

Towards a brighter future for our girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To uphold girls' rights, ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, along with 10 dignitaries signed a commitment yesterday that included providing necessary actions and investments for girls, opening up more pathways to pursue their leadership ambitions, and supporting people working on overturning oppressive gender norms and systems.

The commitment was taken at an event titled "Redefining Girl Talk", organised by Save the Children at a city hotel, on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child. The theme for this year's IDG is "Our time is now — our rights, our future".

Palak assured that the School of Future established in various parliamentary constituencies will be inaugurated soon, he said.

Adolescent girls from different communities also

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The ruckus was embarrassing

Says EC Rashida Sultana on Saturday's meeting with DCs, SPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana yesterday said she was "embarrassed" over a ruckus created following comments of EC Anisur Rahman at the commission's meeting with DCs and SPs held on Saturday.

Another Election Commissioner Md Alamgir refused to comment on the issue.

He said there is no scope of deterioration of relation among the EC and deputy commissioners and superintendents of polices.

According to EC officials,

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No scope for Khaleda to contest next national polls

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said there is no scope for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to contest the next parliamentary election under the relevant law as she has been convicted and sentenced in two corruption cases.

"If the law permits, she can participate in the election and if the law does not, she cannot take part in polls. However, I think she cannot take part in the next election as per the law."

He said this while replying to queries from newsmen after attending inauguration of a training course organised for the assistant judges at JATI.

The one who inspired generations

Nation pays respects to Samarjit Roy Choudhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Samarjit Roy Choudhury, who died on Sunday, was cremated yesterday, following an apt farewell given to one of the pioneers of contemporary art in Bangladesh.

Samarjit, who portrayed the eternal Bangla in his paintings through colours, died at the age 85. He had received Ekushey Padak,

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Staffers at DNCC zone-5 building in Karwan Bazar have been working amid fear as their office has been in a dilapidated state for a long time. There are cracks on multiple places of this establishment, and parts of the ceiling fell off recently in two rooms.

PHOTO: STAR

Food court in Bahadur Shah Park!



PHOTO: STAR

HELEMUL ALAM

Surrounded by greenery on all sides, Bahadur Shah Park stands proud with its rich history and enriched architectural features at Old Dhaka's Laxmibazar.

The place was known as Victoria Park, named after Queen Victoria, former Queen of the British Empire. Later in 1957, the park was renamed after the last Mughal emperor, Mirza Abu Zafar Sirajuddin Muhammad Bahadur Shah Zafar, popularly known as Bahadur Shah II.

In 1857, during the Sepoy Mutiny against colonial rulers, English soldiers publicly executed the captured mutineers by hanging them from different trees of the place.

There are two memorials at the park entrances. The tallest one is situated at the eastern side, in memory of the martyred sepoys.

As baffling as it may sound, rather than preserving the place by keeping its glory intact, Dhaka South City Corporation is mulling to construct a food court at the place.

A metal structure has already been set up in the middle of the park, but it could not be completed due to huge protests from concerned citizens.

Every day, thousands of people visit the park for exercising and leisure activities.

Upendra Nath Biswas, councillor of ward-36, said this is a historical heritage, setting up a food court here will harm its sanctity.

"We are totally against it, as a food court in the middle of the park will destroy the park's aesthetic and reduce its space," he added.

Md Elias Hossain, an advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court, said they conducted some yearly programmes at the park marking significant events of the nation's history. This food court will hamper such programmes, he said.

The advocate also highlighted how construction of a food court will mean one less playground for the area's children.

Akhtaruzzaman Khan, general secretary of Jatiya Ganotantir Front, who, along with many others, is protesting the move, said contractors first took initiative to set up the structure for the food court in the second week of September.

Initially, students broke the structure and the contractor set it up again with the help of local administration, he said.

Akhtaruzzaman said locals are protesting the move by holding human chains and rallies.

He said if the park turns into a business centre in the name of a food court, it will ruin its main spirit.

Adil Mohammad Khan, former general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "Leasing out open spaces of the capital for commercial use has become a common tendency of city corporation, as the same thing can be seen in Suhrawardy Udyan."

Contacted, Ward 42 Councillor Mohammad Selim said a food court is being constructed taking the permission of DSCC.

The project-in-charge will take care of the park, set up CCTV cameras, set up more lights and conduct cleaning activities.

"We are failing to protect the park for which the city corporation has given the responsibility to a contractor," he said.

The councillor didn't disclose the name of the contractor. He, however, said the name of the company is DAR Holding Limited.

Contacted, Chief Estate Officer of DSCC Md Rasel Sabrin, said they have given permission for a makeshift food court, not any permanent structure.

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4,659 migrant workers went to Malaysia last month

JAMIL MAHMUD

As many as 4,659 migrant workers went to Malaysia for employment in September, after fresh workers started to go to the Southeast Asian country in August following nearly four years of suspension.

According to the data of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) uploaded to its website yesterday, the latest monthly employment in Malaysia saw a jump from August, when 573 workers were hired by the Southeast Asian country.

Malaysia started to take fresh Bangladeshi workers from early August, in line with a new MoU signed between the two countries in December last year.

The MoU lifts the embargo imposed by Malaysia in September 2018 on allegations of "syndication", malpractices in the recruitment process and high recruitment costs.

But concerns over worker exploitation, timely wage payment, and high migration cost remain.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, said the government needs to look at whether Malaysia-bound fresh workers are paying extra to secure a job, and whether they are getting their promised job, wage and other entitlements.

There are allegations that fresh migrant workers are paying between Tk 3.5 lakh and 4 lakh for a job in Malaysia, Shariful told this newspaper over phone.

"Due to high migration costs, workers often face exploitation," he added.

Malaysia is one of the

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Working amid risk and fear

DNCC zone-5 office at Karwan Bazar in dilapidated state

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka North City Corporation's zone-5 office in Karwan Bazar has been declared unsafe a long time ago. On September 25, a part of the ceiling of the regional executive officer's room collapsed.

The next day, a large part of the ceiling's plaster fell off from his assistant's room. But apart from these two rooms, the other rooms of the building are still holding.

Officials and employees said they are providing services amid fear, unable to find an alternative place to work.

Around 200 officers and employees work in this building. Every day thousands of people come to this building to take various services.

Visiting the site recently, this correspondent found the ceiling tiles in the REO's room and his assistant's room have fallen while rods are protruding.

REO Mutakabbir Ahmed now sits in the executive engineer's room.

Senior officials said they have been working in the building since the 1980s. They don't even know when it was built. It used to be the regional office 6 of the undivided Dhaka City Corporation.

In September 2013, Buet declared this building risky.

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Overcoming obstacles

Visually impaired people recognised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around the age of 15, Azmeri Nishat lost hope in life right after she lost her vision, due to a doctor providing her wrong treatment. But the courageous girl overcame all obstacles and continued her studies.

"Since I had sight till I was 15, I started thinking that my life would stop right there, and I would not be able to do anything. After learning Braille system, I resumed my studies under the system and took computer training from another institute," said Nishat, who won the first prize in "Screen Reader Software" category of a talent competition for the visually impaired.

Nishat, who is now pursuing her bachelor's degree at Prime University, said she wants to work to ensure proper education and rehabilitation of children with autism and visually impaired persons.



Like her, 16 people with visual impairment were recognised at the competition organised by Institute of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), marking Eid e Miladunnabi.

Hridoy Haque Tanim, who placed second in the "Hamd and Naat e Rasool" category, told the newspaper that he wants to become a social worker and work for the betterment of the country's people.

Among others, Mohammad Huzaifa, Khademul Islam and Mahmuda Akhter were recognised the Quran competition. Sumaiya Akhtar and Mehelong Marna were awarded in the Hamad and Naat e Rasool (PBUH) competition.

Shah Md Mahamudul Hasan, Farzana Islam and Ferdowsi Akhtar won the Bangla essay writing competition, while Fatematz Johra, Obaidur Rahman, Mokhesur Rahman and Abu Farez won the English essay competition.

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People from all strata of life paid tributes to Samarjit Roy Choudhury, one of the pioneers of contemporary art in Bangladesh, at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Local Government Engineering Department						
Office of the Upazila Engineer						
Upazila: Gowainghat, District: Sylhet						
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01	737426	eTender/NBIDGPS/SLT/GOW/2022-23/W1.06593 Construction of Towakul GPS under NBIDGPS Gowainghat, Sylhet	07-Nov-2022 15:00	08-Nov-2022 14:30	08-Nov-2022 15:00	LTM
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