



It's a common practice to nail advertisements on roadside trees across the country, and Khulna city is no different. Beyond ruining an area's beauty, driving a nail or screw into a tree can disrupt a tree's ability to move water and sugar throughout its body. Moreover, this increases the risk for pathogens and pests to enter. This photo was taken yesterday in front of Khulna Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CTG CITY UNIT AL Six leaders entrusted to solve intra-party feud

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Six Awami League leaders have been entrusted to resolve intra-party feud in AL's Chattogram city unit.

The leaders are city unit president Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury, general secretary and former city mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, vice president and chairperson of CDA Jahirul Alam Dobhash, vice president Nayeem Uddin, joint general secretary and city mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, and executive member and deputy minister for education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.

The decision came in a meeting between AL central and city unit leaders in Dhaka on Sunday, said AL sources.

AL presidium member Mosharrif Hossain, and joint general secretaries Mahub-Ul-Alam Hanif and Hasan Mahmud were present at the meeting.

Some city leaders present at the meeting said they raised allegations of irregularities against a top leader over forming unit-level committee. They said when the central leaders asked him about the matter, he tried to defend himself, but the leaders seemed dissatisfied with the explanation.

"We have explained our stance before central leaders. We said the city unit is not a private organisation, and it cannot be run by decision of any leader," said Khorshed Alam Sujan, vice president of city unit of AL.

Port City mayor Rezaul Karim said, "We will form 14 teams for 14 thana units to oversee the issues."

The feud started in the last week of December, when a number of city unit leaders wrote to central leaders, requesting to postpone the ward-level council, supposed to start on December 26.

They alleged that a top leader of the unit conducted irregularities in giving new memberships to the party. The central committee then postponed the council and called city leaders to Dhaka.

AL's Chattogram city unit has mainly two factions – one is led by Nasir and another by Nowfel.

Mahub-Ul-Alam Hanif said, "The newly formed team will give us their feedback in seven days, and then the council's date would be fixed."

When garbage takes over greenery

JU's waste management in a shambles; recycling plant non-functional since 2020

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University's waste management has been in shambles for the last couple of years, posing a serious threat to its otherwise clean environment and biodiversity.

With the recycling plant non-functional since March 2020, waste is being dumped into the open and the lakes inside the campus, said teachers and students of the university.

They said due to the absence of proper management and little to no funding from the university authorities, more dumping zones have been sprouting on the campus.

While visiting the designated waste dumping yard near the university's 20-mile area, this correspondent found solid and other waste scattered everywhere, the foul smell engulfing the whole area.

The lakes beside Al-Beruni and Fazilatunnesa halls as well as new and old arts buildings have become dumping sites, polluting the temporary abode for migratory birds during winter, according to Kamrul Hasan, professor of zoology at JU.

There are bins at different locations of the vast campus. However, there is little awareness in this regard, and all waste is dumped indiscriminately at one spot without segregation. This includes medical waste as well, according to a designated waste collector of the campus.

"Waste collectors have no training. They don't have much idea about hazardous waste and mix everything together," said Dr Md Shakhaoat Hossain, assistant professor of public health and informatics.

In 2012, the JU authority introduced a recycling plant, funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency and Grameen Shakti, intending to clean the campus.

The plant produced a significant amount of biogas from solid waste and

turned it into cooking fuel for 70 families living in the area.

The waste was collected systematically, also sourced from two adjacent residential areas – PATC and Arunapalli – to produce enough to meet the demand. The outsourcing of solid waste was done to make the plant economically sustainable.

"Students from different universities also visited the plant for research interests," said Dr Md Khabir Uddin, professor of environmental sciences at JU.

"But the entire campus turned into a giant dump yard after the plant stopped functioning in March 2020."

Md Ajim Uddin, JU's deputy registrar (estate), said the plant stopped functioning due to the dearth of demand for gas. "The

Dr AHM Sadaat, department chair of environmental sciences, said the produced gas could be used for other purposes. "But that needs funding from the JU authorities."

Prof Khabir said the gas could be used to run generators as well. "This wouldn't even cost much."

Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said, "The university authority is spending thousands of crores in shady constructions, but wouldn't spend a few thousand to address the waste management issue. This is completely unacceptable."

"I'm not aware of any special fund or team dedicated to waste management, and I don't know whether the university



families of the residential areas are not interested in the gas anymore, hence we put the plant out of operation," said Ajim.

A resident of 20-mile area claimed that they were not interested to use bio-gas anymore, as it was not producing sufficient pressure for cooking.

is interested in providing a fund," said JU Treasurer Prof Rasheda Akhtar.

"I have come to know of the situation just now. We will discuss the matter," said Rahima Kaneez, JU's acting registrar.

This correspondent couldn't contact VC Farzana Islam despite repeated attempts.



With JU's recycling plant remaining non-functional since March 2020, non-segregated waste is being dumped into the open and lakes inside the campus, posing serious health and environmental concerns.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Promising jobs, fraud gang pockets crores

Says CID after arresting three

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

When people started losing jobs during the pandemic, a group of fraudsters exploited the opportunity and started swindling the dispirited people by promising them a better life.

The fraudsters first made some demi-official (DO) letters, forging signatures of three ministers and some members of parliament.

They then used to show the letters to job-seekers, tempting them with job opportunities. Once someone fell for the trick, the criminals would make a Tk 10 to 15 lakh contract with the job-seekers, and take Tk 3 to 5 lakh in advance.

After the advance payment was made, the fraudsters just disappeared.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) claimed to have arrested three members of the fraudster gang, including the ringleader.

The arrestees are Harun-or-Rashid, Sekendar Ali and Masud Rana, said Md Imam Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of CID (Dhaka Metro).

He said they arrested the three from the capital's Paltan on Sunday, after four victims filed complaints.

CID teams have also seized four fake appointment letters of government offices, three applications of different ministries, six bank cheques signed by victims and 24 blank stamp papers.

The fraudsters have pocketed money from around 90 victims so far, claimed CID officials.

They used to take signed blank stamps from victims, so that no one would be able to file complaints with police, they said.

Sometimes, just to earn their trust, the gang would manage internships for the job-seekers for some days.

During the period, the gang informed victims that if their work was satisfactory, then they would be permanently appointed. However, the companies never provided jobs after the internship period, said investigators.

CID says the gang's mastermind Harun, who hails from Naogaon, used to work in a Hajj agency, but lost his job during the pandemic. Since then, he has been defrauding people, said officials.

He used to hire an SUV and visit different areas of Naogaon. Before visits, he hired some locals by paying them Tk 5,000 to 10,000. The locals' job was to spread good news about Harun.

While visiting, Harun would also give money to people and mosques, said investigators.

The hired locals would say that Harun is an influential person and can open doors, they said.

For example, Sheikh Mintu, one of the victims who is from Bagerhat, is now working as a lineman for Palli Bidyut of Naogaon. Harun and his gang had promised

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Student killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A 16-year-old boy was killed in a road accident on his way to receive Covid-19 vaccine jab in Nawabganj upazila of Dinaipur yesterday.

The deceased is Humayun Kabir, son of Shariful Islam of Shibrampur village. He was a tenth grader of Helencha High School.

The accident occurred around 11am when a sand-laden truck hit an auto-rickshaw carrying Humayun and some six or seven of his classmates to Upazila Health Complex, said Bibhutibhusan Brai Ray, sub-inspector of Nawabganj Police Station. Efforts are on to arrest the truck driver.

1,000 chickens burned to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around 1,000 chickens perished in a fire that broke out at a poultry farm in Chattogram's Raozan upazila early yesterday.

Farm owner Rashedul Alam, president of Raozan Sadar union Chhatra League, said the fire originated around 3:30am and soon engulfed the entire farm, burning all 1,000 chickens.

Rashedul believes that some miscreants set the farm on fire.

"It is unclear how the fire originated," said Jashim Uddin, union parishad chairman of Raozan Sadar and Sadar union AL president.

According to OC Abdullah Al Harun of Raozan police station, no one reported the incident to his station when it occurred. "The UP chair informed us of the fire over the phone," he added.

Aiming to boost tourism revenue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Tourism Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was placed in parliament yesterday to make the existing law a time-befitting one and earn more revenue from the tourism sector.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahub Ali placed the bill, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the respective ministry for further scrutiny.

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