

Japan provides scholarship to 106 students this year

BSS, Dhaka

Japan will receive 106 Bangladeshi students this year under its Monbukagakusho (popularly known as Monbusho) scholarship programme, Japanese Embassy sources said.

The students will stay in Japan with full scholarships for one to five years under the higher studies programmes at different universities to complete their post-graduation and PhD courses.

Last year, 125 students went to Japan under the same scholarship, an executive of the Japan Universities Alumni Association for Bangladesh (JUAAB) said at a function.

JUAAB is the authorised forum of the Bangladeshi ex-students who had completed their higher studies including the MS degrees from Japan in last 48 years.

JUAAB President Prof Mozammel Huq said that over 2,000 Bangladeshi students have enjoyed the Monbukagakusho scholarship since its inception in 1955.

As a single largest bilateral donor, Japan has great contribution

in the development of human resources in Bangladesh.

In also receives 20 students each year under Japan Development Scholarship (JDS) programme and a small number of students under Asia Youth Fellowship (AYF), sources said.

On Saturday, JUAAB hosted a pre-departure orientation programme for the outgoing Bangladeshi students at BIRDEM auditorium to give them an overview of Japan, its people, culture, food and educational institutions.

Deputy Director of the Japanese Embassy Maeda, JUAAB Advisor Prof Moazzem Hossain, General Secretary Dr Sarder A Nayeem, executive member Shafiqur Rahman and embassy official Hasina Ferdousi spoke on the occasion.

The speakers urged the students to act as goodwill ambassador to Japan and project Bangladesh's culture and custom by their deeds in Japan.

They also urged the students to apply their talents for the betterment of Bangladesh in future.



Japanese Ambassador Matsuhiro Horiguchi poses with the participants of '2003 South Asian Youth Invitation Programme' at a ceremony at his residence recently.

Indigenous children have little access to primary edn

BSS, Dhaka

Tribal and indigenous leaders at a workshop yesterday said that most of their children had little access to primary education both in the hilly region and in the plain land.

They said tribal and indigenous children between 6 and 10 years in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region as well as in the greater Mymensingh, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Dinajpur have little access to primary education with only over 40 per cent enrollment in schools.

"Not only the limited enrollment, the drop-out has also reached a frustrating rate of over 80 per cent due to acute poverty, language barriers and absence of local teachers," said Sudha Sindhu Khisha of CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) at the workshop held in the LGED Bhawan.

Echoing other tribal and indige-

nous people from the hills and the plain lands, Khisha said special intervention from the government was needed to check the gradual 'extinction' of the indigenous community.

He said residential primary schools in CHT and recruitment of teachers from locals could help ensure primary education for tribal children.

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education organised the workshop on "Tribal Development Planning (TDP)" as part of its six-year programme which begins in January next year to ensure hundred per cent enrolment in primary schools with access for disadvantaged groups.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Primary and Mass Education Prof Jahanara Begum attended the workshop as chief guest, while secretary of the ministry Prof

Tajmina Hossain and CHT Affairs secretary Syed Mushtaq attended it as special guests.

The ministry is considering the TDP project with an estimated cost of 25 million US dollars, said Prof Jahanara Begum.

The programme aims at ensuring quality primary education with special emphasis on disadvantaged groups like the children of tribal and indigenous people, who constitute 1.13 per cent of total population, Altaf Hossain, Deputy Chief of Primary and Mass Education Ministry, said in his keynote speech.

The country has little over 1.5 million indigenous and tribal people. Around 50 per cent of them live in the CHT region and the rest scattered over the plain lands, sources said.

Netrakona by-polls peaceful: BHRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The August 21 by-polls to the Netrakona-3 constituency were peaceful, says Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC).

"But not more than 50 per cent voters cast their votes in the election, although it is 62 per cent according to the election commission report," a BHRC press release said on Saturday.

"Allegation of gross violence and attacks on minorities are not true," it added.

Only reforms in election process and introducing identity cards may ensure a free and fair election, the BHRC said.

The organisation recommended an investigation into the allegation of threats on minorities and legal steps against the presiding and polling officers who did not initiate any legal action against the fake voters.

10 villages in Sherpur being developed as 'Eco-villages'

UNB, Sherpur

Ten villages of the district are being developed as environment-friendly 'Eco-villages' with supply of arsenic free water and sanitary latrine facilities.

The Department of Agriculture Extension and LGED are jointly implementing the project at a cost of Tk 27 lakh.

Official sources said Gojarkura, Dostipara, Khorikazir char and Khamura Kochpara villages of Sribordi upazila, Bonkali and Rangtia villages of Jhenigati upazila, Bibirchar village of Nokla upazila, Kholishakura and

Binnibari villages of Nalitabari upazila and Char Bhabna village of sadar upazila will be developed as 'Eco-villages'.

Some 223 tubewells and 331 sanitary latrines are being constructed in these villages under the project.

The sources said a pilot project to develop Eco-villages was first implemented in three villages of Jhenigati, Sribordi and Nolitabari upazilas and then the project has been extended to all other upazilas.

On completion of the project, some 3,000 people of these villages will get pure water and sanitary latrine facilities.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6.00pm today. Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Jessore and the lowest of 24.0 degree at Rangamati, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:24pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	24.2	83	76
Chittagong	31.8	25.8	77	76
Rajshahi	34.0	25.1	82	84
Khulna	32.5	25.8	79	89
Barisal	32.0	26.7	82	88
Sylhet	32.0	25.0	89	77
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	89	83

'Action plan needed to preserve marine fisheries resources'

BSS, Chittagong

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for formulation of a time-bound action plan for preservation and management of marine fisheries resources.

The foreign exchange earnings from marine fisheries sector could be increased significantly and poverty level of huge coastal population could be minimised to a large extent through conservation and sustainable utilisation of fisheries and aquaculture resources, they said.

The day-long seminar on 'Marine fisheries resources management' was organised by the Department of Fisheries in Chittagong on the occasion of 'Fisheries Fortnight-2003'.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman spoke at the inaugural session as chief guest while Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Mohammad Abdul Haque was the special guest.

In the technical session, a group of experts took part in the discussion on the paper titled "Community participation in marine artisanal fisheries management" which was jointly prepared by Dr Moslehuddin Ahmed, Ashoke Kumar Das and others working with the project "Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities for Livelihood Security" (ECFC).

Addressing the seminar, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman said, "Mere export of industrial products will not help achieve a self-reliant

economy if we fail to raise the volume of exports of agriculture and marine products which have huge potentials."

He urged the officials and experts to create awareness among the poor fishermen by involving them in the total fisheries resources

management and conservation plan.

He also suggested providing financial support to the fishermen to prevent them from catching fish fries and shrimp larvae which have caused massive destruction of marine fish resources.



The American Bangladesh Friendship Society accorded a reception to USAID Mission Director Gene V. George at a city hotel recently. Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Kamal Ibne Yusuf and State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon attended the ceremony as chief guest and special guest.



Boy missing

BSS, Dhaka

Fuad Hassan, a 10-year-old deaf and dumb boy, has been missing since yesterday.

His father, Harunur Rashid of 636 Madhya Monipur under Mirpur thana, said Fuad went out of the house early in the morning but did not return home.

The boy was wearing shorts and striped T-shirt when he left home. His complexion is brown.

A general diary was recorded with the Mirpur police in this connection.

Anybody knowing his whereabouts has been requested to contact Amanullah Kabir, Phone 9005502 (residence), 9565746 (office).

Obituary



T H Mollah, senior officer of the General Services Department of the Youngone Hi-Tech Sportswear Industries Limited, died of a cardiac arrest on Friday at the age of 47, says a press release.

Mollah, a freedom fighter, left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and mother. He was buried with full state honour.

His qulhwani will be held on August 29 after Juma prayers at his village home at Jadabpur, Dhamrai.

DHAKA TODAY

Tagore evening

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammlon Parishad organises an evening of Tagore song based on monsoon. The programme also includes dance and recitation. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium of the National Museum. Time: 7.00pm.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an art exhibition, organised by Jatiya Shok Dibas Udjapon Parishad to mark the 28th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will

remain open till August 31 from 10.00am to 8.00pm.

Film Show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films- 'Bread and Tulips' by Silvio Soldini (Italy), 'Frida' by Julie Taymor (USA) and 'The Experiment' by Oliver Hirschbiegel (Germany). Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30pm, 4.45pm and 7.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Boys from Brazil'. Venue: 21/C, Zigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'IDT Computer Driving License Course', organised by the Institute of Digital Technology, will be held. Venue: Institute office, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm.

Rotary Dhaka North

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Professor

Aftab Alam Khan of Dhaka University will deliver a lecture on 'Earthquake of Bangladesh'. Venue: Chalet Restaurant, Gulshan. Time: 7.30pm.

Rotary Motijheel

The 14th installation ceremony of the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Motijheel will be held with Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Orchard Plaza, Naya Paltan. Time: 7.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film Show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films- 'Behind the Sun' by Walter Salles (Brazil), 'Intacto' by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo (Spain) and 'Atanarjuat (The fast runner)' by Zacharias Kunuk (Canada). Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30pm, 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Open your eyes'. Venue: 21/C, Zigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Food festival

The inaugural ceremony of a weeklong Turkish Food Festival, organised jointly by the Turkish Embassy in Dhaka and Gemcon Food and Agricultural Products Ltd, will be held. Venue: Meena Bazar, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am.

Orientation

The inaugural session of the orientation programme of Democracywatch will be held. Venue: Democracywatch auditorium. Time: 9.30am.