



Amidst the hustle and bustle of Dhaka, this photojournalist came across a novel scene -- a bus conductor using a megaphone to warn vehicles before passengers were getting on or off the bus. While conductors usually shout out the instructions to drivers, this conductor has found an innovative way to give warnings efficiently, potentially limiting the chance for accidents to occur. This photo was taken in the capital's Old Airport Road recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NO WORK, NO PLAY

Shahbagh Shishu Park remains closed; no progress on modernisation for over 3.5 years

DIPAN NANDY

Shahbagh Shishu Park has remained closed since January 2019, as the authorities are working to modernise it. But no progress has been made on the modernisation project for the last three and a half years.

Seven Eid holidays have passed by, but the park, which has been a prominent centre of recreation for families over the years, has been unable to serve anyone during the holidays.

The Department of Public Works, which owns the park's land, is currently working on an underground car parking inside the park under the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

It will take another two years to complete the construction, after which Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) mechanical department will work on the park's modernisation under a separate project. According to officials, it will take another three years to relaunch the park.

In January 2019, DSCC announced its closure by hanging a notice in front of the park, stating that it will be closed to public to avoid any unwanted accidents during the modernisation and development work, implemented by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

According to the work order of the ministry project, the construction of Swadhinata Stambha (Phase 3) was supposed to start in January 2016 and be completed by 2019. Shishu Park was also supposed to be open, with new underground parking and infrastructures, around the same time.

However, construction inside the park

AT A GLANCE

- Shahbagh Shishu Park country's first children's amusement park
- Established in 1979, it was a venture by Parjatan; maintained by DSCC since 1983
- The 15-acre park was named after ex-president Ziaur Rahman
- DSCC changed name to Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy Shishu Park on Dec 30, 2021



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

has not yet begun, even after around 41 months, due to some complications regarding budget allocation.

Besides, the deadline for the construction of Swadhinata Stambha has been extended several times, with the latest deadline being June 2022. As of yet, about 40 percent of the work remains, for which the ministry is preparing to extend the project till June 2024.

According to the project stakeholders, for DSCC to modernise the park with new rides, the corporation was supposed to be allocated Tk 65 crore out of the total budget of Tk 265 crore for the

Swadhinata Stambha project.

However, DSCC had an objection to this proposed allocation from the beginning. DSCC informed the ministry that to replace the old and risky set of rides in the park, a higher allocation was required. A year and a half ago, the ministry asked DSCC to modernise the park under a new project. Later, DSCC prepared a proposal with a budget of Tk 616 crore and sent it to the LGED ministry.

According to LGED engineers, the DSCC project has not yet been approved. If approved, it would still take another three years to reopen the park. There is

no possibility of opening it before 2025.

Meanwhile, city experts said the closure is depriving an entire generation of children of healthier modes of entertainment, hindering their physical and mental development.

"Dhaka has very limited space for children, and Shishu Park is one of them. The fact that it will be closed for almost half a decade is completely unacceptable. What's more concerning is that even the stakeholders don't have clear information regarding its reopening," said Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of Institute for

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DSHE QUESTION LEAK SCANDAL

Field agents were active to sell leaked questions

Say detectives after analysing communication between arrestees, examinees

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A cashier and book-centre staffer of two government colleges in Dhaka have worked as field agents to find examinees who would purchase the leaked questions of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education's (DSHE) recruitment test.

Detectives claimed to have received the information after analysing communication details between those who have been arrested and a number of examinees who took part in the test.

Amid these developments, DSHE authority cancelled the test on Thursday.

An emergency release, signed by Prof Md Shahedul Khabir Chowdhury, director (college and administration wing) of DSHE, mentioned that the recruitment test for the post of "office assistant/computer operator" has been cancelled for unavoidable reasons.

Investigators have also seized two phones, from which they found the details of the examinees. Detectives are now trying to extract information from them, said officials.

Meanwhile, school teacher Saiful Islam, from whose device the test answers were leaked on May 13, was sent to jail after a one-

“The answers, which were sent to the examinee's WhatsApp, was written by someone on paper, and then a picture of it was sent. We'll be going for a forensic test to check whose handwriting it was. We'll match it with the five arrestees' writing.”

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN SUMON
Additional deputy commissioner of DB

day remand.

A high official involved with the interrogation told this newspaper that Saiful informed that an education-cadre official of DSHE helped the syndicate with the leak.

"We're now working on collecting evidence against the official, who joined service after the 31st BCS exam," said the official, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, detectives are now interrogating three arrestees -- Md Rashedul

Islam, teacher of Patuakhali Government College, as well as Md Nowsadul Islam and Ahsanul Habib, both office assistants at DSHE -- on a two-day police remand.

From the arrestees, detectives got a bank account number, which was given to an examinee to send money for the answers.

"We're verifying the account details and transaction," said another DB high official.

Shahadat Hossain Sumon, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star on Wednesday that the answers, which were sent to the examinee's WhatsApp, was written by someone on paper, and then a picture of it was sent.

"We'll be going for a forensic test to check whose handwriting it was. We'll match it with the five arrestees' writing," said the official. "We have got some names of the syndicate members, and our drive is ongoing to arrest them." Earlier, detectives arrested Md Sumon Jomadder from Eden College during the recruitment test, and Saiful Islam, an assistant teacher of mathematics at Khepupara Girls Secondary School.

A case was filed with Lalbagh Police Station centring the incident, and detectives started investigating.

They are misconstruing PM's remarks

Quader says about BNP's comments on Padma Bridge

BSS, Dhaka

Under an orchestrated plan, BNP leaders are making ill-efforts to create confusion in people's minds by misconstruing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comments over the successful construction of Padma Bridge, said Awami League (AL) General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

"BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and other leaders are making misleading and purpose-oriented comments centring Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks over Padma Bridge's construction," he said yesterday in a statement in protest of BNP's recent comments.

Obaidul Quader said if a pro-people, honest, bold and patriotic leader runs the state, no conspiracy can take a nation backward, and

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter Sheikh Hasina and the successful construction of Padma Bridge are bright examples of that.

Construction of the much-anticipated Padma Bridge with domestic funds is a unique example of the changed Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina's successful leadership, said the senior Awami League leader.

The minister said BNP and its cohorts started hatching continuous conspiracies just after the beginning of Padma Bridge's construction works by the AL government, and they stopped foreign funds through plotting.

Even after that, Sheikh Hasina expressed strong determination to construct the bridge with domestic funds, he said.



Body of Gaffar Chowdhury may arrive next week

BSS, Dhaka

The body of prominent writer and columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury -- best known for writing the lyrics of "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano" -- is likely to arrive in Dhaka next week.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem said, "After the completion of required procedures, we will send his body to Dhaka on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight next week."

Now, the body of Gaffar Chowdhury has been preserved at the Barnet Hospital in London where he, 88, breathed his last on Thursday, according to a press release from Bangladesh High Commission in London yesterday.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on Friday after Juma prayers at the Brick Lane Mosque in East London.

After that, Gaffar Chowdhury's body will be taken to Shaheed Altaf Ali Park, where people from all walks of life will turn up to pay their last respects to him.



PRAYER
TIMING
MAY 21



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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Star Lifestyle RECIPE COMPETITION 2022

Star Lifestyle is organizing a Cooking Competition for all our home chefs, to create a scrumptious meat platter for the upcoming Qurbani Eid.

The competition requires interested individuals to send ONE AUTHENTIC MEAT RECIPE by June 4, 2022. The recipe NEEDS to be attached with high-resolution pictures of the prepared items, so that it helps us in selecting the best of the chefs and ensure authenticity.

So, gear up and send us the menu, recipe, and images ASAP to lifestyleds@yahoo.com, and mark 'Shining in my Kitchen' in your mail as subject.

***CONDITIONS APPLY