



Despite the existence of a foot-bridge just a few feet away, these pedestrians were seen crossing the road by squeezing through a narrow space between the dividers, risking their lives. Not only is this dangerous for the pedestrians themselves but also for the vehicles on the road. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Bashabo area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Documentary to depict Bangabandhu's life in Kolkata

UNB, Dhaka

A new documentary on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will depict his life in Kolkata and describe how his every step was driven by enormous courage, said its director Goutam Ghose yesterday.

In a media briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the renowned film-maker said that Kolkata played an essential role in Bangabandhu's political life, and he will try his best to execute the emotions attached to it.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam also spoke at the briefing.

Sharing personal experience, Momen wished the documentary, titled "Kolkatai Bangabandhu (Bangabandhu in Kolkata)", success and said that required support will be extended for a good production.

Shahriar said Goutam will visit different places in Dhaka and Tungipara next week and finish the documentary's necessary shooting work, along with his interview with the prime minister.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 19 March, 2022 at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata to make the documentary.

DSCC libraries ceasing to exist

Shortage of books, lack of reading environment and maintenance to blame

DIPAN NANDY

Rokanpur Library, located on the third floor of Rokanpur Community Center beside Kabi Nazrul Government College in Laxmibazar, can hardly be called a library anymore. It suffers from a shortage of books and has lost its ability to attract readers.

This, however, isn't an isolated situation. All seven libraries run by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) are suffering the same fate. Of these, two have already been shut down.

These libraries too have an acute shortage of books and most of them remain vacant as readers hardly visit those.

Visiting Rokanpur library recently, this correspondent saw only a small bookshelf holding some 30-40 books. In a corner, old newspapers were piled up. There were several chairs for the readers -- all empty.

"We have a plan to make the library reader-friendly. For which we have also



Rokanpur Library only has a small bookshelf holding some 30 to 40 books. In a corner, old newspapers are piled up. There are several chairs for the readers -- but they were all empty during this correspondent's visit.

PHOTO: STAR



The building in which Rokanpur Library resides.

sent a proposal to the city corporation," librarian Jharna Akhtar told this correspondent.

According to the DSCC website, the DSCC libraries are open every day from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.

Meanwhile, Haji Khalil Sardar Library located in Hazaribagh Park and Nawabganj

Park Library at Nawabganj Park (operated by DSCC) are currently closed due to reconstructions imposed at those parks.

Abu Hena Manjurul Ahsan, in charge of the two libraries, said, "The two libraries have been closed for the last two and a half years. We're working to reform them after which they will be reopened."

Meanwhile, North Brook Hall Library has been shifted to the nearby Moinuddin Chowdhury Memorial Hall. It contains approximately 4,000 books, including rare ones from the British era.

However, due to relocation of the main building, many locals have forgotten about the library.

When this correspondent asked a local, Md Hashem, about it, he said the library was closed.

Another library is located on the ground floor of Zaheer Raihan Cultural Center in Sutrapur. This correspondent couldn't find any readers there. Asked, the library's cleaner Zakir Hossain Badal said readers haven't come here ever since the pandemic

hit.

Tajuddin Memorial Library at Narinda's Fakir Chan Community Center is supposedly one of the best libraries managed by DSCC at present.

Librarian Ashraf Uddin said there are over 4,500 books there. "On average, 20 readers come here every day. But readers can't sit here because of the smoke produced from the kitchen at the community centre. They can't even pay attention because of all the noise around them," he said.

According to the DSCC website, regular newspapers are kept in these libraries. The librarians, however, said they have stopped keeping newspapers and magazines, ever since the pandemic hit.

Contacted, DSCC Social Welfare and Slum Development Officer Akand Mohammad Faisal Uddin said, "We're already doing so much work for the citizens of the south part of the capital. We have some plans to develop the libraries as well."

It's time to focus on green agenda

In conversation with Danish Minister for Development Flemming Moller Mortensen

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and Denmark have recently signed Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement to strengthen the partnership on climate and green transition. It happened in Dhaka during the three-day visit of Denmark's Crown Princess Mary and Danish Minister for Development Flemming Moller Mortensen. Before leaving Dhaka on April 27, Mortensen shared his views on future cooperation between the two countries with The Daily Star.

DS: What will be Denmark's role in the Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement?

Mortensen: Bangladesh has developed massively in the last decade. During our meeting with the prime minister and the foreign minister, it seemed we very much agree on focusing on the green agenda, along with



“We have to move from aid to trade. Many companies are already doing business here. As we have close connections at the government level, more Danish companies are looking for new investment opportunities. There will be more cooperation between the two countries because of Bangladesh's economically and politically stable market.”

maintaining a close relationship in terms of trade and development.

When it comes to the green agenda, there would be a lot of things that I think we will be able to do together by engaging diplomatically on loss, damage and offshore energy.

DS: You spoke of helping Bangladesh in terms of loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. How do you plan to do that?

Mortensen: We had a fruitful discussion on this aspect in COP-26 in Glasgow. We have a good understanding of loss and damage, and that's why we have funded the Santiago Network. It seems many good initiatives are underway in Bangladesh's south-west region. We have just started, and we hope that we will see more such projects.

DS: What are the possibilities here in terms of renewable energy and blue economy?

Mortensen: We have to follow up and find out what the needs are, and how to address the needs in the best way. That's also one reason for signing the framework engagement. We believe that we can help Bangladesh make this transition fast with our close collaboration. We have developed renewable energy well in Denmark over the last decade. We have gained a lot of experience that we can share with Bangladesh.

DS: What are some of these experiences?

Mortensen: For example, we have gained experiences in terms of need-based, big investment and coordination among different types of renewable energy. We can connect experts from the Danish government and our scientific community to Bangladesh's intelligent youth and facilitate a knowledge transfer.

DS: You visited climate-related projects and

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 14

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4:10	12:45	5:00	6:36	8:00
Jamaat	4:45	1:15	5:15	6:40	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

LAW REPORTERS FORUM
Ashutosh president, Sarwar GS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star senior reporter Ashutosh Sarkar and Bangla Vision special correspondent Ahmed Sarwar Hossain Bhuiyan have been elected president and general secretary of Law Reporters Forum, respectively, for 2022-2023.

Besides, senior reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Didarul Alam has been elected vice president of the forum.

The new committee was

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Despite multiple attempts by the authorities to beautify the capital, some obstacles still remain -- indiscriminate posting of city walls being one of them. In that course, Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) staffers were seen busy removing layers of posters stuck on the surface of the Moghbazar flyover's pillars yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP moves to strengthen party at Ctg grassroots

ARUN BIKASH DEY

To strengthen the party ahead of the next parliamentary election, BNP has focused on strengthening the grassroots in Chattogram by forming new committees in various organisational units.

According to sources, the party high command was not happy with the organisational activities of the Chattogram city unit.

BNP sources said there has been rivalries among the leaders in port city and the party high command has noticed it.

However, the party's Chattogram unit leaders claimed that the grassroots formation process was not completed due to lawsuits, pandemic and the government's obstruction on political and organisational activities of BNP.

BNP sources said Tarique Rahman, BNP acting chairperson, has set a 90-day deadline for grassroots restructuring in port city. He stated this at a virtual meeting with party leaders on March 21, said BNP sources.

The high command also formed five sub-committees to form thana and ward committees under the port city. In these

committees, only 17 leaders of the present convening committee have been engaged.

Another committee headed by BNP vice chairman Ahmed Azam Khan was formed to oversee the sub-committees.

The committees have been asked to reorganise 129 organisational units in 41 wards and 15 thana committees in the city. These grassroots committees have to be formed through the council.

Contacted, Abul Hashem Bakkar, member secretary of Chattogram city unit BNP, said there is no rivalry among the leadership. Bakkar said they were working to organise councils not only for forming the city unit but also for all other units of BNP and associate organisations.

Mahbubar Rahman Shamim, BNP's central organising secretary (Chattogram division), said their organisational activities have been going according to instruction of the acting chairperson.

"The acting chairperson has strictly instructed us to reorganise the different units to strengthen the party at grassroots and as per the directive, we have been working relentlessly to organise councils of different units," he said.