

## Present authentic Liberation War history before new generation

PM urges all

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked all concerned to present the authentic history of the Liberation War before the new generation.



"History can't be erased. The authentic history of the Liberation War will have to be projected before the new generation," she said while addressing the 66th trustee board meeting of the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust (FFWT) from her official residence Gono Bhavan.

Other members of the trustee board connected to the event from Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

PM's Deputy Press Secretary KM Shakawat Moon briefed reporters after the meeting.

Sheikh Hasina asked authorities

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Three senior citizens pass time on a smartphone, as they wait in the post-vaccination waiting area in the capital's Mugda General Hospital. Covid vaccine recipients are required to wait at least half an hour at the centre after receiving the jab, as a precautionary measure to make sure they are not having any adverse reaction, before they are allowed to go home.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Working to bring down migration cost: minister

Database on returnees launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said they are taking measures and putting out new rules to ensure that migrant workers do not pay a price that would cripple them economically.

"We want to bring it down to an acceptable level," the minister said. He was addressing a programme marking the launch of "Returning Migrants Management of Information Systems" (ReMiMIS), a digital database on returnee migrants, at the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) in the capital. The ministry with support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the platform.

The minister said if possible they would go for a policy that the destination countries will pay the full migration cost for whoever goes from Bangladesh.

"Certain issues did come up regarding the migration cost and how we handle the whole flow chain as far as migration is concern," he added.

The minister said migrant workers going on a zero cost basis is the ideal situation. "But... there are always other factors that come in," he added.

He said they would like to make sure that they can be as close to zero migration cost as possible.

Addressing the ceremony as chief guest, Imran Ahmad also urged the Head of European Union delegation to Bangladesh Rensje Teerink to make easier the conditions for migration to or employment in the EU countries.

"Then... people will think of going to Europe in the legal process," he said, adding that a lot of people going through unofficial channels to Europe turned out to be a fact since they kept getting reports in this regard.

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## 'Killed for not giving Salam'

Seven members of teen gang held; at least 15-20 murders take place in Dhaka per month: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They were all aged between 16 and 17 -- members of a teen gang named "Bandage Group" in Mugda. To establish dominance in the area, they often fought over trivial issues.

On Friday evening, eight to ten members of the gang called one of its members Hasan Mia (17), a printing press employee at Paltan, out of his home in Manda area and hacked him indiscriminately for not giving "Salam" to a senior member of the gang, said police. He later died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

According to the Detective Branch of police, at least 15-20 murders take place in Dhaka every month while teen gangs are surfacing again.

"Members of this gang killed Hasan over a 'senior-junior' conflict. It started for not giving 'Salam' to a leader of a group," said Mahub Alam, joint commissioner (detective branch) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

A day after the killing, DB arrested seven members of the group, including its leader,

from Mugda area on Saturday.

Hailing from Debidwar of Cumilla, Hasan, third among his four siblings, used to live in Mugda with his family.

His brother Habib said a conflict was going on for the last few days among Hasan and some others. On Friday, they called Hasan to resolve the issue, but killed him instead, he said.

DB official Mahub Alam said, "Parents need to be more careful about their children. Also, residents and beat police officials concerned have to remain alert in this regard."

Asked, the official said, action would be taken against those who are found to be involved in inciting these gangs, even if they are leaders of political parties.

Meanwhile, a group of "drug peddlers" allegedly stabbed police informer Zakir Hossain to death and left another critically injured at Kadamtali in Dhaka on last Wednesday.

Detectives arrested seven people from the area in connection with it on Sunday.

The arrestees are -- Md Sukkur (27),

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Tk 148.41 CR LAUNDERING CASE

## HC questions bail of Papul's wife, daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned a lower court order that granted bail to convicted lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam alias Kazi Papul's wife and daughter in a Tk 148.41 crore laundering case.

The HC issued a rule asking Papul's wife Selina Islam and daughter Wafa Islam and the state to explain in 10 days why the lower court order should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim came up with the rule following a petition filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

ACC recently filed the petition with the HC saying that there are specific allegations against Selina and Wafa of illegally earning huge amount of money and laundering it. Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for ACC while Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin represented the state.

A Dhaka court on December 27 last year granted bail to Selina, also a lawmaker, and Wafa in the case after they surrendered to it in line with a HC order.

ACC filed the case with its integrated Dhaka district office on November 11 last year against Papul, independent lawmaker from Laxmipur-2 constituency who is now detained in Kuwait, his wife, daughter and sister-in-law Jesmin Prodhan for laundering Tk 148.41 crore.

A Kuwaiti court has sentenced Papul to four years in jail in a bribery case. He is also accused in two other cases filed on charges of trafficking and money laundering.

## Treat liquid waste to keep Padma clean

Rajshahi speakers urge authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The authorities concerned must ensure proper treatment of all types of liquid waste before releasing those into rivers in order to keep Rajshahi's Padma and Barnoi rivers free from pollution, speakers said at a meeting in the city yesterday.

They also urged people living on the river banks not to drop solid and plastic waste into the rivers.

They were speaking at an awareness building event held at the Oddvar Munksgaard Park on the Padma bank near Boro Kuthi. Rajshahi City Corporation organised the meeting with ward councillor Shariful Islam in the chair.

Speakers said the city's rivers are being polluted as the city corporation releases untreated liquid waste into the rivers through drains. Some factories that are being set up around the city also release untreated liquid waste into the river, they alleged.

Besides, people are throwing plastic materials, polythene bags and solid waste in drains, which go directly into rivers.

Speaking as chief guest, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton said the increasing pollution was posing a threat to the river biodiversity.

"Many think rivers and drains are the best place to dispose of waste. We have to change this mentality to save the rivers... City corporation workers can't keep the city clean alone unless we assist them," he said.

He said the government was initiating projects to revive navigability of the Padma.

Writer Ruhul Amin Pramanik emphasised on social movement to keep the rivers clean.

River researcher Mahbul Kuddus Siddiqi said steps should be taken to turn the Padma into a source of livelihood for many, as it was before. He suggested a separate project for treating liquid waste before releasing those into river.

Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar, director of Environmental Science Institute of Rajshahi University, suggested to strengthen monitoring over the industries to check if they were using treatment plants to properly treat liquid waste.



Development work of drainage in Old Dhaka's Aga Masih Lane has been going on at a snail's pace for around two months now, locals of the area claim. They allege the contractor has employed too few workers, which results in the continuing suffering in the busy area. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Saraswati Puja today

BSS, Dhaka

The Hindu community is set to celebrate Saraswati Puja, worshipping the goddess of knowledge, music, art and culture, across the country today while maintaining health guidelines amid the coronavirus pandemic.

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, yesterday greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion of the Saraswati Puja.

On the day of Saraswati Puja, children are traditionally introduced to education and learning through the ritual of *haate khori*.

Major Hindu temples, schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions typically celebrate the festival joyfully.

Students in particular seek the blessing of goddess Saraswati in their pursuit of knowledge, art, music and culture.

The most decorative and gorgeous celebration of Saraswati Puja is usually arranged on the premises of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, where a huge number of people of all religions attend

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## Stop mismanagement, unplanned projects

Speakers say during sit-in at Khulna Development Authority office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Demanding swift and proper implementation of regional development works under Khulna Development Authority (KDA), a stop to unplanned projects and mismanagement in name of their implementation, a sit-in programme was held in front of KDA office in the city yesterday.

Leaders and members of Greater Khulna Development Sangram Coordinating Committee organised the event from 11am to noon.

Speakers said unplanned housing projects should be stopped and a local representative should be appointed as the KDA chairman.

They further said to stop irregularities and corruption, projects such as work on Rupsha Bypass Shipyard Road, Nirala Road, Gallamari to Rayermahal Road and Aranghata to Rayermahal should start immediately.

They alleged that the residential and commercial areas set up by KDA have been built unplanned. KDA constructed commercial plots on both sides of MA Bari Avenue Road and Muzgunni highway but no connecting roads have been constructed for people of the vast area behind it, they added.

Speakers also highlighted that Daulatpur KDA Kalpataru Market remained unopened and have become a grazing field for cattle while condition of Rupsha KDA Market has become dilapidated. Sheikh Ashraf Uz Zaman, president of the platform, alleged that KDA does not coordinate with Khulna City Corporation. The lack of coordination is hindering Khulna's development. "We don't want unplanned development," he added.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not get in touch with the KDA chairman for comments.

## He always wore a smile

Late Notre Dame College principal Fr Peixotto remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rev Fr Joseph Stephen Peixotto was known for always wearing a smile. Even when upset or frustrated -- as was often the result of his heavy responsibilities -- he still had his smile.

This helped him win the hearts of thousands of his students and colleagues, said friends, colleagues and former students while remembering the recently passed former principal of Notre Dame College.

The condolence and memorial meeting was organised yesterday at Notre Dame University of Bangladesh's auditorium. There, speakers also remembered him for his diligence, administrative capabilities, and outstanding contribution to the country's education sector.

Fr Peixotto passed away at the age of 87 on February 4.

The American priest -- who came to erstwhile East Pakistan in 1962 -- had been a science teacher at Notre Dame College for 34 years. He served as its principal for 24 years. Since 2014, Fr Peixotto held the post of treasurer of Notre Dame University Bangladesh.

Archbishop of Dhaka's Metropolitan Archdiocese Bejoy Nicephorus D'Cruze said, "We're saddened and encumbered at his sudden passing."

Jyoti F Gomes, director at St Joseph International School, said the former principal used to offer free accommodation to poor boys from rural areas at Martin Hall boys' hostel at the college and helped them make their mark in society.

His death has caused an irreparable loss to the society, said Jyoti F Gomes.

Prof Dr Azizur Rahman, head of the university's Department of Economics, said Father Peixotto dedicated his life for the betterment of society.

He served the country till his last breath of his life, he added.

Earlier in the meeting, a video documentary on Fr Peixotto was screened at the auditorium.

## New CCC mayor takes over charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTC

Newly-elected mayor of Chattogram City Corporation Rezaul Karim Chowdhury took over charge of office yesterday.

On the occasion, a gathering of eminent citizens was organised at the Institute of Engineers Chattogram where Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury was present as the chief guest.

Mohibul, son of late CCC mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, in his speech said, "We do not want politics of violence and corruption. The city mayor should avoid those who are involved in the malpolitics -- it is the city dwellers' expectation."

President of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mahbul Alam said, "Chattogram city has a lot of problems and we expect that the new mayor would address those..." he said.

The former administrator of CCC Khorshed Alam Sujan, president of Chattogram city unit Awami League Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury, MPs, university vice chancellors, doctors, engineers, journalists and business leaders were present at the programme with Mayor Rezaul Karim in the chair.

The mayor wanted cooperation from everybody to develop the city into a clean, modern and tourism-friendly one.



With "Hawai Mithai" (cotton candy) on his shoulder and bags of popcorn in hand, Ashar Ali sets out in the morning with hope that children would flock around him. The day, however, seldom goes as planned for him. Due to the pandemic, he said his sale has gone down to Tk 200 from Tk 500 per day. Still, the 55-year-old Savar resident, pushes on to support his family. This photo was taken from Jahangirnagar University recently.

PHOTO: SK MEHEDI HASSAN