



Not an inch of space was free at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex's food court area yesterday, as shoppers broke their fast there after a tiring day of walking around and checking items off their lists. Dhaka's shopping centres are now buzzing with shoppers from all walks of life as Eid approaches.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Helena Jahangir indicted in fraud case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against businessperson turned politician Helena Jahangir and four others in a fraud case.

The others are Helena Jahangir's IPTV Joyjatra's GM Hazera Khatun, its coordinator Sanaullah Nuri, chief news editor Qamruzzaman Arif and staff reporter Mahfuzur Rahman.

The five accused are now on bail. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain fixed May 25 for starting trial.

Abdur Rahman Tuhin, a journalist in Bhola, filed the case with Pallabi Police Station on August 2 last year.

On November 21 that

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:15	12:45	4:45	6:25	7:45
JAMAAT 4:25	1:15	5:00	6:35	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
17	19		6:25
18	20	4:09	6:26
19	21	4:08	6:26

Over half of survivors' health deteriorated

Says ActionAid Bangladesh report on Rana Plaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 63.5 percent of 200 Rana Plaza survivors had difficulty buying food for family amid the pandemic, as they didn't have money, says an ActionAid Bangladesh report.

The report says 51.5 percent survivors couldn't pay rent, and 22.5 percent couldn't afford childcare.

The survey found that income of most of the employed survivors has drastically decreased due to impacts of the pandemic.

The survey report styled "Follow-up with Rana Plaza Survivors: A Quick Assessment in 2022" was shared with media yesterday, ahead of the ninth anniversary of Rana Plaza tragedy.

The report says 46.5 percent survivors had to take out loans to manage their family's food and other belongings during the pandemic.

Thirty-six percent said their household income is less than Tk 5,000, while 34 percent have a household income between Tk 10,000 and 15,000.

Meanwhile, 35 percent survivors reported that their expenditure is over Tk 10,000, and for 30 percent it's above Tk 15,000, with major costs incurred for food, followed by house rent, children's education, and treatment.

Of the 200 survivors surveyed over phone, 70 percent were women.

After the tragedy in 2013, ActionAid Bangladesh developed a comprehensive database of approximately 1,400 survivors.

Since then, it has been using the database to periodically collect information to track how the survivors and families of the deceased are doing.

Additionally, it worked with survivors on issues of rehabilitation and re-integration.

According to the survey, 56.5 percent participants said their health condition is getting worse; it was 14 percent last year. The symptoms include waist pain, headache, pain in hands and legs, and back pain.

It also revealed that 33 percent of them are more or less physically stable, and 10.5 percent are completely stable.

In terms of mental health, 48.5 percent are

in trauma, in comparison to 12.5 percent last year.

Currently, 31 percent reported that they are more or less stable, and 20.5 percent have recovered fully, compared to 25.5 percent last year.

The current unemployment rate of survivors is 53 percent, while 47 percent are engaged in various types of wage and self-employment.



According to the survey, 56.5 percent participants said their health condition is getting worse; it was 14 percent last year. The symptoms include waist pain, headache, pain in hands and legs, and back pain.

Among them, 67 percent of survivors are unemployed due to bad physical condition, and 10 percent for having mental trauma.

Survivors tend to change work frequently, as their physical condition does not allow them to work for long periods at a time.

According to the survey, 14.5 percent survivors have returned to garment-work, with another 8 percent involved in tailoring. Many survivors shifted to other professions like domestic work, day labour, farming, agriculture, sales and driving.

Five online sellers held

They used to deceive customers with substandard products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested five members of a fraud gang who were deceiving customers online by delivering substandard products.

A team of detectives arrested them during a raid at Dhanmondi on Sunday, Razid Al Masud, deputy commissioner of DB's Lalbagh Division, told a press conference yesterday. The arrestees are: Bappi Hasan (24), the alleged ringleader of the gang; Ariful alias Hariusul (19), Sohag Hossain (22), Biplob Sheikh (25), and Nur Mohammad (28). All are from Narail district.

This group used to open Facebook pages and advertise quality products, especially clothing, at affordable prices. As the customers placed order, they used to deliver substandard and old products, the DC said.

They misbehaved with the customers and blocked them on Facebook whenever they made complaints. They later deleted the Facebook page and opened a new one to deceive more people.

They have been involved in such activities for five-six years and swindled 100-150 people daily. Police have so far found 21 Facebook pages operated by the racket. They become active during Eid season.

Action plan to save 54 rivers

Demands Bela in legal notice served on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice on the government, demanding it to formulate a time-based action plan to free 54 rivers from pollution and to prosecute the polluters.

In the legal notice, the organisation asked the authorities concerned to identify the sources of pollution, prepare a list of the persons responsible, prevent pollution, bring them under the book of law, punish them properly and to collect compensation from them.

Bela asked the notice receivers to declare the extremely polluted and dying rivers as ecologically critical entities and maintain those accordingly.

The legal notice have been sent to the secretaries at the ministries of environment, forest and climate change; industries; shipping; land; fisheries and livestock; water resources; agriculture; finance; public administration; and local government department; chairman of national river conservation commission; inspector general of police; director general of Bangladesh water development board; director general of department of environment; and chairman of Bangladesh inland water transport authority.

In the legal notice, Bela mentioned 54 polluted rivers including Buriganga, Brahmaputra,

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Working to reach goal of quality edu: Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni said they are working hard to ensure quality education in all aspects, as per the direction of the prime minister.

She made the remark while inaugurating Bangabandhu's mural and four newly-built buildings at Government Titumir College, as chief guest, yesterday.

She said the newly built ten-storey structures are part of the government's commitment to facilitate academic activities and expand the area for students to flourish.



We are working to reach the goal of quality education, set by our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We have inaugurated the mural of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina Administrative and Academic Building, MA Wazed Miah Science Building, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Student Dormitory and Bangamata Fojilatunnesa Mujib Student [female] Dormitory," said the education minister.

"We are working to reach the goal of quality education, set by our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," she said.

Talat Sultana, principal of the college, said the newly built structures will help flourish academic activities.

The dormitories will solve the long-standing accommodation crisis, the principal added.

Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, deputy minister of education, also attended the inauguration ceremony.

Chhatra League president Al Nahiyun Khan Joy and secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee were also present in the programme, which turned a bit chaotic due to the deluge of activists and outsiders that went there to welcome the minister and deputy minister.

DU VC lauds BCL

Activists protest Prof Rahmat Ullah's 'praise' of Mushtaque; he apologises for remarks

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman praised Chhatra League leaders and activists yesterday when they went to submit a memorandum to him, protesting the remarks of Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Md Rahmat Ullah, "paying tribute" to Khandaker Mushtaque.

The VC said, "I thank the students of Dhaka University for condemning and protesting this issue with a civil approach and language... I hope this issue will be resolved. If any untoward incident arises, the way BCL activists protested in a responsible manner, any problem can be solved."

Rahmat Ullah spoke on Mushtaque at a discussion organised by the DU administration at TSC auditorium on Mujibnagar Day (April 17).

Later, he apologised – terming what sounded like praising Mushtaque "unintentional".

Mushtaque is one of the chief conspirators behind the assassination of Bangabandhu.



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With no safety gear on and no masks to protect them from the fumes, workers are busy melting asphalt for the city's road construction work in an extremely hazardous environment. This photo was taken at the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Dhaka-Hyderabad direct flight begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian private airline IndiGo started operating its first flight on Dhaka-Hyderabad route from yesterday.

With 142 passengers on board, the maiden flight left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at around 4:45pm, Md Abdur Rahim, Chief Executive Officer of Renaissance Aviation Services Ltd (an enterprise of MGH Group and the General Sales Agent of IndiGo), told The Daily Star.

Initially, IndiGo will operate two flights per week – on Monday and Saturday – on this route. Round trip fare on the route will cost between Tk 26,000 to Tk 30,000.