



By now, the world cup fever taken over the country, but for the younger spirits, the zeal is far more apparent. From dawn to dusk, children take turns playing in their local open spaces, likely trying to become the next football stars. This photo was taken in Rayerbazar's Boishakhi playground recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘All lottery applicants will be admitted’
Says Dipu Moni on secondary school admissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said all the students who have applied for secondary schools through the digital lottery will be admitted.

“There is no risk of students missing admission in grades one to nine in government and private secondary schools through the digital lottery system. Everyone will get a seat. However, they might not be able to get admitted to the school of their choice,” she said while inaugurating the digital lottery for admissions to public secondary schools at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital.

She said 540 government schools under the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education participated in the digital lottery system.

This year, 6,38,593 applications have been submitted against 1,07,890 vacant seats in government schools for the next academic year.

“Private secondary schools are also a part of the system. But not all private schools are involved. Compared to the number of available seats,

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‘Make women’s reserved seats constituency-based’

Speakers demand at programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women’s reserved seats in parliament must be based on constituencies and political parties have to ensure more female candidates for general seats in the upcoming national election, to advance female leadership in electoral politics, demanded speakers at a programme yesterday.

Aroma Dutta, an Awami League lawmaker of constituency-311, said voters have no way to decide whom to vote for when women from the reserved seats run as general candidates. “They [voters] have no way to evaluate the work of a lawmaker. The reserved women’s seats should be constituency-based.”

She also said every political party should have separate funds

“Women not only face a struggle in getting party nomination in elections but are also often deprived of top positions within the party. We all have to work together irrespective of our political allegiance to overcome the challenges in advancing female leadership.”

SELIMA RAHMAN
BNP’s standing committee member

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Separate funds to nurture female leadership
- Financial assistance for female candidates
- Ensuring 33pc female participation in parties
- Female quota for general seats
- Ensuring a set percentage of female MPs

to nurture and grow female leadership.

She was speaking at a workshop on “Advancing Women’s Leadership in Politics”, organised by the USAID-funded Strengthening Political Landscape (SPL) project and implemented by Democracy International at a hotel in the capital.

The workshop was attended by 23 female lawmakers and potential general aspirants representing AL, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and those with a non-political background.

Newaz Halima Arley, a former lawmaker of BNP from reserved seat, said since the lawmakers from reserved seats do not have any constituency, they have to compete with the male parliamentarians to prove their competence.

Speaking at the event, BNP’s standing committee member

Selima Rahman said, “Women not only face a struggle in getting party nomination in elections but are also often deprived of top positions within the party.”

“We all have to work together irrespective of our political allegiance to overcome the challenges in advancing female leadership,” she added.

“A female leader aspiring to get party nomination to compete for the general seats should stand by the people of her area and increase connectivity with the top brass of the party to get a ticket,” said Mahmuda Habiba, joint general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal.

She demanded the introduction of a female quota for the 300 general seats and set a definite time-frame for ensuring the presence of a certain percentage of female lawmakers in the parliament.

At the programme, Merina Jahan, an AL-backed candidate from Sirajganj-6, shared her experiences on the difficulties she faced as a female politician while competing for the general seat.

The discussants also made some recommendations, including the stipulation in political parties’ election manifestos and constitutions to nominate a certain number of women for general seats, financial incentives for female candidates by the Election Commission, and ensuring that 33 percent of the party members are women.

Clean your establishments in seven days
DNCC mayor tells building owners; 224 new cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

D h a k a North City Corporation (D N C C) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday told building owners to clean their establishments to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

“I am giving everyone seven days. After seven days, I will visit different areas. DNCC magistrates will conduct raids,” he said.

Addressing a views-exchange meeting at Nagar Bhaban at the capital’s Gulshan, the mayor said they will take legal action if they find stagnant water or mosquito breeding spots at the premises of government and private institutions.

The DNCC mayor said, “I also observed mosquitoes were breeding in the canals, reservoirs and ponds around the airport. These spots are under Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Rajuk, Housing Authority and other agencies.”

“There is a lot of water hyacinths in the reservoirs. If we don’t clean this mess, it is not possible to kill mosquitoes no matter how



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‘Ensure safe, orderly migration’

Expatriates welfare minister urges stakeholders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates’ Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday urged stakeholders in the labour migration sector to take collective effort to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

He said the ministry welcomes stakeholders who are keen to facilitate safe migration, reintegration, and welfare of migrant workers and returnee migrants, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He was addressing a joint press briefing at his ministry, which was held in recognition of the Italian government’s commitment to support migration management in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The release says Italy has reiterated its support to Bangladesh to strengthen migration management, with particular focus on promoting safe migration and addressing its adverse drivers.

The Italian support will be realised through a project that will be implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM), it says.

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Enrico Nunziata stated that his country is pleased to support migration management and reintegration programme in Bangladesh.

He said the IOM project, with a budget of about \$3 million, will focus on ensuring safe migration through information dissemination and reintegration assistance for those who return to Bangladesh under the European Union-supported Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR)

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HC issues contempt of court rule against 4 govt high officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against four government high officials for not complying with its directive, given 10 years ago, to remove all commercial institutions from Dhanmondi residential area.

The four officials are Housing and Public Works secretary Kazi Wasi Uddin, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) chairman Md Anisur Rahman Miah, its executive engineer Md Shah Alam, and authorised officer Nuruzzaman Hossain.

In the rule, the High Court asked them to explain in four weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be made against them for violating its order.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil issued the rule after holding a hearing on a contempt of court petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

Following a writ petition filed by the same organisation, the HC on June 11, 2012, declared all commercial operations in Dhanmondi residential area illegal and directed authorities to remove such institutions to preserve the area’s residential environment.

The court, however, said the decision does not include activities of authorised commercial establishments on Mirpur Road, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi-2 and Dhanmondi 27.

Petitioner’s lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the officials have not implemented the 2012 HC directive, which is tantamount to contempt of court.

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Renovated for 4 years, ruined within one

Jatrabari park becomes a haven for encroachers, criminals

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka South City Corporation started renovating Sheikh Russell Park, situated on the north side of Jatrabari intersection, in 2017, so that residents can take a break from the concrete jungle and spend some quality time with friends and families there.

When DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurated the renovated park on June 9, 2021, he said the place was made family-friendly for people to relax and enjoy.

Due to encroachment, pollution and neglect, the park has become a safe haven for drug peddlers and criminal gangs.

But due to encroachment, pollution and neglect, the park has become a safe haven for drug peddlers and criminal gangs.

Besides, due to a lack of public toilets in the area, pedestrians often urinate at the park, leading to a stench that makes the place almost unbearable for visitors.

In a recent visit, this correspondent saw that the entrance of the park has been

taken over by tea stalls, making it difficult for people to enter.

Inside the park, makeshift shops selling tea, fruits, and shoes have been set up, creating a chaotic situation.

Jatrabari resident Ameena Begum said, “When DSCC renovated the place, we were optimistic about finally having an open space. But in reality, the park turned out to be a safe haven for gangs and those who abuse drugs.”

Contacted, DSCC executive engineer (region-5) Saiful Islam Joy said the park hasn’t been leased out to any organisation yet. Once leased out, the lessee will maintain the place properly, and all concerns regarding the park will gradually fade out.

“We’ve started the [leasing] process. Hopefully, it will be completed soon,” he added.



With the intention of creating a family-friendly space for recreation, DSCC opened the renovated Sheikh Russell Park at Jatrabari intersection in 2021. However, just within a year of its inauguration, the park now hosts all kinds of problems, from drug abuse and crimes to encroachment and pollution. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED