



Vaccine-seekers gathered at Barishal city's BM College yesterday for their second dose of Moderna vaccine. But with no regard for social distancing and health guidelines, the very purpose of the vaccination can be jeopardised.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'District legal aid office a friend in need'

Speakers stress more use of digital tech to help victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Digital technology has played a massive role in reaching the national legal aid offices in various districts during the pandemic, shared legal aid officers at an online event yesterday.

Victims of violence, especially women, took to Facebook, Messenger, Imo, WhatsApp and hotline numbers, to reach out to the officers in districts during the Covid-19 lockdown, they said.

However, poor internet connectivity, lack of smartphones and internet literacy, high price of mobile data, lack of proper guidelines, ignorance of the laws, absence of upazila and union legal aid offices have also worked as major challenges during this period, they added.

Titled "Role of legal aid officers to address violence against women during Covid and beyond", the event was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

MD Kudrat-E Khuda, district legal aid officer of Kurigram, said the number of domestic violence applications doubled during the pandemic. "From May to September 9 this year, we received 718 applications, of whom 67.5 percent were female applicants. The number of applications related to domestic violence was 141 and dowry related cases were 131."

"But from January 2019 to April 2020, the application related to domestic violence was 14 percent, compared to 30 percent now," he added.

Begum Farhana Lokman, legal aid officer of Cumilla, said along with digital technology, they have worked on creating a suitable environment for women to come with their issues and established separate space for them and a breastfeeding corner.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, chaired the event. She said introducing legal aid offices was a momentous initiative of the government and that, in the past 10 years, funds have been utilised well in terms of providing legal aid to marginalised women victims of violence.

"We have to work more in ensuring proper utilisation of the fund so that their rights are not violated," she added.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chairman of Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee, drew the attention of the director of the National Legal Aid Office to work on increasing the use of digital technology in providing assistance to victims. "This will not be possible overnight, but we have to take the initiative slowly. There are so many NGOs, which can also assist us," he added.

Laxmipur legal aid officer Md Fahad bin Amin Chowdhury, Bandarban legal aid officer Md Abul Mansur Siddique, Ruma Sultana, program coordinator, MJF, among others, spoke at the event.

Dr Najma Choudhury's 32nd death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of eminent writer, researcher, playwright and teacher Dr Najma Jasmine Choudhury.

Marking the day, a memorial speech is held at the auditorium of Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University every year, but the event will not be held today due to the pandemic, said a press release.

The programme will be held when the situation improves, it added.

Dr Najma was the wife of Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.

Man arrested for stabbing Rangpur univ teacher, student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Friday arrested a man on charge of stabbing a teacher and student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

A sharp weapon was also seized from Rifat Hossain (22) alias Alif, said police.

Moniruzzaman, the teacher, and student Porag were attacked by muggers on university premises on Thursday, said Abu Maruf Hossain, a deputy commissioner of Rangpur police, yesterday.

3 areas in Barishal declared 'silent zone'



This photo was taken from Hospital Road in Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Three areas in Barishal city have been declared as "silent zone".

According to the Department of Environment of Barishal divisional office, the areas adjacent to Barishal General Hospital, Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Abdur Rob Seraniab Law College, and Amrit Lal Dey College have been declared as "silent zones".

On Friday, the authorities set up signboards in the areas in this regard.

According to DoE sources, noise over 45 decibels during nighttime, and over 50 decibels during the day, have been prohibited in the areas. In addition, the use of all horns is forbidden.

While visiting the areas, however, this correspondent found trucks and minibuses were honking their horns, and people were using loudspeakers, violating the directives.

Abdus Shukur, a truck driver in front of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said he did not notice the "silent zone" signboard in the area.

Shah Alam, a microbus driver, said they were not aware of the silent zones.

Rafiqul Alam, co-coordinator of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) Barishal Divisional unit, said, "We have distributed leaflets in these three places, but it will take time to inform everyone about the directives".

Contacted, Md Tota Mia, assistant director of Barishal DoE, said, "We have started a campaign (about it) from this month and will continue till October. After that, we will try to take legal actions against the rule violators."

"There are provisions of two months of imprisonment and a fine of Tk 5,000 if the directive is violated," he added.

CUMILLA-7 BY-POLLS AL nominates Dr Pran Gopal



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has nominated Dr Pran Gopal Datta, former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, to contest the Comilla-7 by-election scheduled for October 7.

Prof Pran Gopal Datta is currently holding the post of vice president of Cumilla North unit of AL.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of party's parliamentary and local government election nomination board yesterday, with Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

Comilla-7 fell vacant following the death of Prof Ali Ashraf on July 30.

The deadline for nomination submission is September 13, while date for the scrutiny of nomination paper is September 14. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 19.

From the meeting, AL also picked its candidates for contesting the by-elections in nine upazila parishads and by-polls in Godagari municipality in Rajshahi and Dhaka South City Corporation wards.

A bond severed by tragedy

Man with visual impairment killed in road accident, another with low vision injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faisal and Hari Charan always counted on each other to tackle life's obstacles, because to see the world, Faisal needed Hari's help, as he was completely visually impaired. Hari himself, however, has low vision.

But whatever the circumstances were, they stuck together.

The duo used to live under the same roof in Gazipur's Tongi. Faisal, who was 28 years old, had to travel to Dhaka from Tongi on many occasions, and 46-year-old Hari was his guide every single time.

Unfortunately, on Friday, both of them arrived in Dhaka but could not return home together.

A recklessly driven covered-van hit them in Dhaka's Badda area around 12:15am yesterday, while they were crossing the road together, said Shahidul Islam, a sub-inspector of Badda Police Station.

Faisal, who was critically injured, was declared dead around 3am at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Hari Charan, who was also injured, fortunately survived.

Both the victims were members of a local NGO in Tongi called

"Protibondhi Kalyan Sangstha" and used to live with other persons with disabilities, said the organisation's manager.

Police, the victim's relatives, and colleagues reckon Hari Charan survived as he could see the vehicle approaching.

The deceased's cousin Mozammel Hossain Rubel said Faisal had told his family that he worked at a packaging factory, but actually, he would try his best to support his wife and children by seeking alms in Dhaka.

Police seized the covered-van, but the driver fled away.



Three people were killed after this stone-laden truck hit a rickshaw parked beside a road in Mainamati area of Cumilla early yesterday. The truck fell in a roadside ditch after hitting the rickshaw.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

3 killed as truck hits rickshaw in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Three people were killed after a stone-laden truck hit a rickshaw parked beside Cumilla-Sylhet highway in Mainamati area of Cumilla early yesterday.

The accident happened in front of the union parishad office around 6am as the truck driver lost control over the vehicle and hit the rickshaw, said Abdur Rahman, sub-inspector of Mainamati Highway Police Station.

The truck fell in a roadside ditch after hitting the rickshaw, the SI added.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Ahad (29), Abu Yusuf (22) from Juri area in Moulvibazar, and Ismail Hossain Sagor (30) from Daklapara Mainamati in Burichang upazila.

Police detained the truck driver and helper. The bodies were sent for autopsy.

Bangladesh now 'friendless'

Says GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen's frustration over not getting Covid vaccines from different countries has manifested that Bangladesh has become "friendless" in the world.

"...the foreign minister told the media that the rich countries are not willing to give Bangladesh vaccines. If this is the case, Bangladesh has become friendless in the world," he said.

GM Quader, also the deputy opposition

leader in parliament, made the remarks while speaking at a meeting in the city's Baridhara area.

He said though the foreign minister has said the status of the country has enhanced across the world, Bangladesh ranked 106th in the 2021 Henley Passport Index while its position was 96th in 1996.

"The dignity of the prime minister and her cabinet members may increase in the world but dignity of the common people has not. That's why those who now go abroad with Bangladeshi passports have to face various kinds of harassment," he claimed.

Recognise artists

FROM PAGE 3

Shahriar Kabir said. Hopefully, the new generation will learn more about the genocide from the paintings, he added.

He highlighted although this struggle for independence through art and literature was effective and powerful, there has been no recognition of it in the government narrative.

Sultana Kamal contributed a letter written by her mother, poet Sufia Kamal, during the Liberation War.

Mentioning her mother's role and women's contribution during the war, Kamal said while most mothers only let their sons join the war, the poet allowed two of her daughters to fight for independence.

At the ceremony, Siddiqua Zaman donated several books on the Liberation War written and collected by Prof Anisuzzaman.

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Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.234 Date: 11/09/2021

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of tender	Publication date	Last selling date & time	Opening date
1	597389	Procurement of different HRSG System Chemical and related service under Framework Agreement.	07/09/2021	27/09/2021, 3:30PM	28/09/2021
2	597388	Procurement of different dosing Chemicals and related service under Framework Agreement.	07/09/2021	27/09/2021, 3:30PM	28/09/2021
3	599967	Supply of adsorbent (Desiccant) for Instrument Air Dryer.	08/09/2021	29/09/2021, 3:45 PM	30/09/2021
4	599630	Supply of Inclined Tube Settler Sheet for Clarifier.	08/09/2021	28/09/2021, 3:45PM	29/09/2021

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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