

Confusion

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obtaining family visa.

Also, those who are going abroad on travel visa for different purposes have no chance to prove their ‘work’.

Regarding this, an awkward situation involving visit visa-holding passengers of special flight was seen since Sunday morning at Dhaka airport. It was known from Probashi Kalyan Desk sources that the problem started involving UAE-bound transit passengers of Oman Air flying to Muscat in the morning.

Staffers of the airliner refused to allow them to board without BMET card. Many were sent back from immigration. They were asked to take help from Probashi Kalyan Desk. The Desk could not support them either since it had no such jurisdiction.

BMET Assistant Director Fakhruul Islam, who is in charge of Probashi Kalyan Desk at HSIA, said as they do not have provision to give clearance to passengers obtaining visit visa, it is also not possible for them to verify or ensure their works.

Later, verbal clearance was given after the matter was brought to consideration of CAAB high officials. As of afternoon, obligation was eased regarding BMET card or clearance for visit visa holders travelling on Biman, Fly Dubai, Etihad, and US Bangla flying to the UAE.

However, so far no official directive has been issued from CAAB, he said.

UAE embassy in Bangladesh also advised passengers who wish to travel on visit (travel) visa to get registered with BMET. Such advice came in light of the CAAB directive.

BMET card or clearance has been issued for outbound workers from BMET headquarters and five of its district offices. After the CAAB directive, many have been trying to communicate at these offices.

Deputy Director Mohammad Zahirul Alam Majumdar of BMET Chattogram office said, “Apart from different travel and recruiting agencies, many UAE-bound passengers enquired about the matter through phone.”

“We have informed them that we haven’t received any directive from the ministry or bureau. Also, from my experience, I can say we have no option to issue such clearance for passengers travelling on visit visa,” he added.

The reporter is a freelance journalist writing for The Daily Star.



A human chain was formed in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, under the banner of Sromik-Kormochari Federation, protesting the killing of workers at a power plant in Chattogram’s Banskhali in police firing on Saturday. PHOTO: STAR

SM Mohsin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak-winning actor and theatre activist SM Mohsin passed away around 9:30am yesterday at the capital’s Birdem General Hospital. He was 73.

After testing positive for Covid-19 on April 5, Mohsin was admitted to Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital.

He was then shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of Impulse Hospital after his condition worsened. Then, he was taken to Birdem, where he breathed his last.

He was laid to eternal rest after Asr prayers at the capital’s Azimpur graveyard yesterday.

Born in 1948 at Mirzapur, Tangail, Mohsin was a member of the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University. He was appointed as acting director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and first project director of National Theatre.

He received Ekushey Padak in 2020, and Honorary Fellow Award by Bangla Academy in 2018.



A father’s

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“If I rented an ambulance, all the money would be spent just on transport, and we would have no money to treat my child,” he said.

The father spent Tk 500 for the treatment at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Tarek said his daughter was feeling better on Sunday, a day after her admission at RMCH.

Jannat is now undergoing treatment at the RMCH’s pediatric ward.

Tarek has been pulling rickshaw for the last 12 years, said his wife Sultana Begum.

Tarek urged affluent people to come forward to help him to bear the treatment cost of his daughter.

PM took

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dictum of ‘Friendship to all, malice towards none’, boldly asserted by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.”

He thanked his ministry’s officials and diplomats stationed abroad for arranging 147 congratulatory messages plus 30 video messages from the leaders of the world.

Momen said Bangladesh’s contributions to international peace, development and humanitarian work have been the outcome of the dedicated hard work of many at the foreign service.

“On this Foreign Service Day, we owe a debt of gratitude to all our officials and their family members serving missions for their contributions to upholding the image of our nation abroad over the last five decades,” he said.

He thanked all foreign ministry officials for braving the challenges of the ongoing pandemic to render their services in hotspots around the world.

He also paid tribute to the expatriates communities across the globe for their contributions to nation-building and international branding.

On this day in 1971, Bangladeshi diplomats and staff stationed in Kolkata -- defying the oppressive and occupation regime of Pakistan -- took over the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner’s Office and hoisted the Bangladesh national flag atop and thus established the first Bangladesh mission abroad.

DU professor Nazrul Islam Khan dies of Covid-19

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Md Nazrul Islam Khan, professor of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science of Dhaka University (DU), has passed away of Covid-19. He took his last breath around 1am yesterday, while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital.

He was 62 years of age.

Dr Md Nizamul Hoque Buiyan, general secretary of DU Teachers’ Association and also a teacher at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

A press release on behalf of Dhaka University Teachers’ Association (DUTA) expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family.



Country’s

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flow nasal cannula is also possible. In other beds, we have arranged oxygen concentrators,” he added.

Saying the hospital has equal number of ICU beds in all Covid-19 hospitals in Dhaka city combined, he said, “There are 500 beds equivalent to ICU beds.”

About the second wave of coronavirus infection, the minister said, “The number of Covid-19 patients in the hospitals in last 20 days have surpassed the number of patients in the previous ten months.”

It also has 488 isolated high-care rooms for Covid-19 patients with oxygen support.

Other than that, there are 50 “emergency” beds in the hospital, as well as four beds with dialysis facilities for patients who will require it, according to sources.

More people

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than groceries and pharmacies were operating their businesses. Many had their shutters half-closed.

On the main roads, police were seen checking people’s movement pass and ID at different points.

POLICE ALTERCATION WITH DOCTOR

On Elephant road, police yesterday stopped a car carrying a doctor who is an associate professor of the radiology and imaging department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

A photojournalist of this newspaper witnessed the incident. The doctor had her medical gown on while the car had a “doctor” sticker. The on-duty policeman first wanted to see her identity card. She said she did not have it. There, executive magistrate Sheikh Mamunur Rashid asked whether she had any movement pass.

She angrily replied that doctors do not need a movement pass.

“Amidst coronavirus, how many doctors gave their lives? And how many of you did that?” she asked the policemen.

As the altercation escalated, the doctor introduced herself as a daughter of Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Ali.

The magistrate and New Market Police Station’s Officer-in-Charge SM Kaiyum said they too were sons of freedom fighters and asked if that mattered in this situation.

The doctor, who was identified as Syeeda Showkat, said, “Harassment of doctors must be stopped... must be stopped...”

The policemen replied that they just wanted to see her ID and were doing their duty.

The doctor also used expletives, and at one point, called up some “influential persons” on the phone, saying she was calling their “boss”.

“Who am I? You will get to know within a few moments,” she said.

The New Market Police Station OC said, “Okay, you make us understand. You cannot humiliate me. I am from the administration. I am in uniform.”

The doctor replied, “You are police because you didn’t get a chance in medical college. I am a doctor, because I got the chance.”

“Police stopped my car. How dare they?” she then told someone over the phone.

Later, she told the magistrate that she was a daughter of a Bir Uttam. “I am a doctor. Am I a fake? He [The New Market Police Station OC] must say sorry.”

The OC refused to comment on the issue.

Contacted, DMP denied to make any official comment, saying may offend the doctors’ community.

However, on its official page, Bangladesh Police shared the video of the incident, saying some people were engaging in altercation with police while asked to show ID cards.

To verify someone’s identity, they must show their ID cards. It’s not possible to confirm anyone’s identity by their dresses.

Meanwhile, in a Facebook post, Syeeda Showkat said police harassed her suspecting her to be “fake” doctor, even after she got a permission paper from BSMMU and her apron bearing a seal of the institution. It’s an insult to the doctors’ community, she said.

Earlier, allegations were raised against policemen of harassing doctors and journalists at checkpoints.

In a statement, police defended their actions in two incidents, saying at Karwan Bazar checkpoint, a doctor was not inside the car during the incident while at Jahangir Gate, the citizen failed to show his ID card.

Police Headquarters spokesperson AIG (Media) Sohel Rana said people involved in emergency services in 18 categories like doctors, nurses, medical staff, journalists, and bankers do not need to carry movement pass. They (emergency service providers) have to carry their work ID cards with them, he added.

Trafficking

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The group used to collect yaba tablets from one Md Selim (28) in Cox’s Bazar. During the drive, another member Md Liakat (35) escaped. “We are conducting drives to arrest the absconding members,” the DB official added.

A case was filed with Khilgaon Police Station.

TWO HELD WITH 55KG CANNABIS

Meanwhile, another DB team in a drive arrested two people from the capital’s Mirpur on Saturday on charge of smuggling cannabis.

One of the arrestee is Milon Bakhtiyar alias Chunnur Bakhtiyar (22). Police did not disclose name of the other arrestee for being a minor.

Police also seized 55kg of cannabis hidden inside a chamber of a pick-up van.

Wahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of (Tejgaon division) DB, disclosed the information at a briefing at DB compound in Dhaka yesterday.

He said a hidden chamber was set up under the deck of the pickup to smuggle narcotics, which could be opened from the dashboard of the vehicle through a switch.

AC Mujib Ahmed Patwari of DB police, who led the drive, told The Daily Star yesterday that they conducted the drive on information that narcotics smugglers were transporting cannabis from Cumilla to Dhaka.

The arrestees in interrogation said they were taking it to Mymensingh through Dhaka, he said. A case was filed.

Life is more

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A full bench and chamber judge of the Appellate Division are virtually functioning for five days every week. Lawyers have been habituated to virtually move cases in last one year (of pandemic period). Currently, Ramadan is going and Eid-ul-Fitr is ahead. If the number of HC benches is increased to at least 10, the lawyers would be benefited, Ruhul Qudus said.

Former SCBA vice president Md Ozi Ullah also urged the chief justice to increase the HC benches to deal with bail petitions (on which no rule was issued) and motions.

The CJ said the Appellate Division is now running with only 40 staff members considering the risk of infection and four HC benches need more staffers for operating functions.

More staff members will be required to operate 10 HC benches and they will have to be present physically in courts in this situation, risking more infection of Covid-19, he added.

The CJ said, “I take decisions consulting with all judges. I have reduced the number of benches considering the issues of judges, lawyers and litigants. We will look into the issue of increasing the number of High Court benches considering the coronavirus situation.”

“Stay home and stay safe,” he said.

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, said many court staff members will have to come to the court if the number of benches is increased, he said. “They have families. We cannot push them into danger,” he added.

Obaidul Hassan, another judge of the Appellate Division, said SCBA secretary Ruhul Qudus has considered the issues of only the lawyers, but the chief justice has to take decision considering the whole judiciary.

Meanwhile, the chief justice also said number of judicial officials (lower court judges) need to be made doubled or tripled to reduce the persistently increasing backlog of pending cases. There might be a remedy if the lawyers conduct cases virtually otherwise, backlog of 30 lakh cases will not be finished, he said.

“Two to three ministries are having a conflict over land. It is not being settled. The judiciary has been separated [from the executive] in 2007. Today is 2021. All the lands have not been acquired for constructing the magistrate court buildings. Buildings will be constructed after the lands are acquired,” he said.

All work

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required for a city to be viable for living.

“Ideally, a neighbourhood park is required for every 5,000 people while a community park is necessary for 20,000-30,000 people in a ward. More than one city park is required for a large city,” Adil explained.

PEOPLE PAY THE PRICE

Adil said in absence of enough playgrounds and parks, children may develop depression and mental illnesses.

“It also leads to rise in social crimes and the disturbing development of teenage gang culture can be attributed to the lack of entertainment available through sports,” Adil said, adding that children confined to home nowadays are becoming addicted to cellphones and screens.

Mohammad Ullah Firoz, associate professor of cardiology at Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital, echoed Adil’s concerns, saying the physical and mental development of children are being damaged due to the lack of socialisation at open spaces.

Dhaka has been expanded based on economic demand but public health was not taken into

consideration during the planning, said Dr Aliya Naheed, scientist and public health specialist.

“We eat a lot but exercise less now, because lifestyles have changed,” she said.

“There are spaces to eat but no spaces to get physical exercise to burn the calories. Yet that is required to maintain a healthy metabolism. Those who cannot stay physically active lose nutrition,” Naheed said.

“When a child plays regularly, their mind and body reaches balance. They also become part of a community of kids during the play and learn, socialising in a healthy environment,” she added.

“Physical activity balances children’s appetite, and regulates their sleep schedule. They remain mentally stimulated and find joy in their studies as well,” said Dr Naheed.

But when children remain alone and have to keep themselves entertained with electronic devices only, they do not get a sense of healthy competition and community, she said.

“Lack of play can cause children’s minds to wander into negative thoughts, that can lead to negative results like drug addiction, sexual

harassment, etc,” opined Dr Naheed.

Meanwhile, elderly people’s health deteriorates faster if they do not get any exercise. Eight percent of Bangladesh’s population are elderly.

“If older people can exercise regularly, their quality of life improves, and they too get a relief from loneliness through community interaction. If they are unable to do so, they soon become dependent on their families, and families often consider them burdens,” explained Dr Naheed.

“Yet this elderly population could be a resource for our society,” she added.

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

Architect Rafiq Azam said renovation of existing playgrounds and parks is not enough.

“Of the total area in Dhaka, around 5-8 percent are green spaces, when the required percentage would be around 25-30, said Azam.

Of the existing green patches in Dhaka, only one or two percent are accessible to the general public, said Azam, adding that the green space in the old airport at Tejgaon, the BRD headquarters in Pikhana and the Parliament area are off-limits to general people.

Contacted, DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they have taken initiatives to build playgrounds in every ward.

Acknowledging that there is lack of space to play in every ward, Taposh said they have already recovered spaces in wards 42, 26 and 13 and have taken initiatives to set up playgrounds in those places.

“We will gradually ensure parks and playgrounds in every ward. If necessary, we will acquire land,” he said.

DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam said they have already taken initiatives to modernise the existing 24 parks and playgrounds.

“Some of them have already been opened for people after the renovation works. In some wards there is no place to set up parks or playgrounds but we are working to find space,” he said.

Atiqul said they have already taken initiatives to set up multipurpose park and playground in the new 18 wards under DNCC.

In 2000, there were 47 parks and 10 playgrounds under the undivided Dhaka City Corporation. Now, DSCC has 18 parks and 11 playgrounds while DNCC has 25 parks and 6 playgrounds.

Office of the Project Director
“Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET”
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

Ref. No. KUET/EIAA/2021/04/371 Date: 18-04-2021

Invitation for International Tender (One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method)

Selected tenderer are hereby invited from the eligible suppliers for the following goods as per terms & conditions stated below.

1 Ministry/Division Ministry of Education, Secondary and Higher Education Division.

2 Organization Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET).

3 Procuring entity name Project Director, Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET.

4 Procuring entity address Khulna.

5 Invitation for Supply of Scientific Equipment.

6 Invitation Ref. No. and date Ref. No. KUET/EIAA/2021/04/371. Date: 18-April-2021

KEY INFORMATION

7 Procurement method One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (international).

FUNDING INFORMATION

8 Budget and source of fund Development Budget.

9 Development partners (if applicable) N/A.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10 Procurement code (if applicable) 224270900

11 Project/Program name Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology

12 Tender Package No. DG-56/2021

13 Tender package name Supply of Scientific Equipment.

14 Tender publication date 18-04-2021

15 Tender last selling date 27-05-2021, 3:00pm.

16 Tender last submission date & time 30-05-2021, 12:00pm.

17 Tender opening date & time 30-05-2021, 4:00pm.

18 Name & address of the office of selling/receiving/opening of the tender document Office of the Project Director, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Administrative Building (Extension), 3rd Floor, KUET-9203, Khulna.

19 Place(s) and time (if pre-tender meeting) (optional) None.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20 Eligibility of tenderer As per Tender Schedule (TDS & PCC).

21 Brief description of related service Supply of Scientific Equipment.

22 Tender document price 40000= (four thousand Taka only) Pay Order in favor of “JAMANAT EIAA, KUET”

FUNDING INFORMATION

23 SN Identification of lot Location Completion time

(i) Lot 1: SEM Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna (fifteen lac only) Pay Order in favor of “JAMANAT EIAA, KUET” 4 months

(ii) Lot 2: XRD & XRF Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna (fifteen lac only) Pay Order in favor of “JAMANAT EIAA, KUET” 4 months

24 Name of official inviting tender Dr. Md. Jufikar Hossain.

25 Designation of official inviting tender Project Director, EIAA.

26 Address of official inviting tender Administrative Building, 3rd Floor, KUET-9203, Khulna.

27 Contact details of official inviting tender Tel: (PABX) +88041-789468-75 Ext: 8249, Fax: +88041-774403, Mob: +8801945941800 Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd

28 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceeding. The tender notice is also available at website: www.kuet.ac.bd

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