

Digital database system can reduce land disputes

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Computerised land management system can reduce the incidents of land disputes in the country and increase the revenue earning with regard to land tax, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

The traditional land management system is one of the main causes of social conflicts in society as 90 percent of the criminal and civil cases are related to land disputes, said LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as the chief guest.

He also stressed the need for land record database system to reduce such disputes.

The land ministry organised the seminar on 'Computer technology in land management system in

Bangladesh: Demra Revenue Circle (Pilot project-2005) at the Biam auditorium in the city, with Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hussain in the chair.

The first phase of the six-month pilot project on computerised land management system in Demra revenue circle was completed on June 30 this year.

Md Abdul Bari, deputy commissioner of Dhaka district, presented a keynote paper on the experiences and future plan based on the Demra pilot project.

State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar said the ministry will expand the programme across the country gradually as it successfully implemented the Demra project.

Deputy Minister for Land Rulul Quddus Talukder Dulu called for

reforms of the land laws.

"Sub-registrars and settlement officers are the most corrupt officials and they handle all the procedures regarding land registration. But we cannot take action against them as they work under the law ministry," Dulu said.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Brac University, warned that digital land record system is not 100 percent foolproof and if people manipulate the records, it would be very difficult to trace it.

Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, executive director of the Brac, said a private company should be entrusted with the task of digital record system for its quick implementation.

NU degree exam results published

37.46pc pass in 2-year degree (pass) exams, 48.27pc in 3-year degree (pass)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National University (NU) yesterday published the results of the degree pass, subsidiary and certificate examinations of the year 2004.

The pass percentage of the two-year degree (pass) is 37.46 and three-year degree (pass) is 48.27.

A total of 18,851 examinees appeared at the two-year degree (pass) examinations. Of the 7,061 successful candidates, 68 secured first class, 3,192 second class and 3,715 third class.

Out of 38,528 examinees who appeared at the three-year degree (pass) examinations, 476 secured first class, 12,979 second class and 3,856 third class.

NU Vice-chancellor Dr Aftab Ahmed officially announced the results at a press conference at the NU conference room in Gazipur where other NU officials were present.

The pass percentage in Bachelor of Arts (BA) is 45.67, Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) is 42.37, Bachelor of Science (BSc) 39.26, Bachelor of Commerce (B Com) 46.88, Bachelor of Music (B Music) 47.83, Bachelor of Sports (B Sports) 85.71 and certificate course 45.00.

Md Moshui Alam of Government B L College, Khulna stood first in the combined merit list of two-year degree course, Toha Mohammad Modassir, AMJM Sultan Mahmood and Muhammad Kamrul Islam, all from Chittagong Government College, combinedly secured the second position while Muhammad Jubayer Bin Rashid of Lalmonirhat Government College secured the third position.

They also secured first, second and third positions in the BA examinations.

Mohammad Nooruzzaman of Chittagong Government College secured the first position in the BSS examinations while Anjuman Abbasi of Government Bangla College, Dhaka and Md Didarul Islam of Fulbaria College, Mymensingh secured the second and third positions.

Md Yakub Ali of Dhaka College stood first in BSc while Mosammat Gulnazar of Sherpur College, Bogra and Saiful Islam of Fatikhori College secured second and third positions.

Mohammad Nasir Uddin of Chandpur Government College stood first in the combined merit list of the three-year BSC examinations, ANM Anwaruzzaman of Shah Abdur Rouf College, Pirganj and

Mohammad Moniruzzaman Monir of Syed Abul Hossain College, Madaripur, secured second and third positions.

Md Jamal Khan of Lalmia City College, Gopalganj secured the first position in the BA examinations while Md Shaheenuzzaman of Muktioddha College, Jessore and Md Morshedul Alam of Haji Abul Malek Islamia College, Khulna secured second and third positions.

Moshammat Ayesha Begum of Kazi Mohammad Shafiqul Islam College secured first position in the BSS examinations while Lipika Sarkar of Haji Keyamuddin Memorial Mohila College and Maftuja of Sher-e-Bangla Degree College, Shekarpur secured second and third positions.

Mohammad Tawhid Hassan of Dhaka City College secured the first position in the B Com examinations while Ayesha Rahman and Suraiya Jerin, both from Dhaka City College stood second and third positions.

Tap indigenous knowledge of farmers to protect biodiversity

Speakers say at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous knowledge of farmers should be incorporated into the knowledge base of agricultural researchers to ensure conservation of biodiversity, experts at a national workshop said yesterday.

The knowledge of researchers should be disseminated at the grassroots level and at the same time the indigenous knowledge of farmers should not be ignored in order to preserve the seeds and genetic resources, they said.

The Unnayan Bikalper Nitinirdharoni Gobeshona (Policy Research for Development Alternatives) organised the national workshop on 'In-Situ

Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity in Bangladesh' at the WVA auditorium in the city.

The experts said multi-cropping or mixed cropping, inter-cropping, crop rotation and agro-forestry may be used to preserve seeds and produce new seeds.

They called on the government to consult with the farmers while framing any policy for the agriculture sector.

They also called for preserving the seeds and genetic resources at the household and community level.

The researchers should work harmoniously and share knowledge with the farmers to grow more crops and conserve biodiversity, said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir,

state minister for agriculture as the chief guest.

"The developing countries, including Bangladesh, are technologically poor but rich in genetic resources while the developed countries are technologically rich but poor in genetic diversity," said Dr Kazi M Badruddoza, emeritus scientist of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and chairman of NCPGR.

Farhad Mazhar, project director of Ubiniq, said, "We had over 16,500 types of rice seeds in the past, but now we have only 3,500 types of seeds."

The experts also called for enforcing the Farmers' Right Protection Act to protect the biodiversity of the country.



Voters wait in queue to cast their votes at Pagla Dakbunglo Centre in Sunamganj by-election yesterday

PHOTO: STAR

FAZILATUNNESA HALL House tutors blame it on students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten house tutors of Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday said they resigned from their posts for being misbehaved by the female students of the hall on July 18.

In a joint statement, they said it was not correct that the vice-chancellor had asked them to continue their job, and no one was asked to perform the duty of provost for seven days.

The house tutors said hall Provost Prof Nasrin Ahmed resigned on July 17, and as such the question of her resignation in the face of the students' demonstration does not arise.

They also refused the students' claim that 21 students were black-listed.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Shamima Nasrin Shahed, M Khadiza Begum, Gulsan Ara Begum, Dr Mahbuba Sultana, Nazmun Nahar, Taslima Khan, Dr Mahmuda Akter, Shima Zaman, Sharmin Haque and Mahfuza Khanam Jyoti.

Meanwhile, some 525 students of the hall have denied the allegation of their misbehaviour with the teachers.

In a statement, they said their teachers rather misbehaved with them regularly for last four years.

"We were being harassed and misbehaved by our house tutors regularly," said one of the 13 students who came to The Daily Star office yesterday.

They said the failure of the hall provost to meet their 13-point demand in four years led to her resignation.

Protest against assault on journo at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and activists of student and cultural organisations of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday formed a human chain on the campus to protest the Jatayatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) assault on journalist.

Organised under the banner of "Journalists and Cultural and Political Activists of Free Thought," the protestors demanded punishment of the JCD cadres involved in Sunday's incident. They formed the human chain at the foot of Amar Ekushey, a sculpture, at 11:00am and stayed there for 15 minutes.

A seminar titled "Terrorism on campus: Crisis and Way out" will be held today at 3:30pm at the university's Language Centre where teachers and students irrespective of party affiliation are expected to participate.

TENGRATILA BLOWOUT

Protesters want to protect Niko's interest

Says energy advisor

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman yesterday said those who demand cancellation of contract with Niko for Tengratila blowout do not want to serve national interest, rather want to protect the interest of Niko.

"If the agreement is scrapped, the government will not be able to do anything to determine the losses and realise the compensation. In that case country's money will be wasted in the name of compensation case," he said.

The energy advisor, also executive chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI), said this at a views exchange meeting of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

"The government has initiated the bid to protect the gas of Tengratila by extinguishing the fire and realise the compensation maintaining the contract with the Niko," he said.

The system loss of gas in Narayanganj, Fatulla and Chittagong is 34 per cent while the figure is half of that for other parts of the country. He said steps have been taken to punish corrupt officials in the sector and reduce the abnormal system loss.

Rahman said that action has been taken against the officials and employees of the areas where the system loss is too high. Vigilance teams have been working to find out the system loss.

Stern action will also be taken against the people who got illegal gas connections. He asked the DCCI office-bearers to take punitive measures against such dishonest entrepreneurs and businessmen.

He said the foreign investors are showing interest to invest in the power sector. "If the foreigners can do why not the local investors?" he said urging them to set up power plants at the mine mouth of the coal fields.

He said an Australian company has shown interest to establish a 50-megawatt power plant in Bhola with gas supply from Shahbajpur field.

DCCI President Sayeeful Islam presided.

Former DCCI president Nurul Absar, director Khandakar Abdus Salam and leaders Mosharraf Hossain, Suraiya Alam, Kamaluddin Ahmed, T Hossain and Mozammel Haq also spoke.

Meat seller hacked to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meat seller was hacked to death by the local hoodlums at Kafrul in the city yesterday over a trivial matter.

The dead was identified as Abdus Samad, 40, a meat seller at Rajani Super Market. His 18-year-old nephew Jafar Iqbal of the same profession was critically injured.

The incident occurred when Samad was talking to his fellow professionals at Moylapatti in Kachukhet.

The goons asked us to leave the place without any reason, said Jafar. One of the youths hacked me as I refused to oblige them, he said.

The goons stabbed Samad when he came to rescue Jafar. Samad was stabbed in his chest and stomach.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared Samad dead at 1:30pm. Jafar is undergoing treatment.

Kafrul police could not arrest any of the killers until filing of this report at 5:45pm.

Meanwhile, muggers stabbed a spices trader of Karwan Bazar and snatched away Tk 42,000 from him.

A gang of muggers stopped Mohammad Dulal at Nawabpur crossing when he was going to Shyampur from Karwan Bazar in a rickshaw and stabbed him in his hands. They took the money he was carrying to purchase spices and fled the scene.

Dulal was admitted to the DMCH.

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Dr Shafaque Shahrior Ahmed (Ruben), says a press release.

Dr Shafaque died on this day in 2001 in New Brookdale University Hospital.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Ahsania Mission Orphanage at Mirpur section-1 after Magrib prayers today.



York where he served at the Brookdale University Hospital.

Musical evening to raise funds for arsenic victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A musical evening is being held in the city this evening to raise funds for arsenic victims.

Famous Indian playback singer Udit Narayan will make a stage performance at the function organised by Blue Ice Entertainment Group at the Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton.

Udit Narayan, who is due to arrive in the city today for free performance, is now a special envoy in South Asia to raise awareness for the arsenicosis in the region.

The Event Management is by JPR Events and all proceeds from the cultural show will be donated to NGO Earth Identity Project for consultative clinic in Comilla.

Director General of Earth Identity Nasreen Karim, who has been working on arsenic problem in the country from the very beginning, would receive the fund for the arsenic victims.

The Earth Identity is working mainly in Chandpur, Faridpur and Noakhali regions, some of the worst arsenic affected areas of the country.

An estimated 65 million people are exposed to the arsenic contamination, and it is widely alleged that the scourge did not get adequate attention.

As part of the awareness campaign, Earth Identity has been in the forefront among a few other similar organisations doing charity missions in helping the arsenic victims.

"Our aim is to raise awareness not only among the media and policy makers but also among the people who are actually suffering from the silent disaster. We must ensure that they too have access to adequate information about the potential danger," said Nasreen while talking to media at a press conference yesterday.

Obituary

Hanifa Khatun, mother of Shamshad Ahsan, area manager-Bangladesh for Qatar Airways, passed away on July 19 at the age of 94, says a press release.

Her quilkhwani will be held at House No- 65 Road No-15/A (New), Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.



Noted actress Kobori Sarwar speaks at a press conference on the 'Wedding Festival' at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday. On her right is famous fashion designer Bibi Russell and on her left is freedom fighter Lubna Mariam.



Seminar

Karmojibi Nari Organises a seminar titled 'World Trade Discussion: Doha Development Programme and Bangladesh.' Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 9.30pm.

Discussion

Bangla Academy organises a discussion to mark the death anniversary of epic poet Kaikobad. Venue: Seminar Room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.

Poetry recital

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi organises a poetry recital session titled 'Megh Rodrer Khela.' Venue: Seminar Hall of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

Conference

The third national conference of Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote will be held. Venue: 36/3, Rankin Street, Wari. Time: 4.30pm.

Inauguration

The newly renovated Mohakhali Inter-district Bus Terminal will be inaugurated with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Minar. Time: 12.00 noon.

JSD discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal organises a discussion to mark the Col Taher Day. Venue: 65 Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Roundtable

The concluding session of a roundtable titled 'The Education of Architecture in Bangladesh' will be held. Venue: North South University, Kemal Ataturk Avenue. Time: 4.30pm.

Blue for Peace

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will observe Blue for Peace programme demanding the trial of the killers. Venue: In front of the National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00pm.

Duta meet

An urgent meeting of Dhaka University Teachers' Association will be held to discuss the situation of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall. Venue: Club Bhaban. Time: 5.00pm.

Rally

National Committee to Protect Gas-Oil Resources and Power-Port organises a rally demanding compensation from Niko and Unocal. Venue: Shaheed Minar, Tejgaon. Time: 5.00pm.

Wedding festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day wedding festival begins in the city today, aiming at promoting the local culture and local brand products and establishing a dowry-free society.

Organised by the Spectra Convention Centre, the festival will be held at its complex in Gulshan where a top model will play the role of a bride, 'Shraban Konnya'.

A total of 21 business organisations will take part in the festival and showcase their products such as wedding dress, jewellery and gift items and different services related to wedding, said the organisers at a press conference yesterday.

They called on all to help put an end to the dowry practice and use local products instead of foreign brands.

"People should feel proud to build relations with the families of freedom fighters through marriage, which is another important message of the festival," said freedom fighter Lubna Mariam.

Noted actress Kobori Sarwar, internationally famous model Bibi Russel, magician Bipasha Aich and Shaon Mahmud, daughter of martyred freedom fighter Alaf Mahmud, and Chief Executive Officer of Spectra Group Major (ret'd) MH Khan also spoke.

The festival is open for all without any entry ticket from 3:00pm to 10:00pm today and 10:00am to 10:00pm in the next two days.