



With human-hauliers taking up at least a third of the space, the road underneath Mayor Hanif flyover remains congested almost all the time. Even though there's a police box just nearby, the authorities seemed to have turned a blind eye to the situation. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Passing of a luminary
Prof Mohammad Shafi no more

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's fisheries department was established in 1998. However, there was not enough space to hold classes with all the students. Classes used to be held at other departments till the department's founding chair Prof Mohammad Shafi took an initiative, solely on his own.

The DU authorities allotted money for a two-storey building, the construction of which was halted for 15 years after building the first floor. Prof Shafi thought that the building would soon fall inadequate to accommodate students or facilities like computer or research laboratories.

To finish the construction of the building, he gave the department Tk 70 lakh, out of his own pocket.

Such was his passion and conviction.

The venerated professor breathed his last yesterday

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Extorting money, trading arms right from jail

Using phones, incarcerated criminals controlling gang activities

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

It costs Tk 100 to make a three-minute phone call from jail anytime. That's not all. For the right amount – Tk 5,000 to 7,000 – any inmate can use a smartphone inside their cell for the whole night.

An inmate, who came out of jail in mid-March of this year, disclosed the rates to The Daily Star. He was in prison in a fraud case for around six months.

According to the findings of police's intelligence agency, many criminals and arms dealers have been running their extortion activities and illicit business right from jail.

For instance, Md Idul, leader of "Idul gang", who is now in Kashimpur high-security jail, is managing his extortion activities from there with the help of his associates.

A police high official, who has been keeping an eye on criminal groups over a decade, said Idul has been maintaining his syndicate using some associates, two of whom were identified as Gaza Selim and Arif Hasan.

In the latest, Idul's associates have extorted around Tk 2 lakh from a cable operator in the capital's Tikatuli, the official told this correspondent.

From jail, Idul has been communicating using the phone

number 01757599024.

In the app "Truecaller", the number showed the name "Eidul Vai", but it was found switched off when this correspondent tried

if any complaint is found to be true. We have strict vigilance and monitoring of any criminal activity, and no extortion has been reported to police yet," he

- » A 3-minute call from jail costs Tk 100
- » For using phone for whole night, Tk 5,000-7,000
- » CTTC found gang activities by analysing phone communication
- » Officially, inmates are only allowed to communicate for 10 minutes on phone per week

to contact yesterday.

Another of Idul's associates, Saidul, used to extort makeshift shops around Rajdhani Super Market, according to police and local sources.

Talking to this newspaper, a local Jubo League leader of Motijheel area said Idul's associates also extort makeshift shops in Motijheel. "Besides, his men also used to collect money from different contractors in Motijheel."

Asked about it, Shah Iltekhar Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Wari Division police, suggested communicating with police if anyone becomes a victim of any type of extortion.

"Stern action will be taken

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Once a member of the illegal arms syndicate is arrested, his family members take over the trade. We are carrying out drives to arrest the absconding members of the syndicate.

Ahamedul Islam
ADC of CTTC

NATIONAL BUDGET
Allocate 10pc for the health sector: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite significant achievements in the health sector, Bangladesh is still lagging behind its neighbours in terms of the health budget. The country must allocate 10 percent of the budget to put an end to out-of-pocket expenditure for health services, said speakers in a webinar yesterday.

They came up with the suggestion at the event titled "National Dialogue on Health Budget" organised by Unnayan Samannay and Bangladesh Health Watch, ahead of setting the new national budget in June.

Dr Atiur Rahman, chairperson of Unnayan Samannay, in his keynote presentation, said the percentage of allocation is revolving around five percent, even in the "post-Covid-19" period. Bangladesh spends 2.5 percent of its GDP on health, the lowest in South Asia.

"We propose the allocation be at least 10 percent of the budget, and the expenditure capacity of the development budget must be enhanced. On average, half of the development budget remains unused," he said.

Referring to a Bangladesh Statistical Bureau survey, the former Bangladesh Bank governor said when they looked into the survey, the inadequacy of allocation was obvious.

"In a survey done in 2016, 12 percent of sick or injured patients didn't get any health service. It's 17 percent in remote areas, while in four cities, it's 23 percent. Only 17 percent of out-patients went

- RECOMMENDATIONS**
- » Decentralise healthcare system
 - » Boost allocation for primary healthcare by 30pc
 - » Ensure 25pc allocation of health budget for medicine
 - » Bring remote areas under healthcare

to government facilities, while 43 percent of in-patients resorted to non-governmental facilities for treatment," he said.

He suggested boosting allocation for primary healthcare by 30 percent, as a large percentage of people avail of the service.

"Out-of-pocket expenditure will significantly go down if 25 percent allocation of the total health budget is ensured [for drugs]," he suggested.

Given the global and internal challenges facing the national economy, he said it would not be right to cut the health budget.

AFM Ruhul Haque, former health minister and lawmaker of the Awami League, said the health ministry cannot spend the allocated budget, as it was not taught how to do so. It needs to get trained for better expenditure.

Those who work with the health economy must come to cadre service, and decentralisation

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A man tries out a cap (tupi) at a shop, holding up a mirror to see if it's the one that he'll get for Eid. With the festival just a few days away, people are rushing to finish their last-minute purchases. This photo was taken near Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Khairuzzaman seeks safety of his life
Writes to Human Rights Commission of Malaysia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia, M Khairuzzaman, has appealed to Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, seeking safety of his life, arguing that Bangladesh government is making fresh attempts to bring him back home and punish him for no reason.

"Mr Khairuzzaman is afraid that the Bangladesh government is trying to take him back. He thinks he will be punished for no reason if he is taken to Bangladesh, and thus appealed for our help," Jerald Joseph, commissioner of Malaysia's Human Rights

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Bangladesh Land Port Authority

TCB Bhaban (5th Floor)

Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.14.138.21-418

Dated: 25/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank's branches.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Last date & time of submission documents	Tender/proposal opening date & time
1.	Construction of Building, Toilet Complex, Main Gate and Gate House under the Project "Construction of Cargo Vehicle Terminal at Benapole Land Port".	675849	24.05.2022 14:00pm	24/05/2022 15:30pm
2.	Construction, Installation, Testing and Commissioning 100 MT Digital System Road Vehicle Weighbridge Scales at Cargo Vehicle Terminal in Benapole Land Port, Jashore.	689169	25.05.2022 15:00pm	25/05/2022 16:00pm
3.	Construction of Watch tower and External Electrification for the Project "Construction of Cargo Vehicle Terminal at Benapole Land Port".	681473	24.05.2022 12:00pm	24/05/2022 14:30pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Mostafa Kamal Mazumder

Member (Admin & Finance)

&

Project Director (Additional Secretary)

'Construction of Cargo Vehicle Terminal at Benapole Land Port' Project

Phone: 02-55013955

GD-852