

Huge smuggled sarees seized in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) under the 10th battalion during an anti-smuggling drive yesterday morning seized huge smuggled sarees worth Tk 1.5 crore from a Dhaka bound truck at Rajbari checkpoint under Godagari upazila in the district, BDR sources said.

On a tip-off, the BDR personnel from the battalion headquarters seized the truck and recovered 5550 pieces of smuggled sarees.

They also arrested an alleged smuggler in this connection.

The arrested was identified as Noortaz Hossain, 35, son of Kalim Uddin of Namoshankarhati village under Chapainawabganj district.

In three separate raids in different areas, BDR personnel seized a huge contraband items including sugar and spare-parts of watch worth about Tk 8.23 lakh.

'Resource utilisation can stop decline in edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Efficient utilisation of available resources in an integrated, accountable and corruption-free manner can redress the persistent decline in the country's education sector, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They underscored the need for cost-effective financing, accountability of the entire mechanism, teacher incentives and elimination of corruption to enhance both quantity and quality of public education.

The seminar on 'Financing Education: National Priorities and Future Directions' was organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at the CIRDAP auditorium.

The seminar aimed at reviewing the overall situation in the education sector in the light of the country's commitment to 'Dakar Declaration, Education for All'. "Despite priorities to educa-

tion, Bangladesh is still a poorly educated country," with a complex and diverse educational structure, said Mustafa K Mujeri in his keynote paper at the seminar.

Mujeri who is the visiting fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said "The existing education system has little space for participation and accountability".

He said the school management committees are mostly ineffective and dominated by local male elites, and the process of education plan is highly bureaucratic.

Prof Jahanara Haque, former principal of Eden Girls' College, questioned the justification and cost-effectiveness of Madrassah education.

She said education is no longer a mission now a days, it's a commodity in the open market economy.

Noted economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, who chaired the panel

discussion, said "we have to work out ways to materialise the education policies already enshrined in the constitution."

He said the quality of public education depends on the nature of public expenditure.

He urged the government to form a social capital in education, make an assessment of social productivity, exempt education donation from tax, and undertake a scheme of small savings as a means of cost sharing in the sector.

Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk said the outcome of the government measures may be debated but it's a favourable stakeholder in the sector.

"There is a system loss in education sector too. It's not only monetary but also a loss of human resources", he added.

The minister stressed upon efficiency and relevance of financing to foil the loss culture.

"Corruption in resource utili-

sation at different levels of scheme implementation has to be eliminated to get a quality education," he further said.

Quazi Saleh Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, said more financing is needed at the primary level education than in higher education as "A learner fails to attain desired minimum efficiency and competency even after having studied for a certain period."

Manzoor Ahmed, education project director of BRAC, said sufficient financing in education is a matter of priority dependent on political commitment.

Fundamental problems like structural, manpower and quality education cannot be addressed with mere raising of funds, he added.

Shamsun Nahar Aziz of Save the Children (Sweden) called for an integration of various thoughts on education to fix a framework of actions.

President, PM greet Hamid Karzai

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted President Hamid Karzai on the occasion of Independence Day of Afghanistan.

In a message to Hamid Karzai, President Iajuddin hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would further be strengthened in the days ahead.

In a similar message, Khaleda Zia expressed her confidence that the existing relations between the two friendly countries will continue to expand in the years to come.

She also expressed her best wishes for the good health and happiness of the president and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Afghanistan, says a press release.



PHOTO STAR
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Lalbagh unit took out a procession yesterday protesting attack on its leader Alamgir Hossain Apu allegedly by former Awami League lawmaker Haji Selim.



A seminar on 'Revolution in education' and film presentation were held at Manarat International University in the city yesterday.

Narayanganj BNP council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After one decade, the council of Narayanganj district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is going to be held today.

Sources said although most of the leaders and workers want the council to be held, a certain group opposes the council and wants the leaders to be selected.

The possible candidates for the post of president and secretary are State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Karim, Ataur Rahman Angur MP, Rokouddin Mollah, former president of the district BNP, Abul Kalam MP, Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker and Gias Uddin MP.

27 years RI for keeping illegal arms

BSS, Dhaka

Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 here yesterday sentenced a person to 27 years rigorous imprisonment in two separate cases for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin handed down the judgement in

presence of convict Mohammad Jahangir Alam alias Jewel yesterday, tribunal sources said.

The tribunal fined the convict Tk 10,000 while sentenced him to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms in default to suffer six-month more imprisonment.

The tribunal also separately fined the convict Tk 3,000 and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment for possessing ammunition illegally, in default, three-month more imprisonment.

After examining six witnesses and a number of evidence the judge pronounced the verdict.

According to prosecution story, joint force arrested Jewel from his residence at Kalakopa village under Nawabganj thana on October 23 last year and recovered two revolvers along with six live bullets from his possession. The cross-examination of the case ended on August 11.

Obituary



M Anwar Hossain, a member of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, died of brain haemorrhage at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on Sunday at the age of 87, says a press release.

Anwar Hossain, who was a member of the then Bengal Civil Service and a retired district and sessions judge, left behind his wife, five sons, six daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Kosba Majael village under Panga upazila of Rajbari district yesterday.

His qukhwan will be held at his village home after Zohr prayers today.

A milad mahfil will be held at his family residence at 9/23 Humayun Road, Mohammadpur after Asr prayers on Friday.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association has condoned the death of Anwar Hossain.

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NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)
August 17, 2003

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Bangladesh Computer Samity will be held on September 8, 2003 at 3:00 pm at BCS Office.

The agenda:
Amendment of BCS Memorandum & Articles of Association

Members are requested to kindly attend the meeting in time.

Md. Sabur Khan
President, Bangladesh Computer Samity

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