

'Catch' tax-dodging foreign workers: ACC chief to NBR

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday asked officials of National Board of Revenue (NBR) to 'catch' identified tax-dodging foreign nationals working in Bangladesh.

He came up with the call at a training programme of ACC and NBR officials at BCS Tax Academy auditorium in the capital.

Iqbal Mahmood also asked NBR officials to strengthen connections with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Immigration and Passports Department, so that nobody can evade taxes and misappropriate public money.

"Don't harass any honest businessman during

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

RASHED SHUMON



Work for painting, cleaning and preparing the Central Shaheed Minar premises goes on in full swing, ahead of International Mother Language Day to be observed on February 21. On the day, Dhaka residents will pay tribute to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs at the monument.

Clean Air Act to be enacted to control pollution: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air quality of Dhaka city worsened between 2016 and 2019 as construction of various large infrastructure increased within that period, Environment Minister Shahab Uddin told parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Manjur Hossain from Faridpur-1, the minister in a scripted answer also said brick kilns, vehicles, construction of different infrastructures and roads digging, civic waste, biomass and trans-boundary influence are responsible behind air pollution of Dhaka city.

The minister said the government has taken various short-, mid- and long-term plans to control air pollution.

"The government has already closed down around 600 brick kilns across the country. All illegal brick kilns will be shut down gradually," Shahab Uddin said.

As part of the short-term plan, the government ensured examination of emission levels of vehicles while providing fitness certificates. The government has also ensured waste management of the city corporations and stop burning of waste, he said.

As part of the mid-term plan, the minister said, the government has taken measures to set up high-speed water sprinklers at different hotspots in the capital to control air pollution through spraying water from high above.

Besides, the government will also set up dust sucker and introduce

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Keep your hands clean: Police HQ

Issues list of instructions to all units as coronavirus precaution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although coronavirus has not been reported in Bangladesh yet, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) in a precautionary move to prevent spread of the virus has issued a letter instructing all police units in the country to ensure hand-washing or sanitising facilities on their premises.

The letter, signed last week by Taptun Nasrin, assistant inspector general (health and education), also instructed all unit officials to not keep any birds or animals on the compounds of government residences.

The letter contains a brief description on how the virus spreads, symptoms and its prevention, along with instructions to keep police outposts, stations and barracks clean and arrange briefing for all officials by doctors or civil surgeons.

"We have issued the instruction to raise awareness [about coronavirus], and are giving reminders regularly," Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general of PHQ, told

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Poetry, novels dominate numbers

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH

With poetry leading the tally of new arrivals, a total of 2,340 new titles hit the stalls in the first 15 days of the monthlong Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela this year, the highest at the halfway mark in last five years.

In the first 15 days of previous editions, the fair saw a total of 2,271 books last year, 1,771 in 2017, 2,076 in 2018 and 1,705 titles in 2016, according to statistics of the fair information centre.

According to this year's numbers, 684 poetry books were followed by 382 novels, 316 short stories, 126 essays, 103 children's books, 83 books on Liberation War, 76 biographies, 73 books on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 books on history.

Publishers are unveiling an increasing number of books, as most of them have already seen a boom



As the fair enters its second half, booklovers have started to turn up in droves at Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan premises.

in sales," said Osman Gani, former president of Academic and Creative Publishers Association of Bangladesh.

He said his publication house Agamee Prakashani has already published at least 100 new books, including books on Liberation War, Bangabandhu and research.

"Number of books would increase as most publishers would bring more book targeting February 21 [International Mother Language Day]," he added.

A stall attendant of Bayanno said booklovers are buying poetry books

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath on the coffin of former state minister Rahmat Ali at the south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday afternoon. The five-time lawmaker from Gazipur-3 constituency passed away at a Dhaka hospital yesterday morning.

PHOTO: BSS

Kazi Aref an example for politicians: speakers

Discussion held marking his 21st death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dedication and sacrifice that Kazi Aref Ahmed made for his country and its political arena are exemplary, speakers said at a memorial discussion yesterday.

Many contemporary politicians of the country lack qualities such as selflessness and honesty that were hallmarks of Aref, a prominent Liberation War organiser and political leader. Through these, he will remain alive in people's hearts, the speakers added.

Kazi Aref Parishad, a social organisation formed in memory of the eminent political figure, organised the discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital to mark the 21st anniversary of his murder.

On February 16 in 1999, a group of outlawed political activists murdered Kazi Aref, one of the founding members of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), and four Kushtia JSD unit leaders during a rally in the district's Daulatpur upazila.

Speaking at the discussion, Shahriar Kabir, president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said Aref was a key figure in almost every political movement of the country, from Liberation War in 1971 to the anti-autocracy movement in late 1990s.

Aref also made a significant contribution for ensuring trial of war criminals as one of the initiators of Gonoadalat (court of people) which worked as a key movement demanding the trials, Shahriar Kabir said.

"People of our country will never forget the contributions of this selfless leader," he added.

Haroon Habib, secretary general of Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War '71, said Aref is yet to be given the honour and recognition he deserves due to political biases, which is disappointing.

Fake currency factory busted

Eight held with 41 lakh 'rupees', equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have busted a fake Indian currency manufacturing factory and arrested eight suspected gang members from the city Sabujbagh area yesterday afternoon.

The officials also recovered notes of 41 lakh rupees and fake note producing equipment during the drive, said Mashhur Rahman, deputy commissioner of the detective branch (north division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The arrestees are -- Bashir Uddin (51); Moniruzzaman (35); Monir Hossain (32); Abdul Quader (62); Enamul Haque Ashari (32); Akbar Ali (30); Kabir Hossain (35), and Sohel Mahmud (28).

Bashir is the mastermind, said police.

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Erratum

In the headline of a news item published in Dhaka page yesterday, Bangabandhu was erroneously spelled Bangabandhu. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

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