

DU cancels tender for extension work of MBA bldg

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday cancelled tender for extension work of the five-storied MBA building of the Business Studies Faculty at a cost of Tk 6.57 crore after a construction firm made a written complaint to the authorities alleging that their tender papers were snatched.

Sources said a group of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, forced the construction firm to hand over the tender papers to them although the firm in their complaint said a group of unknown persons snatched away the papers.

The DU authorities at an emergency meeting with acting Vice-chancellor Prof Yusuf Haider in the chair took the decision after Mannan and Company Limited made the written complaint.

Talking to the journalists Prof Haider said, "We will call fresh tenders soon."

At least 20 JCD leaders being divided into four factions are trying to win the tender.

Three factions were roaming at the Registrar Building to bar different construction firms from buying tender forms.

They have also taken preparation to bar the firms from submitting the forms today, JCD sources said.

Tension has been running high among the JCD leaders fearing factional clash anytime over the issue.

JCD President Azizul Barea Helal has however told the journalists that no one of his party is involved in tender issue.

Criminal escapes from custody: 6 cops suspended

UNB, Shergur

Six policemen were suspended yesterday as a criminal managed to escape from their custody with handcuff.

Hafizur, 22, of Dubapur, Nalitabari, was arrested on Sunday in connection with a case. When produced before the court yesterday the magistrate sent him to jail. But he managed to flee from police custody on way to jail.

Debate competition begins in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day debate competition titled "Prothom Alo Alokit Chhattagram - Star Ship-Natua Juktir Utshab '05" began yesterday at the Chittagong Shilpakala Academy.

Professor Dr Moniruzzaman of Bengali Department, Chittagong University, inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

After the first round, Chittagong Government Girls High School and Cantonment Public School and College moved to the semi-final rounds. Nusrat Shobnam and Mohammed Ekram Shah Fafim were adjudged the best debaters.

Partho Sanjoy, vice chairman of the National Debate Federation, chaired the opening session while Dr Mohammed Kamal Hossain of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science (IFES) and Mujib Rahman, lecturer of Chittagong City College, presided over the debate sessions.

Book publication ceremony held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled "Ekjon Shikhhoker Kothokatha" was held yesterday at National Press Club in the city.

The book, written by Eminent Teacher Sheikh Amanullah, chairman of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA), is a compilation of the experiences of a veteran teacher who taught for five decades.

The book deals with education, rights of teachers, politics, liberation war and different aspects of society and culture, the speakers said.

Prominent Writer Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury unveiled the cover of the book as chief guest.

He said the book is interesting to read with the mixture of humour and drama. It is also rich in terms of literature.

A former student of Sheik Amanullah and now Government Secretary SM Jahirul Islam reminisced some incidents with his teacher.

Language Veteran Abdul Matin, BFTA President Md. Azizul Islam and Secretary General Kazi Faruk Ahmed also spoke at the function.



Two of four Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members who were sentenced to five years' imprisonment for robbing a cattle trader of Tk 7.8 lakh were being taken to jail yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Explain progress of probe into Aug 17 blasts

Demand BDB, Oikya Mancha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Jatiya Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called on the government to explain the progress of the investigation into August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country.

Although 12 days have passed after the incident, the prime minister did not say anything about what kind of steps the government is going to take against the perpetrators of the bomb attacks, said Badruddoza at a protest rally at Muktangan in the city.

Protesting the synchronised bombings, the BDB and Oikya Mancha jointly took out a procession after the rally. Hundreds of supporters and people from all

walks of life joined the procession led by Dr Kamal and Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Speaking at the rally, Dr Kamal said the people are now passing their days in a sense of insecurity due to frequent bomb attacks and they want to get rid of this situation.

He called on the government to conduct impartial investigations into all bomb and grenade attacks to prevent the repeat of such incidents.

The people want security of their life and property and the government must ensure that, said Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum.

He called on the government to take effective steps to stop bomb attacks and bring the attackers to justice.

BDB chief Badruddoza Chowdhury said the nation is now passing through a severe crisis as

the BNP-led four-party alliance has failed in all fronts.

"Those who are carrying out bomb and grenade attacks across the country want to destroy our democracy and achievement of the liberation war," said the former president.

Demanding explanation from the government, he said, "The ministers are giving contradictory statement regarding the August 17 bomb attacks, but the prime minister did not say anything, which has frustrated the nation."

The BDB chief also urged the government to initiate a dialogue with major political parties to tackle the current situation.

BDB leaders Major (Retd.) Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury and Oikya Mancha leaders Mostafa Mohsin Montu and Abdur Rouf also spoke.

Anti-terrorism convention begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day anti-terrorism convention begins in the city today to reach a national consensus for combating terrorism.

The inaugural ceremony of the convention titled 'Unity Against Terrorism Convention 2005, Dhaka' will be held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium at 10:00am.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will deliver a speech on behalf of the families of the victims of terrorism.

Democratic and non-communal political parties, members of the civil society and representatives of different professional groups will join the convention.

No leaders from the Jamaat-e-Islami have been invited.

At total of six seminars will be held during the convention at the Engineers' Institute and the Diploma Engineers' Institute.

On the first day, three seminars titled 'Terrorism: An environment without justice', 'State-sponsored terrorism versus rule of law' and 'Minorities of Bangladesh: Intolerance and denial of the rights' will be held.

The first seminar will be held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium, while the rest two at Diploma Engineers' auditorium.

Another three seminars titled 'Extremism and militancy: Remedies', 'Repression of women' and 'A blow to free thinking' will be held tomorrow.

The first seminar will be held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium, while the rest two at Diploma Engineers' auditorium.

The closing session will be held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium at 3:00pm.

AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS Forces beyond borders responsible: Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad said foreign forces might have sponsored the August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country.

"Given the magnitude of the incident, it seems to me forces beyond the borders are responsible for the bombings," he said and proposed a national dialogue for overcoming the crisis.

He was speaking at a press briefing at the party office at Banani in the city yesterday after his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Ershad, who returned home Sunday morning after his 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia, briefed the newsmen about his trip and the current situation of the country in the wake of the orchestrated bomb blasts that killed three people and injured many.

He said the August 17 country-wide bombing spree was not a conspiracy against the government rather against the country and the nation as a whole.

The ex-military ruler said there is an ongoing conspiracy to paint Bangladesh as a terrorist, failed and dysfunctional state—and the bombings in all but one district are part of that blueprint.

He said that following the incident the country is suffering economically, people, including students, are facing problems in acquiring visas and manpower export is affected significantly.

Due to the August 17 bomb blasts, he said, the expatriates in different countries are denigrated, being subject to suspicion.

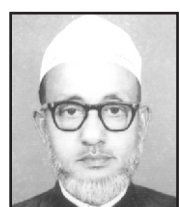
Death anniversary



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Majibur Rahman Talukder, a former Awami League lawmaker and chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Land, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at his house and different mosques and madrasas in Tangail today for salvation of the departed soul. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Prof Ahmad Husain



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Prof Ahmad Husain, former director of Islamic Academy (now Islamic Foundation Bangladesh), says a press release.

On the occasion, Khatme-e-Quran and milad mahfil will be held at Jame Masjid, Awalad Husain Market at Tejgaon in the city after Asr prayers today.

Ban Jamaat politics Demand shrine leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of various shrines yesterday demanded a ban on the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and removal of Jamaat ministers from the cabinet, alleging that its lawmakers Motiur Rahman Nizami and Delwar Hossain Saidee were the masterminds behind August 17 countrywide bomb blasts.

"The ruling BNP must expel Jamaat from politics to save its credibility," said Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari, chairman of the Bangladesh Dargah-Mazar (shrine) Federation, at a public rally at Muktangan in the city.

"We want to help the government nab the perpetrators of the August 17 bomb blasts," he added.

He said that the Pirs, Mashayekhs and Alems (Islamic leaders and scholars) would withdraw their support from the BNP in the next general election, as "We cannot associate ourselves with those patronising organisations like Jamaat and Ahle Hadith."

"The next parliament will be dominated by the majority of Alem and Mashayekhs," said Syed

Habibul Bashar Maizbhandari, the Pir of Maizbhandari Darbar Sharif.

The BNP is losing its political face everyday because of its association with the Jamaat-e-Islami, said Shah Noor-e-Belal, the Pir of Sureswar Darbar Sharif, adding that Jamaat has forced them to take to the streets.

"Though the government has not yet given any explanation regarding the August 17 bomb blast, it is clear to the people who carried out the heinous act," he said.

The federation leaders said they would announce tougher programmes by the end of November.

Munshi Abdul Latif, Mufti Shamsuddoha Bari, Syed Golam Musabbir Hossaini Chishti and Shah Sufi Ahsanuzzaman also spoke at the rally attended by hundreds of followers from different shrines in the country.

Secretary General of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Major (Retd.) Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury MP expressed solidarity with the demands and movement of the shrine leaders and their followers.

Ban on telecast of djuice, Flexiload ads

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has banned the telecast of advertisements of djuice, a special package of the GrameenPhone, and Flexiload, a flexible service to recharge GP pre-paid accounts.

The Ministry of Information in a letter to all the three private satellite television channels on August 23 directed them not to air any advertisement of djuice and Flexiload, saying the words and gestures used in the ads would encourage the young generation to resort to immoral activities.

A top official of the ministry said several meetings were held at the highest level of the government before issuing the letter.

The letter said the languages and gestures used in the ads are not consistent with the culture and values of the country.

A senior official of the ministry said the government is also planning to ban similar ads of the GP on billboards and in newspapers.

A GP official said the company has invested about Tk 10 crore in djuice TV ads, produced by the Bitopi advertising agency.

The marketing departments of the three satellite televisions — ntv, Channel-i and ATN Bangla — admitted that they have received the letter from the ministry, but refused to give further details.



Bangladesh Dargah-Mazar (shrine) Federation Chairman Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari speaks at a public meeting at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Policy soon to monitor curricula of English schools

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk yesterday asked the English-medium schools to prepare their curricula in the light of local culture, tradition and values.

He said the government has been working to frame a policy to monitor the curricula and the financial transparency of around 700 English-medium schools in the country.

The minister was addressing

the inaugural function of an international conference on 'UK Education Customer Support and Shared Goals, organised by the UK-based Education Provider Edexcel International at a city hotel.

Dr Farruk presented an article titled 'Scope for UK Academic and Vocational Education in Bangladesh' at the conference, said an official handout.

The minister said it is the need of time to improve the quality of the technical and vocational education system to the global level and build efficient human resources. It would not be easy to compete in the competitive world without acquiring a strong foundation of English at the secondary level, he added.

Dr. Farruk said the government has taken initiatives to synchronise the education system with the demand of the labour market to alleviate poverty and develop human resources. So, steps have been taken to update the examination system and introduce a uniform education system in the country.

He called upon the international organisations to provide necessary supports for the development of curricula of prospective and market-oriented subjects.

Global Operation Manager of Edexcel Rick Firth, South-Asia Regional Director Nick Sansome, Director of British Council in Bangladesh Dr June Rollison and Dr Mustaq Chowdhury of BRAC also addressed the conference.



Children of Mukta Khabar, a programme of ETV, took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the third anniversary of the closure of the transmission of the private TV channel.

PHOTO: STAR



Rise in day temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.1	28.2	69	72
Chittagong	32.0	25.5	86	77
Rajshahi	36.0	27.3	74	76
Khulna	34.6	27.0	87	64
Barisal	35.2	25.7	88	86
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	91	79
Cox's Bazar	31.4	25.0	82	92

DHAKA TODAY

PM Gold Medal award

'Prime Minister Gold Medal' awarding ceremony will be held with Prime Minister Khaleida Zia as chief guest. Venue: Conference Centre, PM office. Time: 12:30pm.

Memorial meeting

Shaheed Alfai Mahmud Foundation organises a memorial meeting to mark the death anniversary of composer Alfai Mahmud, famous for composing the music 'amar bhairer rokte rangano ekusse february'. Venue: Muktiyuddha museum. Time: 5:00pm.

Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films made by Japanese animation filmmaker 'Princess Mononoke' and 'My neighbour Totoro'. Venue: The Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00pm and 7:30pm.

Rally

Participatory Development Action Program will hold a rally demanding water and sewerage system in Mirpur area. Venue: Section 11 bus stop, Mirpur. Time: 4:00pm.

Children's programme

British Council organises an environmental programme for children titled 'Doctor Plant'. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller

Room. Time: 10:00am.

AGM

Panchdash BCS Forum will hold Annual General Meeting. Venue: 10:00am.

Painting competition

Bangladesh Shishu Sangathan Oikyajot organises painting competition, discussion meeting and prize giving ceremony for children. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

WTO Labour Forum will hold a discussion ahead of 'WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference, December 2005'. Venue: Nagorik Uddog office, Lalmitia. Time: 5:00pm.

Launching ceremony

Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre organises a launching ceremony of two booklets titled 'Inamura no hi' to create awareness on tsunami among the people of the coastal belt of Bangladesh. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Tophkhana Road. Time: 11:00am.

Training workshop

A two-day training workshop on 'Gender and Development' will start. Venue: ITC, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre.

BNP programmes to observe founding anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the 27th founding anniversary of the party across the country.

A three-day central programme will include hoisting of party flag atop all party offices in the morning and placing of wreaths at the mazar of former president Zairur Rahman at 11:00 am on September 1.

A discussion meeting will be held at Mohanagar Natyamanach at 4:00pm on the day. A photo exhibition will be organised at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on September 2.

Besides, a colourful rally will be brought out from in front of the BNP central office at 3:00pm on September 3.

Party's district and thana units will organise similar programmes on the occasion.

The BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon leaders and activists of the party and its front organisations to make the founding anniversary programme a success.

KEPZ licensing deferred again

FROM PAGE 16 saying there is no valid reason behind it, the sources added.

With Prime Minister Khaleida Zia in the chair, the PEZP held its meeting yesterday — after a gap of 28 months — to consider awarding the licence, which is hindering the launch of KEPZ operation.

The KEPZ expects to draw an estimated \$1 billion investment and set up 500 industrial units.

Meeting sources said yesterday's meeting formed another committee to amend some rules and by-rules related to the Private EPZ Act, 1996. An earlier PEPZ committee in 2003, however, ruled out the need for amending any rules or by-rules.

"The meeting was inconclusive, but the government is moving in a positive direction," a meeting source said, adding, in the next one month the PEPZ expects some clarifications from the KEPZ and there will be 'negotiations' on land related issues.

The last meeting of the PEPZ board held on April 10, 2003 had formed a committee headed by the

principal secretary to the prime minister to amend the Act in line with the laws of the land.

The meeting decided that after the amendment, the government would consider awarding licence to the KEPZ.

The Principal Secretary Committee on July 17, 2003 filed its report saying there was no need to amend the Act as it did not contradict with existing laws.

Besides, the government already gave licence to a second private EPZ — the Rangunia EPZ — in December 2000 under the same Act. Therefore, amending the law would create new legal complications.

The committee had recommended, "in the interest of foreign investment and to protect the image of the country, the government may award the licence to the KEPZ."

The KEPZ spent about Tk 100 crore for the land purchase and infrastructure development. Youngone is present in Bangladesh from 1978 and it became a multinational giant based on its growth in this

country.

However, some Chittagong-based ruling party lawmakers and their friends are eyeing the KEPZ land since it was developed. They sent anonymous letters to the prime minister in early 2002 posing as "local people", saying this land was given to the KEPZ through bribery.

The KEPZ land falls under the police stations of Anwara, Patia and Bandar.

A retired government official, who was involved in the land acquisition process in 2001-2002, said, "Most part of this land was unused and no part was used for agricultural purpose."

"Nobody took interest in it before. It's a poor region. Now that land price has gone up and an EPZ is set to go there, some influential people just want a piece of the cake," said the official hailing from Anwara.