

## PUBLIC HEALTH Roles of Sir Abed, Dr Richard Cash remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Researchers and public health professionals remembered Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Dr Richard A Cash yesterday for their transformative contributions to public health in Bangladesh.

The occasion marked the 20th anniversary of BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH) at BRAC University, founded by Sir Abed in 2004.

Speakers lauded the institution's role in addressing critical health issues like maternal care, neonatal nutrition, and oral rehydration therapy (ORT) – a life-saving solution pioneered by Dr Cash.

Sir Abed envisioned a school to develop local public health innovators, said Dr Martha Chen.

Asif Saleh, executive director of BRAC, emphasised tackling systemic challenges like high healthcare costs.

# The poor suffer as biting cold grips north

S DILIP ROY

Biting cold and dense fog sweeping through the northern region of the country have left the low-income people in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts struggling to survive.

Those living in the char areas of the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dudhkumar, Gangadhar, and Dharla rivers, are particularly affected.

"I haven't been able to work in the fields for several days due to the severe cold and dense fog, and I don't have proper warm clothes. Without being able to work, maintaining my family has become an ordeal," said Mobarak Hossain, 55 a day labourer from Char Tajpur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Meherul Islam, 52, another day labourer from the same village, shared a similar plight.

"Many day labourers like me are not venturing out in search of work. We're relying on borrowed money to sustain our families," he said.

Atiar Rahman, a 50-year-old day labourer from the Char Shakhabati village in Kurigram, said as they

don't have the ability to buy warm clothes, they are looking to get help from the government or others.

The cold weather is affecting farmers in the region as well.

Ramjan Ali, a 60-year-old farmer from Shimulbari village in the



**I can't stay in the field for long amid the cold weather. I need to light a haystack to keep myself warm, even if I stay in the field for just an hour.**

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A 60-year-old farmer

Dharla River basin, said, "I can't stay in the field for long amid the cold weather. I need to light a haystack to keep myself warm, even if I stay in the field for just an hour."

If the cold wave persists, it will severely hamper the agricultural activities, he added.

The elderly, too, were affected. Khadiza Bewa, 70, of Sonaikazi village in Kurigram said, "I have no means to buy warm clothes from the market. I don't know how I'll get through the cold months."

According to Rangpur Meteorological Office, the temperature in Lalmonirhat was recorded at 13.8 degrees Celsius at 9:00am yesterday, while it was 14.2 degrees Celsius in Kurigram. Dense fog blanketed the region, keeping the sun hidden until noon.

The District Relief and Rehabilitation Office said the government has allocated 1,000 blankets and Tk 15 lakh in cash for five upazilas in Lalmonirhat, and 1,800 blankets and Tk 27 lakh for nine upazilas in Kurigram.

Contacted, Abdul Hai Sarkar, Kurigram's district relief and rehabilitation officer, said, "The blankets are being distributed among the cold-hit, low-income people by district and upazila administrations, along with union parishads. A letter has also been sent to the ministry concerned requesting the allocation of more blankets."

## Cybersecurity

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### E-CIGARETTE IMPORT, E-NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS BANNED

In another decision, the government has announced a ban on the import of all e-cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) products.

This move aims to protect public health by curbing the availability of these potentially harmful products in the market.

The decision comes amid growing concerns about the rising use of e-cigarettes, especially among the youth, and the potential health risks associated with their use.

The government has taken a firm stance against these products, citing their adverse effects on health and the need for stricter regulation in the interest of public safety, according to the officials.

## Govt to form

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and vehicle exhaust," she said.

Rizwana stressed the importance of public awareness, legal enforcement, and enhanced monitoring. She directed stakeholders to spray water at construction sites, cover materials, and install protective barriers. Additionally, she called for regular use of vacuum trucks to clean roads, prompt road repairs, and roadside greenery.

## Register BDP

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But EC on April 10, 2023, rejected the application citing a reason that the party had no relevant branch organisations, petitioner's lawyer Ehsan A Siddiqi told The Daily Star.

The HC has delivered the verdict asking the EC to register BDP as a political organisation in a month after receiving its copy as the party has fulfilled all required criteria to get registration, he added.

## 25 fishermen

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researcher at the Faculty of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Science of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, recommended incorporating GPS trackers for trawlers that go to deep sea for fishing.

"The GPS trackers will help determine the position of the trawlers in the sea during inclement weather. There is also a need for installing remote communication devices, including mobile network facilities and radio systems, for the trawlers so that the fishermen can report their whereabouts in case of danger. Besides, the trawlers must ensure adequate life jackets or lifebuoys on board for the safety of fishermen," he said.

## ICT to quiz Palak

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applied to the tribunal.

Additionally, Abul Hasan, a former officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, will be questioned in connection with the murder of student Imam Hasan Taim during the uprising in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on August 4.

According to the investigation agency, Palak is scheduled for questioning on December 18, while Hasan will be interrogated on December 15.

Talking to reporters at the ICT premises, Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam said, "We informed the tribunal that several of the accused police officers continued performing their duties even before

the court issued the arrest warrant. However, when the warrants were issued, they fled despite the orders."

"We questioned whether the incumbent police officers, who were in charge of carrying out these warrants, allowed the accused officers to escape. We requested the tribunal to seek an explanation from the police officers concerned for their failure to arrest the accused. The tribunal said that they would issue an order on this matter soon," he added.

"The tribunal also expressed frustration over the slow progress of the investigation officers, as their work had not met expectations," the prosecutor said.

## Six killed in road

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In Jashore, two men were killed when a truck collided with their motorcycle on Shankarpasha-Narail road near Abhaynagar upazila's Fazlu Bridge.

Ismail Hossain, 40, and Mohasin, 35, were returning home from Purakhali Bazar, said Mahabur Rahman, officer-

in-charge of Nawapara Highway Police Station.

Both men died on the spot, and angry locals set the truck on fire.

Fire service officials later extinguished the flames, though the vehicle was severely damaged, the OC said.

The driver of the truck fled the scene.

## New ACC

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been accused of acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 19 crore; former state minister for textiles Mirza Azam and his wife have been accused of acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 72 crore.

The new commission has also imposed a foreign travel ban on former rail minister Muzibul Haque, former state minister of foreign affairs Shahriar Alam, former Cumilla City Corporation mayor Tassim Bahar Shuchona, AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, and former lawmaker Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury Nasim, among others.

The commission also decided to confiscate properties of at least ten people, including former education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury.

The ACC also decided to confiscate properties of the directors of National Bank.

## Govt aims

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Abul Kalam Azad, former Director-General of the DGHS, acknowledged the limitations of the current healthcare system. "We need to work with what we have, but significant changes will take time," he said.

Dr Shafiqul Rahman Patwary, a cardiologist, pointed to political interference among doctors as a key issue eroding public trust in the healthcare system. He called for a ban on politics in medical colleges and hospitals to restore discipline.

Dr Lenin Chowdhury, a public health expert, suggested that reducing dependency on foreign treatment requires the government to stop seeking treatment abroad, which would help strengthen domestic healthcare.

Dr Ahmed Ehsan of icddr,b highlighted the cost of medical tourism, saying that policy formulation should be based on solid data to reduce the reliance on foreign treatment.

The event was moderated by Dr Abu Jamil Faisal, President-elect of the Public Health Association of Bangladesh.

PRAYER TIMING		DECEMBER 13			
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:20	12:30	3:45	5:22	7:00	
JAMAAAT 5:55	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

## Plastic ban won't work

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factors that could help control the issue. If sustainable plans are adopted, they cannot be implemented overnight. All stakeholders must work together. Businesses, in particular, have a significant role to play, but they must collaborate with civil society and other sectors."

Shamim Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said "Plastic plays an important role in food security. In different forums, we have advocated ending plastic pollution, not plastic itself. Ending plastic use won't solve the problem."

"In 2002, we banned shopping bags. Now, in 2024, we are still discussing the same issue. We should ask ourselves

why we haven't succeeded," he added.

Brigadier General Imru-Al-Quais, Chief Health Officer of DNCC, said, "We can't deny that the waste management system in most markets is far from satisfactory. However, managing this requires the involvement of multiple departments. Unless we bring them together and work as an integrated system, we will not be able to control waste effectively."

Md Majharul Haque Babor, a poultry vendor; Rina Sinha, a consumer; Kazi Israt Jahan Illin, a youth representative; Lutfor Rahman Babul and Md Firoy Alam Swapon, also spoke at the event that was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge (NGOs and foreign missions) of The Daily Star.

## Bring local counsel

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security reasons. We are hopeful that something good will happen. The environment [at the court] today (yesterday) is much better than yesterday."

The senior High Court lawyer told The Daily Star, "Yesterday (Wednesday), the court did not hear me because I did not have the Vakalatnama and because of other lawyers. I have

brought the Vakalatnama from Chinmoy from the prison and submitted it. The court has accepted the matter of advancing the date of the bail hearing, he will hear me, and has told me to take a local lawyer with me."

"I have local lawyer Sumit Acharya with me," he said.

Rabindra Ghosh was seen with multiple police teams providing security.

## The unseen trauma

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Dr Kamal expressed concern about the inadequate mental health support system in Bangladesh. He said that 90 percent of mental health patients do not seek professional help, partly due to the lack of resources.

The paper recommended forming a task force comprising mental health professionals, creating a list of victims severely impacted by the events in July and August, and establishing mental health corners in government and private hospitals at district and upazila levels, among other measures.

Prof Muzaheerul Huq, former adviser of World Health Organization, recalled how many martyrs' contributions were forgotten after the Liberation War in 1971, citing a family where three sisters were killed, and two were injured but later overlooked.

"We must not forget the heroes of 2024," he urged. He called for tracking the affected families to provide

mental health support and suggested initiating a stress management programme for the injured.

Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to health ministry, acknowledged delays in compiling the victim list, citing efforts to ensure no Awami League activists were mistakenly included.

"They will receive treatment, but not the status of a martyr or injured participant of the July uprising, which has caused delays," he explained.

"Mental health was previously overlooked, but now we are working with the government and NGOs to provide mental health care for the victims," he added.

Farida Akhter, adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, said, "In discussions among advisers, we unanimously agreed to prioritise mental health support for victims and their families. The interim government is fully committed to supporting the victims of the July-August events in every way possible."

## FACTORY SPACE TO LET

ADDRESS: SQUARE MASTERBARI, KASHOR CHORASTA, VALUKA, MYMENSINGH. (NEAR TM TEXTILE), 1,40,000 SFT 7-STORIED NEW BUILDING, COMPLIANCE: (BNBC) AS PER BUILDING CODE-2006, STAIR: 3 STAIR SPACE FOR LOADING & UNLOADING, BATHROOM: 84, 500 KVA- DEMAND NOTE ISSUED AND PAID.  
**PHONE: 01610848830, 01737112366**

### Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
COMPANY MATTER NO-1644 OF 2024

An application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Company Act 1994 AND IN THE MATTER OF  
Famar Kanti Saha Son of Palto Chandra Das, Managing Director of Foodtree International Limited at Shankuchil, PO. & PS. Sitakunda, Chittagong. ....Petitioner

.....Respondents

Notice is here be given that an application under Section 81(2), 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act 1994 was moved in petitioner to Condonation of delay in holding the 5th and 6th Annual General Meeting of the Company named and style as Foodtree International Limited Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has admitted the said application on 10.12.2024 if any person interested in the said application may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

**Monoj Mallik**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Building,  
Dhaka. Mobile No.01712-160907

## প্লট বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উত্তরা ৩য় প্রকল্পের অন্তর্গত মেট্রোরেল স্টেশনের পার্শ্বে প্লট নং ২/এ এবং প্লট নং ১/এ, সেক্টর ১৫/সি-১, রাস্তা ৯ এভিনিউ ও ১/এ দুইদিকের রাস্তার মধ্যবর্তী একত্রিকরণকৃত ৯ কাঠা আয়তনের ১টি প্লট বিক্রয় করা হইবে।

সেক্টর ১৫/বি এর রাস্তা নং ৭ (৬০ ফিট) এবং লেক-ড্রাইভ (৬০ ফিট) এর উত্তর-পূর্ব কর্ণার প্লট নং ৪০, প্লটের উত্তর পার্শ্বে বাগান ও লেক, ৩ কাঠার প্লট বিক্রয় করা হইবে।

যোগাযোগের নাম্বার ৪

মোবাঃ ০১৭০৮-৫০১৩৩৮, ০১৭০৮-৫০১৩২২, ০১৭০৮-৫০১৩২৪

## ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা এল-ব্লকে একই বিল্ডিং এ ১৫২০ বর্গফুটের ৩ টি রেডি ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিম্।  
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## প্লট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় এন ব্লকে খুব সুন্দর নিউটক ৫ কাঠা করে ২টি প্লট জরুরী বিক্রয়। প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন।  
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## ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লকে ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের দিলে ইন্টেরিওর সেমি ফোরব্রেকস নির্মাণকৃত ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিম্।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

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## ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

লালমাটিয়া বি-ব্লকে-এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিম্।  
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