

Tourism Journalists' Forum gets new leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nadira Kiron of ATN Bangla and Tanzim Anwar of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) have been elected president and general secretary for the new 13-member executive committee (2021-22) of Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh, said a release.

The vice president of the new committee is Masud Rume (Kaler Kantho) while others are Joint Secretary Rita Nahar (Boishakhi TV), Treasurer Md Shafullah Sumon (BTB), Organizing Secretary Monjurul Islam (Banik Barta), Publicity and Publication Secretary Zulhas Kabir (RIV), and Office Secretary Emrul Kausar Emon (Bhorer Dak)..

Altob Hossain (Jai Jai Din), Rashidul Hasan (The Daily Star), Abdullah Tuhin (Jamuna TV), Tawhidul Islam (Amader Shomoy) and Baten Biplob (Asian TV) were elected executive members after the forum's AGM at Dhaka Reporters' Unity on Tuesday.



Raktodhara '71, a collective of martyred freedom fighters' successors, was launched at a ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club. At the discussion, Minister for Liberation War Affairs AKM Mozammel Haque spoke as the chief guest, while Rangpur-2 MP Abul Kalam Md Ahasanul Hoque Chowdhury and Aroma Dutta MP were present as special guests.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Syndicate

FROM PAGE 3

Hafiz said a section of lower-rank employees of EC's NID wing were involved in the scam. "We have reported the issue to NID authorities. They have already sacked 44 employees."

Police said Dhaka Bank filed two separate cases with Khilgaon and Paltan police stations on December 8 and 12 for embezzling a loan of TK 1.70 crore against flats.

During investigation, detectives found that the arrestees are members of a professional fraud gang. They embezzled loans from various banks by forging documents.

The detectives first arrested a man named Biplob on Friday. During interrogation, he revealed the details of how the scam was carried out.

Intelligence officials said after preliminary interrogation, Biplob gave a confessional statement before court on Monday.

Al-Amin was first arrested based on Biplob's information. Later, police arrested the rest after Al-amin divulged information.

Hafiz Akhter said, "We are investigating how many more people were part of the syndicate, and whether any bank officials are involved."

"We may be able to give more information, after further investigation and interrogation of the arrestees," he said.

Earlier, EC's NID wing informed that it has identified around 1,057 people who have received NID card for a second time for ill motives. The wing has already blocked the cards, after filing around 556 cases against the card holders with EC's legal wing.

Ancient

FROM PAGE 3

The upper part of this relic chamber is round and the lower part is quadrangular. This is the first such discovery in Bangladesh.

The circular part of the relic chamber symbolises zero, or kuu, a core tenet of Buddhist philosophy. The quadrangular part symbolises the four noble truths of Buddhism.

Earlier, parts of the protective brick wall were found, but the details of the structure were not yet clear. The recent discovery clarifies that the protective wall was all over the complex, which is another first in Bangladesh's archaeological discoveries.

This time, a complete brick design on the outer part of the protective wall has been discovered in its correct position.

Designed bricks have been used instead of terracotta plaques to decorate the walls of the complex in Atish's birthplace, said the press release. These discoveries will open new horizons for archaeological research.

Prior to the press conference, the state minister visited Raghurampur and Nateshwar archaeological sites in Munshiganj. He saw the antiquities found during the five-month excavation. The museum of Bikrampur Buddhist monastery was inaugurated during his visit as well.

Department of Archaeology Director General Dr Md Ataur Rahman; Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner Moniruzzaman Talukder; Munshiganj Superintendent of Police Abdul Momen as well as Dr Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin and Dr Sufi Mustafizur Rahman were present at the programme, among others.

Costs doubled

FROM PAGE 3

allocation in this regard, according to the original development project proposal mentioned in the report, which was submitted to the education ministry on February 25.

Sources said UGC formed a three-member probe body, led by Dr Md Alamgir, member of UGC's planning and development in Dhaka, after receiving instruction from the education ministry on April 20 last year.

The other two members were Dr Ferdous Zaman and Dr Durga Rani Sarkar, director and additional director respectively of the department.

The committee visited the campus on January 17 and scrutinised relevant papers. The report was submitted recently to UGC, a copy of which has been obtained by this newspaper.

In the findings, it stated Prof Kalimullah replaced consultancy firm Joint Venture of Architect Monwar Habib & Prakito Construction Limited with M/s Acumen Architects & Planner Limited, without consulting the initial firm, which is a violation of the laws.

Prof Kalimullah stopped construction work of the buildings immediately after joining as VC on June 14, 2017. He appointed Engr Monjur Quader as a member of the university's Planning, Development and Workers Committee, as Monjur was a close associate, it said.

Monjur changed the original design of the structures, which was risky and unacceptable, and later, the VC approved the design. Observing that Monjur failed to perform his duty correctly, the committee advised to relieve Monjur from his post.

Less than half the buildings' construction work has been completed after PM's inauguration. Therefore, the body observed that making changes in designs is entirely unnecessary. Construction work should be completed under the original design. The body also advised completing construction work of Swadhino塔 Swarak at the campus.

It observed that the incumbent administration of BRUR, led by Prof Kalimullah, is responsible for the stalemate and negligence in construction.

For such acts, the government suffered financial losses, and it also tarnished the university's image, it stated.

Construction work of the two structures were supposed to have ended in 2018, but that was not possible for the authority's negligence.

Rejecting the UGC report, Prof Kalimullah said the probe body members did not sit with him. "They should have at least consulted with me, as I'm the university's VC, but they did not," he said.

He claimed that real corruption and irregularities occurred when Prof Nurun Nabi was BRUR VC.

"The content of the report was objectionable and defamatory," the VC said, adding that a legal notice will be sent against the report.

The guerrillas

FROM PAGE 3

"Bahar informed me that the train carrying Pakistan army and ammunition pass by the area in the evening. I asked him to get prepared for the operation," said Mahfuzur.

PLANNING FOR THE OPERATION

About the planning for the operation, this correspondent earlier got a chance to speak to Raisul Huq Bahar in details.

"We were looking for a suitable place from where we could come back safely after the operation," he said. "We selected the bridge for the operation because first of all, the area is silent and surrounded by bushes, and secondly, we could put explosives on the bridge to destroy it."

"If we could destroy the bridge as the train passed it, both the bridge and the train could be destroyed. If the bridge is destroyed, train movement on this route could be completely stopped."

"We, in the guise of locals, went to visit the spot every afternoon so that locals did not suspect anything. They thought we were going for afternoon walks," said Bahar.

"I decided to conduct operation on the weekly haat day as lot of people gathered in the area on that day. We could carry our explosives in shopping bags like locals going home after buying from the haat."

"Most importantly, we could mix up with the locals after completion of the operation," he said.

"We observed the train to see exactly when it passed by the bridge and decided to fit switch controlled explosives on the bridge to destroy it," he said.

"We also found out that the train engine was in the third compartment. The first two were dummies set up to deceive attackers, as anyone planning to ambush will naturally think the engine will be attached to the front," he added.

THE DAY OF THE OPERATION

"We went there wearing lungis, with shopping bags in hand. We went to the haat in the afternoon and bought some kitchen essentials so that no one would suspect us," reminisced Bahar. "We were carrying explosives and arms in the bags."

"We moved to the spot separately. Everyone was briefed on their duties and responsibilities, Bahar detailed. "I had told everyone to move separately after the operation and selected a place where we would meet afterwards."

"At first, four of us took position on both sides of the bridge, armed. The rest of us placed explosives, primers, safety fuse, pull switch, and switch button on the bridge," he continued.

"To execute and control the explosion, a long cord connected with the explosive was taken to nearby bushes. It was connected with a switch," he said.

"Passing orders to the other members of the team to stay at a safe distance, I waited in the bush, around 100 yards off the bridge, with the switch button in hand."

"We could see the train coming in, its whistle blowing. We remained cautious. When the engine of the train was crossing the bridge, I switched on the button. Within in a few seconds... there was a loud bang!" said Bahar. "We got up and left the area as soon as possible."

Over a hundred members of the Pakistan army were either injured or killed, while the bridge was destroyed, Bahar said.

"As the bridge was destroyed, train movement on the route halted for a long time, cutting off the army from getting their reinforcements," added Dr Mahfuzur. "The operation also broke the spirit of the Pakistani army."

But more importantly, it raised the morale of the freedom fighters, he said.

DSCC changes

FROM PAGE 3

new and old wards have similar complaints and are seeking more permanent solutions from the city corporations.

Taposh said they are requesting Dhaka residents to keep some patience because they are trying to adapt to the circumstances by changing their strategies.

About the new strategy, he assured residents that more than four hours of larvicide spraying in the morning is being undertaken, while the duration of fogging in the afternoon has been increased.

Responding to a question about why they did not change their mosquito control strategy earlier, the mayor said, "Experts give many suggestions after an incident but they do not get any advise before an incident."

Taposh also said they were asked to continue Aedes mosquito management up to December. However, this turned out to be a wrong move and the city corporation should have instead started their work on culex mosquitoes from the onset of winter, the mayor admitted.

Taposh said they have started cleaning canals from January and have already cleaned 20km of canals and removed two lakh tonnes of solid waste from them. He said it would have been better if they could have access to the canals two months earlier.

LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam -- who also visited the canals -- said apart from cleaning the canals, all kinds of illegal structures constructed on both sides of the canals will also be removed.

Among others, lawmaker of Dhaka-4, Syed Abu Hossain Babla; chief executive officer of DSCC ABM Amin Ullah Nuri and other officials were also present on the occasion.

INVITATION FOR TENDER. Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any or all of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

বাংলাদেশ ওভারসিজ এমপ্লয়মেন্ট অ্যান্ড সার্ভিসেস লিমিটেড (বোয়েসেল). (প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়) প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন (৫ম তলা), ৭১-৭২, ইন্টারন্যাশনাল রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

Shaheen Reza. FROM PAGE 3. After paying tribute at Shaheed Minar, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said, "We lost a star. Shaheen Reza Noor's demise shocked us deeply. He was pro-liberation man during his lifetime. We express our deep condolence to the bereaved family members."

LAND FOR SALE @ GULSHAN. Road no-82, Gulshan-2 (North), 8 kathas land with building. RAJUK provided 100% undisputed property. Single owner. Only genuine buyer or their representatives are requested to Contact. Cell: 01790-55 77 00

CAREER OPPORTUNITY. NATIONAL SALES MANAGER. A renowned veterinary pharmaceutical company engaged in production and marketing of animal health care products of international standard in Bangladesh is searching for a suitable National Sales Manager who possesses the following qualities:

Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College. Gazipur-1702. www.bbagic.edu.bd. Memo No. BBAGC/CEDP/2021/141. e-Tender Notice 03/2020-2021. e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following package:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Govt. Syed Hatem Ali College, Barishal. Address: Nabogram Road, Barishal. Website: www.gshac.gov.bd E-mail: hatemalicollegebarisal@yahoo.com. Memo No. G.S.H.A.C/CEDP/HAC/1023/2020-2021/G-9. e-Tender Notice: 02/2020-2021. e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following package:

Bangladesh Krishi Bank. Divisional Office. C&B Road, Barishal. Phone: 0431-63794 Email: gmbarisal@krishibank.org.bd. Invitation for Tender. Procuring entity name: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB). Barishal. Invitation for: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System (Camera, DVR, HDD, Monitor etc.) for Several Branches of BKB, Barishal Division.