



To walk through the same pavements-fields-gardens, with fellows who were once constant companions but have now become friends of yore, only available through a phone-screen, it's no wonder that the alumni of DU lapped up every opportunity to create memories as they attended its reunion yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Gonoforum factions clash at press club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Gonoforum got into a clash yesterday at Jatiya Press Club, leaving several leaders and activists of the party injured.

The faction led by MP Mokabbir Khan was holding the party's council at the club's auditorium, while the Mostafa Mohsin Montu-led faction was holding a human chain programme in front of the club to protest skyrocketing prices of daily essentials.

Eyewitnesses and sources said Montu-led activists stormed into the auditorium, shouting slogans which called Mokabbir Khan a "collaborator of the

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Brother of Mufti Hannan held

Rab says he is an organiser of Ansar Al-Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested one of the organisers of the banned militant group, Ansar al-Islam, from Rajashan area of Savar.

Munshi Iqbal Ahmed (62) is also the brother of Mufti Hannan, head of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (Huji-B), Superintendent of Police of Rab-4 Joyita Shilpi said. Mobile phones, extremist literature and leaflets used to spread extremism were seized from Munshi Iqbal, she said.

Based on secret information, he was arrested on Friday, during a raid in his brother-in-law's house in Rajashan area, she said. In addition, a Rab-4 press release said the arrestee was once a leader of Harkatul Jihad.

He began working with Ansar al-Islam on May 21, 2004 after a grenade attack on former British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury at Sylhet's Hazrat Shahjalal shrine.

Mufti Hannan was executed on April 12, 2017 over the attack.

Govt remains vigilant

Says home minister on uprooting militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been successful in controlling militancy in the country only because the citizens responded to calls from the prime minister and helped fight back, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

"However, we haven't been able to entirely uproot [militancy] yet," he

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Does anyone ever leave DU?

Alumni throng campus at reunion marking its 100 yrs

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The central playground of Dhaka University almost seemed like it accommodated the whole campus on that one field yesterday.

Along with replicas of Aparajeyo Bangla, Curzon Hall, Raju Sculpture and almost all the historical establishments of the university, the playground area also portrayed the hundred-year journey of the university with paintings put up inside a tent.

This attracted a sizeable crowd, with some saying it was the biggest ever gathering seen in recent days, as thousands of alumni gathered there to spend the entire day with their fellows, reminiscing the memories they created at the university.

All this was part of the reunion organised by Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA), marking the university's 100 years. Though originally slated for last year,

the reunion was postponed due to the pandemic.

But this delay only created anticipation for the event, and when it was finally held yesterday, its attendees emitted a festive aura across the campus.

They were seen singing their hearts out, dancing and taking photographs and selfies.

M Sohrab Alam was a student of DU during the '80s. He was there yesterday with his family. "In our time, there were no digital devices. We lived through lots of happy moments, but couldn't capture them," said Sohrab, who was seen taking as many photos as he could.

Mashiur Rahman was a student of finance department back in 1984-85. "I've been living in Canada since 1992. There's no way I would miss the chance to meet my friends after so many years! And I did meet a lot of them, and we had so much fun today," he told this correspondent.

"Comparing DU with other universities will always be different. Not only is it a university for education, research and publication, but it has also played a seminal role in creating a country,

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PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 13



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12	7-30
Jamaat	5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Delays, rising costs show no sign of going away

Issues centring transport-sector projects still not addressed, despite ADB pointing them out for years

9 out of 12 transport projects, funded by ADB, have already been revised, while physical work of 3 has not even started

ISSUES

- Lack of comprehensive designs
- Delays in project preparation, approval; procurement; signing; land acquisition; resettlement
- Weak management
- Changes of project directors
- Understaffed project implementation unit
- Lack of coordination among consultants, contractors



SOLUTIONS

- Strengthen capacity of implementing agencies
- Streamline government approval process
- Assign dedicated, efficient project managers

The project for BRT from Dhaka airport to Gazipur was taken in Nov 2012 and was supposed to be completed by Dec 2016. After several revised deadlines, the latest one is Dec this year. Throughout this period, the budget shot up to Tk 4,268.3 crore from Tk 2,037.9 crore.

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At a time when loans provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB) are ever increasing in the transport sector, implementing agencies have failed to get rid of some of the chronic problems liable for delays in implementation and cost overruns.

A lack of comprehensive designs; delays in project preparation and approval, procurement, signing contracts, land acquisition and resettlement; and weak management are among the factors that are holding back development progress, according to ADB.

The multilateral lender has been raising these issues for years, and even provided possible solutions, but the situation remains almost unchanged.

Nine out of 12 projects under the transport sector, funded by ADB, have already been revised, while physical work of three other projects has not even started, show documents prepared for a meeting.

Apart from the perennial problems, most projects were affected by Covid-19, which hit the country in early 2020. However, the situation regarding overall contracts awarded and disbursement of funds improved last year, as both metrics reached the target.

In this situation, a tripartite portfolio review meeting (TPRM) for the ADB-funded projects will be held in Dhaka today. This is the first such meeting this year.

The TPRM will be co-chaired by secretary of Economic Relations Division and country director of ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission.

Representatives of the implementing agencies for all

projects will take part in the meeting.

ADB IN TRANSPORT SECTOR

As of December 2021, Bangladesh's active portfolio with ADB stands at \$13.02 billion, in the form of loans or grants for 50 projects in six sectors.

Of the projects, 12 are in the transport sector, with 19 loans and one grant, totalling \$3.09 billion.

Of the 12 projects, six are being implemented by Roads and Highways Department, five by Bangladesh Railway and one by Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd.

Since 1973, ADB has been providing support to the transport sector, particularly roads and rail projects, but ADB loans in this sector saw a sharp rise in the last decade.

While ADB's portfolio in the sector was \$ 0.741 billion in 2013, it stood at \$3.09 billion this year, shows an ADB document.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

According to ADB, lack of comprehensive designs, including quality surveys and investigation, results in changes in project works, as well as time and cost overruns.

Some high-value contracts take longer than average to award, in some cases more than 20 months, mainly due to poor quality of bidding documents and lack of specific evaluation criteria, it said.

Despite measures taken by ADB and executing agencies, time taken to prepare Development Project Proposal (DPP), revised DPP and Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), and for time taken for their

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Green Delta Founder Honored with NATIONAL INSURANCE AWARD 2022

The founder and advisor of Green Delta Insurance - Mr. Nasir Ahmad Choudhury, was recently honoured as a distinguished insurance personality for his outstanding contribution to development of the industry. On behalf of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Secretary of Financial Institution Division (FID) - Sheikh Md. Salim Ullah, handed over the award to Mr. Nasir A. Choudhury at the formal ceremony of National Insurance Day 2022. The event was attended virtually by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the Chief Guest and was chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal MP. The whole Green Delta family is proud and delighted by such supreme recognition of the insurance legend.