

Govt to fill up all vacant posts in colleges during its tenure: Farruk

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk said here yesterday the present government was committed to ensure quality education by improving quality of teachers.

He said that during its tenure the government would fill up all vacant posts in government colleges for the same purpose.

He was speaking to newly-appointed lecturers under 24th BCS education cadre on their joining at NAEM auditorium. All the 2,339 selected lecturers were asked to immediately join their first postings in different government colleges of the country.

Congratulating the new lecturers of 24th BCS batch, he said our country was in need of skilled, honest, dutiful and committed teachers to develop the quality of our education sector.

# Dowry prevalence on rise in rural areas: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prevalence of dowry has increased in rural areas across the country, according to a base-line survey of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast).

One of the reason for the growing trend of dowry is that the middle class people consider it a gift from the bride's family, said the report of the survey conducted under a project titled 'Gender, Knowledge, Networking and Human Rights Intervention in Bangladesh'.

The survey highlighted the issues of marriage and dowry, violence against women, legal awareness, social values and women's rights.

A total of 3,600 men and women at 120 villages in 12 districts were interviewed during the survey conducted in 2003.

Eighty percent of male respondents said they think that the main concerns of women are her basic needs while 16 percent male respondents identified repression as the main problem facing the women.

These respondents even do not consider dowry a menace while 17 percent of female respondents said dowry is totally responsible for the violence against the women.

Around 42 percent of women respondents are in favour of Shalish or village arbitration, whereas 20 percent women said the Shalish system could not provide justice. Most of the women said the rapists almost go unpunished.

Team leader of the Blast project Mirza M Hasan presented the survey report at a programme at Biam auditorium in the city

yesterday.

Executive Director of Blast Dr Shamsul Bari moderated the programme.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dr Rowshan Jahan, Dr Meghna Guha Thakurata of Dhaka University, Hamida Hossain of Ain o Shalish Kendra, Coordinator of the project Uma Chowdhury were also present.

The scenario of repression of women has not changed much since 1980's although awareness about women's rights has been raised through education and different social activities, said Dr Rowshan Jahan.

Traditional patriarchal mentality is mainly responsible for such situation, she added.

## Teletalk rejects ATOB proposal

BDNEWS, dhaka

The Teletalk has outright rejected a proposal of the Association of Telecom Operators, Bangladesh (ATOB) to deposit a fixed amount as guarantee for interconnectivity.

Teletalk Managing Director M Obaidullah yesterday told the news agency that the ATOB proposal is not acceptable. "Teletalk will sit with the four private mobile operators individually in this regard and BTTC has already been informed about it," he added.

As there are several cases against the BTTB in regard to Teletalk, private mobile operators categorically said Teletalk itself has to bear the liabilities if its operation faces an abrupt end.

The sources said GrameenPhone, AKTEL, CityCell and Banglalink demanded an assurance of bearing the liabilities from the Teletalk.

"Currently, the Teletalk has 67,000 subscribers and another 8,000 out of the total 50,000 lottery winners are going to be added soon. There is no chance of ceasing its operation," he said.

The customers of the BTTB mobile phone will draw their SIMs paying Tk 2,700, including Tk 900 as duty from today.

The lottery winners of BTTB mobile phone, who drew their SIMs until yesterday paying Tk 3,000, including Tk 1,200 as duty, will get back the extra Tk 300 as refill, sources added.

According to the Teletalk official, out of its total subscribers, 42,000 SIMs have already been distributed among the lottery winners.

The distribution of Teletalk SIMs among the remaining lottery winners will continue until July 7.



A family of four makes its way cautiously along the Old Airport Road in the city yesterday as intermittent rains make the road slippery.

PHOTO: STAR

## PBCP cadre murdered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday recovered the body of an operative of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Arhonghata bypass road in Khulna city.

The dead body was identified as Azizul Huq alias Aijja, 38.

Police said that the extremist was wanted in seven criminal cases, including murders and robberies. He was son of Shamsur Rahman alias Shamsu Shaikh of Kartikkul under Daulatpur thana.

He was shot in his head and chest. The murder was a sequel to intra-party rivalry, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at a Tree Fair that began at Dhupkhola ground in the old part of the city yesterday. The Dhaka City Corporation organised the fair.

## KARNAPHULI PROJECT JBIC submits report to Ctg Wasa today

BDNEWS, Chittagong

The Japanese donor agency Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) will submit its preliminary report on Kamaphuli water supply project to the Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) today.

NJS, commissioned for the initial work on the project, will submit the report on behalf of JBIC.

A workshop will be held on the occasion at Chittagong Wasa today. The report will be based on the initial work done by Japanese organisation NJS since April on the godown area at Rangunia. The report will throw light on the technical aspects, budget and land requirements for the project.

Chittagong Wasa engineer AK Nazrul Haque said technical expert of NJS Ajuhata arrived in Chittagong on June 29 prior to the submission of the report.

A representative of the water supply division of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) and the high officials of Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Wasa will also attend the workshop.

Chittagong Wasa now produces 17 crore litres of water, only 30 percent of the demand.

## Indian diplomat leaves Dhaka tomorrow

RR Dash, minister-in-charge of Economic & Commercial Wing at the Indian High Commission, will leave Dhaka for Delhi tomorrow to join his new assignment as the joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, says a press release.

He has been serving at the Indian embassy in Dhaka since September 2001.

During the past several years, Dash has made concerted efforts to strengthen the India-Bangladesh ties, especially in the domain of economic and commercial relations.