



Artistes of Chhayanaut perform a dance number at a cultural function at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The function was organised to raise funds for the treatment of Purabi, a student of Chhayanaut.

'Ensure accountability of pvt universities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr M Asaduzzaman has stressed the need for ensuring accountability of private universities.

"Because of being private institution, private universities cannot act at will, rather they have to be accountable for their activities to people," said the chairman while speaking at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion was organised by The University Campus, an organisation for the development of education and youth, in the city.

Asaduzzaman said the real picture of the country's private universities has been reflected in the recent UGC report which gave them a chance to rectify themselves.

The investigation was conducted in an impartial manner where all exiting factors of private universities were given priority properly, he claimed.

"The investigation team even found a private university without any student while another having six departments with only two teachers," Asaduzzaman said.

On the other hand, authorities of the private universities have criticised the UGC for not revealing the complete version of the report.

"The UGC could inform the private universities concerned specifically about their faults," said Dr Emajuddin Ahmed, president of the Council of Vice-chancellors of Private Universities of Bangladesh.

He laid emphasis on spreading the private universities at rural level saying, "Of the total 53 private universities, 41 are located in the capital city which cannot be a positive approach to education."

M Ataur Rahman, chairman of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh, stressed the need for narrowing the gap between the private and public universities through frequent dialogues.

Trusty of Gano Bishwabidyalay Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, Vice-chancellors of International Islamic University of Chittagong Professor AKM Zillur Rahman and University of Asia Pacific Dr MR Kabir and Treasurer of Darul Ihsan University Rashid Khan also spoke.

Guard found dead inside bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A guard was found dead inside the Mohakhali branch office of the Islami Bank in the city yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Shah Mohammad Abdul Awal, 50. The bank officials suspected that he committed suicide as nothing went missing from the bank.

Bank officials came to the office at 8:00am yesterday but found the gate closed from inside. They soon informed the police who recovered the body from inside the bank. The body with a cut mark in the neck was found lying on the floor. A blade was also found near the body.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

M Zafarullah, vice-president of the Bank, filed an UD (unnatural

death) case with Gulshan Police Station, stating that nothing went missing from the bank, said police.

Awal's relatives have no idea about the reason behind the suicide. "He had no reason to commit suicide so far as we know," said his nephew Mozammel.



Asma Kibria, wife of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, speaks at a press conference at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday. On her left is her son Reza Kibria and on her right is daughter Nazli Kibria.

World Water Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Water Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world.

The day also kicks off 'International Decade for Action: Water for Life' which is an international drive to bring safe water and basic sanitation into homes and schools worldwide, says a press release.

In a message on the occasion, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on world leaders to invest more in the water and sanitation sector in order to achieve water-related goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In his message, Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing said diarrhoeal disease remains a major killer, especially for minor children resulting in over 100,000 preventable

deaths per year in the country.

"Unicef will strongly support partners, including governments, civil society organisations and communities to achieve safe water supply and basic sanitation in homes and schools, and promote hygiene awareness to protect the poorest children in Bangladesh," he added.

Elaborate programmes have

been taken up to observe the day.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh organises a symposium titled 'River for life' at the Cirdap Auditorium at 5.30pm.

Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage organises a seminar on 'Water and life in Bangladesh' at the Buet Council Bhaban at 3.00pm.

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