

Six HSTU dorms renamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

The administration of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur has renamed six residential halls and one academic building.

The decision was made during the university's 59th Regent Board meeting held on May 29.

An official order, signed by HSTU Registrar Prof M Jahangir Kabir, was issued on June 2 to implement the changes.

According to the order, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall has been renamed Bijojoy 24 Hall, while Tajuddin Ahmad Hall is now Shaheed Abrar Fahad Hall.

Sheikh Russel Hall has been renamed Shaheed Nur Hossain Hall, and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall is now Begum Rokeya Hall.

Meanwhile, Ivy Rahman Hall has been renamed

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Fishermen carry a variety of fish, including loitta, shrimp, and rupchanda, ready for processing and cleaning. Since the fishing ban ended on June 12, they have returned to sea to resume their livelihoods. However, unfavourable weather has hindered their ability to meet expected catch targets. The photo was taken at Fishery Ghat in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Hold dialogues to implement CHT accord

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous community members yesterday called for an immediate dialogue between the interim government and Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) to resolve key issues from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord, including the functioning of the Land Dispute Resolution Commission.

They also demanded a series of dialogues between the government and various stakeholders – such as political, social, and circle leaders of the region, civil society groups, and development partners – to speed up the implementation of the accord.

They made the demands while speaking at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the capital.

The CHT Accord, also known as the CHT Peace Accord, was signed in 1997 between the government and PCJSS, ending a protracted armed conflict in the region.

At the discussion, Ushatan Talukder, vice president of PCJSS and former lawmaker from Rangamati, said since

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Resolving the issues of the indigenous people should be seen as a way of eliminating all forms of discrimination in society.

Iftikharuzzaman
Executive Director, TIB

From sea to summit

Shakil walks from Cox's Bazar to reach the peak of Everest in iconic eco-climb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On May 19, mountaineer Ikramul Hasan Shakil stood just metres away from achieving his lifelong dream – reaching the summit of Mount Everest.

Despite being the closest he had ever been to turning his dream into a reality, doubt began to creep in. The weather had turned against him, reducing visibility completely.

However, despite the hurdles, Shakil steered his mind and made the ascent. And then finally, he had done it. The boyhood dream had come true.

Even though his time at the peak was brief, he had managed to stand on top of the world, a feat very few can claim, that too against all odds.



Shakil, who hails from Baghchala village of Gazipur, successfully conquered Mount Everest after completing the "Sea to Summit" expedition that began on February 25 in Cox's Bazar.

At a press conference at Bishwo Shahitto Kendra yesterday, Shakil shared the experience of his adventures with mountaineering enthusiasts and environmental advocates.

Ghanashyam Bhandari, Nepal's Ambassador to Bangladesh; MA Muhit, an Everest summiteer; and Tosan Paul, general manager of marketing at PRAN Agro Limited, were present at the event.

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Wasa water stinks

Residents in different parts of Dhaka report foul-smelling, insect-infested tap water

DIPAN NANDY

For the past two weeks, Siddiqur Rahman, a resident of Shantibagh in Dhaka, has been receiving water from Dhaka Wasa infested with insects and accompanied by a strong stench.

Despite cleaning his household water tank twice within one and a half months, the problem has not gone away.

Echoing similar concerns, Jahirul Islam from Gandaria said, "Whenever water comes through our line, it's yellowish at first and has a strong odour. Even after boiling it, it's hard to drink."

The issue is not limited to the southern part of the city. Residents in the north have also reported foul-smelling water containing insects.

Rezaul Hasan from the 60 Feet area in Agargaon said, "Since early March, the water quality has been terrible. Submitting complaints to Wasa hasn't helped. Instead, they told us to use a fine cloth filter at the tap and clean our water tanks."

Residents from various areas – including Tejgaon, Malibagh, Moghbazar, Madhubagh, Basabo, Maniknagar, Jurain, Kalyanpur, Khilgaon, Tilpapara, and Tarabagh – have reported similar experiences since February.

Several Wasa officials admitted that insects have been found in the water supplied to certain areas in the capital. They suspect that the issue may originate from the water processed at the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant.

An official, requesting anonymity, said an investigation is underway to determine if there is an

issue at the treatment plant.

However, Dhaka Wasa has not officially accepted responsibility. The state-run agency claims the water is of standard quality when it leaves their facilities.

According to them, poor maintenance of household reserves and overhead tanks is the reason for the presence of small organisms. Wasa insists that if consumers clean their tanks regularly, such contamination would not occur, placing the blame on consumers.

Contacted, Shahjahan Mia,

Mizanur Rahman, a citizen rights activist and resident of East Jurain, said despite new pipelines in his area, the water problems remain.

"During summer, demand is high, but there's no water supply for most of the day. We only get water for about two hours a day – and it's undrinkable. It smells bad and contains sewage and insects. Authorities have been informed, but nothing has changed," he said.

Public health expert Dr MH Choudhury Lenin described the



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Mizanur Rahman
A resident of East Jurain

the newly appointed managing director of Dhaka Wasa, told The Daily Star, "There's usually no issue in the pipeline from where WASA produces and supplies water up to the customer's line. In many cases, the foul smell in the water comes from customers not cleaning their underground water tanks regularly. I can say that we're currently receiving very few complaints."

"However, if anyone reports a problem directly to us, we send our people to take necessary action," he added.

presence of foul odour and insects in Wasa supplied water as deeply concerning.

Talking to The Daily Star, he warned, "We're already seeing a rise in waterborne diseases in Dhaka. Contaminated water increases the risk of typhoid, paratyphoid, and diarrhoea. If not resolved soon, this issue could lead to an epidemic."

"Wasa has shown repeated negligence regarding water supply issues over the years. I hope this time they take it seriously and solve the problem," he added.

SOUTHERN REGION

Hilsa supply surges, retail prices still high

STAR REPORT

The supply of hilsa has increased considerably, alongside a drop in wholesale prices across markets in the southern districts, following the end of a 58-day fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal.

Traders say prices have fallen by at least Tk 600-800 per kilogramme (around 30 percent) since last week due to the increased supply. Fisheries officials predict prices could drop by another 50 percent once the peak monsoon harvest reaches the markets.

However, buyers are still struggling to purchase hilsa at reasonable retail prices due to alleged market manipulation.

Traders have urged the government to introduce fixed pricing to prevent syndicates from manipulating the market.

At Barishal's Port Road wholesale fish market, hilsas weighing one kilogramme or more are currently being sold for Tk 2,100-2,200 per kg, down from Tk 3,000 per kg last week. Similarly, fish weighing

around 600-700 grammes are now priced at Tk 1,600-1,700 per kg, compared to Tk 2,500 earlier.

At Patuakhali's Mohipur, one of the country's largest hilsa wholesale hubs, hilsas weighing 1kg or more are being sold for Tk 50,000-55,000 per maund, while those weighing around 600g are fetching about Tk 50,000 per maund.

"Just a week ago, the prices ranged between Tk 75,000-95,000 per maund," said Mohammad Rakib Hossain, a trader at the market.

Shariful Islam, manager of the Alipur Fish Landing Station under the Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation in Patuakhali, said prices have declined slightly due to the increased hilsa supply.

"This week, five tonnes of hilsa landed here. Hilsas weighing around 1kg are priced at Tk 60,000 per maund, while those weighing around 500-600g are selling for Tk 50,000-55,000 per maund," he added.

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Once one of Dhaka's oldest and most notable canals, the Khilgaon canal has now turned into a dumping ground for plastic waste and garbage. Years of neglect have led to its steady decline. The photo was taken from the Khilgaon Amtala Mosque area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN