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SAAT MASJID ROAD

# Destruction of nature must stop

## 37 eminent citizens submit memorandum to DSCC mayor to stop tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum, signed by 37 notable individuals was delivered yesterday to the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), condemning the felling of trees along Saat Masjid Road.

They demanded that the tree felling be stopped and local trees be planted on the streets again. The memorandum was received by APS to Mayor Nasirul Hasan Shojib, who assured that it will be submitted to the mayor.

Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, social activist Shireen Huq, activist and researcher Pavel Partha, Coordinator of Saat Masjid Road Tree Protection Movement Amirul Rajiv and others submitted the memorandum to the mayor's office.

Earlier, activists and environmentalists held a press

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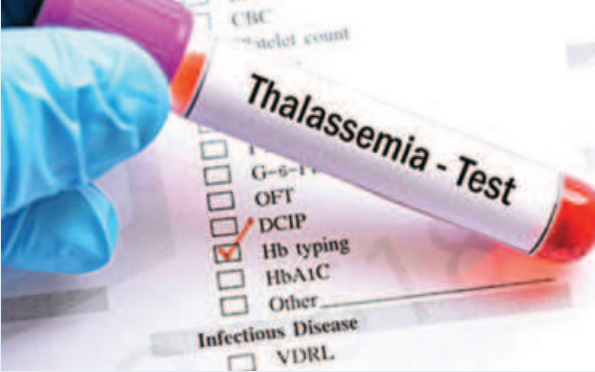


Eminent citizens handed over a memorandum to the APS of DSCC mayor yesterday, condemning the felling of trees along Saat Masjid Road. The memorandum was signed by 37 notable figures.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Over 5,000 born with thalassaemia every year

## Says DGHS; widespread testing can help reduce spread



Thalassaemia is an inherited disorder that is passed down through parents to offspring and results in inappropriate structure or fewer amounts of red blood cell (RBC) in the body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Screening for carrier status before starting family
- Checking for thalassaemia during first trimester
- Raising awareness regarding the issue

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Despite being a preventable disease, thalassaemia continues to spread in Bangladesh, with an average of around 15 children born with this blood disorder every day.

Thalassaemia is passed from parents to children and people with the disorder produce either no or too little haemoglobin. This could result in anaemia and leave patients tired, short of breath, and pale, as well as expose them to a lot of other ailments.

If both parents carry the gene for the disease, there is a risk that it can be passed on to the children, Prof Belayet Hossain, head of the haematology department at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (BSHI), told The Daily Star.

On the eve of World Thalassaemia Day being observed today, Prof Belayet urged for a nationwide awareness campaign and mandatory screening for everyone before they get married.

The blood disorder cannot be cured through treatment, and its management is complex and costly as it requires lifelong blood transfusions and treatment. The only cure is through a bone marrow transfusion

(BMT), according to the Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation, which also says that the required matched sibling donor for the procedure is available in only 1-2 percent of families.

Besides, there are significant mortality and rejection risks associated with the procedure, which is so expensive that most families cannot afford it.

According to the DGHS bulletin, over 5,000 affected children are born every year.

In order to survive, these children require regular monthly blood transfusions and chelation therapy to remove the excess iron from their bodies.

A large amount of money is required for each child's treatment.

"A health check-up for thalassaemia carrier status before starting a family can check the spread of the blood disorder. So, showing a screening certificate before marriage registration should be made mandatory," Prof Belayet Hossain said.

If two thalassaemia carriers do get married, they should think carefully about the impacts of starting a family. Knowing each other's status will help them make an informed decision, he added.

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# ‘Left alliance to strengthen organisation’

## Reza Kibria on reasons for leaving Ganatantra Mancha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad Convener Reza Kibria yesterday said the party left Ganatantra Mancha to increase its organisational strength.

Ganatantra Mancha, the new political alliance, was floated comprising seven political parties in August with the specific objective of an anti-government movement in view of the country's present political situation.

The seven parties were -- Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Nagarik Oikya, Biplabi Workers Party, Ganasanghati Andolon, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Bhasani Anushari Parishad and Rashtra Sangskar Andolon.

We need to increase our organisational strength to be able to remove the incumbent illegitimate government. You can evaluate how much organisational power the Ganatantra Mancha has. We did not think we could grow from this alliance.

The alliance also set specific reform proposals on state, constitution, constitutional bodies and form of government.

Gono Odhikar Parishad on May 6 left the platform amid internal conflicts and mutual doubts within the alliance.

The party, however, decided to continue its simultaneous movement separately from now on.

It also decided to separately participate in the movements in coordination with other like-minded parties.

Of the seven parties, only Jatiya Samajtantrik

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Amid the scorching heat, a crow quenches its thirst by drinking from the water accumulated on the road. During such extreme weather, it is important for humans to be mindful of the animals. Providing water and food, as well as creating shaded areas for them to rest, can help ensure their survival. This photo was taken from Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## LABOUR LAW VIOLATION

# Trial against Yunus to continue: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that cleared the way for the labour court to run the trial of a case filed against Nobel Laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairman Muhammad Yunus, and three others on charge of violating labour law.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order after dismissing a leave to appeal petition filed by Yunus challenging the HC verdict.

Details of the Appellate Division order could not be known as its full text was not released yet.

The Department of

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## WIZZ AIR ABU DHABI

# Foreign competitor worries local airlines

## Aviation insiders, officials express frustration citing unfair competition

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is likely to approve Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, a low-cost air operator, to operate flights between Dhaka and Abu Dhabi.

Wizz Air is originally a Hungarian multinational ultra-low-cost carrier with its head office in Budapest.

While Wizz Air Abu Dhabi was founded in 2019 as Wizz Air's UAE subsidiary, the airline is a joint venture with state-owned Abu Dhabi Development Holding, ADDH, which owns 51 percent of the company's share.

Flights are operated from Abu Dhabi International Airport to destinations in Europe, Asia and Africa.

According to sources, CAAB and a delegation of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), an autonomous body to oversee and regulate all aviation-related activities in the UAE, are set to finalise the expansion of the aviation agreement between the two countries during the two-day visit of GCAA in Dhaka on May 15.

However, aviation insiders said CAAB should have discussed with different stakeholders, including Biman and US-Bangla Airlines, who are operating flights

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