

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

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## Honouring the stellar women

bti, Star award two individuals in social welfare, journalism categories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To recognise the special contributions of emerging, young and promising women from different walks of life, bti and The Daily Star honoured two women in "Social Welfare" and "Journalism" categories at an event yesterday.

The event -- "Stellar Women Awards" -- was held at bti Celebration Point, Gulshan 2 in Dhaka.

Tawhida Shiropa, the founder & CEO of Moner Bondhu, has been honoured as a "Stellar Woman" in the "Social Welfare" category, while Rozina Islam, a special correspondent at Prothom Alo, has received the award in the "Journalism" category.

This initiative will award 12 women in 12 categories.

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PHOTO: STAR

From left, FR Khan, managing director of bti, Tawhida Shiropa, founder & CEO of Moner Bondhu, Rozina Islam, a special correspondent at Prothom Alo, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, at an event yesterday. To recognise the special contributions of emerging, young and promising women from different walks of life, bti and The Daily Star awarded Tawhida and Rozina in "Social Welfare" and "Journalism" categories respectively. The event -- "Stellar Women Awards" -- was held at bti Celebration Point, Gulshan-2 in Dhaka.

## 'We're not desperate for recognition' Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is not waiting to be recognised by other countries.

"There's no reason to think the elected government is in such a desperate situation..." said Quader when asked how significant it is to be recognised by other countries. He was briefing journalists at AL president's Dhanmondi office.

"Recognising or congratulating [new government] has become a diplomatic custom. When a new PM or president is elected, other countries, especially amicable ones, congratulate," said Quader. He also criticised BNP for its activities.

"Even though they [BNP] SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## 10 MARKETS PURCHASED 40 YEARS AGO

# City corporations owe Rajuk Tk 302cr

DIPAN NANDY

Forty years ago, Dhaka City Corporation bought the Gulshan Shopping Complex Market from Rajuk for Tk 6.45 crore. The market now falls under the jurisdiction of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Despite numerous benefits enjoyed by the market shops over the years, the city corporation has never paid Rajuk for it. This is not an isolated case, as Rajuk sold a total of nine markets to Dhaka City Corporation for Tk 27.37 crore in 1983.

Rajuk says it now owes more than Tk 302 crore (including interests) from Dhaka North and South city corporations.

This information comes from an audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh (CAG) on Rajuk for the financial year 2018-19.

This newspaper has recently obtained a copy of the report.

Despite numerous letters from Rajuk urging the city corporations to settle the outstanding amount, there has been no resolution to date.

Rajuk sources reveal that the markets

Name of Market	Valuation during 1983	Valuation during 2018-19 with interest	Name of City Corporation
Gulshan South Market	Tk 6.45 crore	Tk 302.78 crore	DNCC
Gulshan North DIT Market	Tk 3.83 crore		DNCC
Gulshan Kancha Bazar Market	Tk 3.32 crore		DNCC
Karwan Bazar 1st Market	Tk 5.38 crore		DNCC
Karwan Bazar 2nd Market	Tk 1.60 crore		DNCC
DIT Super (Sakura) Market	Tk 64.76 lakh		DSCC
Victoria DIT Market	Tk 6.66 lakh		DSCC
Municipal Street DIT Market	Tk 36.69 lakh		DSCC
Badamtoli Ghat DIT Market	Tk 39.07 lakh		DSCC
Nawab Yusuf Market	Tk 5.30 crore	DSCC	

SOURCE: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF BANGLADESH (CAG)

under DNCC include Gulshan South Market (Tk 6.45 crore), Gulshan North DIT Market (Tk 3.83 crore), Gulshan Kancha Bazar Market (Tk 3.32 crore), and two Karwan Bazar Market Complexes (Tk 6.98 crore).

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## DSCC EVICTION DRIVE

# Two cops hurt in clash with traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police personnel including an inspector were injured in a clash with traders during an eviction drive in Dhaka's Khilgaon area yesterday.

The incident took place around 2:00pm when the police personnel were assisting Dhaka South City Corporation to carry out the drive at Khilgaon Kitchen Market.

Of the injured, Mehedi Hasan, 24, a constable of Public Order Management (East Division), was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with pellet injuries while inspector (operations) of Shahjahanpur Police Station Mahidul Islam was admitted to Central Police Hospital, Dhaka with head injuries, police said.

Sujit Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said police went there to provide security during the drive.

As the members of law enforcers reached there, some people became agitated and started throwing brickbats at them. Many threw brick chips from the rooftops of the nearby buildings.

The law enforcers then fired shotgun shells and charged tear gas canisters to disperse them.

Mahidul was injured being hit by a brick chunk, he said.

The OC said they suspected that the shotgun pellets hit the constable's leg when police fired shots to disperse the crowd.

A DSCC official said they carried out the drive to evict the illegal kitchen market.

Apart from the traders, some outsiders took part in the attack, he alleged.

## Bangladesh now has over 12.17cr voters

### EC says in latest draft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday said the total number of voters in the country now stands at 12,17,75,450, as per the latest draft update.

EC's Assistant Director Arshadul Huq said there are 6,20,90,137 male, 5,96,84,389 female and 924 hijra voters in the updated voter list.

Of them, there are 20,86,161 new voters -- 13,20,396 male, 7,65,690 female and 75 hijras.

According to the voter list act, the draft voter list is published on January 2 every year. However, the commission could not do so this year due to the 12th parliamentary election held on January 7.

This list will be in every upazila and thana election office of the country while objections regarding inclusion of foreigners, deceased individuals, and fake names in the draft list can be lodged there.

After disposal of objections, the EC will publish the final updated list on March 2 while the next upazila election will be held according to this list.



## 'Taqseem earned his position as Wasa MD'

Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam yesterday said Taqseem A Khan keeps getting appointed as Wasa's managing director due to his capabilities.

"Many journalists asked me why Taqseem repeatedly gets appointed as Dhaka Wasa MD. In response, I said no man is above criticism. The Wasa MD has received this responsibility because he has shown his competence and capability. Due to his merits and efficiency, he has been given the responsibility again and again," he said.

He made the remarks at a view-exchange meeting with the officials and employees organised at the Dhaka Wasa Bhaban.

"During criticisms on the price of water, I said the production of water

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## 157 foreigners in country's jails even after serving time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Sajjad Hossain, a 45-year-old resident of Tripura, India, finds himself in a Bangladeshi prison for nearly two decades, despite completing his initial jail sentence.

On November 6, 2003, the First-Class Magistrate of Cognizance Court in Khagrachhari sentenced Sajjad to six months imprisonment and fined him Tk 500 in a case filed under the Bangladesh Control of Entry Act, 1952.

His jail sentence was effective from March 14, 2003 and ended on September 28, 2003. But he is still languishing behind bars in a Feni jail for reasons unknown.

This is the story of one man, but it echoes the plight of 156 others -- serving time in Bangladeshi prisons long after their sentences ended.

These findings were disclosed in a report prepared by the office of inspector general (IG), Prisons, in accordance with a High Court order.

Of the detained foreign nationals, 150 are from India, five from Myanmar, and one each from Pakistan and Nepal, it said.

The office of IG Prisons sent the report to the attorney general's office on January 18 for submission before the HC.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta, who received the compliance report, told this newspaper yesterday that the office of IG Prisons has not mentioned details in the report as to why foreign nationals could not be repatriated after serving sentences.

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"Bibi Mariam", a cannon commissioned in the 1700s by the then governor of Bengal Mir Jumla to protect Dhaka's riverside from the onslaught of bandits, has found a new home beside Dhaka Gate near Doel Chattar. The historic cannon, which was kept at Osmani Udyan, has been fittingly put on display right beside the newly-renovated gate, which was also built by Mir Jumla.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS