

The ordeal to get a seat in JU dorm

Lone student protesting to ensure accommodation for all

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Sheikh Mohammed Siam, a second-year English student at Jahangirnagar University, had been waging a fight all alone for nine consecutive days, to ensure dormitory accommodation for every student.

Unfortunately, the university authorities paid little to no heed to his demands. Siam had tried to meet the vice chancellor several times but failed.

"One day, a personal secretary of the VC asked me to come another day to meet an assistant personal secretary, just to schedule an appointment with the VC. I stood in front of the administrative building almost every day. The VC noticed me but didn't talk," alleged Siam.

The struggles of getting dormitory accommodation, or a seat, at JU is almost the same for every student. Despite JU being a residential university, authorities fail to accommodate new students every year.



Those studying there cannot find enough space in their rooms to keep bags. They can hardly fit themselves in to sleep, due to the overwhelming number of people. Most claimed that amid this situation, a quiet place to study in the dorms is almost unimaginable.

JU has 12,938 regular students against 8,278 seats inside the 16 dorms.

So, how do these youngsters accommodate themselves?

Siam's batch can provide an example. On March 10, 2020, the batch began its journey at JU. Like every year, students were brought under the hall-attachment system.

"I accommodated myself in one of the 'mini gonorooms' of Shaheed Rafiq Jabbar Hall... Fifteen to 20 of us stayed together. In room 129 to 133 at Rafiq-Jabbar Hall, we lived in an unbearable environment," Siam recalled.

"In May this year, I shifted rooms, but I'm still struggling to sleep and study," said Siam.

Siam's friends are still staying in the



The last minutes before an exam are always for revision. Before entering the exam halls, many students, who are sitting for their honours exams at Eden College, keep their study materials tucked at the gate of the college. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Reform Hindu law, establish equal rights

Demands Hindu Law Reform Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Law Reform Council yesterday demanded reforming the relevant Hindu laws to establish equal rights for both men and women of the religious community.

The demand came from a meeting held at Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust Bhaban in the capital's Purana Paltan.

Leaders of the council also demanded the government create an atmosphere of trust by ensuring security during Durga Puja and justice for attacks on minorities, said a press release.

They condemned and protested the death threats, attacks and cases their general secretary Pulak Ghatak had to endure.

Stating that Hindu women in this country are living in helpless and disrespectful situations, council members opined that reform of traditional Hindu laws is mandatory

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More rain likely in 24 hours

UNB, Dhaka

The weather department has predicted more rain across the country in the next 24 hours, with monsoon being fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate elsewhere over the North Bay.

"Light to moderate rains or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty winds and lightning flashes are likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country," the department said in its bulletin yesterday.

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country.

The mercury reached 36.2 degrees Celsius – the highest – in Sylhet, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 22.5 degrees in Feni.



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:53 7:30
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:56 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Sealed factory running in full swing'

Locals claim law enforcers ignore issue as establishment is on DIG's land

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

A fertiliser and pesticide factory, sealed off by authorities around a year ago, is still reportedly continuing its operation in Dhaka's Keraniganj area.

Locals in Keraniganj claim that law enforcers turn a blind-eye to the factory's illegal operation, as it is located on the premises of a rest house of a police deputy inspector general (DIG).

The issue has come to light after law enforcers seized nine trucks laden with fake fertiliser in Bogura.

The factory of Meghna Fertilizer Company Limited is located in Keraniganj's Alipur area. Its other factory is in Savar's Hemayetpur.

Law enforcers suspect that the seized fertiliser was either produced or packed in one of the two factories of the company.

"We are still not sure but are investigating," said Md Abdul Monnaf, inspector of Bogura Sadar Police Station.

The factory owner himself admitted that he set up the factory by renting land from the DIG, though the police official denied it.

In July last year, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) conducted a two-day drive at the Keraniganj factory and seized huge amounts of fake fertiliser and pesticide, worth around Tk 150 crore.

Then, DAE authorities sealed off the factory and cancelled its licence.

Last week, this correspondent visited the area and talked to a dozen people living adjacent to the factory.

All of them said the factory's operation was halted for only a few days after the drive; it began again in full swing.

"The factory emits toxic smoke and stench.

tried to enter the establishment, security guards did not allow him in.

Peeking through the gaps of the gates, he saw some people walking inside the premises.

Contacted, factory owner Saidur Rahman Khan said the establishment has been closed since the DAE sealed it off, and the gates' keys are at the local police outpost.

He claimed that his factory has no connection with the seizure of



DIG Mizanur Rahman said neither he nor any of his family members has connection with the factory. He claimed that his rest house and the factory are located on separate plots. The factory owner rented the plot from a private company. Saidur, however, claimed that he rented the land from the DIG and his wife.

We are in serious trouble," said a woman, who lives nearby.

"Nobody dare file any complaint against the factory, because it is located on the premises of the DIG's rest house," she said, seeking anonymity.

"The factory is running, but I think the number of workers has been reduced," said another resident.

This correspondent found that the factory has three gates, and all of them were locked. When he

fake fertiliser in Bogura.

Contacted, DIG Mizanur Rahman, who is now working as commandant of Range Reserve Force in Dhaka, said neither he nor any of his family members has connection with the factory.

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Saidur, however, claimed that he rented the land from the DIG and his wife.

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No SSC question paper was leaked Says education minister; Dinajpur incident regrettable

UNB, Chandpur

No question paper of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams was leaked this year, said Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

"As we resorted to technology, no question paper of SSC exams was leaked in the last four years," she added.

The minister said this while talking to local journalists after attending a programme on social harmony in Chandpur Sadar upazila.

However, she said what happened in Dinajpur is regrettable.

"Secretary of an examination centre took packets containing question papers of different subjects together. A probe is underway to identify the reason behind it and the centre secretary, who is also a headteacher, has been suspended," she said.

Legal action will be taken in this regard, the minister said.

On September 21, SSC examinations of four subjects under the Dinajpur Education Board were postponed as copies of English 1st and 2nd papers of the ongoing examinations went viral on Facebook and WhatsApp.

Dinajpur board also formed a three-member probe committee in this regard.

Earlier on September

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Dhaka seeks more funds for climate change mitigation

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has highlighted the importance of enhanced funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

During his meeting with President of the 77th United Nations General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi, at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday, Momen also mentioned that the pledge of providing USD 100 billion funds per year should be materialized at the earliest.

The president of the UNGA expressed his support on this issue.

Regarding the Rohingya issue, the foreign minister highlighted steps taken by the government on various issues including Covid-19 management and providing education to Rohingya children in their own language.

Momen also conveyed his dissatisfaction as not a single Rohingya has been repatriated to Myanmar yet.

In response, the UNGA president commended Bangladesh's role in providing shelter and humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas.

He also said the crisis is unacceptable, according to the Bangladesh Mission in New York. At the outset of the meeting, Momen presented two proposals.

They are: to organise a high-level event on "Review of the implementation of SDGs" and to take initiative to create a forum of the finance, foreign and development ministers of developing countries under South-South Cooperation.

The foreign minister expressed concern on the funding gaps in the implementation of SDG, particularly in view of the pandemic.

MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

During a meeting with the Under-Secretary

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Rescued hoolock cub being treated at Lawachhara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An injured three-month-old hoolock gibbon cub, who was rescued from being trafficked on September 27, is now undergoing treatment at the rescue centre of Moulvibazar Lawachhara National Park. The cub can't move its right hand, but his left hand is functional, said officials.

Visiting the spot yesterday, this correspondent found the cub spending time sitting quietly and sleeping, pecking at visitors from a cage with fearful eyes.

Wildlife management and nature conservation department officials said the ape will be released to the forest after recovery.

Lawachhara Range Officer Muhammad Shahidul Islam said the baby ape was captured from a community forest in Cumilla by some smugglers.

Currently the cub is being treated at the rescue centre, however, due to doctors' shortage there, doubts exist on his treatment. No expert doctor has seen him so far, he added.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said according to IUCN, hoolock gibbons are endangered in the country and globally.



As days go by, Barguna's Chawra canal turns even narrower, inching towards extinction. Encroachers have built at least 200 structures on both sides of the waterbody. On top of that, the water is being polluted due to dumping of waste from buildings and nearby shops.

PHOTO: STAR

Chawra canal, a victim of greed

SOHRAB HOSSAIN,

Patuakhali

Barguna's Chawra canal is on the verge of extinction due to encroachment and pollution.

Locals alleged that some influential people have illegally occupied the government canal in Talukdar Hat area of Amtali upazila by constructing permanent and semi-permanent structures on its both banks.

These encroachers have built at least 200 structures there, narrowing the waterbody. Besides, the canal's water is being polluted due to the dumping of waste.

It all started after the construction of a bridge over the canal in 1990, when some people occupied its

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