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Cutting trees in name of development unacceptable

Say environmentalists at human chain on Saat Masjid Road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cutting trees for development purposes is unacceptable, said environmentalists at a human chain yesterday, held to protest against the indiscriminate felling of trees on Saat Masjid Road.

The event was attended by notable figures such as Sultana Kamal, president of Bangladesh Environmental Paribesh Andolan, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, and other social activists.

Trees are being cut from Jigatala to near the Abahani playground under a Tk 9.62 crore project, aiming to develop different infrastructures, including the beautification of islands, footpaths and road medians, and the

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Sultana Kamal, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and other notable environmentalists, along with children, plant trees on the median of Saat Masjid Road yesterday as a symbol of their commitment to preserving the environment. Earlier, they formed a human chain protesting indiscriminate felling of trees in the name of development.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AHSANULLAH MASTER KILLING 19 years on, justice yet to be served

ASHUTOSH SARKAR



Final justice is yet to be delivered to the family members of the then Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, who was brutally killed on this day 19 years ago, as the appeals in connection with his murder case have been pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for seven years.

The petitions filed by his brother Motiur Rahman and government sought death penalty of all convicts, while convicts sought acquittal from all conviction and sentences, attorney general's office sources said.

There is no visible initiative from any side for quick hearing and disposal of the appeals.

The apex court could not start hearing of the appeals because the regular judicial functions of the court remained suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic for a long time and now there's a long list of pending cases.

Besides, both the state and defence counsels have taken deferment of the hearing at different times previously, Md Shamsul Alam, an advocate-on-record of the case, told The Daily Star on May 4.

"After the death of Senior Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain, who was the chief defence counsel of Ahsanullah Master murder case, tadbirkaroks (representatives) from neither the victims nor the convicts in the case communicated with us (advocates on records) for moving the pending appeals," he added.

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ELECTIONS TO 5 CITY CORPORATION

Make sure AL wins

Quader to party members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The ruling Awami League yesterday asked all the leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies to give all out efforts to get the party nominated candidates elected in the five city corporation elections.

Obaidul Quader, general secretary of Awami League, gave the instruction during a joint meeting of the party along with its associate bodies at the AL central office in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Quader called upon the party leaders and workers to follow the decision taken by the nomination board under the leadership of the party president.

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Can people vote freely?

Asks GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said voters are worried ahead of the five city corporation polls that they will not be able to cast their votes freely.

"Even if voters can cast their votes, will it be counted? Will not the ruling Awami League declare the candidates elected as per their choice?" he asked.

Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said this while speaking at the 40th founding anniversary of Jatiya Swachhasevak Party at Jatiya Party chairman's Banani office.

The JP chief said, "We have candidates in the five city corporation elections. We want

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STEEL MILL BLAST 6th victim succumbs to injuries

STAR REPORT

The death toll from the explosion at a re-rolling mill in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila climbed to six after two victim died yesterday.

The deceased are Golam Rabhani, 35, of Lalmonirhat district, and Jewel, 25, died at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost.

On Thursday afternoon, seven workers were injured in an explosion that took place at the mill when they were melting iron.

The seventh victim is admitted to the ICU of the institute with 28 percent burns.

Meanwhile, 52 hours have passed but no case has been filed in this regard, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

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Empowering women through technology

31 teams compete to solve social issues through digital mediums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised the necessity of dispelling the myth that women are unable to use technology by encouraging them to be more creative in their use of digital tools.

They made the remarks at an event titled "Digital Innovation Challenge for Women 2023" held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

With the help of UNDP and the World Bank, Women in Digital organised the event to highlight the innovative digital ideas of young women from all walks of life.

Achia Khaleda Nila, founder, Women in Digital, said, "Applying technology is essential to ensure the empowerment of women. If not, they will fall behind. It is an opportunity for women to demonstrate that they can be just as inventive and creative in the digital sphere."

About 31 teams presented their digital ideas to the judges during the event stressing social, educational, and environmental concerns. Funds will be given to the top four teams so they may complete their projects.

Safaet Hossain, head of the department, computer science and engineering, City University, stated, "These proposed project ideas by young women have the potential to create a long-term solution for a number of societal issues while also empowering them. It may also open doors for women to take part in creating our Digital Bangladesh."

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GAS EXPLOSION Injured JnU student dies

UNB, Dhaka

A student of Jagannath University, who sustained burn injuries in a gas pipeline explosion at Dhupkhola Bazar in Gandaria area of Dhaka on May 1, died at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery early yesterday.

The deceased is Mehedi Hasan Shaon, 22. With 30 percent burn injuries, Shaon was undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the institute, where he succumbed to his injuries around 6:15am today, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police camp.

On Monday, at least nine people sustained burn injuries in a gas pipeline explosion in Dhupkhola Bazar area.

The injured were Md Sohel, 42, Mehedi Hasan Shaon, 22, Ali Hossain, 52, Rashed Miah, 32, Sahara Begum, 65, Abdur Rahim, 50, Mim Akter, 22, Alif, 22, Mizanur Rahman, 32.

Of them, Abdur Rahim and Shaon received around 40 and 30 percent burns respectively.

All the injured were admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery and Burn Unit.

According to a statement of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, a contractor of Wasa was setting up pipes for water supply in the area on Monday morning.

The explosion occurred in the morning when the gas pipelines were damaged during digging by the Wasa contractor, it said.

Responding to the call, an emergency team from Titas rushed to the spot and fixed the issue, it read.

14 more hospitalised with dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Fourteen more people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning.



Of the new patients, 13 were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Eighty-five dengue patients, including 68 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has recorded 1,080 dengue cases, 984 recoveries, and eleven deaths this year.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-34 8-00

JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-38 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

It's strategic and multi-dimensional Says European trade commissioner on Bangladesh-EU relations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis termed Bangladesh-EU relations a multi-dimensional strategic partnership, and reiterated EU's political commitment in this regard.

He made the comment when State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam met Valdis, also executive vice-president of the European Parliament, in Brussels on Friday, on his last leg of a four-day visit to Brussels, according to a foreign ministry statement.

Dombrovskis commended Bangladesh as the biggest beneficiary of EU's Everything But Arms scheme and expressed EU's support to Bangladesh for a smooth graduation out of LDC status and for Bangladesh to apply for GSP+ concessions.

He highlighted EU-Bangladesh Business Climate Dialogue and EU-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce as important platforms for European and Bangladeshi businesses to come together meaningfully.

Dombrovskis appreciated Bangladesh's adaptation of the National Action Plan on the Labour Sector.

Shahriar Alam recognised the role of the EU in the country's development since independence.

He apprised the EU Trade Commissioner of steps being taken by the government to diversify the economy and prepare for graduation and the much bigger role of the EU envisaged in future.

Bangladesh hoped for an early launching of the Partnership Cooperation Agreement, which would be an important institutional and legal mechanism to

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Rain or not, Dakshinkhan's Shah Kabir Mazar Road (DNCC ward-47) remains waterlogged all the time. The collapsed drainage system in the area has left the road in this condition for almost two years. The situation becomes unbearable during rainy days. This picture, taken yesterday, captures the scene of vehicles struggling to navigate through the waterlogged road, which is also covered by numerous potholes.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN