



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Locals fishing shrimps and crabs from the Jhaphapia river in Pankhali union of Khulna's Dacope upazila during high tide. They make around Tk 300-400 by selling their daily catch to local markets. The photo was taken yesterday.



'Bangladesh Youth COP 2023' held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To empower youth to address the climate crisis and advocate for climate justice on national and global platforms, ActionAid Bangladesh and Brighters Youth Society organised "Bangladesh Youth COP 2023".

This three-day event was held from September 6 to 8 in the capital, to gear up the potential of youths in tackling the climate crisis.

On first day of the programme highlighted the role of youth-led initiatives and the pivotal Green Manifesto. It also underscored the urgency of prioritising renewable energy, establishing a loss and damage fund, said a press release.

It said, around 100 young individuals attended the programme, who raised concerns about issues such as access to safe drinking water, coastal and wetland crises, challenges in drought and flood-prone areas, and many more.

During the opening ceremony, Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, emphasised the critical connection between climate justice and sustainable development, urging that the voices and concerns of young advocates must reverberate at COP 28.

Md Al Amin, a youth climate activist, said, "Salinity is increasing day by day, which is creating a crisis for agriculture and safe water. We see a cry for clean water in coastal areas like Barguna, and Satkhira. Women

and children are facing many problems. So, it's the time to take appropriate steps to prevent the climate crisis."

On the second day, participants from disaster-prone regions delved into their vulnerabilities and proposed sustainable solutions to attain climate justice.

The three-day event also organised discussions on the critical issue of loss and damage, particularly in the coastal areas, as well as on adaptation and resilience policies, the perspectives of young people in transition, and the impact of damage on children from the grassroots.

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At the conclusion, the Bangladesh Youth COP 2023 committed to advocating for the Green Manifesto crafted during the event. The ultimate goal is to influence political party manifestos in upcoming elections, paving the way for a sustainable, green, and climate-friendly future.

Mattia Ventura from the Italian Embassy, Gwyn Lewis from UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Saleemul Haq, director of ICCCAD, and Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, attended the closing ceremony.

Trainer shortage dogs Fake experts driving praises of govt

FROM PAGE 5
27 and 20 trainees respectively. The centre also offers training in dairy farm management which is not accredited, but kept within the guidelines of the BTEB under the centre's own management and has 22 trainees.

Of the 15 posts at the centre, 11 have been vacant for a long time. The vacant posts are of assistant general manager, computer operator (braille), assistant engineer, computer operator, four instructors in different subjects, accountant cum office superintendent, storekeeper and nurse. The four staffers employed presently are general manager, hostel supervisor, a trainer and a caretaker. However, the GM is on deputation at the Moulvibazar District Social Services office as deputy director while the hostel supervisor at Sylhet Shishu

Parishad. Meanwhile, the machinery workshop, automobile, electrical and electronics equipment centre have remained unused since its inception due to a lack of trainers. Also, only two out of six computers and two out of five sewing machines at the centre are operational, making it difficult to provide training properly.

Shamimur Rahman, the only trainer at the centre, said academic and administrative activities at the centre are gravely disrupted due to manpower shortage.

Contacted, Habibur Rahman, general manager of the centre who is on deputation, confirmed the issues to The Daily Star.

"I have discussed about the issue in the departmental (Sylhet) coordination meeting several times, but to no avail so far," he said.

FROM PAGE 2
AFP found that names forming a network of so-called experts are producing regular op-ed pieces, some posing as academics from leading global universities, some using stolen headshot photos, and others making up quotes from real analysts.

"It's a coordinated influence operation," said A Al Mamun, a journalism professor at Bangladesh's University of Rajshahi. "These articles primarily promote narratives that are favourable to the current Bangladesh government."

A surge of articles appeared online around September 2022, when Bangladesh's foreign ministry issued a call for "good columnists" to counter negative "propaganda".

AFP sent multiple requests for comment to top officials at Bangladesh's foreign ministry and information ministry but received no reply.

Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen told AFP he did "not have enough time" to comment.

NO RECORDS
AFP analysed more than 700 articles published in at least 60 domestic and international news sites with bylines attributed to 35 names, all of which appeared for the first time online last year.

The articles overwhelmingly endorse narratives pushed by Dhaka, with some posted

on Bangladesh government websites.

Many are staunchly pro-Beijing and fiercely critical of Washington - which has issued Dhaka stiff warnings of the need for free and fair elections.

While it was not possible to prove if the 35 names investigated by AFP are real, no online presence apart from their articles could be found, none has a visible social media profile, and none has published research papers in academic journals.

At least 17 of the 35 claimed links to major Western and Asian universities but AFP's digital verification reporters found no records for them.

Eight major universities confirmed that they had never heard of nine of the writers purportedly working for them, including the University of Delaware in the United States, Canada's University of Toronto, Switzerland's University of Lucerne, and the National University of Singapore.

"We checked our school records and do not find his name on our rolls," India's Jawaharlal Nehru University said about one purported writer claiming ties.

Headshot photographs of eight of the reported columnists belong to other people, including a popular fashion influencer on Indian social media.

AFP also found examples where the same article was published using different names in English and in Bengali.

Among the names is Doreen Chowdhury, a seemingly industrious columnist who has written at least 60 articles praising Dhaka's government, supporting growing ties with China, and warning that gun violence in the United States is a "threat to human rights".

Chowdhury's photograph is taken from an Indian actor, while the University of Groningen in the Netherlands - where Chowdhury is reportedly a doctoral researcher in politics - said it has no record of her.

AFP received a response from the email address listed beneath the articles that said Chowdhury was an "alias to avoid security concerns", but the email's author declined to provide a real identity or explain the use of a false photograph.

ENTIRELY FABRICATED
Fumiko Yamada, who has had articles published in outlets including the Bangkok Post and a blog by the London School of Economics, is portrayed as a specialist in Bangladesh Studies at Australia's University of Melbourne.

However, AFP found that there are no records of her there and that "Bangladesh

Studies" is not a specific research study area.

Articles attributed to Yamada range from praising Hasina's "vital counsel" to blasting Washington's "double standards towards the democracy and human rights of others by incessantly interfering in their internal affairs".

Other articles include fake quotes from real experts.

Gerard McCarthy, a professor at the International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands, said "entirely fabricated" quotes attributed to him were used in an article condemning "Western duplicity" towards Myanmar, written under the byline Prithwi Raj Chaturvedi.

Newspaper editors said they printed articles in good faith, after reading their academic background and seeing them published elsewhere.

"We trusted the credentials," said Mubin S Khan, feature editor of Dhaka's Business Standard. Bangladesh's Daily New Age editor Nurul Kabir said he had been sent a slew of op-ed pitches in early 2023, "mostly on topics like Bangladesh's relations with India, China and USA".

Don't harass Dr Yunus

FROM PAGE 3
ambassador, he could have taken Bangladesh far by utilising his global reputation and connections across the globe," said Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik.

"I expect that we will come to our senses. What is being done is suicidal. No one will benefit from it. I am urging everyone to stop

harassing him," he added.

Speaking at the programme, Finance Secretary of Projonmo Academy Abu Haydar Mohammad Siddique said, "No one will dare to work for people if he is tortured in this manner."

Kalam Foyez, president of the Projonmo Academy, also alleged that the government is intentionally harassing Dr Yunus.

Site engineer

FROM PAGE 3
Akash was unable to escape and was subsequently taken to the workers' quarters.

"It was there, at Moazzem's command, Akash was falsely accused of stealing an iron rod, subjected to medieval-style torture, suspended from a bamboo structure, and beaten with sticks, iron rods, and stumps throughout the night," said the Rab official.

When Akash's condition deteriorated significantly around 6:00am the following day, the arrestees informed his brother-in-law.

Akash's cousin rushed to the scene, rescued him with severe injuries, and brought him home. He succumbed to his injuries around 8:00am.

Rab said Moazzem, the site engineer overseeing the school's construction,

not only orchestrated the torture but also recorded the entire incident on his mobile phone.

Firoz, a labourer, and Mostafizur, employed as a foreman at the construction site, actively participated in the torture of the victim.

Mohammadpur police have already arrested two people in connection with the incident.

Akash used to live with her aunt Dipa, as he lost his mother when he was nine months old, and his father remarried and abandoned his two children.

Dipa filed a murder case with Mohammadpur Police Station in this regard.

Jewel Mollah, brother-in-law of the deceased, thanked law enforcers for their quick action and demanded arrest of the rest people involved in the incident.

What will BNP do now?

FROM PAGE 3
upcoming national election.

"They are preparing to give candidates in every constituency.... How will Tarique Rahman [BNP acting chairperson] do nomination trading if they do not participate in the election? They have lost the game of movement, and they will lose in the final game of election as well," Quader added.

Addressing the event,

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "Failing in the street movement, BNP relied on foreign forces. But they have failed there too."

"The cloud of conspiracy is disappearing.... All the conspiracies of the BNP have failed," he added.

Among others, AL presidium members Quamrul Islam, Matia Chowdhury, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin spoke at the programme.

Of lost loved ones

FROM PAGE 3
shocked to cry, and everyone in Dhaka is now worried about my uncle's condition. It's a terrible situation for us," added Zubaer.

Kazem's death highlights the severity of the ongoing dengue outbreak in the country.

At least 10 dengue patients died around the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to Directorate General of Health Services. Meanwhile, 2,748 others were hospitalised with dengue infections during this period.

With this, the total number of dengue deaths this year rose to 716 and the total cases to 1,45,335.

Last week, experts urged quick action, predicting that dengue cases may not decrease throughout September.

SALINE IMPORT FROM INDIA

Health Minister Zahid Maleque, on the other hand, attributed the increasing number of dengue cases to a rise in the mosquito population.

"Many other countries have implemented effective mosquito control programmes and reduced their population. The number of dengue patients and related deaths is lower in those countries," said the minister while addressing an event at Colonel Maleaue Medical College Hospital in Manikganj yesterday.

He also said that the number of dengue cases and related deaths will not decrease until the mosquito population decreases.

He urged the municipal authorities and the city corporations to implement an effective mosquito control programme.

Zahid Maleque also said that the government has approved the import of seven lakh bags of injectable saline to tackle the current shortage.

According to the minister, around 3.5 lakh bags of saline were expected to arrive in the country yesterday. "The remaining portion is expected to arrive shortly," he added.

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Notice for Closure of Liaison Office in Bangladesh
Shinhan Apparel Co. Ltd Liaison office House # 22, Road #12, Block F, (2nd Floor) Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 had been closed on 31st July 2023 in Bangladesh. However, if anyone has any type of claims, please contact to the authorized representative Md. Yasin Miah FCA House # 22, Road #12, Block F, (2nd Floor) Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212. Cell: 01711957242

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER No. 338 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF:-
Anisur Rahman Khan.PETITIONER

.....-VERSUS-.....
Thianis Apparels Limited and others.RESPONDENTS

This is to notify public at large that an application under Section 85(3) of Companies Act 1994 has been filed before the Hon'ble Company Court of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for passing a special resolution in an extraordinary general meeting and the application was accepted by the presiding Justice His Lordship Mr. Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed and was fixed for hearing on 09.11.2023. Anyone concerned with the aforesaid companies having any objection or alternative plea, may participate in the hearing of the application.

Copy of the application can be obtained by paying necessary fees from the office of the undersigned.

Yours faithfully-
(Shamsuddin Babul)
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Law Advisory Bureau 62-63,
Motijheel C/A, Amin Court (8th floor), Dhaka.

Three held for swindling

FROM PAGE 3
Or Rashid told reporters yesterday.

The detectives also recovered 40 passports, nine fake visas, photocopies of fake BMET cards, along with mobile phones and SIMs used in the fraudulent activities from their possessions.

The arrestees are Shariful Islam, 42, Abrar Jawar Tanmoy alias Rezaul Karim Reza alias Hridi Mahajabin, 26, and Ahian Shishir alias Kamruzzaman Shishir, 29.

The DB chief said the fraud ring took up an office called Al Safar International at Dhaka's Gulshan-1 and used the office to run their fraudulent activities.

If someone wants to go abroad, they got into an agreement with the fraudsters. Later they would collect real Kuwait visa copies of various individuals written in Arabic, using which they would make fake Kuwait visas by attaching the name, passport number and other information of the person who wants to go abroad while keeping the visa number unchanged.

The aspirants would then get certificates after completing three days of training from different technical training centres. Later, with the fake visas, passports and training certificates, the job aspirants would go to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) offices to give finger prints.

The BMET offices would check the visa numbers on the official website of Kuwait to find and would find the applications' status approved. So, they accept the fingerprints, the DB official claimed.

The swindlers would then print a coloured copy of the BMET clearance card by writing the names and addresses of the persons. After showing them the air tickets, they would receive the full fees as per contract with the applicants. Later they would switch off their mobile phones and go into hiding.

Shahidur Rahman, an additional deputy commissioner of DB (Wari), said that the gang has cheated more than 50 people and stole around Tk 1.35 crore from them in total.

A victim filed a case with Gulshan Police Station in this connection on August 7.

The DB official said that there are already four other cases against Shariful and one case against Tanmoy over money embezzlement filed with different police stations.

The detectives also said that Tanmoy and Shishir are both transgender persons. They used to take different guises of both male and female persons to deceive the victims.

Their true identities were revealed after a thorough investigation by the DB, the official said.

AHM Anwar Pasha, an additional director general of BMET, said they first identified the scam and informed the law enforcers in this regard.

People's govt after

FROM PAGE 3
Mirza Fakhrul said, "It's people's demand. Though the government curtails all rights of people, they (the government) have no power to stop the people's voice from the streets."

Presiding over the programme, BNP's Dhaka North unit President Aman Ullah Aman demanded the immediate release of party chairperson Khaleda Zia for better treatment abroad.

BNP and its affiliated organisation leaders Mirza Abbas, Abdus Salam, Selima Rahman,

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Sultan Salahuddin Taku, Rajib Ahsan and Rashed Iqbal, among others, spoke at the event.

Its like-minded political parties, who have been waging a simultaneous anti-government movement, will also separately hold similar programmes. Ganatantra Mancha held a mass procession in front of Jatiya Press Club, 12-party-alliance held a similar programme in Bijoyagar area.

Abdul Based concluded by saying, "We have also submitted a request to the office of the project director for an extension of the deadline."

He continued, "The executive engineer of LGED

and children are facing many problems. So, it's the time to take appropriate steps to prevent the climate crisis."

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Dipa filed a murder case with Mohammadpur Police Station in this regard.

Jewel Mollah, brother-in-law of the deceased, thanked law enforcers for their quick action and demanded arrest of the rest people involved in the incident.

He mentioned, "We have learned that the contractor stopped the work due to his illness. However, he has recently recovered."

He continued, "The executive engineer of LGED