

DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES 2007 'Govt support needed to promote DNA technology'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the DNA technology has become an all-important tool in criminal investigation in many countries, the head of the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory yesterday stressed the need for the government's financial commitment to bring the technology within the reach of common people.

"Bangladesh is still lagging behind many countries in terms of the use of DNA technology," National Technical Adviser to the laboratory Prof Sharif Akteruzzaman told reporters after delivering a lecture on 'DNA Technology in Criminal Investigation' at the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium in the city.

Although the DNA profiling was introduced in many countries over two decades ago, Bangladesh has introduced it last year, he said.

"We need to make concerted and sincere efforts to close the gap between the developed countries and our country with regard to the use of DNA technology," he observed.

The lecture was the first of a series of Dean's Lecture 2007 organised jointly by the faculty of biological sciences, Dhaka University, and The Daily Star, with an aim to popularise modern biological sciences as 'the science of the 21st century' in mother language.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz attended the programme as the chief guest while Editor and

Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam was present as special guest.

Dean of the faculty of biological sciences Prof M Anwar Hossain delivered the welcome speech.

In his keynote speech, Prof Sharif elaborately focused on DNA technology in criminal investigation and its impacts.

He said DNA or Deoxyribonucleic Acid is the fundamental building block of an individual's entire genetic makeup. It is the hereditary blueprint passed on to children by their parents.

Prof Sharif said the key insight came from the discovery of a technique called DNA fingerprinting, first described by a British scientist Sir Alec Jeffreys in 1985.

A conventional fingerprint, though unique, can be changed by plastic surgery, but a DNA fingerprint, which can simply be called the genetic photograph of an individual, is the same for every cell of an individual and cannot be altered by any known treatment, he said.

By using modern molecular biological techniques, it is now possible to generate a DNA fingerprint of an individual from any trace of biological samples such as blood, hair, semen, saliva, tissue, bone and teeth in the laboratory in 24 hours, Prof Sharif said.

He said forensic DNA profiling usually involves comparing DNA evidence (i.e. DNA extracted from a biological sample left at a crime scene) with the suspect DNA (i.e. DNA extracted from the sample taken from the suspect).

The practical applications of DNA fingerprinting can help find out personal identification, which is particularly useful in resolving criminal cases like murder, rape, theft or burglary, he added.

Besides, DNA fingerprinting can also help resolve paternity and inheritance dispute through identifying parents or heirs of an individual. Identity of disaster victims can also be confirmed through this technology, Prof Sharif said.

Prof SMA Faiz called on the scientists to evolve newer technologies through research and practice of science.

He also said the teachers of Dhaka University are trying to take the country and its people ahead through research and development.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam stressed the need to introduce the students to modern sciences in Bangla, saying that practising science in mother language more and more will enhance the people's capacity to understand science easily and help expand the science education.

He called on teachers to carry out more researches on sciences and present them in simple language and interesting style.

He also suggested translating the stories of invention into Bangla.

Mahfuz Anam suggested organising talk show on television on different issues of science at least once a month. He also proposed observing a day as the 'National Science Day' to popularise science.

SIRAJDIKHAN ROBBERY

4 cops closed to Munshiganj Police Line

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Four policemen, who were captured by local villagers, were closed to Munshiganj Police Line yesterday for allegedly providing assistance to a robbery.

They were identified as Nayek Imraj Uddin and constables Rajon Sheikh, Manik Bare and Neptahur Chakma of Sirajdikan Shekhor Nagar police camp.

Sources said the villagers captured them at around 2:00am on Tuesday night at Goalkhali village under Sirajdikan upazila when the robbery was being committed at three houses there.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Sirajdikan Police Station rescued the four policemen on Wednesday morning after assuring the villagers that due investigation will be carried out against them.

Later the OC sent the four policemen to Munshiganj Police Line.

Afzal Hossain, police super of Munshiganj, said thorough investigation will be conducted to probe whether they were involved in any kind of wrongdoing.

He said they have already arrested a robber named Mukul in connection with the robbery.

"We are now searching for others who committed the robbery," Afzal added.

The family of Anupam Chandra Mandal, who was struck by the robbers, said his condition is still critical.

A case of robbery has been lodged with Sirajdikan Police Station in this connection.

46 cars, bikes stolen in two months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 46 cars and motorcycles were stolen in the last two months in the city while the law enforcing agencies have recovered 29 vehicles during this period.

Of the recovered, Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered 25 cars and motorcycles while the rest four was recovered by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Masudur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of DB police, said with a view to resisting carjacking in the city, two special units of DB led by him were formed on March 19.

He said whenever a car is stolen, police stations forward details of the car to the teams who in turn start searching for the stolen vehicles.

Since their formation, they have recovered eight motorbikes and 17 cars in the last two months, he added.

One crushed under wheels of train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

One person was crushed under the wheels of a Mymensingh-bound passenger train at about 11:00pm on Wednesday at Thakurkona Rail station under Netrakona Sadar upazila.

The victim identified as Sumon Chandra Biswas, 26, was crushed under the wheel of the train when he was crossing the rail line.

Sumon hailed from Kashobpur village under Kalmakanda upazila in Kushtia.

Taslima's art exhibition begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day exhibition of paintings by Taslima Akhter, a student of Vishwabharati University, India, begins in Dhaka today.

The exhibition will be held at Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, at 5:00pm.

Organised by Desh Ekti Sammilata Uchcharan and Focus Bangladesh, the exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 1:00pm and from 3:00pm to 8:00pm daily up to May 21.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Khulna and Khepupara.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.

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

PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the Dean's Lecture Series 2007, jointly organised by the faculty of biological sciences, Dhaka University, and The Daily Star at the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Prof Sharif Akteruzzaman, Prof SMA Faiz and Prof M Anwar Hossain.

Road accidents kill seven

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Chittagong, Patuakhali and Netrakona yesterday.

A correspondent from Comilla adds: At least three people were killed and 25 others injured, eight of them critically, in a road accident at Jagoruli area near Tajmohol hotel on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead identified as Md Rafiqul Haque Bhuiyan, 48, chairman of Kasba Pourashava in Brahmanbaria, Binoy Sarker, 29, marketing manager of APEX group in Barara upazila in Comilla and Md Shohel Ahmed, 24, son of Ashraf Hossain, bus supervisor of Matyul village in Demra under Dhaka.

Police said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound Volvo coach from Chittagong collided head-on with a cement-laden speeding truck at Jagoruli area at about 5:30am, leaving three people dead on the spot and 25 others injured.

Chittagong-bound microbuses from Dhaka also turned upside down on roadside when its driver tried to give side to the Volvo coach and the truck.

Of the injured, eight were sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in critical condition while 17 given first aid.

Comilla Sadar police recovered the bodies and sent them to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Earlier, one person was killed and four others were injured in a separate road accident at Digolow area on Comilla-Barara road at Baraura upazila.

The dead was identified as Mosharrif Hossain, 40, of Shashayia village of the upazila.

Police said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound goods-laden pickup van from Dhaka collided head-on with a passenger tempo, leaving Mosharrif dead on the spot.

Kutwali police sent the body to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The injured were admitted to upazila health complex.

Our CU correspondent adds: A truck helper was killed in a road



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Khulna and Khepupara.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:14am 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	34.2	26.3
Chittagong	32.5	25.3
Rajshahi	35.5	25.1
Khulna	35.3	23.0
Barisal	32.8	25.5
Sylhet	33.5	25.4
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.0

Giasuddin passed away on April 8. He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela will hold a discussion on the occasion of the



PHOTO: PID

South Korean Ambassador Park Suk-Bum calls on Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office yesterday.

Aga Khan council team calls on CA

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Bangladesh yesterday called on Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed and apprised him of their socio-economic activities in the country.

The delegation, led by its President Habib Hirji, informed the chief adviser that they would set up a standard Aga Khan educational institution in the city's Bashundhara area on 20 acres of land.

They also briefed the chief adviser about their activities in different areas like education, rural development, healthcare, and helping the poor people.

The delegation informed that the 50th anniversary of Aga Khan's leadership would be celebrated from June 2007-June 2008 and they hoped the spiritual leader of Aga Khan Community would visit Bangladesh on the occasion.

The delegation included Aga Khan Foundation Chief Executive Officer Amir Ali and its Chairman of Education Service Solaiman Azani.

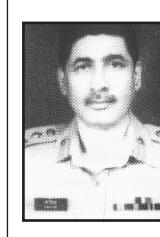
Valuables, cash looted in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Robbers looted valuables and Tk 20000 in cash from a house in Vitaparain Sripurin Gazipur.

Locals said that a group of seven to eight robbers broke into the house of one Saiful Islam and looted Tk 20000 in cash, gold ornaments and a cellphones.

Obituary



Brig Gen (Retd)
M u h a m m a d
M a b u b u l
K a r i m
p a s s e d
a w a y
d u e
t o
b r a i n
s t o r k
a t
C o m b i n e d
M i l i t a r y
H o s p i t a l
i n
D h a k a o n

Wednesday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, sons, daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Farhadabat at Hathazari in Chittagong.

Engineer Azharuddin Ahmad



E n g i n e e r
A z h a r u d d i n
A h m a d , d i r e c t o r
o f B a n g l a d e s h
D e v e l o p m e n t
C o r p o r a t i o n
(B D C) , a c o n
c e r n o f I s l a m
G r o u p , p a s s
a w a y
d u e
t o
a m a s s i c
c a r d i a c
a r r e s t
y e s t e r d a y
a t t h e a g e
o f 5 8 , s a y s
a p r e s s
r e l e a s e .

He left behind his wife, one son and three daughters to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Goshairbari School of south Mahakali village in Munshiganj Sadar after Juma prayers today.

Majibur Rahman

Majibur Rahman, a freedom fighter and former additional director of Jamuna Multi Purpose Bridge, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Lab Aid Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and three daughters to mourn his death.

Alhaj Matiur Rahman

Alhaj Matiur Rahman, father of Taufiq Rahman, general manager of broadcast operations and engineering department of the Eku Shey Television (ETV), passed away due to heart related complications at the Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 67, says a press release.</p