

20th-century politician's grave demolished

ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi

Construction workers demolished many of the preserved graves, including partly that of the early 20th century politician Madar Baksh at Rajshahi city's Hetom Khan graveyard last week.

The news surfaced when Ahmed Shafi Uddin, president of Shushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujon), went to visit the graveyard to offer prayers for his late relatives.

He wrote his findings in a Facebook post. "The state should preserve the grave of a man like him," he told The Daily Star.

Madar Baksh (1907-1967) won the general election of 1946 and became a member of the undivided Bengal's Legislative Assembly.

He was the founding chairman of Rajshahi Municipality. His name is remembered as one of the founders of Rajshahi University.

Workers employed by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Living a life of hardship

Finds study on domestic workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 4 percent of live-in domestic helps in Bangladesh are abused sexually, while 21 percent suffer from physical violence and 61 percent are subjected to verbal harassment by their employers and family members, found a recent study.

The study also uncovered that domestic helps are hardly granted any paid maternity leave, with only 0.5 percent being eligible for this benefit, while they earn an average of Tk 5,449 per month.

Almost 60 percent of domestic helps do not enjoy any leave and they work 10-11 hours a day, it also revealed.

The study, titled "Decent work and intersections with VAW/GBV: A study

on Domestic Workers in Bangladesh", was conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), in collaboration with Dnet, Oxfam and Global Affairs Canada.

The findings were shared at an event yesterday, organised by BILS-SUNITI Project at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The study was conducted by surveying 465 domestic workers, including live-in and live-out, and 150 employees based in Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet and Jashore.

M Shahadat Hossain, co-founder and executive director of Dnet -- who presented the study at the event -- said, "Nearly 80 percent of domestic workers do not get any social security services," he added. Additional Secretary and Advisor

to the World Bank ABM Khurshed said each and every domestic worker should have their NIDs so that they can be identified easily.

"Otherwise, it would be difficult to determine their numbers," he said.

Tareq Aziz, project coordinator at Oxfam in Bangladesh; Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, joint secretary general, BILS; Bellal Hossain Sheikh, director of the Department of Labour; Ataur Rahman, general secretary, Labour Rights Journalist Forum; Murad Pervez, programme quality specialist, Oxfam in Bangladesh; and M Zakir Hossain Khan, chief executive, Change Initiative; spoke at the event moderated by Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, executive editor of BILS.

Pabna in joy after nomination of Shahabuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

People of Pabna are in a joyous mood, as Shahabuddin Chuppu, hailing from Pabna, has been nominated as the 22nd presidential candidate yesterday.

He is the first man from Pabna who is on track to become the country's president.

People from all walks of lives are celebrating this development, after AL gave the nomination.

"This is an amazing moment for the people of Pabna, as Shahabuddin Chuppu has been nominated for becoming the president..." said Abdur Rahim Pakon, chairperson of Pabna Zila Parishad, also a close aide of Shahabuddin.

Talking to The Daily Star, prominent educationist Prof Shibojit Nag, also a childhood friend of Shahabuddin, said, "He [Shahabuddin] was involved in many important duties throughout his career; he never forgets his roots."

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