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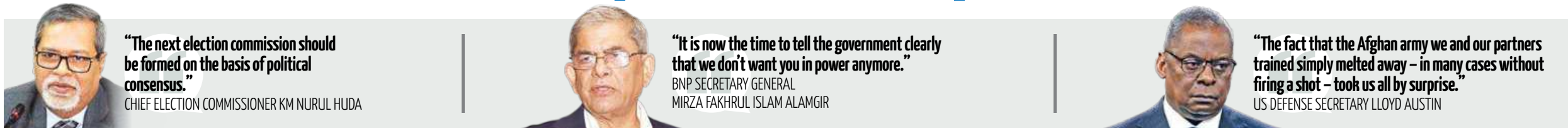
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TEACHER APPOINTMENT, TRANSFER, MPO Riddled with graft

Finds TIB study on secondary education sector

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The secondary education sector is mired by various forms of corruption and irregularities including illegal financial transactions for the appointment of head teachers and officials in other roles.

A study even found instances where aspiring head teachers or assistant head teachers had to pay between Tk 3.5 lakh and Tk 15 lakh to get the appointments in schools.

Illegal transactions have also taken place for the transfer of teachers, their inclusion to the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) benefits, during schools' academic approval, school inspections, etc., Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said in the study on secondary education made public yesterday.

The study titled "Secondary education programme: Governance challenges and way out" was unveiled during a webinar.

The study also found that while there is an online process for non-government teachers to apply for MPO benefits, they still "had to pay money" at four stages.

Under the MPO scheme, the government pays teachers of non-government schools

UNAUTHORISED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- Tk 3.5-15 lakh for head teacher post
- Up to Tk 1 lakh for MPO inclusion
- Tk 1 lakh to Tk 2 lakh for teachers' transfer
- Tk 50,000 to Tk 5 lakh for school audit

100 percent of their basic salaries. The teachers also get small monthly payments as allowance through MPO.

Many government school teachers and upazila education officers have been working at the same place for over 10 years using their influence and money. Many officials of Directorate of Inspection and Audit (DIA) are also working at the same station for long as they have scope to "earn money" in those stations.

However, there is a provision that a person cannot stay at the same station for more than three years.

The study also shows that supervision of secondary schools is facing hurdles in the absence of sufficient manpower at field level offices.

The study, quoting the Directorate of Inspection and Audit, said 1,577 teachers were recruited as assistant teachers using fake teacher registration certificates, certificates showing computer expertise and other academic certificates between 2013 and February 2020.

"We have seen illegal transactions in



Locals helping an elderly woman on a wheelchair cross the road in Shyampur Industrial Area in the capital yesterday. Due to ongoing development work in the locality, waste from a nearby dyeing factory got diverted to the street, flooding the area for about a week.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

How many must die before they wake up?

Mostafa Yousof and Arun Bikash Dey from Chattogram

When open sewers in the port city have become a death trap claiming at least four lives in the span of just three months, the authorities concerned stay in a deep slumber instead of taking measures to prevent such deaths.

The latest victim of their sheer negligence is Sehrin Mahbub Sadia, a first-year computer science student of International Islamic University Chittagong. The 19-year-old died after falling into an open drain in Agrabad Badamtali area around 10:00pm on Monday. She slipped into the drain while walking towards her car along with her grandfather and an uncle. Firefighters recovered her body five hours later after removing a few tonnes of waste.

The street along which the drain is has lately been narrowed down for the construction of an elevated expressway by Chattogram Development Authority (CDA).

Also, the area was dark as street lights have been out of order for months. Making sure a street is adequately lit is

among the key responsibilities of any city corporation.

Sadia's death has touched off outrage in Chattogram and beyond, but apparently failed to hammer any concern and sensitivity into CDA and Chattogram City Corporation (CCC).

OPEN DRAINS IN PORT CITY

- Most stretches of the 946km of drains in Ctg are open
- Four died falling in drain in the last three months
- CDA and CCC trade blame to avert being held responsible

They are now locked in a blame game over whose responsibility it is to stop recurrence of such incidents.

Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA, told The Daily Star yesterday that the city corporation failed to perform its duty.

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'Should've held her tighter'

Traumatized grandfather of Sadia inconsolable

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

"Why did I not hold her hand tighter?"

Like any grandfather, Hazi Jamal Ahmed could not accept that he lost his young granddaughter and that too to a tragedy that could have been averted had it not been for the gross negligence of the city they live in.

"How could she have just fallen into a drain and died?" he wailed, unstopable.

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DHAMAKA SHOPPING Embezzlement planned from onset

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhamaka Shopping came to the market with a singular plan: take hold of as much cash as possible from unsuspecting customers by offering them dizzying discounts for deferred delivery and run for safety as soon as a certain amount had accrued.

Which is why, it did not bother getting a trade licence or a business account with a bank. It used its sister concern Invariant Telecom's account to receive Tk 803.5 crore from customers.

The exit was always scheduled for April and it even gave a clue: the validity of its 'Signature Card', which provided 20-30 percent discounts, was until April.

And the activities of the e-commerce platform, founded just five months earlier fashioned on the infamous Evaly, also became erratic from then onwards.

At that point, only 20 percent of the products were delivered to the customers, Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rapid Action Battalion's legal and media wing, told a press briefing at its media centre in Karwan Bazar yesterday after the arrest of three top officials of the disgraced e-commerce platform.

The platform -- which sold mobile phones, TVs, refrigerators, motorcycles, household goods and furniture -- began to issue refund cheques to customers while moving the money from the bank account.

Not just that, it has stopped paying rent for its office in the capital's Mohakhali and delivery hub at the Battala intersection in Teigaon.

Its employees too are not getting paid since June. "All the activities of the company have been suspended since July after its money was moved elsewhere in April this year. A huge amount of money has been siphoned off," Moin said.

Now, only Tk 1 lakh is left in the accounts whereas it owes about Tk 400 crore to customers and sellers.

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Rohingya leader Mohibullah shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot Rohingya rights activist and leader Mohibullah dead at his office in Kutupalong camp under Cox's Bazar's Ukhia upazila last night.



Rohingyas in camps of Kutupalong are tensed with police and local administration issuing an alert across the district to avert further violence.

Residents of the camps questioned how the criminals entered, shot Mohibullah and then fled despite the presence of law enforcement personnel inside the camp.

Police said Mohibullah came to his Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) camp-1 east office after offering Esha prayers around 8:30pm. Three armed men then entered and fired five bullets.

Additional Deputy Inspector General (DIG) (crime) of Chattogram Range Police Jakir Hossain Khan told The Daily Star, "Three bullets hit his [Mohibullah's] chest, leaving him critically injured. The criminals fled the scene immediately afterwards.

"He was taken to Kutupalong MSF Hospital where doctors declared him dead," said the DIG.

Mohibullah was the chairman of Arakan

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Land wasn't registered as I did not have bribe paid

State minister says in public meeting

STAR REPORT

A state minister yesterday said he could not get a piece of land registered because he did not pay bribes at the sub-registry office.

"I am a lawmaker, a state minister, and representative of five lakh people of Monirampur. Last week, I sent someone with documents to the sub-registry office for registering a piece of land where I was to set up a government Milk Vita factory. But it is a matter of regret that the job was not done because bribe was not paid..." Swapan Bhattacharjee, state minister for Rural Development and

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Only a flimsy tape protects this man, dusting the window of a car, from the wide open drain in Chattogram's Muradpur area. Many of the open drains in the port city do not even have that tape. Such open drains pose serious hazards for pedestrians. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Bangladesh government carries the cost of the cases of Marginalised people, poor widow and Acid victims



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