



MANGAL ABASH: nothing ‘mangal’ about it

Lone residential hall of Kabi Nazrul Govt College in sorry state

DIPAN NANDY

The name of the house is “Mangal Abash” (home of good omens).

However, for the 150 students living there at present, there’s nothing auspicious about it.

Mangal Abash is currently the only residential hall of Kabi Nazrul Government College, one of the oldest educational institutions in the capital. It is a two-storied building located in Mohini Mohan Das Lane at Farashganj.

Different books on Dhaka inform that the house belonged to Zamindar Jatindra Kumar Saha who left the area during the

1947 partition and settled in Kolkata.

The palace was left behind, abandoned. Its deeds and official papers were lost in transition.

Documents and historical sources find that government institutions and cultural clubs have used the building at different times. The building has been used as a dormitory of Kabi Nazrul College since before the 1971 Liberation War.

Later the building was named after Shamsul Alam, a student of this college who embraced martyrdom in the Liberation War.

Over the years, the building has become dilapidated.

Visiting the dormitory recently, this correspondent saw that the plaster is falling apart due to lack of maintenance. A dark and haunted aura looms inside the building, even during the day.

This correspondent wanted to visit the rooms where students stayed but was not allowed to do so by the dormitory authorities.

Students complained that there’s no provision for clean or fresh water. And thus, they are constantly suffering from various water-borne diseases.

There’s also no sanitary toilets. The ones available are barely usable. Students still have to bathe with water from a well

situated inside.

Although the hostel has a dining facility, it has been closed for nearly three years due to a lack of cook. As a result, students have to eat outside.

All in all, there’s no end to the students’ sufferings.

Rabiul Islam, a resident student, said, “I’ve stayed in this hostel for the past four years. We’ve had to suffer from the beginning and conditions have hardly improved.”

Ali, another student, said for the last four years, they’ve appealed to the principal several times to solve the various

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Teen killed over Tk 100

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A teenager was stabbed to death by “a local teen gang” in Khulna city yesterday.

Yasin Arafat (18), a fish trader at the city’s Sandhyabazar, used to live in Baniakhamar with his maternal uncle.

Hasan Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Yasin came under attack on Sher-e-Bangla Road around 11:00am.

A group of around eight people went there by an easy bike and first hit Yasin with a brick. Later, they stabbed him with sharp knife or machete and fled the scene, said police quoting locals.

Locals took him to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he died around 11:45am, said the OC. According to the victim’s family, Yasin was attacked by his associates following a dispute over Tk 100.

Abdul Hannan, sub-inspector of Nirala Police Outpost, said the attackers were said to be aged between 15 and 18 years.

Two held with five gold bars

UNB, *Chaudanga*

Police in Chaudanga yesterday detained two persons with five gold bars while they were on their way to India.

The detainees were Kamrul Hasan Jewel (35), and Arif (48).

Based on a tip-off, a police team put up barricades at BADC intersection at 1:00am and intercepted a car coming from Faridpur, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chaudanga Sadar Police Station.

“During questioning, Kamal and Arif told us that they were on their way to India with the gold.”

Legal action will be taken against the detainees, he said. Police also seized the car.



A fisher family returns home in a boat with big smiles on their faces, and proudly show off their catch of the day. Like them, many families in the surrounding areas depend on the Pashur river for their survival. This photo was taken in Mongla recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

PBI to probe case of missing Khulna woman

UNB, *Khulna*

A Khulna court has ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to take over the probe into the case of a 55-year-old woman who has been missing since August 27.

The direction came in the wake of an appeal from the woman’s family.

On August 27, Rahima Begum went missing after she had stepped out to fetch water near her home in Banikpara area of Khulna around 10:00pm. Her children found her sandals, scarf and the pitcher she was carrying on the spot.

The family first filed a complaint with the police, on which an FIR was lodged by the cops against some people.

On September 13, after

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Man held for ‘hurting religious sentiment’

UNB, *Kushtia*

Police in Kushtia arrested a 24-year-old man yesterday for “hurting the religious sentiment” of the Hindu community on social media.

Nayebur Rahman of Bahalbaria village under Mirpur upazila allegedly posted “offensive status” on his Facebook profile on Wednesday, with a view to instigate communal instability and hostility, said police.

Md Khairul Alam, superintendent of police in Kushtia, disclosed the information at a press conference held at the district police lines in the afternoon.

The SP said Nayebur is a private jobholder in the capital.

He was arrested from his in-law’s house in the upazila as a case in this regard was filed earlier, the official added.

High risks, little rewards Fishers face loss due to fuel price hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Last month, the government slapped consumers with a record hike in fuel prices. As expected, the negative impacts of this overnight hike trickled down to the very grassroots.

The fishers who venture into the deep sea with their diesel-run trawlers were one of the hardest hit.

At the consumer level, the retail prices of diesel and kerosene was set at Tk 114 per litre on Aug 5, up by a whopping 42.5 percent from Tk 80 per litre.

After the 65-day ban on fishing, on July 23, over 50,000 hilsa fishers in Patuakhali went to the sea with renewed enthusiasm.

But the increase in fuel price, alongside turbulent sea meant this delight was short lived.

“We used to buy a barrel of diesel at Tk 16,500, but it’s now more than Tk 23,000. A small-sized trawler needs seven barrels for a seven to eight day trip, and a big trawler needs eight to nine barrels of diesel,” said Matiur Rahman Chayan, proprietor of Safa Fishing at Alipur fish landing station

of Kalapara, Patuakhali.

“Besides, due to the increased prices of essential commodities such as rice, we are spending Tk 60,000 to 70,000 more on each trip, depending on the size of the trawler,” he lamented.

Asaduzzaman Didar, the owner of Saikat Fishing, said some trawler owners have already sold their vessels due to huge loss. “Every big trawler spends at least Tk 3.5 to 4 lakh per trip to catch fish in the sea,” he said.

Abdul Jalil, owner of Moni Fish, echoed the same.

In earlier seasons, 100 to 150 fishing trawlers went to the sea every day, and each time they returned to the shore with 50 to 80 maunds of hilsa.

But now only 20-25 trawlers can sustain venturing into the sea per day. To make things worse, the amount of fish being trapped on their nets has also been way less than previous years, they said.

Abdur Rahman, a fisher of Mahipur fish landing station, said that the operating cost is increasing due to the lack of desired fish in the sea and the increased fuel prices.

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PHOTO: STAR

**PRAYER
TIMING**
SEPTEMBER 17

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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