

Land crisis key barrier

Says Taposh on establishing playgrounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scarcity of land is the main obstacle to establishing playgrounds and parks in the capital, said Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.

The DSCC mayor said this while inaugurating Basabo playground development work.

Taposh said their main target is to set up at least one playground and park in a ward but acquiring land is the main obstacle for the implementation.

On Basabo field, he said they have kept space at the playground for international football matches, along with seating arrangement for visitors. A separate place has also been kept for cricketers' practice.

Taposh said they also have kept a separate space for children.



The wire situation in the capital is quite dangerous, to say the least. Workers perform regular maintenance work without any safety gear, which makes them more vulnerable to risks of accidents. The photo was taken yesterday in Farmgate.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A path full of obstacles

Say speakers on challenges to get mahr; women still being deprived of paternal property add to their woes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even though mahr or dowry is allowed in the Islamic family law, women face layers of obstacles to actually get it. At the same time, they get deprived of their paternal property,

University, said the law allows women to receive mahr, but in certain sections of the society, it is men who take dowry.

"Brothers will tell sisters that they have been given mahr during marriage, so they cannot have any claims on paternal property.

We need a uniform family law for all religions and women, which governs marital and inheritance rights as well as rights that ensure self-guardianship, regardless of religion.

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA
Economist

While I recognise that many women need mahr to restart their lives after divorce, I dream of a day when equality exists and women do not need mahr.

SHAHEEN ANAM
Executive Director of MJF

leaving them with nothing.

Mahr is a gift of cash or wealth that is given to the bride upon her marriage by the husband's side, as part of obligations of the marriage contract.

Speakers said this at a virtual discussion on the challenges to obtain mahr, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Madaripur Legal Aid Association.

Mahr or denmohor is important in a scenario where women still do not get paternal property, they said.

They also demanded a family law that will be uniform.

"We need a uniform family law for all religions and women, which governs marital and inheritance rights as well as rights that ensure self-guardianship, regardless of religion," said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, eminent economist at Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"If a woman does not have other rights, she will never be able to realise the right to mahr," said Dr Bhattacharya.

Dr Shahnaz Huda, professor of law at Dhaka

The women do not have any control over this dowry," said Dr Huda.

Women have to wait for years on end for courts to settle mahr related cases before they can get the amount they are entitled to, said Dr Abdullah Al Faruque, law professor at Dhaka University.

"The arbitration council should be empowered to deal with mahr related cases," Dr Abdullah said, adding that village arbitrations usually award women less money than formal courts.

Speakers also said that the time limit for filing dowry related cases should be withdrawn as soon as possible.

"While I recognise that many women need mahr to restart their lives after divorce, I dream of a day when equality exists and women do not need mahr," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, at the discussion.

Fazul Haque, who heads Madaripur Legal Aid Association, also spoke at the event as a special guest, among others.

HC dismisses petition seeking Odhikar's registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday dismissed a petition filed by non-governmental organisation "Odhikar" challenging the legality of the government's decision of not renewing its registration.

The NGO Affairs Bureau on June 5 cancelled Odhikar's registration, which expired in March 2015, saying that the organisation published misleading information about various extrajudicial killings, alleged disappearances and murders, which have severely tarnished Bangladesh's global image.

Odhikar is reportedly one of the few organisations that have routinely logged cases of enforced disappearances and published quarterly and annual reports detailing the incidents. They also support and mobilise the families of enforced disappearance victims.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Khairuzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton delivered the verdict after Odhikar's lawyer Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan said his client will not proceed with the petition as it has submitted an appeal to the office of the secretary concerned of the PMO.

Replying to a query, the lawyer said there is no legal bar for Odhikar to run its functions as a volunteer organisation.

Contacted, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan said Odhikar has no registration, and so it cannot run functions from now on.

However, Odhikar's lawyer Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan said the DAG's comment is not right as Odhikar needs registration only for foreign donation.

Odhikar, established in October, 1994, applied to the DG of the NGO Affairs Bureau on September 25, 2014 for the renewal of its registration.

As the Bureau kept the application pending, the organisation filed the petition with the HC in 2019.

The HC on May 13 of that year, issued a rule questioning the inaction of the NGO Affairs Bureau.

WORK TOGETHER

PM for harnessing D-8 potential to become a powerful economic block

STAR REPORT



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for working together to harness D-8 countries' potential to become a powerful economic block.

She also placed a five-point proposal that included implementing preferential trade agreement (PTA) among the member

states to maximise use of business prospects and opportunities to double the intra-D-8 trade from 129 billion dollars in the next decade.

She was virtually addressing the 20th D-8 Council of Ministers held at a city hotel, joining from Gono Bhaban, reports BSS.

She expressed her happiness as Bangladesh is celebrating the 25th anniversary of D-6 as chair of the organisation.

The premier said implementing the Preferential Trade Agreement will help harmonise the intra country trade, liberalise the barriers, and stimulate trade and economic cooperation among the member states.

She expressed her satisfaction as chamber representatives, business people, entrepreneurs from different member states have participated in the 2nd D-8 CCI General Assembly and in the Business Expo on the sidelines of the ministerial session.

"While we were all reeling from the aftermath of the

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'Govt needs to spend \$9 per patient annually'

Citing study, speakers say on controlling high blood pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life-saving care for high blood pressure -- the leading preventable risk factor for heart disease, heart attacks, and strokes -- can be expanded nationwide if the government spends \$9 per patient annually, according to a study.

Expanding the roles of nurses and other healthcare providers to support blood pressure management can save money, making treatment more feasible and accessible nationally, according to the study.

Funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Directorate General of Health Services and National Heart Foundation conducted the study under the hypertension control pilot programme, in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives.

The programme has been successfully implemented in 51 upazila health complexes.

Starting in 2018, the programme has so far registered 1,00,000 patients for treatment and has successfully controlled blood pressure of 58 percent of the patients during treatment.

Published in the British Medical Journal, the study findings were also shared at an event in Dhaka yesterday.

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Increase capacity of labour wings at foreign missions

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour welfare wings at different foreign missions need to be more friendly and sensitive towards migrant workers while providing services to them, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

They said besides strengthening the capacity of the existing 29 labour attaches, more such wings have to be established. The experts also called for digitising the services of the labour attaches to reach out to a greater number of migrant workers.

The workshop titled "Migrants Friendly Consular Services" was organised by Warbe Development Foundation in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban.

"There have been allegations that migrant workers do not get adequate service at the labour welfare wings," said Warbe Chairman Syed Saiful Haque.

"Considering such issues, a set of tools has been incorporated in the manual aiming to ensure better services to migrant workers," he added.

Riaz Uddin Khan, an independent consultant on migration, said while migrant workers' contribution is immense in the country's economic progress, it is often heard that they do not get required services from Bangladesh embassies.

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BNP's demonstration over electricity crisis is the greatest joke of the year.

OBAIDUL QUADER
Awami League general secretary



A good number of rental power stations are getting huge sums of money as capacity charges, even though they are not producing any power.

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general



Death toll 8

Total number of patients 2,366

311 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 2,047

61 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15
JAMAAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Eminent singers Ferdausi Rahman and Syed Abdul Hadi were honoured with "Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal" at an award ceremony at Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal' conferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University yesterday conferred the "Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal" at an award ceremony at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the campus.

This year, eminent singers Ferdausi Rahman and Syed Abdul Hadi were honoured with this award for 2020 and 2021, respectively. Due to the pandemic, the programme was not held in the previous years.

Both artists were honoured with gold medals and remuneration of Tk 1 lakh each.

Vice Chancellor Md Akhteruzzaman handed out the medals to the

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