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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Walls of the 17th-century Hammamkhana inside Lalbagh Fort are defaced with scribbles and engravings despite its recent restoration. Ironically, the archaeology department has pasted a "Writing is prohibited on the wall" notice directly onto the plaster, causing further damage, *inset*. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

LALBAGH FORT Hammamkhana now a canvas for visitors

Mughal-era bathhouse damaged by scribbles and carvings

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

When you step inside the gates of Lalbagh Fort, the first thing that catches your eye is a burnt-orange, terracotta-coloured square building.

As you walk closer and enter Hammamkhana, scribbles, writings and engravings sprawl across its walls. Some marks have been scratched deep with sharp objects, others etched heavily into the plaster.

No one stops visitors from doing the same. A pen in hand is enough to leave a name or mark and walk away without consequence.

But this is not just any wall. Hammamkhana, a 17th-century Mughal bathhouse, is a key part of Lalbagh Fort – one of Dhaka's most prized heritage landmarks. Once restored to its former glory, it is now being defaced again, not by time, but by visitors' pens, blades and careless hands.

The Hammamkhana reopened on March 22, 2023, after restoration work

that began in October 2020, funded by the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. Just over two years later, much of that effort has been undone.

Under Section 19 of Bangladesh's Antiquities Act (1968, amended 1976), it is a criminal offence to destroy, damage, alter, injure, deface, mutilate, scribble, write or



engrave on heritage structures. Violators can face up to one year in prison, a fine, or both.

Interestingly, the archaeology department has broken its own rules by

posting a "writing is prohibited" notice directly onto the Hammamkhana wall – an act that itself damages heritage.

Sabina Alam, director general of the Department of Archaeology, said she was unaware of the current condition of the Hammamkhana. "I have to know and then say. I am not aware. I will look into the



matter," she told this newspaper on July 31. Site officials claim they try to stop vandals, but say some visitors threaten or verbally abuse staff.

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HEALTH SECTOR REFORM

33 proposals set for implementation

SHORT TERM (6 months)	MID TERM (1-2 years)	LONG TERM (above 2 years)
Law reforms	Forming health commission	Introducing unique health ID
Setting up national ambulance network	Ensuring essential drugs at free or subsidised prices	24-hour pharmacies at govt hospitals
Introducing essential diagnostic list, fixing test price	More allocation for health-related research	Making referral system mandatory

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Health Ministry has selected 33 recommendations from the Health Sector Reform Commission as it seeks to begin implementing the much-needed reform process in the country's health system.

Of the 33 recommendations, the Health Services Division will implement 23, while the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division will carry out the remaining ones, both in association with their respective

agencies.

The ministry will require assistance from the public administration, home and finance ministries in implementing several of the recommendations.

The Health Services Division has already categorised the 23 recommendations into short- (6 months), mid- (1-2 years) and long-term (above 2 years) actions.

After circulating the recommendations to all its agencies, the division on August 13

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ROHINGYA CRISIS Dhaka wants a permanent solution

Says Khalilur

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants an urgent and permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis – something that the government wants to highlight in the upcoming high-level conference on Rohingya in New York on September 30.

Dr Khalilur Rahman, national security adviser and high representative of the Chief Adviser on Rohingya Affairs, said this to media after a briefing to the diplomats based in Dhaka at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

About 50 envoys from the foreign missions including those of the US, Canada, UK, Australia, Russia, China were present.

The briefing was about the stakeholder conference on Rohingya to be held in Dhaka on August 24-26. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will

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DUCSU POLLS

Student groups struggle to finalise panels

Nomination window closes today

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

As Dhaka University prepares to hold the Ducsu election after a six-year hiatus, student organisations are still struggling to finalise their panels even as the deadline for collecting nominations draws to a close.

Today is the last date for collecting nomination papers, according to the Ducsu Election Commission.

However, most student groups remain locked in discussions over their panel members for contesting the 28 posts of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union.

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student organisation, said they are planning to appeal for an extension of the deadline, as confusion lingers within the organisation, with no clear direction in place for its DU unit.

Many senior leaders from as far back as the 2008-09 session still want to contest, taking advantage of the amended Ducsu constitution that removed the age limit for candidates.

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একাউন্ট ছাড়াই নিন
ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
মাল্টি কারেন্সি
প্রেপেইড কার্ড



প্রয়োজনে দেশে ও বিদেশে
প্রেপেইড কার্ড দিয়ে ATM থেকে ক্যাশ উত্তোলন সহ
POS টার্মিনাল ও ই-কমার্সে পেমেন্ট করা যায় নিশ্চিন্তে!

প্রয়োজনে, ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা, উপশাখা ও
ফাস্ট ট্র্যাকে যোগাযোগ করুন অথবা ডায়াল করুন

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