ameerah Haq



Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman



Lord Mark Malloch-Brown KCMG

experience in Africa and Asia, Brac is ready to collaborate on a global scale and to share our learning with public, private and non-government partners."

Brac's global strategy outlines three priority goals: empowering at least 250 million people to have control over their own livelihoods; reaching at least 30 percent of participants with multiple interventions; and leading innovation and the dissemination of learning in the development sector.

Brac has formed a Global Board, with three initial members, Ameerah Haq,

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ALLEGATION OF CORRUPTION It's a 'govt-sponsored' conspiracy: Nur

DU CORRESPONDENT

Refuting the allegation of corruption against him, Ducus vice president Nurul Haque Nur yesterday claimed that a "government-sponsored" conspiracy has been hatched to make him and his organisation appear controversial.

While speaking at a press conference at Madhur Canteen on Dhaka University campus, he also asked three media outlets to offer apology to him for running reports containing "wrong information".

Nur said a part of an audio clip containing his conversation has been circulated with ill intention and the incident has impacted his reputation and created confusion among people.

The audio clip contained conversation between him, his aunt and one of his acquaintances, Nur said.

Terming the conversation "completely personal and business related in nature", Nur claimed that he was talking to a man he knew regarding a bank guarantee over Tk 13 crore for his aunt's construction firm.

"But two television channels presented distorted information and reported that I was lobbying with a project manager to get the contract of the project. I did not talk or lobby with any project manager," Nur said.

Nur alleged that the media outlets did not speak to him and aired the reports to tarnish the image of his organisation -- Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad.

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Punish perpetrators, protect victims: chief justice

Suggests strong legal system to ensure justice for women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strong criminal justice system is needed to protect women and ensure justice for them, suggested Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday.

"By creating a strong criminal justice system -- in which the perpetrators of violence against women would be adequately punished and the victims sufficiently protected -- the state and the community would be able to better protect women and ensure justice for them," he said.

The chief justice said this while speaking as chief guest at a dialogue on "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape", organised by Bangladesh Women Judges Association (BWJA) and UNDP at a city hotel.

He said violence against women is a violation of women's rights, security and integrity. "Violence against women, in its varying forms such as physical torture, assault, sexual exploitation and so on are factors that keep them entrapped in exploitative situations," he said.

Justice Hossain said rape is the most heinous crime. "It not only violates a woman's body but also injures her very soul. Rape is an incurable wound, and failure to punish a rapist adds further pain to that wound," he said.

He said in rape cases, it is difficult to have an ocular witness, therefore, judges may convict the accused only on the basis of the prosecutrix evidence, if it is found complete, reliable and trustworthy.

Prosecutrix is a female victim of a crime on whose behalf the state prosecutes a suspect.

"Acquittal of rapists despite victims' unimpeachable and reliable testimony is not only a great injustice to the victim but also harmful for the society," the chief justice added.

Justice Zinat Ara, judge of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court; Justice M Enayetur Rahim, judge of the SC's High Court Division; Tanjina Ismail, president of BWJA; and Sharmeela Rassool, chief technical adviser at Justice and Human Rights Programme of UNDP, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan visited Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday on the occasion of "Railway Service Week". To mark the eighth establishment anniversary of the ministry, railways initiated the week on Wednesday. Railways Secretary Mofazzel Hossain and BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman accompanied the minister.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Activities resume at JU, so do protests

JU CORRESPONDENT

Protesting teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) continued their demonstration on the campus yesterday, demanding removal of the vice chancellor for her alleged involvement in corruption and irregularities.

As part of their pre-announced programme, over 60 students and teachers under the banner of "Jahangirnagar against Corruption" gathered at Murad Chatter around noon and brought out a procession.

The university authorities on Wednesday decided to open all dormitories from yesterday after a month-long shut down following an attack allegedly by BCL men on protesting teachers and students. The incident left more than 20 injured on

November 5.

Speakers at yesterday's rally condemned the attack and demanded strict punishment for those involved.

Prof Anwarullah Bhuiyan of Philosophy department alleged that BCL men carried out the attack under patronage of the authorities. "Corruption of the VC is gradually increasing. We want the government to implement its 'zero tolerance policy' against corruption at JU," he said.

Mushfiq Us Salehin, an organiser of the platform, said, "The university authorities were compelled to open the dormitories. It's a great victory for us. There will be unrest on campus again if our peaceful programmes are attacked..."

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DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE Parliament Culture of Bengalees: East Bengal Legislative Assembly 1947-58 Organiser: Reading Club Venue: IML, University of Dhaka Time: 3:30pm	Organiser: Buet Venue: Council Building, Buet Time: 3:30pm
TALK Building Bangladesh in the spirit of liberation war Organiser: Rashtrachinta Venue: Ibrahim Mansion, Paltan Time: 4pm	DISCUSSION 48th anniversary of official recognition of Bangladesh by India Organiser: Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Venue: Bangladesh National Museum Time: 10am
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Approach to Inter-Scalar Resilience-Settlement Linkages	FOOD FESTIVAL Kalairuti Organiser: Amra Chapaibasi Venue: Shilpakala Academy Time: 3pm

'ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT' Govt must hear minority voices: Shahriar Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded that the government pass the proposed "Anti-Discrimination Act" as early as possible, saying the law's implementation is imperative to protect rights of the country's marginalised population.

Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) and Paritran -- two NGO-based initiatives working for marginalised communities -- organised the discussion with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and UKAid at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, marking the Global Dignity Day 2019.

Addressing the discussion, war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said despite much of the work related to the law being done, it has not been enacted till date.

Minority communities are still marginalised in the country, he said.

If Bangladesh wants to emerge as a "civilised nation", the government must hear voices of the minority population, he added.

Now one major slogan across the globe is "rights of the minorities is human rights", he further said. Although in a limited way, division still exists in the society, said Awami League lawmaker AKM Sarwar Jahan of Kushtia-1 constituency. He said there is no scope to deny that marginalised people are overlooked, stressing that he would play his role as a lawmaker for the law's enactment.

MJF Director Rina Roy said if discrimination has to be eliminated from society, then men along with women have to come forward.

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