

Khulna's 'Poor Man's Buffet' feeds hundreds

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

On a Sunday afternoon at Shabbari intersection in Khulna, rows of bowls filled with rice, lentils, vegetables, and eggs were arranged on a table.

Next to it, volunteers in uniforms, gloves, and hairnets stood in line to serve meals to people in need.

Rickshaw pullers, daily wage earners, and beggars lined up for food. Instead of a banquet hall, they sat on footpaths or in their rickshaws to eat. Their faces brightened as they finished the meals.

The event was part of the "Poor Man's Buffet," an initiative by Foodbanking Khulna Kallyan Sangstha. The local volunteer organisation has been serving free meals to underprivileged people in Khulna since 2017.

Every Sunday, it runs the buffet to provide fresh, hot food for free to those who cannot afford a proper meal, said AHM Shahriar Masud Megh, president of the organisation.

Around 170 people attended the



buffet last Sunday.

Ali Hossain, a rickshaw puller from Dumuria, said he had never been treated with such care.

Aynabibi, a beggar from Tootpara, said the meals provided rice, dal, vegetables, and eggs, which she could

not afford on her own.

The organisation started by collecting surplus food from weddings and events.

Its first programme, "Goriber Mehmaan Khana" (The Poor Person's Feast), later moved to Khulna Railway Station, serving around 160 people

every Wednesday.

Another project, "Tripti'r Ahaar" (Meal of Satisfaction), provides cooked food to about 50 people daily. The buffet launched earlier this month is its largest effort.

Volunteer Jarin Tasnim Roza, a student at North Western University, Khulna, said the buffet system prevents the chaos that is common in food distribution programmes. The initiative has received support from local leaders.

Advocate Babul Howlader, member secretary of Khulna Nagork Samaj, said, "Seeing young people organise something like this gives hope. If more people come forward, such efforts could ensure no one goes hungry in the city."

Due to financial limits, the programme currently runs once a week. Megh said the organisation hopes to expand meal programmes to different parts of the city.

He said most expenses are covered through a fund created from members' contributions, though a few regular donors support the initiative.

Up to Tk five lakh

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Jahangir said the government has taken measures to prevent recruitment-related corruption in law enforcement agencies. "In the past, there were allegations of trade in transfers and recruitment. We have taken steps to stop such practices," he said.

The Awami League government was overthrown in a student-led uprising on August 5 last year, when 5,753 firearms and 6,51,609 rounds of ammunition were looted from various police stations and outposts, according to police headquarters.

More than 1,300 looted firearms and over 2,50,000 rounds of ammunition remain missing, with many reportedly now in the hands of criminals and being used in crimes across the country.

Among the unrecovered weapons are rifles, SMGs, LMGs, 7.62x25mm pistols, 9x19mm pistols, shotguns, gas guns, teargas launchers, and 26mm signal pistols.

Replies to a query, the home adviser said they would take steps to bring back a Bangladeshi police officer detained by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) with the help of Interpol.

The BSF detained Mohammad Arifuzzaman, an assistant superintendent at the Armed Police Battalion in Mymensingh, from Chabbi Pargana district of West Bengal on Saturday evening for illegally crossing the border.

Arifuzzaman had earlier served as an assistant

superintendent of Rangpur Metropolitan Police. He had been absent from duty since October 13 last year. He is also an accused in a murder case and was suspended from service after remaining absent without authorisation.

In the briefing, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam said he has sought an explanation from Gazipur Metropolitan Police (GMP) Commissioner Nazmul Karim Khan over reports of roadblocks during his movements.

The IGP made the remark after a journalist raised the issue with the home adviser, who said the matter had been discussed in the meeting and that the IGP had already taken steps.

Asked about the measures, the IGP said, "We have sought an explanation from him initially."

Earlier, Bangla daily Prothom Alo reported that the GMP commissioner resides in Dhaka's Gulshan, and roads on his route to and from Gazipur are routinely closed, causing sufferings to commuters.

Charges

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demanded maximum punishment for the accused as soon as possible.

Tuhin, 40, who worked as a staff reporter of Mymensingh-based daily Pratidin Kagoj, was killed with sharp weapons by a group of miscreants around 8:00pm on August 7.

Govt to fix prices of life-saving

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said in a verdict.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hasan and Justice Biswajit Debnath delivered the judgment following a petition filed as a public interest litigation by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in 2018.

But the health ministry on February 26, 1994

issued a circular fixing prices of only 117 medicines and stated in the circular that the manufacturing companies will fix the prices of other medicines.

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid said according to the Drug Control Ordinance 1982, the government issued a gazette notification on September 18, 1993 fixing the prices of 739 medicines.

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