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SEMESTER SYSTEM

Four public universities struggling

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Students are deprived of reaping the rewards of the semester system in four public universities due to mismanagement by the authorities.

Failure to publish examination results on time, absence of teaching assistants (TA), and playing catch-up to complete a six-month schedule in three to four months are reasons why the semester system is failing to bring the desired results, observed students and academics.

They also blamed the admission system where students are enrolled annually, effectively preventing an unsuccessful student from repeating a class in the first semester before the completion of the one-year cycle. Lack of teachers and classrooms are other structural issues students and academics pointed out as obstacles to the semester system running smoothly.

With the coronavirus outbreak and ongoing indefinite shutdown of public universities, the semester system is set to be hampered further. While some private universities started offering online classes, Dhaka University and most other public universities are yet to do so -- citing lack of internet access of all students.

In May, DU authorities announced they were considering cutting upcoming weekends and holidays and arranging additional classes in order to prevent a looming session jam and make up for academic losses during the closure.

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Two girls playing with a swing they made with a sack they brought to take in relief items and a piece of rope near Matsya Bhaban in the capital. Every day, these two kids wait in the area for hours looking for help since the coronavirus-driven shutdown left their parents unemployed. In this, they managed to find some joy yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nasim's brain activity to be tested

Condition of ex-minister remains grave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors will now carry out the final test of brain functionality on Awami League Leader Mohammad Nasim to decide whether his life support system should be removed.

"After several tests of brain stem functions, we will be able to know whether he is brain dead. Then we will decide to take off his life support system," Raziul Haque, a neurosurgeon at the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital where the AL lawmaker is being treated, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"But before removing the life support system, we will have to take consent from Mohammad Nasim's family members," he said.

The doctor did not say exactly when they would conduct the tests.

Infected with Covid-19 and later suffering a stroke, former health minister and AL Presidium Member Nasim has been in a deep

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AFTER AMPHAN

Thousands in need of aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Cyclone Amphan barrelled through Bangladesh almost two weeks ago, Red Crescent teams have reached more than 30,000 people, but thousands more are in need of further humanitarian assistance.

Now that the urgency is becoming clearer, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) have launched an emergency appeal to donors for 5 million Swiss francs (Tk 44.39 crore) to provide emergency assistance to 50,000 people in Bangladesh severely affected by the cyclone, said a joint press statement.

Cyclone Amphan made landfall on the coasts of West Bengal, India on May 20, and then entered Bangladesh with wind speeds of up to 150 kmph, heavy rain and tidal surges that caused huge devastation in 26 districts across the country.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Secretary General Feroz Salah Uddin said, "Thousands of people now need humanitarian support as they are living in temporary shelters with limited access to food, safe water and toilets after the cyclone has passed. Their livelihoods are also greatly affected and many of them do not know how to get back on their feet."

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They paved way for nation's prosperity

Eminent citizens pay rich tributes to Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Jamilur Reza, Niloufer Manzur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday commemorated the three torchbearers of the country who have passed away during the coronavirus pandemic, saying their immense contributions paved the way for the nation's enlightenment and prosperity.

National Prof Anisuzzaman, National Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and founding principal of Sunbeams School Niloufer Manzur died within a span of less than a month -- between April 28 and May 26.

Their departures have created an irreplaceable void, especially in the country's education sector, the eminent citizens said during a commemorative programme arranged virtually.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh arranged the event via a video conference to avoid gathering amid the current situation.

Both Prof Anisuzzaman and Prof Jamilur were members of the platform's advisory group while Niloufer Manzur was a well-wisher of it. Prof Anisuzzaman himself was an institution in his own right, said eminent economist and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, who chaired the event.

"Anis [Prof Anisuzzaman] is one of the very few people I know, coming out of our own educational system who actually was a totally dedicated teacher. For him, it was the primary mission of his life to be a teacher and a scholar," he said.

Prof Jamilur contributed in building BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) a facility of international standard. He then went on to build two more institutions -- Brac University and Asia Pacific University, said Prof Rehman, also an advisory group member of citizen's platform.

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MURDER IN LIBYA

Nine cohorts of abductors held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have arrested nine people from different areas of the capital in connection with human trafficking and the killing of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya.

DB arrested six people on Saturday and Sunday in two separate cases filed with Paltan and Tejgaon police stations.

The arrestees are: Badsha Mia, Jahangir Mia, Akbar Hossain, Sujon Mia, Nazmul Hasan and Liaquat Sheikh Alias Lipu.

The DB teams also recovered four passports, two mobile phones and two notebooks.

Earlier on May 28, 26 Bangladeshis were shot dead and eleven others seriously injured by a group of criminals in Libya.

Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of DMP, said

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Poets and litterateurs will be at forefront of society



Canadian High Commissioner Gordon Cox calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 9, 1972.

June 9, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU ORDERS INQUIRY INTO KILLING OF HUMAYUN KABIR

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today orders an immediate inquiry into the killing of Dhaka University Professor Humayun Kabir. Lekhak Shibir brings out a procession protesting the killing of the poet and calls on the prime minister

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Two doctors die from Covid-19

STAR REPORT

Another doctor who was infected with Covid-19 died at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning.

Dr Shakhawat Hossain, an anesthesiologist of Islami Bank Central Hospital in Kakrail, was admitted at AMZ Hospital on May 29 after he tested positive for Covid-19.

He passed away around 7:45am in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, Zubair Al Hasan, billing officer of the hospital, told

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 9

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15

JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Global virus cases top 7 million

NZ lifts all curbs, declaring the nation virus-free

AGENCIES

European countries experimented with further lifting coronavirus restrictions yesterday as New Zealand declared victory over the pandemic, even as global cases topped seven million and deaths mounted in Latin America.

The number of Covid-19 fatalities has now passed 403,000 worldwide since the disease emerged in China last year before sweeping the globe, subjecting billions to some form of lockdown and paralysing economies.

But even the hardest-hit countries are lurching back to a new kind of normal, with bars and restaurants coming back to life and travel restrictions lifted from London to Brussels to Moscow.

But in some places, it was far from business as usual.

Britain yesterday rolled

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Illegally parked trucks occupy over half of both sides of a street near Satrasta intersection in the capital's Tejgaon. Former mayor Annisul Huq had removed the illegal truck stand in the area while he was in office. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

KILLING OF UNARMED BLACK MAN

Peaceful protests continue in US

Democrats plan to unveil sweeping police reform proposal; Minneapolis vows to dismantle police force

AGENCIES

Calls for deep police reforms gained momentum as Minneapolis city council members pledged late Sunday to dismantle and rebuild the police department, after the death in custody of George Floyd sparked nationwide protests about racism in law enforcement.

Demonstrations have swept a country slowly emerging from the coronavirus lockdown in the two weeks since Floyd, an unarmed black man, 46, died after choking out the words "I can't breathe" under the knee of a white police officer.

Though there was violence in the early days, the protests have lately been overwhelmingly peaceful. They have deepened a political crisis for President Donald Trump, who repeatedly threatened to order active duty troops onto the streets.

Trump took to Twitter around midnight to lash out at the boss of the National Football League, America's biggest sport, who, in a sign of a cultural shift, swung behind protesting players and adopted their slogan "Black Lives Matter".

Huge weekend crowds gathered across the country and in Europe. The high-spirited atmosphere was marred late on Sunday when a man drove a car into a rally in Seattle and then shot and wounded a demonstrator who confronted him.

"I have cops in my family, I do believe in a police presence," said Nikky Williams, a black Air Force veteran

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