



A roadside bookseller shows his offerings to a potential customer. Nilkhet is a sacred place for book lovers in Dhaka, for the availability of all genres of books at an affordable price. Some of the sellers have set up footpath shops to meet the cravings of bookworms.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Five judges, 17,500 cases

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cases, which has ultimately led to people being deprived of justice.

However, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that new judges will be appointed for the Appellate Division at a convenient time.

"Appointing judges is a continuous process. When the number of judges goes down, new ones are appointed. I know that the number of Appellate Division judges has decreased. New ones will be appointed for the apex court," he said.

Asked about the possibility of appointing more HC judges, the minister said, "The honourable president will decide that."

Contacted, Supreme Court Bar Association

(SCBA) President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir told this correspondent that the chief justice could not form more than one full bench of the Appellate Division, as only five judges are performing judicial functions.

Three judges are needed to form a full bench.

"If two or three full benches are constituted for the division, more cases will be disposed of, and more people will get justice," he said.

The SCBA president said he will request the government to take steps for appointing more judges for the apex court soon.

Contacted, senior SC lawyer and editor of Dhaka Law Reports Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the case disposal rate of the Appellate

Division has gone down due to the shortage.

The gazette notification that was issued in July 2009 to raise the number of Appellate Division judges to 11 is still effective. So, there is scope to appoint four or five new judges, he said.

In 1974, the Appellate Division had five judges and the HC 12. Pending cases in the Appellate and HC divisions at that time were 4,094 and 28,186, respectively.

"There is one judge for every 10,000 people in the US and 67,000 people in India. But in Bangladesh, we have one for more than 1 lakh people," said ABM Khairul Haque, former chief justice and former chairperson of Law Commission, a few years back.

The last time the Appellate Division got four new judges was on January 9 this year, as four High Court judges were elevated to the division, raising the number to eight.

They are Justice Borhan Uddin, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Krishna Debnath.

Among them, Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan died of Covid-19 on February 4, and Justice Krishna Debnath retired on October 10.

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, the senior-most judge of the Appellate Division, went on a leave on December 30 last year, when Justice Hasan Foez Siddique was appointed as the 23rd chief justice of Bangladesh, according to SC sources.

Pushed further into darkness

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Bazar. She did not have any other skills, and there was no one to look after her child. Soon, she started getting inappropriate proposals from day labourers, and at one point, became involved in the sex trade.

"I do it as a part-time job when I'm badly in need of money. My neighbours already suspect that I'm involved in this work and avoid me completely. Last month, my landlord asked me to vacate the room," said Keya, who lives in a rented room in Mohakhali's Sat-tola slum.

"I want to quit this profession. I have to take my three-year-old with me while serving my clients, as there is no one to look after her," she said and requested the correspondents to arrange a job for her.

It was the second day of work for 40-year-old

Rahima*, a divorced woman with two children. Earlier, she used to work at a husking mill, where she could work seven to eight months a year.

The pandemic forced her to come to Dhaka and look for work. However, she did not find any. Working as a sex worker was the only option left for her to support her family and the education of her two sons.

"If my sons know of my profession, they will abandon me," she said.

Meanwhile, 25-year-old Rima* said she was the fourth wife of a police officer. Their marriage was unregistered, and she was left with nothing after her husband died last year.

Everyone in her family thinks she works as a night-shift cleaner at a hospital, but in reality, destiny brought her to the streets.

Sources informed The Daily Star that women of different ages are increasingly joining this work.

A large number of sex workers contact clients through brokers, who use business cards to invite

clients. The Daily Star collected 30 such cards in just 10 days, all of which directed to a new spot -- Mirpur's Shewrapara.

Organisations working for the welfare of floating sex workers in the capital could not provide any updated figure of the exact number of such workers in the capital or whether it has increased.

However, according to Save The Children's estimation done in 2015-2016, there were 19,294 street, residence and hotel-based female sex workers in Dhaka, of which, 8,238 are floating.

Aleya Begum Lily, general secretary of Sex Workers' Network (SWN), a platform of 29 sex workers' organisations, also provided similar data.

"According to my sources, new faces are entering the work. I think because many of them went to their villages during the pandemic, finding no way to survive, and getting a job after the pandemic became increasingly difficult," she said.

Rina Akter, coordinator

of a drop-in-centre for floating sex workers in Mugda, said the number of such workers has indeed increased recently. Earlier, around 15 to 20 sex workers would come to her centre to rest and freshen up every morning.

"The number has doubled recently," she said.

Although Save The Children presently operates seven drop-in centres in the capital for female sex workers, according to it, the number of new workers coming to the centres is low. This is because a large number of floating sex workers do not want to disclose their profession.

"If our family members or society know about our actual profession, they will abandon us," said Keya.

(Names have been changed to protect their identities)

Truck falls off

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Locals claimed that the truck was loaded with an excessive amount of sand. At one stage, it tipped over and hit part of the bridge's railing, which collapsed immediately along with the truck.

Md Farid Uddin, executive engineer of Bagerhat Roads and Highways Department, said a rescue crane was sent to lift the truck up.

After the truck is lifted, the repair work of the bridge will start, he said.

We will show

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Asked about the transport strikes before BNP's Rangpur, Barishal and Khulna rallies, the minister said transport owners and workers know BNP very well, as it carried out arson attacks on vehicles and killed innocent people by hurling petrol bombs.

He also said pro-BNP transport owners unitedly called the strikes, so that they don't become the victims of BNP's ill politics.

100 held over mugging

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stands and rail stations in the capital and target passengers whom they would later drug and rob.

After the evening, they used to mug people, threatening them with sharp weapons.

Rab filed five separate cases with five different police stations and handed the arrestees over to police.

Meanwhile, members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested a total of 73 people on charges of selling and consuming drugs during several anti-drug drives.

DB, along with local police, carried out the drives at different parts of the capital, according to a DMP press release.

During the anti-drug raids, police seized 20,810 yaba tablets, 49 kilos of cannabis, 285 grams and 100 small packets of heroin, and 50 bottles of Phensedyl syrup from their possessions, said the release. Police filed separate cases against the arrestees with respective police stations under the Narcotics Control Act.

Bangladesh, Japan to forge

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Dhaka airport, and a special economic zone at Arai-hazar.

Arima Yutaka expected that Hasina's upcoming visit to Japan would be a milestone in the history of Bangladesh-Japan bilateral relations.

Both sides expected that during the upcoming visit, Bangladesh and Japan would foster deeper economic partnerships

in terms of development cooperation, trade and investment, human resources development, agriculture, ICT, education, defence dialogue and exchanges, people-to-people connectivity, and Rohingya repatriation.

The two sides also expressed the desire to enhance cooperation in international issues, including climate change, UN reforms, and

disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki and Director General (East Asia and Pacific) Kazi Russel Pervaz of the Japanese foreign ministry were also present during the meeting.

Arima Yutaka is on a two-day visit to Bangladesh to discuss the preparations for Hasina's upcoming visit to Japan.

Submerged for five days!

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big ditch, where mosquitoes, snakes and other animals reside," he added.

"Just 200 meters away from the colony, Bastuhara canals barely flow, as garbage is frequently dumped there. Besides, a big drain goes along the colony but no small drains are connected with it to discharge water," Shahjalal said.

Nahar Begum, who lives on the colony's Road 11, said, "The floors inside my house remain flooded since Monday. During this time, we've kept valuables, including our stove, on the bed."

"Several roads of the colony were repaired two years ago, but the drainage system is yet to improve," she added.

Sharmin Sultana, another resident, said the

area's canals and drains haven't been dredged for years.

"My children can't go to school due to the water," she added.

Md Mahfuzur Rahman, Ward-9 councillor, said the colony is situated in a low-lying area, where the sewers are narrow. Rainwater moves towards the colony from adjacent areas.

"Many influential people built illegal establishments, occupying land on both sides of Bastuhara canal, the main route of discharging water from Boyra, Bastuhara and Mujgunni area," he added.

"I'll take an initiative to resolve the crisis after consulting with Khulna City Corporation [KCC] mayor," he said.

Md Abdul Aziz, KCC chief conservancy officer, said they cleaned the drains after the downpour, but

the area is still underwater since it's low-lying.

The area's roads have no drains on both sides, said the KCC official.

Besides, the sewers cannot be kept clean since the residents always dump garbage in them, he added.

According to KCC sources, a project named "Development of Drainage System to Eliminate Waterlogging in Khulna City" was approved by Ecneec in July 2018 to eliminate waterlogging in Khulna city. The project would cost Tk 823 crore. Work on the project's first phase began in October 2020.

"We're repairing over 50 drains to curb Khulna's waterlogging problem. After completing work on the drains, residents will get a little relief," said Aminul Islam Munna, KCC panel mayor-1.

The final nail in Brahmaputra's coffin

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visited the riverside recently, he saw broken bricks, sand mixtures used for construction work, and similar materials piling up on the riverbank.

Abbas Ali, a local resident, said the situation has been prevailing for several months, creating public nuisance.

He, however, did not name the contractors responsible for such acts, fearing repercussions.

Md Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener of Jonouddog, a civil society forum, blamed Water Development Board (WDB) for its lax monitoring.

"The situation could have improved if WDB did its job properly," he said.

Pointing fingers at MCC, he said although dumping waste into the river stopped momentarily following protests, it started again as the higher-ups of the city corporation and vested political quarters are involved in this practice.

He claimed that they have repeatedly urged the administration to evict all illegal structures alongside the river from Shambhuganj Bridge to Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Park, to make it a natural tourist spot.

"Plants could be planted

alongside the river, but what the waterbody is seeing is a bunch of concrete rubbish," Nazrul added.

Memorandums to the Mymensingh deputy commissioner and MCC mayor were submitted on various occasions, urging them to stop dumping waste into the river, but it went on anyway, said Advocate Shibbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokhha O Unnayan Andolan.

Arafat Ahmed, sub-divisional engineer of Water Development Board in Mymensingh said they have

Alarming rise

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January, four in February, one in March, three in April and zero in May.

In June, 19 people tested dengue positive. The number increased to 64 in July. In August, 114 people were infected, and 601 were diagnosed in September.

CCC started an anti-mosquito drive on Thursday. Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury inaugurated the programme in Chawkbazar area.

At that time, he said Aedes mosquitoes grow in relatively clean water, which accumulates in rooftops, tubs, open containers, under-construction buildings, backyards and abandoned places.

The mayor said the city corporation can kill mosquitoes only outside the houses.

Entajer Ferdous, an entomologist in Chattogram, said CCC staffers should spray insecticide to kill mosquito larvae during evening and dawn

"In our study, we have found that the density of mosquitoes remains high during early morning [one hour after sunrise] and evening [one hour before sunset]," said the expert.

BNP can hold

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concerned, Taposh said those who are devoted and have never been involved in extortion, terrorist activities, and casino scandals, will be in the leadership.

Among others, president of the party's Dhaka metropolitan south unit Abu Ahmed Mannafi and general secretary MD Humayun Kabir spoke at the programme, which was attended by nearly 1,000 AL activists.

the information regarding dumping of concrete waste at the location. "We will investigate these allegations."

Contacted, MCC Conservation Inspector Mohabbat Ali admitted to the dumping of construction materials by the river, but he denied the city corporation's involvement.

Md Rafiqul Islam Miah, chief engineer of MCC, said he is unaware of the situation.

"I will look into the allegations and take stern actions against those involved," he added.

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CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CFEI)/ INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP) FROM UNFPA BANGLADESH


The United Nations Populations Fund, hereafter referred to as UNFPA is in the process of identifying potential non-governmental implementing partners for the midwifery programme for its 10th Country Programme (2022-2026) remaining period for the implementation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programme on the following interventions in selected districts:

- 1) Mentorship supports in midwifery education and services and addressing the impact of climate change on the sexual and reproductive health of the population, including supporting health systems in delivering climate change resilient sexual and reproductive health services.
- 2) Empowering the Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS) to strengthen, give voice to, and advocate for the midwifery profession.

Interested organizations should submit their completed IFP in one single PDF file at cfel-ifp-bgd@unfpa.org and one full set of hard copies in a sealed envelope marked "NGO Invitation for Proposals" to the mentioned address in the IFP document by 13 November 2022, 5.00 pm. The CFEI/IFP documents can be available at the following link <https://tinyurl.com/yc8becs4>

UNFPA will review applicants for placement on a short-list of potential implementing partners and the IFP form will provide the selection criteria and a more detailed description of the scope of work.

Note:
Due to the high volume of communications, UNFPA is not in a position to confirm receipt of the CFEI/IFP

Solidaridad Network Asia		Invitation for National Open Tender	
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers for the following tender as defined in the tender documents of mentioned item as per terms and conditions stated below.			
Project Name		Smart Farming Tea & Practice For Change(PFC)-Soybean	
Invitation reference No		SNA/DAC/PR/10.22.160	
Prerequisite of Tenderer		The tenderer must submit the updated Trade Licence, BIN, TIN,VAT registration certificate.	
		The tenderer must submit the updated bank solvency certificate in favor of the specific organization/vendors name.	
		The tenderer should be submitted similar previous work experience documents.	
Invitation to Tender for the Provision of Group: (A +B)	Group-A	1. Tea Pruning Machine: Made in Preferable Japan, Brand: Preferable OCHIAI, Displacement: 42.7 cc, Engine type: 2 Stroke, Fuel Tank Capacity (L): 0.9, Handle: Double (W) bike type, Power Output (KW/RPM): 1.3-1.6 /6500, Gear Ratio 16: 19, Carburetor: Diaphragm type, Starter: Recoil Starter, Blade Speed: 11,500 RPM, Transmission and Tube: Rigid / Aluminum: 28 mm X 1350 mm, Safety Guard: Asia Type approved, Gearcase: 8 x 9 T, Blade: 100 T SAW with Carbide Blade, L x H x W: Need to mention, Accessories/ Spare Parts: Available in Bangladesh, After Sales Service: Yes.	
		2. Two-Man Operated Tea Harvester: Preferable Japan, Brand: Preferable OCHIAI, Engine type: 2 Stroke, Single Cylinder, Displacement-41.5 cc, Carburetor: Diaphragm type, Clipping/ blade length: 1630 mm, Fuel tank: 1.4 L, Fuel: Two stroke gasoline oil mixed, Clipping Speed: Please Mention, Machine Width: Please mention, Machine Weight: please mention, Accessories/ Spare Parts: Available in Bangladesh, After Sales Service: Yes.	
		3. LP & DSK Pruning Dao : Material: Iron Spring (15 cm – 20 cm Long), Width: 400-450 gram (Blades Only) Ring & comfortable Wooden Grip.	
	Group-B	1. Digital Weight Scale-200 Kg: Power Supply: AC/DC, Display Digit: 6 Digit, Readability: 20 gm – 200 Kg.	
		2. Digital Weight Scale-100 Kg : Power Supply: AC/DC, Display Digit: 6 Digit, Readability: 10 gm – 100 Kg.	
		3. Tripal : Size: 10' x 12', 350 GSM, Orange-blue color.	
Date, Time & Place for Collecting Tender Documents	From 30th October 2022 to 6th November 2022, the tender schedule is available from 10 AM to 4.30 PM at Apartment # A1, Merrydale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.		
Tender Closing Date and Time	The tender will be closed on 6th November 2022 at 12.30 PM.		
Tender Opening Date & Time & Place	The tender will be opened on 6th November 2022 at 2.30 PM, at Apartment # A1, Merrydale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.		
Others Terms and Conditions	The tenderers can submit the price quotation as an individual group or both groups.		
	The Solidaridad shall reserve the right to accept or cancel the tender schedule at any time without prior notice.		
<div> Muhammad Shakil Anwar Country Operation Officer</div>			