



## BANGLA ACADEMY Winners of 2021 awards unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen authors and writers were named yesterday as the winners of the Bangla Academy Sahitya Puroskar-2021.

They are Asad Mannan and Bimal Guha (poetry), Jharna Rahman and Bishwajit Choudhury (novel), Hossenuddin Hossen (essay/research), Aminur Rahman and Rafique-um-Munir Chowdhury (translation), Sadhana Ahmed (drama), Rafiqur Rashid (children's literature), Panna Kaiser (Liberation War research), Prof Harun-or-Rashid (research on Bangabandhu), Shuvagoto Chowdhury (science/science fiction/environmental science), Sufia Khatun and Haider Akbar Khan Rono (biography/memoir/travelogue), and Aminur Rahman Sultan (folklore).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the awards at Amar Ekushey Book Fair.



These vehicles, seized by police, are left opposite to the capital's Gulshan Police Station, occupying the street and the footpath. The vehicles have been kept there as there is no room inside the police station or a designated place to keep them. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Cleaner killed by garbage truck in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cleaner was run over and killed by a garbage truck in the city's Mohakhali area early yesterday. Shikha Rani Gharami, 55, was run over around 2:00am when she was sweeping a street near Mohakhali flyover, said Shah Alam, inspector (investigation) of Tejaoga Police Station, quoting witnesses.

Police seized the Dhaka North City Corporation's garbage truck from Kuril-Bishwa Road area yesterday evening but they could not find the driver or the assistant.

The body of Shikha, who hails from Barishal, has been kept at Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

DNCC outsources some cleaning jobs and Shikha had one of those jobs, said DNCC's Chief Waste Management Officer Commodore SM Sharif Ul Islam.

Shikha lived in Mohakhali's Sattola slum. Her son Khokon Gharami yesterday filed a case with Tejaoga Police Station against an unnamed driver.

At least four people have been killed after being hit by garbage trucks of DNCC and DSCC since November last year.

On December 23, 2021, a 60-year-old man was killed after being hit reportedly by a garbage truck of DSCC in Tikatuli area.

On November 24, a 17-year student of Notre Dame College was killed when a DSCC garbage truck hit him in Gulistan area.

A day later, an employee of a newspaper was crushed by a DNCC vehicle in Panthapath area.

## Ensure clear calls, stable network HC tells telecom operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that call drops, disruptions, extra charges for mobile phone subscribers, and low-quality voice calls and internet service are serious complaints against telecom operators that must be addressed.

The court also directed mobile telecom operators to ensure crystal clear voice calls, fast internet service and stable network in line with their advertisements circulated in print and electronic media.

The HC also issued a rule asking respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction to ensure these services should not be declared illegal.

The court asked them to show why they should not be directed to remove any time limitation in data pack services, allowing subscribers to use purchased data until full consumption.

The posts and telecommunications secretary, Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) chairman, and the CEOs of Grameenphone, Robi, Banglalink and Teletalk have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman delivered the directives and issued the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Saifur Rahman Rahi seeking directives to remove the sufferings of more than 16 crore mobile subscribers in the country.

The bench formed a five-member supervisory committee to monitor the functions of the complaint cell established under the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for quick disposal of complaints against telecom operators.

Secretaries to ministries of information communication technology, posts and telecommunications, BTRC chairman, a Buet teacher, and a representative from Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh have been included in the committee, which has been asked to submit a monitoring report to the HC within 30 days of receiving the court order.

## Poor data frustrates road safety measures

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Every January, non-government organisations working on road safety publish reports on the number of road accidents and casualties and so does the police.

While road-safety campaigners prepare reports based on media reports, the police solely rely on first information reports or general dairies.

These reports show a trend but many accidents remain unrecorded and the numbers in the reports vary significantly.

Transport experts said the lack of proper data on road accidents is a drawback in making informed decisions to solve the problem.

"Poor quality and unreliable data on crashes, deaths, and injuries impede proper road safety management," the World Bank observed in an appraisal report prepared for financing a road safety project in Bangladesh.

"The current system of recording, analysing, and reporting crashes in Bangladesh is cumbersome, error-prone, time-consuming, and unfit for analysis and benchmarking," read the report.

"... This database [with data from police] is the only source of crash fatality data; however, it shows irregular and unreliable year-on-year changes, indicating incompleteness and a lack of consistent procedures," it said.

It said a comparison of the recorded fatalities with the WHO's estimated fatalities from 2010-2015 shows a discrepancy of more than 90 percent.

At least 24,954 people were killed in road crashes in the country in 2016, says the WHO report. The

number is almost 10 times the one given by police, which was 2,463.

Prof Haduzzaman, director of Accident Research Institute at Buet, said many accidents happen in rural areas and go unreported. Those who succumb



ORGANISATION	ACCIDENTS	DEATHS
Police	5,472	5,088
Jatri Kalyan Samity	7,809	5,629
Nirapad Sarak Chai	3,793	4,289
Road Safety Foundation	5,371	6,284

(Data from 2021)

to injuries also go unreported, he said, adding that damage to properties is also not reported.

In the absence of credible and proper data, decisions of policymakers are unlikely to be appropriate, he told The Daily Star.

He said in developed countries, all vehicles are insured. The government should make insurance mandatory for all vehicles and make it truly effective.

Mahbub-E-Rabbani, director (road safety) of BRTA, however, yesterday said governments across the world rely on police data. "Yes, police data in our country may not be cent percent accurate but it's the most reliable data."

## Formation of Qawmi board under review

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday told parliament that it was essential to have Qwami madrasas registered with the relevant authorities of the government for ensuring a time-befitting system for such institutions.

Replying to a query from ruling Awami League lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah from Dhaka-11, she also said the madrasas need to be regulated under a single education board.

"Formulation of a policy and a single Qwami Education Board is under government's review," she said, adding that the country currently has 19,199 Qwami madrasas.

The question-answer session was held with JS Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

During the session, AL MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon wanted to know how much of the properties of Dhaka University was being occupied by others and what steps were taken to recover them.

The minister replied Nilkhet Police Outpost, Babupura Police Outpost adjacent to Ananda Bazar, and Atomic Energy Centre of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission were on DU land.

Except for sending and receiving letters over the last 30 years, there has been no progress in recovering DU land in Nilkhet and Babupura areas, she said.

It is still not clear what new steps could be taken to recover them, she added.

### IN FOND MEMORY

Mrs. Anwara Islam, died on 24-01-2006 - exactly the same day and date as her husband Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier in 1982.

Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.

Lubna, Akbar, Duree, Arife & Bunty (Children)  
Anika, Talita, Numair (Grand Children)  
Amani, Tijaan & Jinaan (Great-Grand Children)

Ms Lubna Choudhury  
Founder-Principal, B.I.T

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### Heartiest Felicitations

Mr. Amal Podder Managing Director of Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd. receives CIP Card from Hon'ble Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi (Left) and Mr. Abir Podder, elder son of Amal Podder & Preeti Podder, receives CIP Card on behalf of Preeti Podder, Chairman, Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd. from Commerce Minister.

We express our heartiest felicitations to the Hon'ble Managing Director of Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd. Mr. Amal Podder and to the Hon'ble Chairman of Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd. Mrs. Preeti Podder for achieving CIP (Export) 2018 from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their significant role in the Export of readymade garments and a huge contribution to the foreign exchange earning of the country.

**Good wishes from all the members  
of Panam Group**

- Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd.
- Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd.
- Mercer Design Tex Ltd.
- Scandex Textile Industries Ltd.
- M/S K.B Traders
- AAA Textile Mills Ltd.
- Sabrang Bay Resort Ltd.
- Sandy Shore Ltd.
- Panam Logistics Ltd.
- Panam Cycle Industries Ltd.