



After the pandemic hit two years ago, the lives of paint workers got immensely difficult. To this day, demand for their labour is yet to pick up, which leads to waiting by the road at specific spots for long hours for contractors to come and recruit them. This photo was taken from Siraj-ud-Dowla Park near Old Dhaka's Babubazar Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Getting urbanisation right

Experts say focus should be on developing secondary cities rather than Dhaka, Ctg



FILE PHOTO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Given that Bangladesh has gone through unstructured and imbalanced urbanisation over the past decades, experts said it will harm the country's economy if measures are not taken in this regard.

To retain growth, developing balanced urbanisation is a must in the country's northern part, as many people will migrate due to climate change in future. Experts also underscored the need for improvement of road connectivity to bring a balance in urbanisation and trade diversification.

The discussion was part of a technical workshop titled "Getting Urbanization Right in Bangladesh", organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) yesterday.

Dr Nora Dihel, senior economist at the World Bank, said Dhaka is generating one-fifth of the GDP right now and almost half of the formal employment of the country.

"That is why the focus should be on

organising secondary cities. We are trying to look at the roles of secondary medium-sized cities in sustaining structural transformation and increasing productivity," said Dr Dihel.

Dr Binayak Sen, director general of BIDS, said, "So the question arises whether we

- ISSUES
- URBAN SPRAWL
OBSESSIVE FOCUS ON DHAKA
CONGESTED CAPITAL
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- BALANCED URBANISATION
ROAD CONNECTIVITY
STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION
CLIMATE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

foster secondary urban development rather than obsessively focusing on Dhaka and Chattogram."

"Successful urbanisation is crucial for

economic growth and it is important for Bangladesh that urban areas become more productive, supporting more innovation and growth," she added.

The World Bank's senior economist Dr Forhad Shilpi and economist Dr Alejandro Molnar made a keynote presentation showing how congestion in Dhaka has increased over the years and what impact climate change could have in the future with the existing state of urbanisation.

Mentioning that the urbanisation rate will rise to 60 percent in 2050 from the existing 38 percent, Shilpi said, "Another 50 million people will be added to the urban population. Will Dhaka be able to take the load?"

"People are going to move away to higher grounds with the rising sea level. But the strategies on climate mitigation and adaptation will also need to be taken into account alongside the expansion of urbanisation to create a balance," she added.

JP to stay on the streets

Leaders tell event on price hike of daily essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party leaders yesterday said the party will not leave the street until price of essentials are not controlled and corruption is not put to an end.

"With the people, we will build a strong movement to fulfil their demands," JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said while speaking at a human chain at Bijay Nagar in the city.

"The country is going through a difficult time with commodity prices skyrocketing. People are struggling to run their families," he further said.

"There's at least five crore unemployed people in the country right now. Most people are getting poorer by the day. It seems like the government has no sympathy for them."

JP co-chair Syed Abu Hossain Babla said the long queues in front of TCB trucks are symptomatic of people's misery.

Salma Islam, co-chair of JP, also addressed the human chain and said her party will not leave the people's side in their time of need.

DNCC, DSCC to oversee construction

Says LGRD minister about buildings in capital, gives directives to tackle Aedes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to involve city corporations to check whether building owners have constructed their establishments at designated locations, following approved designs.

Rajuk, however, will approve the designs, as usual.

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam said this yesterday in an inter-ministerial meeting on controlling Aedes mosquitoes at its conference room.

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MEETING AT A GLANCE

- Impose holding tax on residential houses of govt agencies, if they fail to clean their areas
- Take action against owners who don't clean stagnant water in rooftop gardens
- DNCC mayor demanded more entomologists from govt for mosquito drives

Online gamblers laundering crores abroad: CID

5 held from Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police claimed to have arrested five members of an online gambling racket, which was involved in laundering money abroad through virtual currencies and e-transactions.

"They [racket] had been using social media sites like Facebook and WhatsApp for a long time, inviting people to join various messenger groups. Many youths across the country are addicted to online betting,"

Imam Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of CID, told a press briefing yesterday.

For a long time, multiple rackets have been organising gambling activities using virtual currencies through various websites during major sporting events, the official said.

A team of CID's Dhaka metro (south) unit arrested the five from Keraniganj area in the last two days, he added.

The arrestees are Tofayel Ahmed Rasel (27), Shakil Khan (35), Parvez (24), Sagar (30), and Ziaul Haque Rony (39).

Multiple rackets have been organising gambling activities using virtual currencies through various websites during major sporting events.

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PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 4



	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-15	12-30	4-30	6-05	7-30
Jamaat	5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: COLLECTED

New era in heart treatment

Mechanical heart implant completed successfully for the first time in country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the country, a mechanical heart implant procedure has been successfully performed, marking a new era in the treatment of heart disease in the country.

Dr Jahangir Kabir, chief cardiac surgeon and director of the Cardiac Center at United Hospital, placed a mechanical heart or Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) in the heart of a 42-year-old woman at the hospital on Wednesday.

The patient was suffering from chronic heart failure, with her heart gradually approaching complete failure, even after receiving treatment at home and abroad.

In the current world of medical practice, the only

treatment is to replace the almost dysfunctional heart with another healthy heart. However, if a healthy heart is not available while the organ's condition continues to deteriorate rapidly, then a mechanical heart implant or LVAD remains the only option.

Upon completion of the procedure, the patient's heart regains blood circulation in the whole body, giving other organs in the body a chance to heal as well.

On Wednesday, Dr Jahangir Kabir and his colleagues placed a mechanical heart called Heartmate-3 in the left ventricle of the patient's heart through a successful surgery, which was conducted for about 4 hours.

Who is SCBA president?

Kamal Hossain, 3 other jurists ask

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain and three other former presidents of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) wanted to know who the current president of the association is.

The others are M Amir-Ul Islam, Mainul Hossain and Rokanudin Mahmud.

In a letter sent to SCBA executive committee on February 28, they said it has come to the notice of all general members, including former presidents, that after death of advocate Abdul Matin Khasru -- who was elected president for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, but passed away on April 14, 2021 -- the post remained vacant. Under SCBA constitution, such vacancy should have been filled within a month.

SCBA secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, who has been leading the executive committee, said decisions will be taken on the questions raised.

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