



For the last seven days, two and a half-year-old Ananta had been pestering his mother to take him to see his father -- Sakibul Hasan. The Agartala resident is currently admitted to the Suhrawardy Hospital with dengue. As Sakibul's condition began to improve, Ananta's mother took him to the hospital yesterday. Seeing his father, the little one started making up for the lost time right away.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Kamrangirchar to become a 'business district'

Plan to be submitted in Dec

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka South City Corporation is planning to build a business district -- similar to Shanghai or Dubai -- in Kamrangirchar, to attract global business tycoons through this project.

According to DSCC officials, Bangladesh failed to attract global business tycoons to set up their offices in Motijheel and other business hubs in the country.

However, global investment is the main target to be achieved by this project.

During a recent programme in the capital, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh talked about the project.

He said, "We want to offer global as well as domestic businesses the opportunity to set up offices in our newly planned central business district in Kamrangirchar."

According to DSCC sources, DSCC will build this commercial hub in Kamrangirchar, an island of 1,200 acres.

As per the draft plan, a high-rise convention centre, condominiums, high-end office buildings, auditoriums, a heritage museum, rooftop cafes and restaurants, an art gallery, green walkways, cycle lanes and stands, water taxi

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

AT A GLANCE
Total area 1,200 acres
Plan taken to attract global investments
WHAT'S IN THE PLAN
High-rise convention centre
Condominiums, offices
Auditoriums, museum, art gallery
Green walkways, cycle lanes
Water taxi jetty, water garden
Two bridges

The proposed plan identified the geographical location, environmental aspect, advantage of various natural resources of the Kamrangirchar area surrounded by the river basin and its very close proximity to existing financial centres as its strength.

'PATHAK UTSAB' Prothom Alo celebrates 24th anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24th anniversary of Bangla daily Prothom Alo was celebrated with much enthusiasm yesterday. A day-long festival, titled "Pathak Utsab", was organised for the occasion.

Readers and employees of the newspaper gathered on the festival premises at the capital's Bangla Academy for the celebration.

At the event, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman along with the newspaper's senior journalists participated in a session of "Face to Face with the Reader", moderated by Sajjad Sharif, managing editor of the daily.

Matiur Rahman said, "Prothom Alo's journey started 24 years ago with the goal of true and independent journalism. During this period, the newspaper industry underwent major changes."

"There are all kinds of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman participates in a session of "Face to Face with the Reader", as part of an event marking 24th anniversary of the Bangla daily yesterday. On the occasion, a day-long festival, titled "Pathak Utsab", was organised at the capital's Bangla Academy.

PHOTO: STAR

'Know the Constitution, know your rights'

Speakers tell discussion marking National Constitution Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stressing the need to raise awareness about the country's Constitution, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik yesterday said there has been a significant lack of government initiatives in this regard.

"The government does not want that we [people] know about the Constitution," he said during a discussion.

Moulik Odhikar Surokkha Committee, a platform of rights activists, organised the discussion on "Fifty Years of the Constitution and Our Fundamental Rights" at the capital's Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

Bangladesh's constitution was adopted on November 4, 1972. This year, the government for the first time observed the day as "National Constitution Day".

Addressing the event, Shahdeen Malik said people's fundamental rights, which are guaranteed in the Constitution, have gradually become "redundant" due to various interventions over the years.

The Constitution is a law that limits executive power and draws a line in this regard. The less people know about the Constitution, the more it is beneficial for the government, he added.

On shrinking space for freedom of speech, he said, "In our thoughts centring on fundamental rights, we cannot even think that 'freedom of speech' can be free."

"[Instead, there is concern about] hurting sentiment," he added.

Prof Shahnaz Huda of Dhaka University's law department said as far as people are concerned, Part-III of the country's Constitution is most important, as it cites people's fundamental rights.

It should be looked at how people or institutions who are responsible for protecting people's fundamental rights are doing so, she said.

Although the Constitution ensures laws contradicting people's fundamental rights cannot be formulated, there have been "black laws" passed by different governments in the past, said Prof Asif Nazrul, chairman of Dhaka University's law department.

He termed Digital Security Act (DSA) a "black law" and said although court orders in the past repealed such laws, this has not happened yet in the case of DSA.

He said when it comes to protecting fundamental rights, only the influential and wealthy benefit.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

2 killed, 3 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and three injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Dinajpur, a pedestrian was killed and two motorcycle riders were injured as their bike hit the passerby in Ghoraghat upazila.

Karlus Mardi (32) from Abirerpara village in Ghoraghat died on the way to the local upazila health complex, said police.

The injured -- Bullet (21) and Rakib Hasan, who are relatives -- were taken to the health complex. In Panchagarh, a youth was killed and another injured in a collision between a truck and his motorbike in Sadar upazila.

The accident occurred on Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway at Charnmile village in the morning, said police.

Mostafizur Rahman Rasel (32) from Hazipara in Thakurgaon died on the spot, said Jakir Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge of Tentulia Highway Police Station. The victim was returning home from Tentulia, said the OC.

Fair polls not possible under this government

Says Ganosamhati Andolon

DU CORRESPONDENT

The people won't get the opportunity to exercise their voting rights under the current government, said leaders of Ganosamhati Andolon yesterday.

"The government will tell everyone to vote. But no one can vote on the election day," said its chief coordinator Zonayed Saki at a rally in front of National Museum in Shahbagh.

"We are fighting to establish a democratic system... we are fighting for civil rights. However, what is the government (Awami League) doing? They are establishing fascism and authoritarianism," he added.

The speakers also alleged that the government is pushing the country toward a chaotic situation.

Man held with six gold bars at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday seized six gold bars and ornaments, weighing around one kilogramme, from a person in the car parking area of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

The gold carrier, Hossain Mahmud, 29, a resident of Feni's Daganbhuiyan area, was also arrested on the spot.

In addition, three laptops and two mobile phones were seized from him, said Aminul Islam, inspector of Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

The gold and electronic devices are worth around Tk 72 lakh, he said.

Mahmud was walking around suspiciously in the car parking area around 11:00am. The APBn's intelligence searched him and recovered the gold, said Aminul.

In primary interrogation, Mahmud said he received the golds from an unknown person at the airport and he was just a carrier, said Aminul.

"However, we could not dig out further information. We could not confirm whether Mahmud came from abroad or where he was going," said the official.

"He was handed over to the airport police," he said.

Contacted, the police station's sub-inspector Abdus Sattar said, "An APBn official filed a case in this connection. We are investigating the matter."