# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

**EDUCATION FOR ALL BY 2015** 

## Bangladesh unlikely to achieve target

Speakers tell press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 30 per cent drop out rate from the primary schools, Bangladesh is unlikely to meet the target of Education for All by 2015, said speakers at a press briefing yester-

The dropped out children remain outreached, as they are not given 'second chance for education' by any government programme, they added.

They were speaking at the press briefing on 'Attaining Mass Literacy: Background and Necessity' organised by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) at the National Press Club in the city.

Speakers also said as the government does not have any national policy for their education, any project on mass literacy

With no support from the government and the donors as well. the few non-government organisations that are working on mass literacy are performing poorly, said Kazi Rafiqul Alam, vice chairperson of Campe Council.

Prof Ahmadullah Mia of the same organisation underscored the need for an integrated approach for effective primary education, launching non-formal fundamental education for the adolescent as 'second chance', and demand driven literacy programme for the youth and

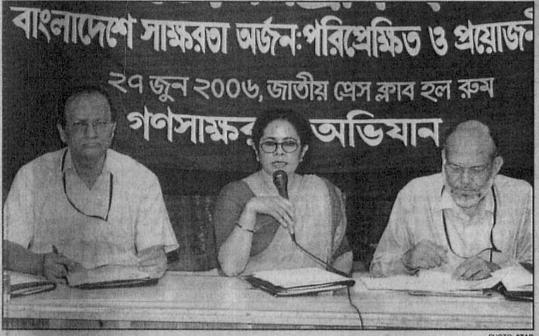
Quoting a joint study of Unesco, Dhaka and DAM, he said we have

donors too are reluctant to fund attained only three per cent growth in adult literacy in the last three years with an annual growth rate of

> So it is unlikely that we will be able to achieve the target of 'Education for All' by 2015, he added.

Citing discrepancies in different data on the literacy rate, Campe Director Rasheda K Choudhury said we need accurate statistics at our disposal if we want to effectively combat illiteracy.

Prof Muhammad Ibrahim of Dhaka University said marginalised sections of the society had always remained off the mainstream education and that is why deliberate government intervention is a must to equip them with necessary life-skills.



Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) Director Rasheda K Choudhury speaks at a press briefing organised by Campe at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her left is Kazi Rafiqul Alam, vice chairperson of Campe

### DEPZ UNREST Youngone units to reopen today

JU CORRESPONDENT

Youngone Group at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in a press release announced yesterday that work in all their six readymade garment units is to resume today.

The group authorities also posted a list of 98 suspended workers yesterviolence on the factory premises. Law enforcers from BDR, Rab and the police were present when the authorities posted the list at the main entrance of the factory with photo-graphs and bio-data of the ones on

A Z M Azizur Rahman, General Manager of DEPZ, confirmed the suspension order and said, "They are not sacked yet, and they have been suspended only. Final action will be taken against the suspended after

Meanwhile, workers of Redpoint Jackets Ltd at DEPZ refrained from work yesterday demanding immediate and unconditional release of Ramjan Ali, the factory convener of Workers Representative Welfare Committee (WRWC). Police arrested Ramian on June 23 on charge of involvement in workers' unrest at the factory, workers

The police, however, claimed that Ramjan was arrested in a different case which has nothing to do with workers' unrest at the factory or in

Theworkers stopped their work at 9:45am and staged demonstration on the factory premises throughout the day demanding the release of

GM of DEPZ A Z M Azizur Rahman tried to calm the workers for several hours, but was not successful convincing the workers to get back to

Yesterday's unrest forced the Redpoint authorities close the fac-

tory temporarily. Police action on

### female workers condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmajibi Nari condemned the police of their atrocity on female garment workers at the Youngone Factory of Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) on Monday.

Organisation President Shirin Akhter and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir termed the incident as 'medieval barbarism' in a joint statement yesterday.

Workers' discontent occurs due to the indifference of garment owners and authority, violation of labour laws and unacceptable

behaviour, they said. They demanded proper investigation into the incident and punishment to the people responsible.

### Council, and on her right is Prof Ahmadullah Mia of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). Poly materials worth Tk 70 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department Monday seized polypropylene, raw material to produce polythene, worth around Tk 70 lakh during an attempt to sell those in the open market in Demra.

The consignment was seized around 11:30pm after a tip-off that an unscrupulous group were trying

### One shot dead in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An unidentified person was shot dead by a gang of robbers at Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The victim was identified as Nazrul Islam, 40, son of Jahid Ali of the upazila's West Chambal area.

Sources said that a gang of robbers, about 10 to 12 in number, entered the house of one Nurul Alam, brother of Nazrul, at around 1:00 am and looted cash and gold worth over Tk 1 lakh.

Hearing the hue and cry of the family members Nazrul rushed to the scene to help his brother. As he started screaming after identifying one of the robbers, the gang shot Nazrul from close range, sources added.

Nazrul was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed at around 6:00 am.

to sell the polypropylene, which was imported with export-oriented use

only, in the market. Assisted by members of Rapid Action Battalion officials, the department caught the two trucks, which were carrying the polypropylene, at Mukti Sarani on the Dhaka-

The trucks and goods were later taken to Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department office at Moghbazar and a case was filed.

**FAST-UNTO-DEATH** 

### Concern over condition of primary schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad expressed concern over the condition of primary schools across the country following the fast-untodeath by the community and government primary school teachers.

At a press release, the Parishad said that the government is not playing its role when the primary school teachers are staging demonstrations demanding nationalisation of job, elimination of salary discrimination and hundred per cent salary.

They also said that success in achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) would not be possible depriving the teachers of their fun-



### Light to moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.8	27.6	76	73
Chittagong	31.3	25.3	80	80
Rajshahi	34.2	27.5	83	81
Khulna	34.0	27.0	86	. 78
Barisal	33.4	26.5	82	88
Sylhet	28.2	25.2	100	88
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.6	83	81

### Judgement in Udichi blast cases today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The verdict of Udichi bomb blasts cases will be delivered today seven years after the grisly act left 10 people dead and over 200 injured.

The earlier date for the delivery of the verdict was May 30 but it was deferred as the judge needed more legal explanation and arguments from both prosecution and defence

On May 30, the judge said while examining the documents he encountered a number of legal complexities which could be clarified with more legal explanations and arguments from the lawyers of the state and the accused. He fixed today to deliver the verdict of the cases after both prosecution and defence lawyers made their closing arguments yesterday.

The police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel as part of beefed up security measures cor-doned the court premises and the sorrounding areas off.

On March 7, 1999, two bombs exploded at Munshi Meherullah Maidan in the town killing 10 people and injuring 200. The bombs exploded at the cultural programme of Udichi's 12th annual national

Sub-inspector Abdul Aziz of Jessore Police Station lodged a case without giving any names of the killers. On December 14, 1999, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Dulal Uddin Akand pressed charges against 24 people including Minister for Environment and Forest Tariqui Islam, who was an opposi-tion leader then, and another BNP leader Noorun Nabi.

The court framed charges on July 9, 2000. The High Court acquitted Tariqul Islam on August 12, 2003. Defence lawyer Debasish Das told journalists the accused who gave confessional statements to a magistrate said they were not involved in the blast. They also said the police extracted statements from

### Danish envoy meets PM

Outgoing Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Niels Severin Munk made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. Severin Munk, who have been here for nearly five years, thanked the Prime Minister for her government's

cooperation in discharging his The Prime Minister also thanked the Danish envoy for his efforts to bolster the excellent bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Denmark, and extending Danish

support to many areas in Denmark has been providing support to different fields and projects, including poverty reduction, rural development, agricultural development, water, sanitation and capacity building in private sectors.

Denmark is also cooperating with Bangladesh in skill development of manpower for overseas jobs through imparting training by local NGOs.

The PM said Denmark could also provide training at vocational training institutes in Bangladesh, which have various vocational curricula. The Danish envoy praised

Bangladesh's progress and success in poverty alleviation and expansion of education, particularly of women.

### US Navy hospital ship arrives in Ctg port July 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Navy hospital ship arrives in Chittagong port on July 1 under a humanitarian assistance

programme. During its eight-day stay the floating hospital under the command of the US Pacific Fleet would carry out its programme in collaboration with Bangladesh Navy and Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH).

Selection and registration of patients intended to receive treatment from the hospital started at **CMCH** Paediatric Surgery Department yesterday to continue till tomorrow, said Prof Dr Tahmina Banu who is the chief coordinator of the mission in Bangladesh. The service that the USNS Mercy in its mission 'Operation Smile' would provide includes general, paediatric and ophthalmology surgery, basic medical evaluation and treatment, preventative medicine treatment, dental screenings and treatment, cleft lift and cleft plate surgeries, optometry screen-

ings and public health training. The hospital ship with around 150 medical and technical crew and staffs on board left Singapore for Bangladesh on Monday. The floating hospital as part of its five-month humanitarian assistance programme in Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh and East Timor started its journey on April 24, said Commander Pamela Kunze, the deputy public affairs officer of US Pacific Fleet.

### Any rise of third force to be disastrous: US envoy

Any rise of the third force would bring about disaster in the country, said US Ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A Butenisvesterday

The USA is against any unconstitutional means and it would never support any such forces, whether it is military or civil ones, she said while exchanging views with journalists during her courtesy visit to the Prothom Alooffice.

Democracy in Bangladesh is strong enough and the civil society, ousiness community and the media here are also very strong, she said, adding that it would be quite wrong for anybody to think that the USA would favour any third force. At the meeting, the US envoy also

had a frank discussion about different

issues such as democracy, upcoming elections, law and order, political situation, corruption, human rights and the role of the media. She said the USA has been sup-

porting the change of government through free and fair elections in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Her country would not support

undemocratic means, she said, adding that it also does not favour

any particular party.

Patricia said the international community, including the USA, is concerned over the prevailing political situation ahead of the national elections. Issues relating to the caretaker government system and the Election Commission should be resolved soon, she added.

Emphasising the participation of all political parties in the upcoming election and solution to the controversy over voter list, she said the last three elections were held in a free and fairmanner. A congenial atmosphere should

also be created to ensure that the

upcoming election is also held in a

free and fair manner, she said and called on the mass media to play a vital role in this regard. The US ambassador said all the political parties want to win the elections, which is not possible at all, and the defeated party should con-

gratulate the winner. She also pointed out that the winning party seems to have a desire

government, but this tendency is a major obstacle to strengthening

Patricia said, "We do not have any readymade solution to the question of reforms in the Election Commission. We do not want to give any direction in this regard, nor do we want to interfere in the internal affairs, because we respect the sovereigntyofthiscountry."
The ambassador said

Bangladesh, as a member of UN Human Rights Council, should ensure human rights. From now on, the human rights situation will be monitored internationally, she

She also said the Anti-Corruption Commission has to play an effective role in curbing corruption.

Earlier, Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman welcomed the US envoy at the office. Officials of the American Centre in Dhaka, Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Qaiyum, Deputy Editors Sazzad Sharif and Anisul Huq, News Editor Sanaullah and other senior journalists were presentat the meeting.

### VOTER LIST ENROLMENT

### At least 2 camps to be set up in each ward of DCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday directed election officers in the capital to set up at least two temporary camps in each ward of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ensuring eligible people to get enlisted in the

Apart from the offices of thana election officers and district election officers, eligible people can apply for inclusion of their names in the voter list by visiting the tem-

porary camps, sources said. "So far 200 camps will be set up to enlist eligible people in the voter list as we think voter listing job in the capital is very hazardous. But people will have to come to the camps to apply for inclusion in the electoral list," a senior official at the EC Secretariat told The Daily Star wishing anonymity after a meeting with thana election officers.

If the election officials think necessary they have been asked to set up camps at ward level of other city corporations and municipalities area, he added.

"It is unlikely to set up camp at ward level of the union parishad (UP) as there is no office at the ward level, but all forms for inclusion of names will be available at the UP offices," he said.

"Besides, if necessary election officials may stay temporarily at

### Convicts with death threaten to kill SPP Latif

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special public prosecutor (SPP) yesterday filed a general diary (GD) with Kotwali Police Station mentioning that some convicts with death are planning to kill him.

Abdul Latif Talukder, the SPP of the Speedy Trial Tribunal -1, Dhaka in his GD said a top criminal Sweden Aslam called him when he caught sight of him on the court premises on Monday and said dreaded criminals Shaheed Commissioner, Tanai Mollah and Khorshed Alam Rashu are planning to kill him.

"Aslam told me that on June 9 the three criminals called him (Aslam) at the cell No 1 of Kashimpur Jail and sought his cooperation to kill me and three others as I caused serious harm to them," Latif mentioned in the GD. He also mentioned that the criminals assigned one Konchi of IG Gate to kill him.

### Slain Gazipur trader buried

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Mohsin Alam, a businessman who was killed after abduction, was buried yesterday at Mirzapur, Gazipur. The 37-year-old businessman

went missing on May 17 from Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

From the information of two arrested neighbours of the murdered, joint teams of police and Rapid Action Battalion recovered Mohsin's body from a lichi garden at Boidder Bazar of Sonargaon, Narayanganj on Monday, 41 days after his abduction.

After his namaz-e-janaza in the locality, he was buried in his family graveyard in the afternoon.

any suitable places of the wards to enable people to get enlisted in the list," the source added.

In accordance with Monday's decision of the EC, the registration officers and assistant registration officers will be engaged at the offices of different local government bodies including city corporations, municipalities and union

At present there are over 4504 union parishads, 303 municipalities and six city corporations.

been asked to visit UP head quarters and over 3000 wards of the municipalities and city corporations in a month to get the job done.

Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat is yet to launch publicity for the task which is set to begin amid controversy and by ignoring the demands of all political parties.

The ruling BNP, main opposition Awami League and election experts have been asking the EC to prepare the voter list by visiting



Newly elected Chittagong City Awami League President AMB Mohiuddin Chowdhury, left, and newly elected Chittagong City Awami League General Secretary Kazi Enamul Haque Danu.

### Tk 126 cr DU budget Only 1.16 pc earmarked for research

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU), the country's premier public university, yesterday proposed an allocation of only 1.16 percent of its annual budget for researchin 2006-07 fiscal.

Of the Tk 126 crore proposed budget, Tk 105.48 crore (i.e. 83.72 percent of the budget) will be spent on salary and pension of the teachers and other staffs.

On the other hand, expenditure on education supportive sector has been estimated at Tk 11.44 crore (9.07 percent).

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad placed the proposed budget for 2006-07 fiscal and the revised budget for 2005-06 fiscal on the first day of two-day annual senate session, with Vice-Chancellor ProfSMA Faizin the chair. In the budget, Tk 13.7 crore has

been earmarked for general and miscellaneous purposes, including electricity and telephone bills. Of the total budget, Tk 114 crore

will come from the University Grants Commission (UGC) while Tk 12 crore

from the university's internal

SMA Faiz stressed the need for a separate pay scale for DU teachers so that they can perform their duties properly.
"In the wake of skyrocketing prices of essentials and services, it is

time to review teachers' salaries,'

Addressing the session, VC Prof

Prof Faiz said, adding that the financial benefits for DU teachers are much less than that for the teachers in neighbouring countries. He said the government has taken initiatives to declare Curzon Hall and VC's bungalow as archae-

historical and archaeological The university authorities also took initiatives to update its web site, he said, adding that Internet facilities of the university will also be modern-

ological reserve, considering its

The VC also said the authorities have taken initiatives to build a new dormitory for female students and more flats for teachers to resolve accommodation crisis.

### Discussion

Nirapad Khadya Andolon will hold a discussion in order to turn safe food movement to a social movement. Venue: National Press Club. Time:

### Seminar

Institute of Environment and Development organises a seminar on education system. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

### Roundtable

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) will hold a roundtable on 'Indo-Bangla Relations'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 4:00pm.

#### Lecture The second Rashida Siddique

Memorial Lecture will be given by Prof Andy Peter Koronios of the University of South Australia. Venue: North South University. Time: 3:00pm.

#### **Model UN session** Campaign for Popular Education and

United Nations Youth and Students' Association of Bangladesh organise 'Model UN session on quality education and Millennium Development Goals'. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium. Time:

### Journo Sheikh Mohiuddin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Mohiuddin, a prominent journalist and freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the National Heart Foundation hospital in the city yesterday morn-

ing at the age of 60. Mohiuddin, chief reporter of The New Nation, was admitted to the hospital with chest pain on Monday

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers

to mourn his death. His first namaz-e-janaza was held on the DRU premises and the second one at the National Press Club. A large number of journalists attended

He will be buried at his family graveyard at village Rajpasha in Shekherhat, Jhalakathi, today.

In a message of condolence, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. She also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul and General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUI) President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruq also condoled the death of Mohiuddin.

President of another faction of BFUJ M Mozammel Haq and Secretary General Ruhul Amin Gazi, and DUJ President Elahi Newaz Khan Saju and General Secretary Sardar Farid Ahmed also expressed deep shock at the death of the veteran journalist.

Jatiya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud have expressed profound shock at the death of Mohiuddin, a former member of the press club managing com-Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) President Shafiqul Karim and

General Secretary Shahed Chowdhury have also condoled the death of its founder-member Sheikh Mohiuddin. Barisal Bibhag Sangbadik Samity in Dhaka, Barisal Bibhag Samity and Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association also expressed condo-lence at his death.

### Mohiuddin, Danu Ctg city AL

president, secv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Crg After more than two decades, Chittagong city unit Awami League braced new leadership at its muchtalked-about triennial conference yesterday with incumbent General Secretary ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the city mayor, as new president and incumbent Joint Secretary Kazi Inamul Haq Danu as

new general secretary.

When party's Education and Human Resource Secretary M Khalequzzaman proposed the names of Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Inamul Haq Danu for the two key posts at the crowded auditorium of Engineers' Institute at around 5:15pm, thousands of councillors greeted them amid deafening cheers Health and Environment Secretary Khorshed Alam Sujan seconded the proposal that was passed unanimously by the council-

More than 25000 leaders, activists and supporters from different party folds of all the 41 wards attended the conference from morning and remained there until new leadership

The auditorium and its outside

premises turned into a festive place throughout the day. The party high-ups in the conference also formed a four-member committee comprising with incumbent city unit President MA Mannan. former lawmaker Ishaque Meah and newly elected president and general secretary to form a full-fledged city

was pronounced.

committee within one month. Sources said the long-awaited change in the party leadership could be possible following last minute's intervention by party Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. Incumbent President Mannan

was adamant to lodge his candidature for the top post until Monday. He however retreated back from his resolute stance after Central

Organising Secretary Bir Bahadur MP held an emergency meeting at the directives of Hasina with Mannan, Mohiuddin and other top city leaders at the residence of Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu the same night.

In the meeting Bir Bahadur con-veyed Mannan the sentiment and wish of Hasina and asked him to quit the presidential post. He also assured Mannan on

behalf of the party chief of proper and dignified position in future, sources added. Earlier in the morning Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim

MP inaugurated the conference where Presidium Member Begum Motia Chowdhury was present as MA Mannan presided over the

Bir Bahadur, Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Chittagong District Bar Association General Secretary Ratan Kumar Roy, Bangladesher

Communist Party leader Shah Alam, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Abul Kalam Azad, AL leaders MA Salam and Sujon addressed the inaugural