



The fibre that is extracted from a jute plant is known as jute, but what happens to the rest of the plant? After being soaked in water for 15-20 days, the plant is separated into fibre, stem, and ribbons. These ribbons are then dried into sticks and used for other things, like building scaffoldings for betel leaf farms. This photo was taken recently from Barishal's Bakerganj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Country observes PM's 75th birthday

FROM PAGE 3 Iqbal, first secretary (press) of Kolkata mission.

Marking the day, government launched a nationwide mass vaccination drive, aiming to inoculate 75 lakh people in a day.

seminar and book exhibition titled "Sheikh Hasinar Srishtyshilota" at its premises, while the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised a discussion at Jatiya Press Club.

Pragatishil Sangbadik Mancha organised a discussion at Jatiya

Press Club with Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud as chief guest.

Addressing discussion, the minister said there is no alternative to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take the country to its desired destination.

Yesterday, the HC bench also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why they should not be directed to amend the BFUJ voter-list.

Lawyer Nurul Karim appeared for the writ petitioner during the hearing.

HC stays BFUJ polls for two months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for two months the process for holding elections to the executive posts of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) on charge of irregularities in the voter-list.

The BFUJ elections were scheduled to be held on October 23.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah passed the stay order following a writ petition filed by Mohammad Hasan Ferdous, former general secretary of Chattogram Union of Journalists, challenging the legality of the voter-list prepared for BFUJ elections in 2021, Assistant Attorney General Golam Sarwar Payel told The Daily Star.

He said the name of writ petitioner Mohammad Hasan Ferdous has been dropped from the voter-list. He submitted an application to the BFUJ president and the registrar general of trade union in August and September this year for correcting the list through including his name, but to no avail, said AAG Golam Sarwar.

He said the name of writ petitioner Mohammad Hasan Ferdous has been dropped from the voter-list. He submitted an application to the BFUJ president and the registrar general of trade union in August and September this year for correcting the list through including his name, but to no avail, said AAG Golam Sarwar.

Make accessing

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Among others, the demonstration was attended by Shujan founder secretary Dr Badrul Alam Majumdar.

Dr Majumdar said that the success of the Right to Information Act depends on the general public's willingness to exercise it, and focusing on that is necessary.

A life lost to negligence

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the official added.

Sadia's uncle Zakir Hossain also recounted the harrowing tale to this correspondent. "After an eye specialist's appointment, we went and bought her spectacles from a shop at Agrabad. We could not have suspected what fate had in store for us," said Zakir in a despondent tone.

His sorrow soon turned into anger when discussing the city authorities' role in the death. "My niece would not have died if the drain was covered up with slabs," he said.

Visiting the family's residence at Halishabar, this correspondent found an atmosphere of mourning prevailing, as no one could stomach this sudden demise of a young member.

Sadia's death comes a little more than a month after another incident involving vegetable trader Saleh Ahmed, who suffered a similar fate.

On August 25, the 50-year-old fell into a roadside drain at the city's Muradpur intersection and was never found, even though fire service ran a rescue operation for seven consecutive days.

In fact, at least two more people were killed and many others sustained injuries in over similar incidents in the past four months.

In June, a CNG auto-rickshaw driver and a passenger were killed as their vehicle fell into a drain at Chashma Hill in Hill View area.

Talking to this correspondent, city dwellers and civil society members said they hold the city authorities liable for the accidents.

Termining the incidents "murder", city planner engineer Subhash Barua said, "If these accidents happened in any developed country, murder cases would be lodged against the authorities concerned."

"It's common sense that open drains should be covered with slabs and retaining walls be built around canals to prevent such 'accidents', but the engineering departments of the city authorities are failing to understand this simple matter," he said, pointing finger at bodies such as Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and Chattogram Development Authority (CDA).

SM Nazer Hossain, central vice president of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh

(Cab), said the CCC cannot avoid their responsibility in the maintenance of drains and canals this way.

After Saleh Ahmed went missing in the drain, the officials of CCC and CDA engaged in a round of blame-game and tried to avoid responsibility. Talking to this correspondent yesterday, they did the same again.

Though CCC mayor Rejaul Karim Chowdhury told journalists after Saleh Ahmed went missing that they would take steps to cover up the open drains and build retaining walls around canals, over a month has passed without any progress.

During a visit yesterday, it was seen that canals and tertiary drains at Chatterhwari Road, Chawkbazar, Rahattarpool Uzir Ali Shah Lane, Katalgani, Prabartak, Muradpur, Chashma Hill, Panchlaish, and Jamal Khan Road were left uncovered and without retaining walls.

Contacted, Rafiqul Alam, chief engineer of CCC, said they took steps to cover up the risky drains of the city. "We have already covered up many drains and are working on the rest," he said.

However, regarding yesterday's and Saleh Ahmed's incidents, Rafiqul said covering up those particular drains was CDA's responsibility as they are working on them.

"We are doing our part, now it's CDA's turn to do theirs," he said.

However, CDA chief engineer Hasan Bin Shams refuted the allegation, shifting the blame back to CCC. "We have been implementing our project for three years, but where was the CCC for the past 15 years? Why did not they build retaining walls on the canals and drains?"

"We are not working on everything in the city," he continued. "Our works involves only 36 canals and main tertiary drains. We will cover them up and build walls around them once our works are complete. But what happens to every other canal and drain? CCC officials cannot avoid their responsibility."

But as their mudslinging continues, it's the citizens who are the victims.

"It all started after a teacher of CUET died in a similar manner at Zakir Hossain Road around 10 years ago," said Tanvir Ahmed, a resident of the area. "As the years go on, names keep piling up on that list, but the authorities are yet to do anything about it."

Where will all the students stay?

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during the pandemic. The 3,000 dorms currently open can house around 1.20 lakh people, he said.

He, however, added that only admission seekers will get free accommodation; their family members will have to pay.

After the meeting, RCC Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton said the city's private dorms, hotels, and government rest houses have been arranged for admission seekers and their families. Through this initiative, at least 70 percent of students will have a place to stay.

However, RU teachers and students think the decision to accommodate students in private dorms was unrealistic, as admission seekers, who

are mostly not from the region, barely know the dorms' location.

Furthermore, since educational institutions are conducting academic activities by keeping halls closed, many students of those institutes are already occupying the private dorms.

Some students alleged that many have started cashing in on the bad situation. They said they saw several posts on Facebook offering dorm seats for Tk 1,000 per night, which means many are occupying and renting out the free seats.

All rooms of the city's residential hotels were booked three weeks ago. The rooms that used to be rented out for Tk 300 have been booked for Tk 2,000, students said.

Khondoker Hasan Kabir, general

secretary of Rajshahi Residential Hotel Owners Association, said around 62 hotels of the city can house 2,000 people, but none of the rooms are vacant.

"The hotels under our association under no circumstances can charge a higher rate for rooms, but I cannot say the same about hotels not enlisted with our association," Kabir said.

The RU VC said he would raise the issue of opening halls in the Academic Council meeting on Thursday.

But whether halls would be opened before the tests remains uncertain.

"We have started cleaning the halls, but completing all the work will require the first week of October," he said.

Evercare Hospital Dhaka observes World Heart Day

CITY DESK

Evercare Hospital Dhaka organised a "Patient Forum" at the Department of Paediatric Cardiology recently, marking World Heart Day 2021, said a press release.

Chief Executive Officer of Building Technology and Ideas Limited (BTI) Asif Iqbal was present as the chief guest. Hospital CEO and Managing Director Dr Ratnadeep Chaskar delivered the welcome note.

Paediatric cardiology department head Dr Tahera Nazreen gave an overview of the department. FR Khan, managing director of BTI; Afsana Asif, executive partner of Asix; Arsalul Islam Chowdhury, columnist of The Daily Star and professor of the Department of Economics at Jahangirnagar University were present as special guests.

Dr Sanjay Kishanrao Pathare, director of Medical Services; Dr Arif Mahmood, deputy director; Vinay Kaul, chief marketing officer, and others from Evercare Hospital Dhaka were also present at the programme moderated by Akhtar Jamil Ahmed, general manager, Business Development. The hospital also launched a paediatric heart disease awareness programme recently. Under the programme, the cardiology department has taken an initiative to help underprivileged children with congenital heart defects by donating free devices and balloons.

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Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep with good condition, sunroof, Model-2000, Engine capacity 4500 c.c. Registration-2021. Price-23,00,000/-

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BIGM Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management
Vacancy Announcement
Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM) is an academic, training and research institute offering Masters degrees, professional training and conducting research on national policy issues.

No WASH facilities for tea garden residents

Speakers tell press meet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Around 57 percent tea garden residents still defecate out in the open, speakers said at a press meeting yesterday. They said this is due to cost-constraints, negligence from tea garden authorities, and lack of space inside households.

The Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA) organised the meeting, titled "Promoting WASH for hard to reach communities including Tea garden workers in Bangladesh" at Sreemangal Press Club in Moulvibazar. It was jointly implemented by WaterAid and supported by SIMAVI.

Under the programme, IDEA surveyed a total of 2,336 households in the area, housed by 11,036 people.

Of them, only 273 have hygienic latrines, 729 household use unhygienic latrines, while 1,334 households have no latrines at all.

পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গপ্রতিষ্ঠান
বিষয়: কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী

JSSSL নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
নির্ব্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়ের অধীনে "Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)" প্রকল্পে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য) জে এস এস সার্ভিসেস লিমিটেড কর্তৃক আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে নিম্নোক্ত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য ঘোষণা ও অত্রই প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে আপামি ২৯-০৯-২০২১ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ হতে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।