



The scenario in front of the national museum this Friday was chaotic. There to enjoy the weekend with their families, many visitors were caught off-guard by the newly imposed e-ticket only rule. Many had to resort to online payment agents stationed nearby, who made the best of the situation by charging extra on each ticket purchased through them, inset.

PHOTO: STAR



The curious case of e-ticketing

National Museum's decision confuses visitors

MATHEWS CHIRAN

The queue at Bangladesh National Museum was a little unusual this Friday. Things were getting a bit chaotic too. The issue laid with some who were being refused to enter. Waiting at the back of the line for a long time, they couldn't believe they were being turned back.

Some of them had families with them, even little children. The children, especially, added to the negative mood, as they were awfully disappointed by this denial.

The visitors' fault? They didn't buy or book e-tickets from the museum's website.

Following initial fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, The national museum, situated in the capital's Shahbagh, started the website in November last year. But rather than gracefully transitioning from a physical ticketing system to the e-ticket service, the authorities simply replaced one with the other outright.

This new shift has not become known information yet. For those who come to visit the museum for the first time -- after hearing of it from others -- or are visiting it after many years, it's natural not to know of the new ticketing process.

But museum security is strict, and after a few futile attempts, the visitors inevitably have to withdraw.

Entrepreneur Sayedul Islam (45), came to visit with his wife and their two daughters, all the way from Jurain. The last time they visited was two years back, and none of this "hassle", as they put it, existed back then.

"I'm not well versed in dealing with online service. There's no one at the gate who could walk us through the process. I came here to pass some quality times with my family, but it's turning out to be the opposite," his voice soured.

It had been around half an hour that he'd been trying out a way to get in by the time of this conversation.

Md Dipu (40) was facing similar issues to get tickets for his family of four. When this correspondent approached him, he was trying to open an account on the museum's website to buy the tickets, which he's finding difficult to do due to the suddenness of the situation.

"I might be able to book the tickets on my smartphone eventually, but there are those who don't use a smartphone or have internet access all the time, how will they be able to enter the museum?" he said, reiterating the lack of guidance at the gate.

"I didn't know how to open an account on the museum's website and book tickets. I found a recharge agent to do it for me. He charged me Tk 60 for two tickets," said Samia Akhter (35) from Rampura.

"The museum authority should have arranged for physical tickets along with e-tickets. Otherwise people like us will have to bear the

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Five killed in bike accidents

STAR REPORT

Five people including two cops were killed in three separate motorcycle accidents yesterday, indicating the sharp rise in accidents of the two wheeler vehicle across the country.

In Lalmonirhat, two policemen were killed on the spot as a bus hit their motorcycle at Khaner Bazar area of Hatibandha upazila on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway yesterday afternoon. The policemen were working in the police detective branch of Hatibandha police station.

The deceased were identified as Sub Inspector (SI) Abdul Matin and Constable Mujibul Alam Haji of Hatibandha police station.

Hatibandha Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ershadul Alam confirmed that the bodies of the deceased were recovered and taken to the police station.

The truck was seized but its driver and helper escaped, OC said.

The deceased SI Abdul Matin was a resident of Bhurungamari in Kurigram and constable Mujibul Alam of Gangachawra in Rangpur, police said.

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'Bureaucrats shouldn't act like politicians'

Says Prof Syed Modasser Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucrats should not "exceed their limit" and act as politicians, Prof Dr Syed Modasser Ali, a former adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said yesterday.

There is no reason for them to speak more instead of implementing programmes of the government, he said while addressing the "Covid-19 Health Bulletin" unveiling event in the capital.

"Bureaucrats should not exceed bureaucrat's limits. They are not politicians," Modasser Ali said.

His statement comes at a time when there is criticism over bureaucratic tangles in the government's policymaking and implementation.

At the event earlier, the health secretary criticised leaders of the physician committee for their "illogical criticism" of the health ministry's activities.

"[They] are meeting us during the day, having tea-coffee, talking to us. The same person is criticising us at night on [TV] talk show," health secretary Abdul Mannan said.

"But you too have responsibility to people of the country. If your suggestions were not taken then, that would be something else. We are requesting for suggestion; you are not giving them," the secretary added.

He said the government has been recognising the sacrifice of doctors and other healthcare workers with highest dignity.

Mentioning that Bloomberg ranked Bangladesh as the 20th "most Covid-19 resilient country", the minister said that Bloomberg does not pay heed to any speech of any leader.

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POLLS VIOLENCE

Two murder accused held in Ctg, Sirajganj

STAR REPORT

Two persons have been arrested in the last two days over the killing of two people during election campaigns in Sirajganj and Chattogram.

In Sirajganj, police arrested relative of the prime accused in elected councillor Tarikul Islam murder case early yesterday.

Tarikul (45) was killed allegedly by his rivals when he was celebrating his victory on January 16 night. According to unofficial results, he was elected a councillor of ward-6 of Sirajganj municipality.

Attackers stabbed Tarikul when he was celebrating. He was rushed to a private hospital, where he passed away. Tarikul's supporters alleged he was killed by the men of his rival candidate.

A case was filed with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, accusing defeated councillor Sahadat Hossain Buddin among 32 named and 40 to 50 unidentified accused.

The arrestee Md Shopon Bapari (45) of Tangail is the brother-in-law of prime accused Buddin and also an accused in the case, said OC Bahauddin Faruki of the police station.

"We arrested him from the district headquarters and produced him before the judicial magistrate's court. We will seek remand for him."

Buddin and most of his followers are on the run, said the OC. "We are

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Suspended SI at it again!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a suspended sub-inspector of Armed Police Battalion in Sylhet and four others while selling yaba in Subidbazar area of Sylhet city yesterday afternoon.

The arrestees are SI Rukon Uddin Bhuiyan and his associates Rima Begum, Jashim Uddin, Fahim Shahriar and Farid Ahmed.

BM Ashraf Ullah Taher, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said the five were caught red-handed by a team of Kotwali Police Station while selling yaba. "Police recovered 182 pieces of yaba pills and Tk 82,300 from them," he said.

This is not the first time Rukon Uddin was arrested for selling drugs. On January 28 last year, he and Rima were arrested by Rab. They were accused of trafficking, forced prostitution and selling narcotics.

Two girls were also rescued from the house. After primary investigation, Rukon Uddin was suspended on January 30 that year.

HUMAYUN AZAD MURDER CASE Prosecution seeks death penalty for 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday completed arguments and sought capital punishment for four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activists in Prof Humayun Azad murder case.

The accused are: Salehin alias Salahuddin, Anwarul Alam alias Anwar, Mizanur Rahman alias Minhaz and Nur Mohammad. Salehin and Nur are on the run while the remaining two are in jail.

During the closing arguments, advocate Md Shaiful Islam, public prosecutor of the case, told the court they were able to prove the charges against all the accused.

Judge Maksuda Parvin of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka then set January 24 for defense lawyers' arguments.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 42 prosecution witnesses including the complainant of the case.

On February 27, 2004, JMB activists stabbed the 56-year-old linguist and writer while he was trying to catch a rickshaw to go home from the Ekushey book fair at Bangla Academy in the capital.

After the attack, Azad was treated at Combined Military Hospital for 26 days.

Then the government sent him to Bangkok for better treatment from where he returned home on recovery after over 47 days.

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Who stole the pond?

Sylhet's Majumdar Bari Dighi in peril due to family feuds and legal battles

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

In the 19th century, the famous Majumdar family of Sylhet dug up a large pond to fulfil local people's need for water in greater Amberkhana area in Sylhet city.

The pond, which locals refer to as Majumdar Bari Dighi, is only around half an acre in size presently and declining every year due to certain groups illegally filling up the pond, which violates High Court injunction.

It is documented that the dighi and many other immovable properties of the family were named after a waqf in August 28, 1867 by Syed Bakht Majumdar.

The waqf was constituted as valid in April 6, 1869.

Majumdar family had a history of serving the Sultans of Bengal and then the British as Kanungo (revenue officer) of Sylhet and Syed Bakht's father Mohammad Bakht was the last Kanungo to be entitled in 1793, according to historians.

Around that time, Syed Bakht moved to Mecca and served the Ottoman Empire as a council member of the prestigious 'Sharif of Mecca'. He was also awarded the Star of the Mejidhi.

He then returned to Sylhet along with his son Moulvi Hamid Bakht Majumdar, the renowned writer of Ain-i-Hind, a Persian language text about Indian Subcontinent.

In 1877, the then British Governor General circulated a notification exempting Syed Bakht Majumdar from personal presence in civil courts.

Years after the demise of this great man, the Majumdar family members became involved in internal strife over the ownership of the waqf property. They filed lawsuits against each other.

Starting from 1927, the descendants have been involved in legal feud, and the wonderful dighi paid the price as it continued to be filled up.

Living descendants of the Majumdar family are playing the blame game over who is responsible for the sad state of the pond.

According to act-36 of year 2000 on the conservation of natural waterbodies and Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules 1995, a pond must be protected from being filled up or grabbing.

Following a writ petition by Abrar Bakht Majumdar in 2008; a High Court bench of

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Summer is the season of fruits in Bangladesh, and winter the one for vegetables. However, with an evolving palette of the urban consumer, foreign fruits are gaining in popularity, and fruit traders are also bringing those in to satiate a growing market that has spilled beyond the superstores. This roadside stall in the capital's Paltan was seen displaying a wide array, from durian, rambutan, dragonfruits, kiwi, thai and ataulfo mangoes.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Star HEALTHLINE



HOW TO AVOID FAKE coronavirus news

They have started calling it an "infodemic". The proliferation of fake news about the COVID-19 pandemic has become such a widespread dilemma, it's only fitting that a such a name be used for it.

On the internet, through social media, and on instant messaging, fake news spreads like wildfire.

These messages may contain useless, incorrect or even harmful information and advise. This can hamper the public health response and add to social disorder and division.

Before you decide to share any information found on the internet or through text, make sure to read it properly and follow some checks to determine its accuracy.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

SOURCE: Question the source. During the onset of the coronavirus, news were that reference seemingly reliable sources circulated greatly.

References such as "Japanese doctors" or "Stanford University" were used by many fake news articles to garner credibility. However, many of them turned out to be duds. It is thus important to check the official websites of the sources cited in an article before sharing it.

It's also important to remember -- if a source is "a friend of a friend", one should treat it as a rumour unless they know the person directly.

LOGO: Cross-check whether an organisation's logo used in a message looks the same as the one on its official website.

BAD ENGLISH: Credible journalists and organisations are less likely to make repeated spelling and grammar mistakes. Also, anything written entirely in capital letters or containing a lot of exclamation marks should raise your suspicions.

FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS: Some fake accounts mimic the real thing. For example, the unofficial Twitter handle @BBCNewsTonight, which was made to look like the legitimate @BBCNews account, shared a fake story about the actor Daniel Radcliffe testing positive for coronavirus. Media platforms try to remove or flag fake accounts and stories as well as verify real ones.

OVER-ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARE: Be wary if the message presses you to share it -- this is how viral messaging works.

FACT CHECKING WEBSITES: Try following fact-checking websites. Reliable ones can be highly accurate.

You can also use a search engine to look up the title of a cited article to see if it has been identified as fake news by the mainstream media.

WHOM TO TRUST

For Covid-19 information, the best sources to go to are your government health websites and the World Health Organisation (WHO) website. Primary sources are generally better than news articles.

Think twice about circulating unreliable and unverified news and help guide your family and friends to decide what to trust.