

Sultan Ara Khan's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sixth death anniversary of Sultan Ara Khan, wife of Shafiul Alam Khan, a retired employee of Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd in Chattogram, will be observed today.

Sultan Ara passed away at a hospital in Dhaka on February 9 in 2018.

A milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held today at Khurshid and Associates, chamber of her eldest son senior lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan, at 204 Bijoyagar in Dhaka.

Conference on civil engineering starts at Kuet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The three-day 7th international conference on Civil Engineering for Sustainable Development started at the auditorium of the Khulna University of Engineering & Technology yesterday.

Kuet Vice Chancellor Dr Mihir Ranjan Halder spoke as the main patron at the opening ceremony chaired by Prof Md Rokonzaman.

M Azadur Rahman, an eminent civil engineer, spoke as the chief guest. Md Ali Akhtar Hossain, chief engineer of LGED, spoke as a special guest.

Around 600 researchers, teachers, renowned engineers, technicians and others are participating in the conference.

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 9

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:30	4:15	5:52	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Khulna footpaths finally freed

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

From Hogolbungia of Batiaghata, Gautam Mondal often travels to Khulna city for his business. He was used to the congested, narrow footpaths of the city, lined with vendors, hawkers and beggars. With no space left for pedestrians, they were often forced to get down and walk along the roadside.

However, during his visit yesterday, Gautam was shocked to find the footpaths visibly empty.

The Khulna City Corporation, along with Khulna Metropolitan Police, freed all footpaths recently.

KCC freed a 10km stretch of footpath from Rupsha Ferry Ghat via Gallamari, Dak Bangalow, Moilapota, Shibbari to Daulatpur-Khalishpur on January 15.

"We are walking on the footpath without any hindrance," said an elated Gautam.

Rojob Ali, a lawyer of Khulna Judge Court, said KCC made a similar move earlier, but after a few days vendors and hawkers returned. But this time, KCC and KMP took strict measures and have been monitoring round the clock so that no one can grab the footpaths.

Nuruzzaman Talukder, estate officer of KCC, said, "Some vendors



Footpaths in Khulna used to remain occupied by vendors. As part of an initiative, the city corporation and law enforcers freed a 10km stretch of the walkways recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

cleared the area after we instructed them. Then we conducted drives, especially on BIDD road, Boyra intersection and KMCH area."

Nazmul Azom David, secretary of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, said, "Considering the sufferings of marginal people, the authorities should provide an alternative space for them."

There are 5,000 to 6,000 hawkers and vendors in Khulna city, who run businesses on walkways. "Many of them have no alternative

to earn a living. We must consider these people's livelihoods," said Janardon Datta Nantu, central committee convener of Socialist Party of Bangladesh.

Alimuzzaman, a hawker from Picture Palace intersection, said, "I have no work now. Over the last two weeks, I tried to open my shop, but police drove me away."

KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said all stakeholders must come forward to keep the walkways free for pedestrians.

10 years on, justice

FROM PAGE 3

Besides, the trial court asked each of the officers to pay Tk 2 lakh to the complainant as compensation.

This was the first verdict under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Qamruzzaman has been absconding, while Russell surrendered to the lower court and then secured bail from the HC on November 27, 2022, said Rocky's lawyer Md Rezaul Karim.

Zahidur, Rashedul, Sumon and Russell filed four appeals with the HC challenging their conviction and sentences.

The HC in February and November, 2021, admitted their appeals for hearing, and stayed the trial court's direction for compensation. It could not start the appeal hearings

as the defence has not prepared the paper book even though this court in October last year directed a convict, Rashedul, to do it.

Meanwhile, Rashedul's lawyer Md Abdur Razzaq Razu said his client has deposited Tk 3 lakh to Bangladesh Bank in compliance with the HC order.

Besides, the paper book section of the HC demanded Tk 40,000 for preparing it even though Rashedul's family is facing financial crisis, he said.

The lawyer, however, said the paper book may be readied in a month and the HC will fix a date for hearing. Except Qamruzzaman, the two other convicted former officers have deposited compensation and fine money to Bangladesh Bank, Razzaq added.

Tesla of Bangla!

FROM PAGE 3

government will encourage these vehicles."

He made the remarks while replying to a supplementary question from Awami League MP Shamim Osman.

In his question, Shamim demanded that the government ban battery-powered auto-rickshaws. Shamim said, "Battery-run rickshaws are very dangerous. Ninety percent of the electricity these autorickshaws use to charge their batteries is stolen. They are consuming 700-800 MW of electricity."

In reply, Nasrul said, "These battery-run three-wheelers were invented by our people, and they should be encouraged."

"A revolution is going on all over the world about how quickly the transport system can be turned electric. The engine efficiency of an oil powered

car is 20 percent. On the other hand, the efficiency level of electric vehicles is 80 percent. Basically, we encourage electric cars to come to market as fast as possible," said the state minister, indicating the electric cars of Tesla.

If it takes Tk 100 to go a distance in an oil-powered vehicle, it will take Tk 20 to go the same distance in an electric vehicle, he added.

"I call these four million three-wheelers the 'Tesla of Bangla'. People are making these vehicles by themselves with their 'innovative' power. They may have mechanical faults, but the return on the used electricity is much higher," said the state minister.

"We are doing a project where they can move from lead batteries to lithium batteries, which will be supplied by us," he said.

"It takes 7/8 hours to charge lead batteries. If

those batteries can be replaced with lithium batteries, it will take only half an hour," he added.

Nasrul also said the electricity department has made a policy for setting up electric vehicle charging stations.

The state minister, however, said the use of illegal power is a matter of concern.

"We are worried about it. Electricity companies are keeping an eye on whether illegal electricity is being used anywhere. Most are now using metres instead of using electricity illegally," he said.

Students confine MC College principal, teachers

They want recruitment of teachers, solution to water crisis at dorm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Demanding recruitment of teachers in history department and a solution to the existing water crisis at its Bangabandhu Hall, students of Murari Chand College in Sylhet confined the college principal, several teachers and officials to the administrative building yesterday.

The agitating students padlocked the administrative building at 2:00pm. They withdrew their movement around 9:00pm after the principal assured them of meeting their demands.

"All four teaching positions in the history department have been vacant for the last six months," said Sabbir Shuvo, a protesting student.

"Besides, there has been an acute crisis of water for the last two years at block 7 of the male student hostel, known as Bangabandhu Hall. The authority supplies water only for around an hour daily, which is insufficient for 130 resident students of the block," he also said.

"Regarding our demands, we had a meeting with the principal and the administration this [Thursday] afternoon.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Students protest in front of the administrative building at Murari Chand College in Sylhet, demanding recruitment of teachers to history department and a solution to the existing water crisis.

As they failed to fulfill our demands, we are demonstrating," Shuvo added.

Abul Anam Md Riaz, principal of the college, said, "To install a deep tubewell for the hostel block, Tk 2 lakh is needed, which cannot be sanctioned at once. Moreover, until we get allotment for teachers from the ministry, we are helpless regarding the vacant teaching posts. We will still try our best to meet the demands."

DSCC at odds

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To address the hurdle, DSCC sent a letter to 22 government offices on October 18 last year, requesting necessary steps to check birth and death registrations by entering the DSCC server, said DSCC spokesperson Abu Nasher.

"We had a meeting with the passport authority to resolve the passport-related complications. We will again hold a meeting," he added.

"DSCC is disrupting the Birth and Death Registration Rules. People are communicating with us to solve this crisis created by DSCC," said Registrar

General Md Jahid Hasan.

"However, we have nothing to do as their data is not present on our main server," he added.

"Since the Birth Registration Act has given the responsibility to the Registrar General, it must be a violation of the law if someone else does it on a personal server," said Muhammad Ibrahim, secretary to the local government division.

"However, DSCC has done this to reduce the suffering of citizens, so we are planning to integrate the births registered on their server with the main server," he added.

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১. মন্ত্রণালয়/ ডিভিশন: স্বল্প ও পট মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. সংস্থা: বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ কর্পোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৩. প্রকৃতির/ এন্টিটির নাম: বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ কর্পোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৪. কাজের বিবরণ: ডেপুটি পিসি, ল্যাপটপ, প্রিন্টার, ইউপিএস, মনিটর ও আনুষঙ্গিক মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৫. দরপত্র সূত্র ও তারিখ: ২৪.০৩.০০০০.১০৫.৬৮.১১৬.২২-৯২ তারিখ: ০৭.০২.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।
৬. প্রকৃতির/ এন্টিটির মেখড: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৭. অর্থের উৎস: সংস্থার নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে।
৮. দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৯. দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান: হিসাব বিভাগ, বিটিএমসি, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২২৫।
১০. দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ২৫.০২.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়: ২৭.০২.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২. দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান: ব্যবস্থাপক (মানস), সাক্ষা অফিস কক্ষ, বিটিএমসি ভবন (২য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২২৫।
১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়: ২৭.০২.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪. দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির যোগ্যতা নিরূপক কাগজপত্রাদি: ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্র ও ব্যাংক প্রত্যয়ন পত্র। এছাড়া সরকারী/ আধা-সরকারী/ স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থা/ প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারি কাজের সাথে কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। বিস্তারিত শর্ত সিডিউল মোতাবেক।
১৫. দরপত্র জামানত: প্রেরিত দরের ৫% পে-অর্ডার আকারে 'বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ কর্পোরেশন' এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানত প্রদান করা না হলে দরপত্র বাতিল বিলিয়া গনা হবে।
১৬. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

Won't tolerate

FROM PAGE 3
Medical College (Dhaka), Northern Private Medical College (Rangpur), Shah Makhdoom Medical College (Rajshahi), Care Medical College (Dhaka), and Nightingale Medical College (Savar), said the minister.

Among these, the registration of Care Medical College and Nightingale Medical College has been cancelled.

"Law violations might have occurred in the past, but we will strictly be

looking at these matters from now on," Samanta Lal said.

The entrance test for government and private medical colleges for the 2023-24 academic year is going to be held today at 9:00am. Any student scoring less than 40 marks on the test will not be considered eligible for admission, said the minister.

There are 5,380 seats in the 37 government medical colleges and 6,168 seats in 67 private medical colleges in the country.

ACC probe finds abuse

FROM PAGE 3

and Mir Md Nurul Afsar from Sawdagar Para in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila, former assistant secretary Abdus Sobhan; Rajuk's former assistant director Shah Md Sadrul Alam; its former caretaker Md Habib Ullah; its former deputy director Md Azharul Islam; former director Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan; former member Lt Col (ret) M Nurul Haque; and former branch assistant of the ministry Md Mahbul Haque.

Yesterday, the ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan placed the probe report before the HC

bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain.

The HC bench asked the ACC counsel to submit the report along with the relevant documents by February 13.

The petition was filed in 2022 by Supreme Court lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, an independent lawmaker now.

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SL No. e-Tender ID Work name Opening & closing date
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