

15-day nat'l education survey begins today

The Minister of Education will launch a 15-day National Education Survey across the country today to bring all types of post-primary educational institutions under the national education system aiming at enhancement of the standard of education, reports BSS.

The survey, funded by UNDP, will collect statistics and information of all types of the post-primary educational institutions functioning in the country. After conducting the survey, the government will take necessary programmes for the development of the educational institutions and enhancement of the standard of education in the country.

A total of 2,400 counting officials from different government schools, colleges, technical training institutions and universities have been engaged to conduct the survey till November 6. Besides 480 supervising officials have also been incorporated in the programme.

Meanwhile, the District Education Officer (DEOs) have started works in their respective areas as coordinators in the programme.

45 injured in Rangamati road accident

RANGAMATI, Oct 22: At least 45 people were injured, six of them critically, when a bus slipped into a roadside ditch at the foot of Saptahari Hill today, official sources said, reports BSS.

The bus, bound for Rangamati from Kaptai, fell about 350 feet down the road as its driver lost control of the vehicle, official said. The accident occurred at around 10 am.

Army personnel stationed at Manikchhari, close to the place of occurrence and fire brigade personnel from Rangamati rushed there and started rescue operation jointly.

Of the critically injured, Chandra Moni Chakma, 29, Nurul Amin, 40, Makham Lal Barua, 50, and Suprasad Chakma, 22, were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Thirty-one injured persons were admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital. Ten others were released after giving first aid, hospital sources added.

The bus was yet to be salvaged, police sources said.

Death condoled

RANGAMATI, Oct 22: Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, Ching Kew Roza has condoled the death of Mir Yakub Ali, a veteran freedom fighter and a human right activist. He also visited the house of Mir Yakub and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family, reports BSS.

Mir Yakub Ali died here on Wednesday at Rangamati Sadar Hospital. He was suffering from deadly disease cancer. He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter and a host of admirers and relatives to mourn his death.

Mir Yakub Ali was laid to rest at Bonorupa Graveyard after *namaz-e-fajanq* at Bonorupa Jam-e-Masjid on Wednesday evening.

President of Rangamati district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Nazimuddin Ahmed also visited the house of late Mir Yakub Ali and expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Asian Art exhibition from Nov 6

Stage is set for holding the ninth Biennial Asian Fine Art Exhibition in Dhaka, organisers said yesterday.

The 25-day Asian art extravaganza will begin on November 6 in the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the exhibition which is being held every two years since 1981.

As many as 38 countries are expected to attend this year's exhibition being organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Some 35 countries took part in the 1997 exhibition.

The organisers have formed a special cell in the Shilpakala Academy comprising young and elderly artists to make the exhibition a grand success.

Talking to BSS, the Director of Shilpakala Academy said they have invited 54 countries and 35 of them have already confirmed their participation in the show.

The countries which have already responded positively included Australia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Over 700 art works will be put on display in the exhibition. One hundred and sixty-eight Bangladeshi artists are taking part in this exhibition.

According to the organisers, four countries — Australia, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia — will exhibit Installation Art which would be the main attraction of the exhibition.

BTTB officials urged to enhance quality of services

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday directed the BTTB officials to enhance the quality of telecommunications services in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was reviewing progress of the on-going projects and problems of the BTTB in the conference hall of T and T. Senior officials of Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) were present at the meeting.

Mohammad Nasim stressed the need for enhancing the work of China-funded telephone project which will provide 216,000 connections.

The minister said speedy implementation of this project is a must to bring all the districts under a digital network.

Mohammad Nasim observed that demand for the telephone is increasing in Dhaka city and BTTB should prepare itself to provide 12,000 more telephone sets to subscribers.

He also advised the BTTB official to pay more attention to the day to day complaints of subscribers.

SAIC meet begins tomorrow

The 14th meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) will begin in the city tomorrow, reports UNB.

Members of SAIC Governing Board from seven SAARC nations and representative from the SAARC Secretariat will participate in the three-day meeting.

The meeting will consider the proposed budget for the year 2000 and discuss matters relating to administration of SAIC and collaborative efforts in sharing information among the member countries.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Stadium Australia, the main venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, during her official visit to Australia yesterday. — PID photo

NSU seminar on transhipment today

North South University (NSU) will hold a seminar on Transhipment and its Impact on Bangladesh Economy today from 3 pm to 6 pm at IDB Bhawan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon in the city, says a press release.

Dr Salauddin Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Economics, NSU will be the keynote speaker in the seminar.

Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries will be present as the chief guest while Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqui, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU will preside over the seminar.

Jamaluddin Ahmed, ex-deputy prime minister and M A Kashem, Chairman Board of Governors, NSU Foundation will be present as special guests. Young Economist Forum (YEF) and Debating Club, of NSU are present at the meeting.

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JS body discusses ways to check smuggling

The parliamentary standing committee on Home Ministry yesterday stressed the need for greater vigil by BDR in checking smuggling across the border, reports UNB.

The meeting also discussed difficulties, especially communication problem, in checking smuggling. It called for procuring modern equipment to contain drug smuggling effectively.

While reviewing the performance of Fire Service and Civil Defence, the meeting stressed the need for raising the manpower, training of frogmen, procurement of ambulance and fire fighting vehicles and equipment.

Presided over by committee chairman Mohammad Rahmat Ali, the meeting was attended by Post & Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abdus Shahid, SM Mustafa Rashidi, Suja, Jinnat Hossain and Khandokar Dewar Hossain.

FM greets Megawati

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has congratulated Megawati Sukarnoputri on her election as Vice President of Indonesia, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, Samad Azad said the hands of the newly elected President Abdurrahman Wahid would further be strengthened to have a stable and democratic government in Indonesia upon election of Megawati as Vice President.

"We are all the more delighted to recall in this connection that the people of Indonesia have elected the daughter of Bung Karno, the nation's founding father, as the Vice President," said the Foreign Minister.

He hoped that the existing brotherly relation with Indonesia would consolidate further during the tenure of this new team of the President and Vice President.

Road mishap One killed in Khulna, 15 hurt

KHULNA, Oct 22: A young woman was killed and 15 other people were injured in an accident at Angardia in Dumuria thana on Khulna-Satkhira road, reports UNB.

Police said the accident took place at about 10 am when a Khulna-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch.

The dead was identified as Rokeya Begum (24). The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Three of the injured, identified as Shah Alam, 40, Mizanur Rahman, 34, and Ashiqur Rahman, 28, were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Du-

DUJ condolence meeting Oct 26

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will hold a condolence meeting in memory of renowned journalists Hassan Sayeed and Mir Nurul Islam at the Jatiya Press Club at 11 am on October 26, a press release of the union said here, reports BSS.

DUJ general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan urged all journalists and admirers of the leading newsmen, who passed away recently, to join the meeting.

'Cultural aggression won't be tolerated'

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 22: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed today reiterated the government stand to allow free flow of information through satellite channels, but cautioned that no form of cultural aggression would be tolerated, reports UNB.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day "Prothom Uttarbanga Sangeet Sammelon" here. Some 250 vocalists from northern districts attended the conference hosted by Sargam Sangskritik Samprada.

Prof Sayeed said harmful alien culture crept into the indigenous culture through the wave of sky communications during the autocratic and military regimes. The reactionary and communal forces, he said, added zest to the harmful culture and created anarchy and terrorism.

The state minister, however, said we want to uphold the age-old cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

Fundamentalists, counter-revolutionaries and evil forces are fueling infiltration of harmful culture and creating anarchy in the country, he said and called upon all to join hands to resist aggression of the harmful culture.

Cultural groups have to play a pivotal role in this campaign, he added. President of Sargam Sangskritik Samprada, Nripendra Nath Kumar presided over the inaugural session.

Abdul Latif Mirza, MP, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui of Bangladesh Television (BTV), Chairman of Sirajganj pourashava Golam Kibria, Deputy Commissioner of the district Imran Saiful Islam and general secretary of Sirajganj district Awami League Abu Yusuf, among others, address the session.

Nasim to visit Faridpur tomorrow

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim will visit Faridpur on Sunday, official sources said.

During the visit, he will exchange views on law and order situation with the district administration and police officers of Faridpur, Sharifpur, Madaripur and Rajbari districts. He will also address a public rally at Sadarpur thana headquarter.

Army recovers smuggled rice in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Oct 22: Army personnel recovered 300 bags of rice from Reservemukhi area of Kaptai lake last night, reports BSS.

During the visit, he will exchange views on law and order situation with the district administration and police officers of Faridpur, Sharifpur, Madaripur and Rajbari districts. He will also address a public rally at Sadarpur thana headquarter.

The rice was allegedly smuggled from Zakkhabazar godown in Zurakhari thana. Army detained two mechanised boats loaded with the rice bags and arrested two tribals on board the rivercraft.

The recovered rice, detained boats and smugglers were handed over to Zurakhari thana police for legal action.

The Long Wait screened

GAZIPUR, Oct 22: A documentary drama on the life and works of noted sculptor of the country, Novera Ahmed, was screened at the Goethe Institut last evening, reports BSS.

Members of Bangladesh Short Film Forum N Rashed Chowdhury made the drama to present the versatile talent of the artist, who was in self exile for long.

Police recovered body and sent it to the morgue of Gazipur General hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with Tongi police station in this connection.

DU Paribesh Parisad meet soon

By DU Correspondent

The Paribesh Parisad of Dhaka University will hold a meeting in the next few days to review overall campus situation.

The meeting will discuss the recent untoward incidents that took place on the campus following the authorities' decision to hold examinations during the strike on October 13 and 14.

Sources said that the DU authorities would ask the student leaders to keep the course final examinations outside the review of strike.

Date of the meeting will be fixed soon, sources said.

University officials and leaders of various student organisations are the members of the Paribesh Parishad.

NAP nat'l committee

A 51-member national committee of National Awami Party (NAP) has been formed with Begum Alema Khatun Bhassani and Shamsul Arefin Khan as its President and General Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

The committee was formed after a series of meetings of the party.

Held in the city, the meeting began on October 15 and ended yesterday.

German team calls on Speaker

The visiting German parliamentary delegation made a courtesy call on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his residence yesterday, reports UNB.

Fundamentalists, counter-revolutionaries and evil forces are fueling infiltration of harmful culture and creating anarchy in the country, he said and called upon all to join hands to resist aggression of the harmful culture.

He stressed the need for increased cooperation between Germany and Bangladesh.

The delegation assured the Speaker of continued assistance to Bangladesh in all sectors. The delegation members described their visit as fruitful.

Earlier, the delegation visited Bangabandhu Museum and paid tribute to the Father of the Nation.

German MPs conclude visit

The five-member German Parliamentary delegation led by Brigitte Adler, MP left the city yesterday at the end of its six-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The delegation during the visit praised the development of democracy in Bangladesh, studied the situation of human rights and was impressed by the resourcefulness of its people, a German Embassy press release said.

The German Lawmakers recognised the challenges ahead in poverty alleviation, infrastructural development and a safe water supply in Bangladesh.

They encouraged their Bangladeshi colleagues to make active use of parliament as a forum of fair and open discussion.

The German delegation called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, leader of the opposition Begum Khaleda Zia.

The other members of the delegation were: Prof Schuchardt, Holzhueter, Oertel and Letzgus.

Construction worker killed in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Oct 22: A construction worker was killed in a spinning mill at Tongi municipality area here today, reports BSS.

Police said one Julhas Miah, 26, fell from the second floor of an under construction building inside the Ismail spinning mill area and died on the spot.

Police recovered body and sent it to the morgue of Gazipur General hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with Tongi police station in this connection.

BCL central body completes tenure with only half of posts appointed

By Abul Kalam Azad

The central committee of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), with 54 of its 101 posts still vacant, has completed its one-year tenure on Thursday.

This has resulted in a widespread frustration among the BCL leaders who had aspired for the coveted posts in the organisation's top body.

The BCL constitution provides for a new committee to be organised before the existing one expires. But there was no move as of yesterday to form a new central committee.

According to BCL sources, the out-going central committee ran its one-year