

Battle of the grandpas!

Ha-du-du match for elderly sparks thrill in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

When one thinks of Ha-du-du, conventionally they would visualise men in their youth competing against each other.

However, in Manikganj's Uriyajani village, a ha-du-du match was hosted challenging this norm.

The competition was held between men who were above 60 years of age, organised by the local Uriyajani Nibedito Club in Manikganj municipality.

Residents of seven villages flocked to watch the game. Family members, including the participant's grandchildren spent time in the playground in a joyful atmosphere while cheering for their grandfathers.

A village fair was also held centering the event.

Delwar Hossain, a local resident, said, "This competition is organised every year, but the pandemic had halted it for 2 years. This time my uncle played. Everyone here had a wonderful time and enjoyed the game."

Uriyajani Nibedito Club President, Siddikur Rahman, said, "From Manikganj



PHOTO: STAR

Not youngsters, but 14 men aged above 60 squared off on a ha-du-du field in Manikganj's Uriyajani village yesterday.

municipality's Kewarjani, Kuserchar, Uriyajani, Bartha, Bengroi, Baliabil and Ghosta of Sadar upazila -- two from each village were selected -- making up a total of 14 players who took part in the competition.

"Each of the seven players of the winning team was awarded a feature phone set, while the losing team's players were gifted umbrellas," he added. Manikganj Municipality Mayor Ramzan Ali was the chief guest of the event.

Nishat Majumder aims to conquer new Himalayan peak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nishat Majumder, first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, is going to embark on an expedition to climb mount Manaslu, the eighth highest mountain in the world.

She along with a youth mountaineer named Progga Paromita Roy will fly to Nepal on Monday, said Nishat at a press conference yesterday organised by a mountaineer organisation named "Ovijatrik" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

"Travels of Bangladesh-Bhromonkonya" initially verified the applications submitted by nine young women and later took them to Kalapahar, the highest hill of Sylhet, for physical and mental ability tests.

From them, Progga Paromita Roy, a second-year student of Dhaka Medical College, was selected to be Nishat's partner.

Manaslu is one of the 14 mountains in the Himalayas and it was first conquered by a Japanese team on May 9, 1956.

Nishat and Progga will be traveling on August 29. Progga will return from the base camp after 15 days. Nishat will stay there for 45 days with the aim of summiting Manaslu.

Education Minister Dipu Moni was present at the event as chief guest.



Tritiya Pakkha stands with tea workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

People from all walks expressed solidarity with the tea workers demanding wage hike yesterday, under the banner of "Tritiya Pakkha (Third Party)", a newly formed forum of concerned citizens, cultural activists and professionals.

The forum organised a rally and cultural programme at Sylhet's Malnichara Tea Estate area.

The rally and cultural programme was hosted by former Chhatra Union leader Shahiduzzaman Paplu and was presided over by journalist Ujjal Mehedi.

Activist Abdul Karim Kim said, "It's clear that the garden owners' claim of fulfilling basic human needs of tea workers is a lie. If the industry is at a loss, how are the industrialists buying gardens with crores of taka?" Former labour secretary Mahfuzul Haque also spoke.

Hasina to open Bangladesh-China friendship bridge on Sept 4

UNB, Pirojpur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the eighth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Pirojpur on September 4.

The bridge will connect Pirojpur with southeastern districts of the country as well as mitigate the unemployment problem of the country by boosting the economy of the district.

The bridge over the Kocha river at Bekutia point in Pirojpur will be opened by Hasina virtually, said Masud Mahmud Sumon, manager of the project.

The bridge will be named after Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, he told reporters on Thursday.

Construction work began on October 20, 2018, at Bekutia point on Barishal-Pirojpur-Khulna road. It was completed within the stipulated time. Mahmud said the one-km long bridge is 1,500 metres in length and it has 495 viaducts at both ends. The cost of the project is Tk 894 crore. China provided Tk 654.79 crore as grant.



Who is going to be Dhalai river at

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duration and businesses of this session.

According to the rules, if the post of speaker or deputy speaker becomes vacant when the parliament is in session, there is a provision for election for this post within seven days.

And if the parliament is not in session, there is an

obligation to hold election for the posts on the first day of the next session.

Fazle Rabbi Mia passed away on July 22 at a hospital in New York, USA.

His death left the post of deputy speaker and Gaibandha-5 seat vacant.

The new deputy speaker will be sworn in at 7:00pm, according to the parliament secretariat.

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outside designated area."

About dredging right near the bank, he said he will look into the matter and will alert the dredgers to extract according to the rules. Contacted, Companiganj UNO Lushi Kant Hajong said, "If the leaseholders are found violating the rules, we will terminate the lease contract and will take

legal action against the leaseholder." Mohammad Mobarak Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Sylhet, said, "We will alert the leaseholder to extract sand accordingly."

About the use of bulkhead dredgers, he said some terms need to be overlooked considering the feasibility of using industrial dredger.

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Dhaka may be older than we know

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Sultani era. According to researchers and experts, no sculptures of black stone were made after the Turkish invasion of the region.

"In the 12th century, when Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Bin Bakhtiar Khilji invaded this region, many Hindu families supposedly hid the sculptures of their gods and goddesses underground and in the waterbodies. Many such sculptures have been found in different waterbodies near different ancient temples in the city, indicating much older urbanisation in the city that we know to be Dhaka," said Tarun.

"However, the artefacts were lost due to the lack of proper protection and preservation," he added.

According to the committee, the ancient history of Dhaka, especially components of the Gupta, Pal, and Sen periods, were ignored during research. Many excavations had been done outside Dhaka but the country's capital remained overlooked, except for the Lalbagh fort.

"Coins from the Gupta era, which are at least 1,500 years old, were found in the capital's Pilkhana. The existence of the coins was

mentioned in Dani's book as well. But there remains no trace of them now, except for in photographs," said Tarun.

Gupta emperors established their dynasty in India in 280 AD and ruled the subcontinent till 550 AD.

During the first period of the 20th century, gold coins from the Gupta era were found in an old pond in what is known to be the BGB headquarters now. The transcript of the coins was first published in the sixth part of the new series of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in April 1910, as part of an article by HE Stapleton titled "Contributions to the history and Ethnology of North Eastern India".

According to Stapleton, there was a habitat in Dhaka before the Mughal period, and the coins -- found 100 yards south-west of Nawab Rashid Khan's pond -- were proof of that.

Stapleton also mentioned that one side of the coin contained a picture of a king carrying a bow, while the other side had a queen or goddess drawn on it.

Dr Habiba Khatun, former professor of Islamic history and culture at Dhaka University, said there is a shilalipi in a

mosque at Shatgaon, on which it was written that "the son of a revenue officer of Dhaka, established the mosque in 1467".

Habiba, who is also an expert on sculptures during the Sultani era, said, "It means Dhaka was a revenue collection place at that time. In that sense we can say Dhaka's history goes way back, even before 1467."

Historian Mosharraf Hossain said, "We can trace back the history of Dhaka to at least 1,500 years back if we consider Allahabad Prashasti, an important epigraphic evidence belonging to the period of the Gupta empire."

Harisena, a court poet of the Gupta king Samudra Gupta, wrote and composed the Prashasti in praise of his patron, elaborating on the Gupta rule and administration, he said.

According to the inscriptions, names of kingdoms in remote areas include the name "Dabok", which refers to Dhaka.

"Three inscriptions were found in West Bengal's Birbhum of West Bengal, Narinda's Binodibibi Mazar and Old Dhaka's Churhatta mosque, proving the existence of a small city here in Dhaka long before the Mughal

era," he said.

"Even if we just consider the Gupta era coins, they date back to between the 7th and 8th centuries. This suggests that Dhaka is at least 1,300 years old," he said.

The argument, however, remains inconclusive. The reason for the knowledge gap when it comes to the capital's age is the negligence in excavation work to find more about it.

A few years back, excavation work started at the old establishment of Dhaka Central Jail in the capital's Najimuddin Road area as part of its development after the relocation of the central jail to Keraniganj.

However, the work stopped after a year. Not much can be known about the findings of the excavation.

Archaeologist Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, who was directly involved with the excavation work at central jail, told this correspondent that they got many clues and evidence on Dhaka's real age, which might surpass all the estimates made by historians.

"We plan to submit a detailed report in this regard to the home ministry soon," he said.

As if rules do not

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over the Chhoto Jamuna next to the under-construction building.

According to the rule, any establishment should be at least 30 feet away from any permanent structure of RHD. However, the AL office building is in very close proximity to the bridge that was constructed nearly 50 years ago.

When asked if any action was taken against such defiance, Md Kamrul Hasan Sarkar, deputy divisional engineer of RHD in Dinajpur, said, "We will issue a letter in this regard."

Ashraf Alam, organising secretary of Phulbari upazila Awami League, who oversees the construction work, said they got six decimals of land last year and the office is being built on 3.5

decimals.

He said the leased land is not inside the river.

The AL leader claimed that the building will not obstruct the water flow as they kept space for this. They are following all the rules properly, he added.

During a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent found the structure rising just beneath the bridge and there is no required gap between the two.

The building area stretches around 30 feet to the river from the bank. The work of basement pillars was almost done.

Phulbari UNO Riaz Uddin said he did not know about the matter until this correspondent contacted him.

"We will take legal action in this regard," he said.

Make sure you treat the passengers well

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carrier's in flight entertainment system.

He also asked Biman authorities to be more sincere in ensuring proper cleanliness after an aircraft returns.

Mahbub also instructed Biman to become more cordial to ensure a comfortable and relaxing journey for passengers.

While visiting the luggage-belt area and

ground service division, the state minister suggested increasing the supervision of senior officials in these two sectors.

He advised Biman to complete the process of procuring modern equipment for the ground service division with speed and transparency.

The state minister instructed immigration officials to be more friendly with passengers when carrying out immigration

activities.

The immigration officials were asked to be sincere in ensuring that passengers do not face any kind of harassment and discomfort.

Mahbub instructed the staff working at the hangar to be more careful in handling aircraft during maintenance work.

During the visit at BFCC, he asked Biman officials to ensure better quality of in-

flight food.

Air Vice Marshal Md Mafidur Rahman, chairperson of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB); Air Commodore Sadikur Rahman Chowdhury, member (ops) at CAAB; Nazrul Islam Sarkar, joint secretary at civil aviation ministry; and Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of the airport, among others, were present at that time.

2 knocked down, 8 of no use

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These U-loops were constructed at Rajalakshmi intersection in Uttara, in front of Uttara Rab-1 office, Kaula flying club, Banani overpass, Banani army stadium, Banani Chairman Bari, Mohakhali Amtoli, in front of Mohakhali bus terminal, Tejgaon Nabisco junction and BG Press area at Satrasta intersection.

While visiting these

areas, this correspondent witnessed gridlocks at Chairman Bari and Amtoli. Traffic congestion kept growing since no car coming from Mohakhali could take a right turn via Kakoli or Banani; they could not go towards Gulshan-2 either.

Similarly, no car could go towards Gulshan-1 via Amtoli intersection in Mohakhali.

Asked, transport

expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said U-loops are counterproductive during peak hours of Dhaka traffic.

He said such a project has been taken up due to a lack of accountability. "Pavements are wider than roads in developed countries. But a U-loop has been created by narrowing the pavement. This is an unforgivable crime as public money is being

wasted," he added.

Contacted, DNCC Chief Executive Officer Silem Reza denied the claims.

"We are trying hard to reduce traffic congestion in Dhaka. Building U-loops is one of the projects we took in this regard. We cannot call it a completely unsuccessful project. In some places, the project worked. We will redesign the U-loops very soon."

Joint Venture/ Local Investor/ Toll Manufacturing/ Buyer Wanted for a Bangladeshi Paint Company.
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1. Applicant must be excellent in all four skills of Arabic and English languages.
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5. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualification. Applicant are requested to email their application with relevant documents to kuwait_embd@yahoo.com by September 15th.
D-105

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.....be our Supply Chain partner.....
Ref. No. icddr,b/SCM/OTM/2022/13 Date: 26th August 2022
icddr,b invites applications for **VENDOR ENLISTMENT** from the bona fide vendors/ manufacturers/ sole agents/ distributors/ service providers/ contractors [who hold legal rights to do business in Bangladesh] for the period of **December 15, 2022, to December 31, 2024 for two (02) years.** Applicants having infrastructure, management capacity, Supply capacity financial, strength and at least 3 (three) years of relevant experience with large organizations/ UN agencies/ diplomatic missions/ international organizations are eligible to apply. All procurement of icddr,b is subject to the relevant policies outlined in the policy manual. All icddr,b suppliers must abide by the icddr,b's code of conduct. <https://www.icddr.org/about-us/governance/policies>.

Group	Supply/ Service/ Business Category	Sub-Category
Group-1	Stationery and Office Supplies	Office Stationery, Janitorial Supplies, Office Uniform, Bedding Materials, Kitchen Equipment, and Promotional Items
Group-2	Computer and IT Accessories	IT Equipment, IT Accessories, Networking Service/ Maintenance, Printing Equipment, Smart Devices, Surveillance and Security System, Software & IT enabled Services (ITES)
Group-3	Printing & Publication	Printing (Digital & Screen), Branding, Publication, Editorial Service, Advertisement
Group-4	Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	Laboratory supplies (Chemicals and Laboratory Reagents, Lab Accessories, Lab Equipment, Refrigerant, Gasoline, Glassware, Plastic Articles, Lab Spare Parts, Lab Glassware, Lab consumables, etc.)
Group-5	Drugs and Hospital Supplies	Hospital Supplies (Drugs/Medicine, Vaccines, Medical Devices, Hospital Supplies, etc.)
Group-6	Civil & Electrical - Supply, Works, and Maintenance	Renovation and Maintenance work, Electric and Electronic Appliances, Safety and Security Equipment, Generator, Elevator, Power Equipment, Furniture, and Fixtures
Group-7	General Supplies/ Service providers for Regular Service - Servicing and Maintenance	Local and International Travel Agency, Event Management, Accommodation Service, Audit & Financial Services, Maintenance of IT and Electrical Equipment, Service Outsourcing, Courier Service, C&F Service
Group-8	Food and Beverage	Pantry supply, Canteen Supply (raw food materials), Catering Services, Animal Feed
Group-9	Vehicle & Transportation	Supply of Vehicle, Service & Support, Vehicle Hiring, Workshop (servicing and maintenance)

Interested vendors/ manufacturers/ sole agents/ distributors/ service providers/ contractors can view and download "Vendor Enlistment Schedule" and will be available at Supply Chain Office, Chiller Building, Ground Floor, icddr,b from **26th August 2022 to 29th September 2022 from 10:00 am to 02:30 pm** on all working days. Interested & experienced vendors/ manufacturers/ sole agents/ distributors/ service providers/ contractors can also download the vendor enlistment schedule from the link: <https://www.icddr.org/work-with-us/tender-notices>.
Enlistment application fee (nonrefundable) BDT 5,000 (five thousand) only is payable in the form of pay order in favor of icddr,b issued by any scheduled bank and must be submitted along with the enlistment schedule. The envelope shall be marked with the following information on the top of the envelope -Name of Applicant, Business Address, Enlistment Group and Pay Order No.
The Enlistment application along with other documents mentioned in the enlistment schedule shall be dropped in sealed condition into the Enlistment Box which will be kept at Supply Chain Management Office, Chiller Building, Ground Floor, icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 by **5:00 pm on or before 29th September 2022**.
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