

## 'Digital technology a double-edged sword'

Mustafa Jabbar tells dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar yesterday said people need to understand technology before holding any negative thoughts about it.

"It [technology] is like a double-edged sword, which can be used to both kill one and save one's life. We should discuss about technology keeping these things in mind," said Jabbar.

He was addressing a national policy dialogue on safe use of technology for promoting peace and democracy.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised the event to present their findings, experiences and recommendation of a project named "Role of Technology in Promoting Democracy in Bangladesh".

The minister said the youth needs to be skilled so that they can lead. Digital skills of guardians and teachers also should be increased so that they can guide the youth in the right direction.

EU Ambassador Charles Whiteley said, "This revolution [digitalisation] does not come without risk. Fake news, misinformation, hate speech and so on spread through networks. Digital

technology isn't neutral, however the technology is not to blame, rather it's the people who use technology."

Youth and Sports Secretary Mesbah Uddin urged all to work together to keep the youths safe from the negative impacts of social media platforms.

BEI in collaboration with National Endowment for Democracy (NED) conducted 10 community dialogues and two grooming sessions in Rajshahi Sadar and its adjacent Paba upazila in the last 12 months under the project.

The project's objective was to promote democratic norms and values, along with social cohesion using social media platforms among locals and to capacitate them on digital literacy and digital security.

Speaking about their in-field experience during the project, Nipa Ghosh, assistant director of BEI, said digital platforms usage and smart phones among local youth and people of other professions have significantly increased.

However, they lack knowledge on digital etiquette, safe internet use, detecting fake news, cyber fraudulence and bullying, said Nipa Ghosh.



The Khulna unit of Jubo Dal brought out a procession in the city's Ferryghat Mor yesterday afternoon, protesting the killing of party activist Shahidul Islam Shaon. Shaon (27) was injured during a clash between BNP men and police in Munshiganj on Wednesday. With injuries in his head, Shaon passed away on Thursday night.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Will always

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witnessed more strength after the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the Kingdom in 2016 and meeting with the King of Saudi Arabia Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, as well as frequent high-level visits by a number of Bangladeshi high officials to Saudi Arabia and vice-versa.

"Besides, Saudi companies also have expressed their eagerness to invest in Bangladesh in various sectors because of peace, political stability, rules-regulations and good incentives."

"This will help to take the bilateral relationship into a new height as well as assist Bangladesh government to fulfill its vision of becoming a developing country by 2026," he added.

He said Bangladesh gives great importance to the Kingdom, which in return extended help to improve the living standards and socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Also, around 2.6 million Bangladeshis are working in the Kingdom, the largest overseas labour market of Bangladesh. They send more than \$3.5 billion remittance every year.

He said the Kingdom has supported different projects including building houses, schools, mosques, orphanages, flood shelter houses as well as hospitals, bridges and power plants in Bangladesh.

The cooperation will continue in the days to come.

## BNP playing

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to the leaders and workers who stayed beside the party in difficult times. The door of Awami League is always open for those who believe in the spirit of the Liberation War and democracy, he continued.

"To save Bangladesh, Awami League must be saved. To save the spirit of the Liberation War and democracy, Awami League must be saved," he said.

## Two children among

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mother Mukta Begum had to be amputated, confirmed local sources.

All the injured -- Mukta, Jihad's brother Junaid (2) and sister Mim (12), and easy bike driver Noor Mohammad (50) and two other unidentified persons -- were taken to Kalapara Upazila Health Complex. Later, they were transferred to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Baliatali Union Parishad Chairman ABM Humayun Kabir said Mukta Begum was going to Kalapara with her three children on the easy bike from Chapali Bazar. The deceased were from Morichbungia village in Dhankhali union under Kalapara upazila, said Kalapara Police Station OC Md Jaseem.

The truck was seized, he said. "We are trying to arrest its driver and helper."

In Dinajpur, two people were killed and another was injured as a truck hit them in front of M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in the town early yesterday.

Tanvirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said Mohammad Ali (65) from Khanpur village and Azgar Ali (35) from Gobindaganj in Gaibandha died on the spot.

## Speaking against

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war and resulting sanctions for the sake of lives and livelihoods of the people throughout the world.

She made the call while delivering her speech in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

About the murder of Munshiganj Jubo Dal activist Shahidul Islam Shaon, Fakhrul said a section of media are reporting that Shaon was killed as he got hit by brick chips from behind.

"The way media are being regulated, the newspapers don't dare to speak the truth. The fact is Shaon was shot dead. He scarified his blood for the entire nation,

One Mokbul Hossain (40) sustained critical injury, said the OC.

Police seized the truck but its driver and his assistant fled the scene.

In Joypurhat, a man and his grandson were killed after a truck hit a battery-run easy bike carrying them in Mohimor area of Kalai upazila on Friday evening, said police.

Nurul Islam (65) and his five-year-old grandson Shakib Hossain, son of Mahmudul Hossain from Shikta Uttarpara village in Kalai, died on the spot, said Kalai Police Station OC Md Moinuddin. Police seized the truck but the trucker and his helper escaped.

In Thakurgaon, a motorcycle rider and one of his pillion passengers were killed and another co-rider was injured as the bike hit a roadside tree at Godagari village in Pirganj upazila on Friday night.

Raju Islam (40) was declared dead at Pirganj Upazila Health Complex and Abdul Kalam (45) from Danajpur village in Pirganj succumbed to his injuries at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, Dinajpur, said Pirganj Police Station OC Md Jahangir Alam.

The injured -- Imran -- was undergoing treatment at the health complex.

not just for BNP."

Stating that their party has been carrying out movements all over the country on public issues, he said four leaders and activists of BNP's different associate bodies have already been killed in the movement.

The BNP leader said Shaon sustained bullet wounds in his head as police fired on their party programme in Munshiganj and he succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He also bemoaned that the ruling party always tries to belittle BNP founder Ziaur Rahman by carrying out "false" propaganda against him.

## RANGPUR ACCIDENT

# Driver sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sent the driver of a bus to jail after he was arrested in a case filed for an accident in which eight people were killed and 50 injured on September 4.

The accused -- Delwar Hossain (40), a resident of Raghunandan village in Kishoreganj -- is a driver of Joyana Paribahan, said police.

Delwar Hossain went into hiding after the accident.

Mahbub Morshed, officer-in-charge of Taraganj Highway Police

Station, said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the highway police raided Ikarchali village in Taraganj upazila on Friday evening and arrested him.

Later, the law enforcers produced him before the court, said the OC.

On September 4, eight people were killed and around 50 injured after two passenger buses collided head-on in Soleyasha Bazar area of Taraganj in Rangpur.

The driver of one of the buses was among the deceased.

Later, OC Mahbub Morshed filed the case.

## Coordination, investment

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demonstrating compendiums of accessible and inclusive WASH technologies at the households and community level, a database, and "meaningful" participation of persons with disability and caregivers in the WASH projects, among others.

Speaking at the event, Khasru said, "We (government) introduce different systems [to enhance WASH facilities], but those often do not sustain."

Speakers also said the needs of a disabled person are grossly ignored when designing any infrastructure both at the family and the community levels. If some four to seven

types of disabilities are addressed while designing any infrastructure, the needs for all types of disabilities can be met.

Hasin Jahan, country coordinator of the Water Aid Bangladesh, spoke of successful projects including disability friendly 32 public toilets in Dhaka.

Syed Ashfaqul Haque, executive editor at The Daily Star, spoke of social and personal level insensitivity towards persons with disabilities due to ignorance.

Mahbub Ul Alam, associate scientist at icddr, proposed a national-level steering committee to address the disability issue in the WASH sector.

Salma Mahbub, general secretary of B-SCAN, said they, as an organisation of the person with disabilities, face different obstacles while working. "The existing organisations needs to have an ecosystem to operate. But these cannot sustain due to budget shortage," she added.

Dr Sheikh Daud Adnan, deputy director (Hospital and Clinics) of Directorate General of Health Services; Mohammad Shah Alam, executive director of Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust, and Mohammad Monirul Alam, WASH specialist at Unicef Bangladesh, spoke at the event, among others.

## EC now to collect prints

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EC officials said before getting a smart National Identity Card in 2016, normal NID holders had to provide impressions from four fingers. And smart NID card holders had to give impressions from 10 fingers.

"Since we want to make the next national election more transparent, we'll update the fingerprints. We are planning to get impressions from 10 fingers from those who took normal NID cards," said EC NID Wing Director General AKM Humayun Kabir yesterday.

He was speaking at a quarterly meeting of EC field level officials of Dhaka region at the Electoral Training Institute at EC office in Agargaon.

"This process might start from next January," he added.

EC Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandaker at the programme asked officials to resolve applications for NID card corrections quickly.

He also asked officials to work cautiously while updating the current voter list.

At the programme, EC Dhaka region office

awarded Dhaka senior election officer Munir Hossain Khan, Demra thana election officer Al Amin, Narayanganj thana election officer Afroja Khatun and Keraniganj thana election officer Abdul Aziz, for their contribution to giving services to citizens.

According to officials, EC offices at the six districts of Dhaka region received 4,08,987 applications for NID card corrections between May 1 and September 22.

During this time, they couldn't resolve 45,363 applications.

## Won't tolerate

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harassment, regular verbal abuse, and deprivation of promotions and training opportunities.

This has caused female cockpit crew members to be under tremendous stress and some have even quit Biman, the nine said in their first group report -- "Confidential Report on Female Cockpit Crew Harassment" -- to Biman's chief of flight safety, other officials, and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

Biman has five female captains and 10 female first officers, according to the national flag carrier.

Asked about theft of dollars and other valuables from the luggage of two members of Bangladesh's SAFF

Women's Championship-winning team on Wednesday, the state minister claimed the incident didn't take place at the Dhaka airport.

"It might have taken place at a different place," he said.

More than 72 hours have passed, nobody still knows how and from where the money was stolen from the luggage of two female footballers -- Krishna Rani Sarkar and Shamsunnahar Senior.

## Narsingdi OC

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Al-Mamun called the national emergency number (999) from a security guard's mobile phone. After receiving his call, police from Narsingdi Model and Madhabdi Police Station reached the spot and took him to the station. But instead of taking any complaint, they made him board a Dhaka-bound bus.

Four days after the incident, Al-Mamun went to Narsingdi Model Police Station to lodge a written complaint. Hearing about

his complaint, the OC said, "You work in a bank, how did you make such mistake? Be happy that you're alive and leave."

The news was later published by several media platforms.

When this correspondent called OC Firoz Talukder via phone, a man introducing himself as a sub-inspector answered. He said Firoz is in Dhaka now and the new official has already taken charge. He also said he doesn't have Firoz's number and hung up.

## Mahalaya today

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different rituals on the day of Maha Shashthi.

On the occasion of the day, special programmes of Mahalaya will be arranged at different temples across the country including in the capital today at dawn.

Hindus will remember and pay homage to their ancestors, who passed away, by performing puja, and offering Brahmans clothes, food and sweets in their name.

Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee will hold a special programme marking the Mahalaya at Dhakeshwari National Temple at 6:00am.

Gulshan-Banani

Sarbajanin Puja Foundation will hold a programme to welcome Goddess Durga at 5:30am at Banani playground.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud will attend the event as the chief guest while Panna Lal Dutta will chair it.

Similar programmes will also be arranged in different temples in the capital city and across the country.

## Demarcation

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"Since this area is turning into a business hub, we are in talks with businesspersons to finalise the process."

"We will start an eviction drive to demolish the illegal structures soon," he added.

About dumping soil or garbage in the river to fill up its land, he said he did not take office when it happened. "Probably, the terminal was built on an emergency basis and then they dumped the excavated earth in the river."

Contacted, Md Ziaul Haque, director (Dhaka region) of the Department of Environment, told this correspondent yesterday that they will take action against those who are dumping garbage in the Buriganga, in coordination with the local administration.

## As Durga Puja nears, some concerns remain

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"Ensuring this environment is the responsibility of the state. Puja, Eid, Christmas, Buddha Purnima -- why should these religious events be under police protection?" he questioned.

The committee placed a 21-point directive for this year's celebrations, which include "refraining from any activities that hurt religious sentiments".

In addition, the parishad directed that loud microphones and sound systems must be avoided, and only devotional music be played in the mandaps.

feel that it is very difficult to protect over 32,000 puja mandaps. That's why we are appointing volunteers to every temple, who will guard them even at night."

"Temporary puja mandaps, which are set up on fields, grounds or roads are at higher risk. We have to be more vigilant about these mandaps and guard them throughout the night," he said.

The parishad circulated a statement saying that there are 50 more mandaps this year than last year. Last year, the number of mandaps across the country was 32,118, which

rose to 32,168 this year.

There are seven more mandaps in Dhaka this year compared to last year.

CHANDRANATH PODDAR  
General Secretary of  
Puja UjJapan Parishad

Chandranath Poddar said, "The increase in the number of mandaps is certainly satisfactory. However, with the increase in the number, the issue of puja-centric security also needs to be taken into consideration."

Bhowmik blamed a "culture of impunity" for the attacks on religious minorities in the country.

He said, "The ruling Awami League should introduce legislation to protect religious minorities before the next election. We need to enact a law with a provision for the maximum punishment for

those guilty of communal violence."

He also demanded a special tribunal for the communal attacks.

He said, "I am requesting all concerned about three important issues -- no political programmes during Durga Puja; not holding examinations in schools, colleges, public and private universities and not holding recruitment examinations in government and private institutions during Durga Puja and other major religious events."

The puja committee demanded that Durga

Puja be declared a two-day holiday, and that the government take steps to celebrate Durga Puja as a national festival.

They also demanded that the government implement its promise to enact a special protection law for religious minorities, and establish a National Minority Commission.

During the press conference, the minority community leaders presented a list of 66 incidents where minority community members, their establishments and temple came under attacks.

পুট বিক্রয়  
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নং রোডের ৫তলা বিশিষ্ট বাড়ীসহ  
৫ কাঠার ১টি পুট বিক্রয় হইবে।  
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৩৩ নং পুট, ৭৫ ফিট রাস্তা সলল্লা  
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