

‘No hospital in Ctg’s CRB’ Lawmakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

People of Chattogram will not allow any hospital on CRB (central railway building) premises, said Awami League praesidium member Mosharrar Hossain in a public rally yesterday.

He was speaking as chief guest in the rally organised by Nagarik Samaj, Chattogram, on the 483rd day of the movement to “save CRB”.

“I took the initiative to collect the signatures of lawmakers and ministers from Chattogram in an application, which was submitted to the railways minister,” said Mosharrar, also a lawmaker from Chattogram.

“The minister assured us that if the lawmakers and ministers from Chattogram do not want a hospital to be set up in CRB, the project would be shifted to another place,” he said.

“We will also present our demand to the prime minister on December 4 rally scheduled to be held at Polo Ground in Chattogram,” he added.

“The government would not let any project that goes against the emotions of locals to materialise. For that reason, I think, the hospital project will be shifted from CRB to another place,” said Deputy

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Speeding bus kills 2 in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Two motorcyclists were killed after a bus rammed them over at Tebunia in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Sumon Ghosh (26) and Md Arif Hossain (25). They were going to their workplace in Kalikapur of Ishwardi upazila, confirmed Ashish Shannal, officer-in-charge of Pakshey highway police station.

The accident took place around 6:30am, when they reached near Seed Godown area on the highway. They died on the spot after the bus hit them.


The bus could not be traced yet, the OC added.

PRAYER
TIMING

NOVEMBER 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





Under the 12-km hyacinth bed is Mayur river, which is supposed to be used as one of Khulna’s most reliable sources of freshwater. Coupled with the hyacinth growth comes the indiscriminate dumping of the city’s waste, making the river unusable for locals.

PHOTO: STAR

Pollution puts Mayur in peril

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Due to continuous encroachment and unchecked pollution, Mayur, one of the main freshwater rivers of Khulna, is at death’s throes.

Rapid growth of water-hyacinths has turned the 12-km river, flowing beside the southwestern side of the city, into a bane for locals, as they have been unable to use the water for any purpose for years, said locals.

As if that was not enough, most of Khulna city’s waste is released into the river through approximately 26 drains. As a result, around two lakh people living in adjacent areas under Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and surrounding villages are being deprived of water resources.

Mayur flows through Alutola, Nirala, Gallamari, Boyra, Dayana, Arongghata, and Bildakatia areas.

Visiting different points of the river recently, including those at Alutola gate, Sachibunia, Gallamari, Sonadaga bypass



bridge, Boyra cremation area, Rayer Mahal and Dayana, it was seen that 15 small and big drains are directly connected to the river. Apart from this, waste from slaughterhouses in Gallamari area, markets and various farms along the river fall directly into the waterbody.

In 1986, a sluice gate was built in Alutala of Batiaghata, to save the agricultural lands from saline water and tidal surges. Presently, the sluice gate cannot even drain out water.

Sazzad Hossain, a resident of Rayer Mahal area, said Mayur, once a storehouse of freshwater fish and a helping hand for agriculture, has now become a severely polluted, water-hyacinth riddled waterbody.

Nirod Roy (60), a fisher of Line Bilbapla of Dumuria, said many villagers of Batiaghata and Dumuria, along with city dwellers used to earn a living by fishing, while farmers were

blessed with good yields, he said.

Now, the river has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, as its water remains stagnant due to the hyacinths, he added.

According to KCC, a technical committee was formed in February 2019 to compile a list of illegal grabbers. They listed 362 establishments, constructed by 470 individuals and organisations occupying the river and 26 adjoining canals.

The grabbers are still active, alleged locals.

“In 2014-15, Tk 5.78 crore was spent for the river’s excavation, and the outcome was almost zero. The city corporation did the work without any proper survey and technical analysis. They have decided to excavate the river again, spending Tk 7.59 crore. It will be an eyewash too,” said Kudrat-e Khuda, a civil-

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To get ‘full picture’ of irregularities

EC to further investigate Gaibandha-5 by-polls incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is going to further investigate to ascertain the “complete picture” of electoral irregularities during the Gaibandha-5 by-polls on October 12, for which the election has been postponed.

A day after the polls were postponed, the EC formed a probe committee to find out whether irregularities occurred at 51 polling centres out of 145, and identify those who were responsible for the reported incident.

Before halting the entire election around 2:30pm, the EC suspended voting at 51 out of 145 centres, due to reported irregularities.

The committee submitted its report on October 27. Yesterday, the EC gave responsibilities to the same committee to probe whether any irregularities took place at the other 94 centres, in which voting was not stopped.

Authorities gave the committee seven working days to complete the latest investigation.

“We have received a probe report... We have asked the same committee to review CCTV footage of the 94 polling stations [where voting was not halted] and submit a report,” said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal.

He said they arranged for a quick probe on the 51 centre after seeing irregularities through CCTV cameras on election day.

“That was a partial probe... Now, we want the committee to see the centres that were not observed or insufficiently observed [through CCTV cameras]. We have asked for immediate submission of the report,” Habibur said.

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Early detection, treatment can cure paediatric eye cancer

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four-year-old Sabbir Hossain, son of Awlad Hossain, a farmer of Golabari village in Khagrachhari, woke up one day to find that he could not see anything.

His father observed that his son’s eyes had suddenly begun to bulge. As there was no treatment available at the local hospital, he did not get the required medical help and his condition worsened.

After four months, Sabbir’s mother, Parvin Akhter, took him to the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka, where his condition was diagnosed.

He had eye cancer.

At present, one of his eyes is being treated, but he has lost his sight completely in the other eye.

Parvin said, “When my son’s eyes got swollen, there were visible black spots. Later, when I brought him to Dhaka, I came to know that if my child had been brought here earlier, both of his eyes could’ve been saved.”

Parvin was speaking at a seminar in Dhaka held on eye cancer in children recently. Sabbir and his father were also present at the event.

Lack of awareness among parents is a major reason behind the delay in or absence of treatment for eye cancer in children, resulting in blindness or death.

Speakers said this at the discussion jointly organised by Ocular Oncology Services, National

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Demand is there, production is not

Increasing shatkora imports from India, discouraging local farmers

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

While visiting Sylhet, one particular item in the kitchen markets always catch the attention of tourists -- a round-shaped lemon-like fruit.

This is “shatkora” -- a distinct citrus fruit that is native to hilly terrains of greater Sylhet and India’s Assam and Meghalaya regions.

The fruit’s thick peel gives it a savoury, tangy flavour when added to meat and fish curries, and in dal. People also make pickles out of it.

For centuries, greater Sylhet region’s residents and adjacent Assam and Meghalaya provinces of India are much fond of the fruit.

Decades ago, shatkora production was so popular in Sylhet that a village in Moulvibazar’s Barlekha upazila was named Shatkora Kandi.

However, over the years, production in Sylhet gradually declined -- so much so that even Shatkora Kandi has only a handful of the fruit-bearing trees now.

As a result, for decades, the growing demand is being fulfilled with imported shatkora from India’s Assam and Meghalaya.

In 2013, Prof Mohammad Nesawar Miah, who got his PhD researching the fruit, named it “Citrus macroptera Montrouz var annamensis Tanaka”.

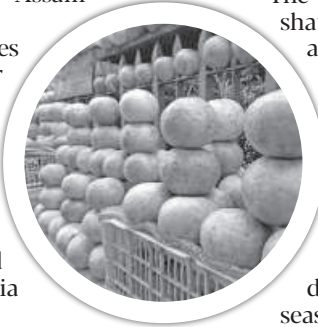
The average height of the shatkora plant is 2 to 3 metres and width 2 to 4 metres. The fruit is about 6 to 10 cm in diameter.

A shatkora in Sylhet’s local kitchen markets goes for around Tk 20 to 60 during peak season (between September and October). It costs even more during the early and late seasons.

Salek Ahmed, a shatkora seller from Bandarabazar area, said, “The demand grows when expatriates come to visit. Besides locals, tourists coming to Sylhet also buy them.”

Saleh Ahmed Juwel, chairperson of Barlekha Sadar Union, said, “I heard from

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Shatkora, a round-shaped lemon-like fruit is a speciality of Sylhet. However, the fruit’s production has seen a steady decline over the past decade despite its growing demand. Currently, the demand is being fulfilled by imported Shatkora from India.

PHOTO: STAR