

## Enact treaty

FROM PAGE 3  
“There has been a revision in the current copyright act with special provisions for persons with visual and print impairments. We hope this amendment will pass in the next parliament session,” said Bangladesh Copyright Office’s former registrar Zafar Raja Chowdhury.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, “We have to work further to implement the treaty and prepare an action plan to determine the way forward. Only then the ratification will be successful.”  
Shaheen Anam also highlighted the need for accessible structures (government buildings) and public transportation (buses) to ensure the constitutional right of equal opportunity for all citizens.

A c a d e m i c i a n  
Muhammed Zafar Iqbal also attended the programme and highlighted the enormous capability of persons with disabilities. He also urged the government to create required work opportunities for them.

State Minister of Cultural Affairs KM Khalid attended the event as chief guest and said his ministry has already established 1,000 Mujib Corner libraries around the country, where they have already kept a dedicated corner for Braille books.

He also assured that if people with visual impairments reach his ministry with any demand, he will look into it.

Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, founding president of VIPs; Nazrana Yeasmin, coordinator, MJF; Saidul Huq, executive director, Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organisation; Adv Mosharraf Hossain Mazumder, founding general secretary, VIPs; and Nazmul Haider, senior programme manager, Young Power in Social Action, spoke at the event among others, moderated by Mohammad Jahangir Alam, VIPs general secretary.

## No hospital

FROM PAGE 5  
Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would come to Chattogram on December 4 to give a message, adding that it would be her first public rally after the Covid-19 situation.

Mosharraf said the DC Hill will also be freed for the common people. “At present, the residence of the deputy commissioner of Chattogram is located on DC Hill, but we have many government bungalows in Chattogram to house the DC.”

“The DC Hill should be turned into a complete park for common people,” he added.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud also spoke at the rally, with Nagarik Samaj Chattogram Chairman Prof Anupam Sen, also vice chancellor of Premier University, Chattogram, in the chair.

## News, photography intertwined

FROM PAGE 3  
engagement than the other forms of media that we have. It will be a waste of opportunity if photography is overlooked, as it is much more important for even the survival of newspapers,” he added.

Mahfuz Anam, president of Editors’ Council and editor-publisher of The Daily Star, said photojournalism is an essential element of journalism.

“We must include the importance of photojournalism in our thinking,” he said.

“There was a time when in newsrooms, the viewpoints of photojournalists would be ignored, but such practices have changed now. Photojournalists are now a crucial part of the newrooms’ decision-making processes,” he added.

Mahfuz Anam said the Editors’ Council will take more initiatives in the future to engage photojournalists in debates and discussions.

Joumana El Zein Khoury, executive director of World Press Photo Foundation, said images in their exhibitions are seen by over four million people around the world.

“There is a lot of interest in photojournalism. People come and visit the exhibitions to understand what happened across the



world in a year. That is something that I find quite appealing,” Joumana said.

Speaking at the discussion, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir referred to Rashid Talukder’s iconic capture of a street child leading a procession during the mass upsurge of 1969 and said such a photograph can represent a particular generation.

“As we see the photo, we can contextualise the time,” he said.

Kabir said photojournalists have to take the challenge and fight for their photographs to go on print since an editor has to work thinking of various circumstances.

“For a photo to be published in a newspaper, only aesthetic value is not sufficient but it has to be worthy of news,” he added.

Better institutional education and training for photojournalists are required to make further progress in the field of photojournalism, said Sajjad Sharif, managing editor of Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud, also general secretary of Editors’ Council, said passion for photography and understanding the context of an event is important to capture the best moment.

Photojournalists face various challenges during their duty. Newsroom leaders need to guide photojournalists to get the best output, said Sk Enamul Haq, chief photographer of The Daily Star.

Syed Zakir Hossain, head of photography at Prothom Alo, said photojournalists need to undergo institutional training to improve their skills.

Abu Sayeed Asiful Islam, associate editor, Dhaka Tribune; Sazzad Hossain, news editor, Daily Ittefaq; and Md Shahabuddin, joint news editor, Daily Karatoa, spoke at the discussion among others.

## Demand is there, production is not

FROM PAGE 5  
my parents that Shatkora Kandi village was famous for the fruit. But now only a handful of shatkora trees are available in some households.”

Md Musharraf Hussain Khan, additional director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Sylhet division, said, “Shatkora used to be the pride of Sylhet, but now it is no longer produced commercially in the region.”

“The varieties of this fruit is now exposed to many diseases due to climate change, and farmers lack the knowledge to manage the trees. It’s

time to develop a hybrid, climate-resilient variety,” he said.

He said the local demand relies on imports, yet Bangladesh exports shatkora to many countries like the UK, US and UAE. In reality, they are exporting the imported fruits.

According to Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate in Sylhet, 1,078 tonnes of citrus fruits, mostly Shatkora, were imported from India through Sylhet border in fiscal 2021-22.

In the same fiscal, Bangladesh exported citrus worth USD 91,639, of which a large amount is shatkora, according to

Export Promotion Bureau.

The Citrus Research Centre (CRC), a subsidiary of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Sylhet’s Jaintiapur upazila, released a variety of this fruit -- “BARI Shatkora-1” -- in 2004.

MHM Borhannuddin Bhuyan, scientific officer at CRC, said shatkora is a very delicate fruit, and the tree grows slowly; that’s the reason why farmers are losing interest in growing shatkora amid high demand.

He said CRC recently received advanced research equipment, and a hybrid shatkora variety is in the works.

## Early detection, treatment

FROM PAGE 5  
Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital (NIO&H), and the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh (OSB).

They said even eight years ago, the only cancer treatment available was to completely remove the affected eyeball. Since 2014, however, it is no longer a part of the treatment.

NIO&H has treated almost 600 children. Out of them, 500 have been cured and 120 have received eye transplants.

Every week, about 50 new children are admitted

to the hospital. In the last eight years, 40 children have died of cancer in this hospital. Doctors said eye cancer is more common in children under two.

Addressing the event, Prof Ava Hossain of Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology said, “Hospitals in the capital are admitting patients from across the country. More children with eye cancer could be cured if multiple awareness programmes are conducted.”

According to Prof Shawkat Ara Shakoor Milly, surgeon at NIO&H, said retinoblastoma is one

of the most dangerous eye diseases that affect children.

“This cancer can be fatal if it is not treated timely. Chemotherapy or lasers are usually used for treatment. Since 2019, the government has provided patients with free medical care,” she said.

“Parents should take children to the doctor if they exhibit symptoms like swollen eyes, redness, or black spots. People would become more aware if the government implemented various awareness-raising initiatives in this regard,” she added.

## Mayur in peril for pollution

FROM PAGE 5  
society member of Khulna.

According to Department of Environment (DoE), the level of dissolved oxygen in the water of Mayur is currently 0.2-0.6 mg per litre, whereas the ideal amount should be more than 5 mg per litre.

Due to the low levels of dissolved oxygen, the river water is harmful to aquatic

animals and to public health, according to the environment protection agency.

Nuruzzaman Talukder, member secretary of the river eviction committee and KCC’s state officer, said, “Every week, our people visit the Mayur area. Anyone who tried to occupy was evicted and brought to the police station. No one has occupied the river

anew.”

After excavation work, the river will get back its water flow, he added.

In September 2016, the Khulna office of DoE sent a letter to the DG of the department, pointing out that unplanned waste management is responsible for the declining oxygen levels in the river and recommended improving Mayur’s water quality.

Khulna University conducted two studies on the river’s water, in 2013 and 2020, led by Dilip Kumar Datta, professor of environmental science.

“Our research in 2020 was mainly on the water security of Khulna city. We found that to meet the water demand of the city, Mayur can be developed as a reservoir of fresh water,” Dilip said.

## China wants peace, stability

FROM PAGE 3  
and Bangladesh-China Silk Road Forum President and Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua were present.

Li Jiming said democracy does not only mean the western style of liberal democracy. China also values democracy.

Asked about the Teesta River Comprehensive Management Project, Li Jiming said China would consider it positively if Bangladesh is determined to engage.

However, he said, they

have information that there is some level of hesitation from the Bangladesh side because of outside pressure.

He did not mention what the outside pressure is, but added that China is cautious about the matter due to geo-political sensitivities surrounding it.

Bangladesh could not sign the Teesta water-sharing deal with India even though it was ready in 2011, due to opposition from Indian Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Jiming visited Teesta river in Rangpur on October 9, as he wanted to see whether the local government and people want the project.

The Chinese envoy said as per the feasibility study of the project, no embankment will be built close to the border, and this project will not harm upper riparian countries.

On the Rohingya crisis, Jiming said China is playing a mediating role for early repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh, but a conducive condition is a

must for that.

He fears a regional crisis will emerge if the Rohingya crisis is not addressed. Some quarters do not want a constructive way of handling the Rohingya crisis, he said.

The China Bangladesh strategic relationship will be further deepened through the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.



## To get ‘full picture’ of irregularities

FROM PAGE 5  
“After the committee submits the report, we will be able to make a decision based on the report,” he said.

Asked why they have not asked the committee to investigate all the centres from the very start, Habibul said, “We did not feel it was necessary then; now we feel it is required.”

In an unprecedented move, the EC stopped the Gaibandha-5 by-election, saying that the situation went “out of control” due

to widespread electoral irregularities.

This was the first by-polls conducted by the current EC. Also, this was the first time an election commission halted an entire by-election to a parliamentary seat.

Kazi Habibul Awal and other commissioners, while monitoring CCTV footage at the EC office on October 12, found illegal presence of some people in secret polling booths. They were influencing voters.

Speaking to the media on

October 13, EC officials held the local administration and presiding officers responsible for the polling irregularities.

The commission pointed fingers at them for failing to maintain discipline at the centres.

At that time, the commission, over phone, asked the presiding officers to restore discipline at the voting rooms. “But they were not seen taking any effective steps to restore order,” Habibul said.



Shaping a more livable world.

USAID Feed the Future Policy LINK Agriculture Policy Activity, DAI Bangladesh


Position: Deputy Country Lead, Bangladesh

**Description:** This is a senior leadership position based in Dhaka, reporting to the Country Lead. S/he will lead the National Policy Team for strategy development and execution to build the capacity and support partner coalitions, public institutions, development agencies and research/academic institutions on national policy areas within agricultural systems.

Leaders experienced in critical thinking, policy influencing, forging partnerships, and a keen believer in motivating teams are encouraged to apply. The position comes with an attractive package for the right candidate. Females are especially welcomed to apply.

Please refer to LINK: <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/dai/ftfpolicy4.htm> for full description of position.


**Deadline:** The application will close on 30 November 2022. However, applications will be reviewed and interviewed on a rolling basis – so early application is encouraged!



The GEF Small Grants Programme

SGP

30 YEARS




**United Nations Development Programme**  
Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme  
**Invitation of Innovative Project Proposals for 2022**

The Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change invites innovative project proposals based on SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy (CPS) from CSOs or NGOs or CBOs or Academic institutions that have extensive experiences of working with the local communities using environmental approaches under GEF/SGP focal areas. The programme provides financial support up to \$50000 expecting provision of sufficient co-financing. The development goal of the GEF/SGP is to secure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, chemicals and waste management, prevention of land degradation, sustainable forest management, and protection of international waters through community-based initiatives. GEF/SGP focuses on landscape approach of environmental conservation.

The Proposal Template, relevant documents and Guidelines/CPS for the preparation of project proposals are available in this URL: [shorturl.at/jpvEN](https://shorturl.at/jpvEN) and also in following QR code. Duly completed proposals should be submitted to the National Coordinator, SGP Bangladesh on or before **29 December 2022**.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) is responsible for reviewing and approving the project proposals. The NSC reserves the right to accept or reject without any reason whatsoever. Only the proponents of the selected proposals will be informed.

For further information, please contact:  
National Coordinator  
UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)  
IDB Bhaban, Level-9, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
e-mail: [muzammel.hoque@undp.org](mailto:muzammel.hoque@undp.org)



Scan this QR code for SGP proposal files