

Open deptts for elderly people in hospitals

Speakers urge govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the caretaker government to introduce ageing registration system and provide additional opportunities in health and transport sectors for elderly people.

They said the government should provide medicine free of cost and open separate departments in all hospitals for elderly people.

The seminar titled 'The scenario of health service for elderly people and our responsibility' was organised by Bangladesh Prabin Hitoishi Sangha (Bangladesh Association for the Aged) at the National Press Club in the capital where many elderly people were present.

Speaking at the seminar, renowned economist Muzaffer Ahmad said the government and NGOs should take programmes for ensuring better health service for elderly people.

"Regular health check-up and proper treatment are mainly needed for elderly people because their health condition deteriorates day by day due to old-age complications," he said.

He also urged the government to provide special facilities in all hospitals for the treatment of old people and half fare in public buses



PHOTO: STAR
Renowned economist Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Rashid Ahmed and Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman.

for them.

Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, secretary general of Prabin Hitoishi Sangha, presented a keynote paper where he said measures taken by the government and NGOs for old people are not enough and poor elderly people are still deprived of their fundamental rights.

He said the government should register the old people and provide them with medical and transport allowance regularly.

Nagarik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, Advocate Serajul Haq and Dr Rashid Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Wazed shifted to Square Hospital

UNB, Dhaka

Ailing nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, was shifted to Square Hospital in the city from Bangladesh Medical College Hospital on Thursday night.

A seven-member medical board was formed yesterday morning for his treatment, said Dr Mirza Nazim Uddin of Square Hospital.

"His condition is normal and he is now fully conscious," the physician said.

"He is hemodynamically stable and his chest is almost clear," said a press release of the hospital.

Dr Wazed has been suffering from heart disease and diabetes and high blood pressure since long.

He was admitted to LabAid Specialised Hospital on July 16 with acute chest pain and discharged on July 23.

He was admitted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital again on Wednesday with 'hypoglycemia and electrolyte disorder' and then shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Square Hospital at 11:00pm on Thursday.

42 students win Erasmus Mundus scholarship

Forty-two Bangladeshi graduates have won Erasmus Mundus scholarship for the years 2007-2008, says a press release.

Erasmus Mundus is an exchange and scholarship programme run by the European Commission. Under the programme, students from across the world are offered the opportunity to study in a masters degree in the European Union member states. The programme is also open to university teachers for short-term teaching assignments in Europe.

Erasmus Mundus masters courses are provided by cross-border university consortia in a wide range of academic disciplines, and last between one to two years. Students are required to study in at least two different European countries.

In a welcome meeting in the city for the 42 successful Bangladeshi graduates, Francoise Collet, Chargé d'Affaires à i of the European Commission Delegation to Bangladesh, said the number of Bangladeshi Erasmus Mundus beneficiaries has increased year by year since the programme was launched in 2004.

She said their selection confirmed both the programme's attractiveness to Bangladesh graduates and their ability to compete with graduates from other countries for a limited number of Erasmus Mundus scholarships.

"Erasmus Mundus aims at providing the most talented students from across the world with a high-quality masters education in Europe, preparing them for a professional career in their field of choice," Collet added.

Raisul Islam gets Novera Memorial Scholarship

DU CORRESPONDENT

Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Md Raisul Islam, a student of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University, at a programme marking the first death anniversary of Novera, a reporter of The Daily Star.

Novera Deepita Memorial Trust instituted the scholarship this year to be awarded to a student securing the highest marks in the honours examinations of the journalism department.

Novera was also a brilliant student of the same department.

Her mother Adila Bakul gave away the scholarship to Raisul Islam at the programme held at the TSC of Dhaka University. The scholarship carries a certificate and Tk 15,000.

Presided over by Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, the ceremony was also attended by the department's Chair Prof Shaikh Abdus Salam, Dainik Sangbad Editor Bazulur Rahman, journalism teacher Robaet Ferdous, Novera's father poet Rafiq Azad and her family members, relatives, classmates and friends.

A pall of gloom descended on the auditorium as Novera's parents, sister and brother broke into tears while recalling the memories of Novera.

Her family members also observed the day with various programmes, including offering prayers at her grave in the morning and milad mahfil.

Doa was also offered at Anandabazar mosque at Shewrapara for the peace of the departed soul.



US chapter of Awami League stages a demonstration in front of the United Nations Building in New York yesterday demanding release of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Buet team develops four robots to contest Robocon 2007

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-made robots are set to vie with robots from other Asia-Pacific countries in Robocon 2007 competition beginning in Hanoi, Vietnam, on August 26.

A team of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), who developed four advanced robots, will leave for Hanoi on August 24.

The Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) has been organising the annual event since 2002.

A total of 18 countries, including Japan, China, India, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Egypt, are taking part in the competition this year.

The Bangladeshi team will have to defeat any two countries in the first round to qualify for the second round of the high-tech international robot games.

The three-member Buet team is composed of team leader Muhammad Yakut Ali, SGM Hossain Mamur and Hasnat Jamil. They are taking part in the competition under the supervision of Prof Md Zahurul Haq of mechanical engineering department of Buet.

Prof Haq said, "It is a contest to design and build robots that can perform certain tasks based on theme and rules of the competition."

He said the Buet team has developed four advanced robots – three of them are intelligent mobile robots and the rest one is manually controlled – at the mechanical engineering department's laboratory.

For building the robots, several equipment were procured from shops at Dholaikhal and Nawabpur in old part of the city while advanced controllers, chips and hardware were imported from the USA, he added.

Bangladesh first participated in Robocon 2005, Beijing and won Panasonic Award. The competition was held in Kuala Lumpur last year.

DU ROKEYA HALL SUICIDE INCIDENTS Counselling begins after 18 months

DU CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of four incidents of suicide by female students at Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University (DU) in one and a half years, the authorities have taken up special counselling measures at the dormitory to help remove frustration of students.

They are also thinking about appointing a psychologist so that students can discuss their mental problems with open mind.

A number of teachers of psychology department said students, especially the females, get frustrated due to various reasons including love affairs.

They might need counselling in their efforts to overcome the odd situations.

Hall authorities said they hope their students will be benefited from the counselling.

On June 25, Zohra Khan Progrya, a new second year student of law department and a resident of Room No 13, committed suicide.

Boy killed as house collapses in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A boy was killed and his brother and sister were critically injured as a thatched house collapsed on them at Sithilpur village in Burichang upazila during heavy rain on Thursday night.

The boy was identified as Hasan, son of Rafiqul Islam.

Local people said the house collapsed during heavy rain, leaving twin brothers Hasan and Hossain, 7, and their sister Taslima, 9, seriously injured.

They were taken to the upazila health complex where Hasan succumbed to his injuries yesterday afternoon.



Adila Bakul, mother of Novera Deepita, gives away Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship to Md Raisul Islam at a programme at TSC auditorium in the city yesterday.

Robbery at house in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables from a house at Raipura in Narsingdi after injuring 10 people in the early hours of yesterday.

The robbery took place at the house of Asad Khan at Adiabab Puranhat village only a day before his son's marriage.

Police said a gang of 25 or 30 robbers stormed into the house of Asad Khan at Adiabab Puranhat village at about 3:00am firing blank shots and exploding crackers.

The gang broke open the doors and looted Tk 1.5 lakh, 10 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables from the family members and guests who came to attend the marriage ceremony of Kamrul.

The robbers also beat up Asad, his wife Renuka, bridegroom Kamrul, his sister Sakhina and aunt Rehana and five others, leaving five of them critically injured.

The critically injured, including the bridegroom, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all the six divisions of the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall are also likely at places, Met Office said in a forecast. It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and Ishwardi and the lowest of 23.6 degrees at Dhaka, Comilla and Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.

The 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	28.8	23.6	92	91
Chittagong	28.8	24.9	98	90
Rajshahi	30.2	25.2	92	87
Khulna	29.0	24.5	92	92
Banisal	29.7	24.6	98	92
Sylhet	26.8	24.5	88	97
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.9	89	88

Buet celebrates 60 years of engineering edn in Bangladesh

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has chalked out a series of programmes to celebrate 60 years of engineering education in Bangladesh beginning today.

The inception of the erstwhile Ahsanullah Engineering College in 1947, which later turned into Buet in 1962, introduced engineering education in the country.

The inaugural session of the celebration events will be held at the central auditorium at 9:30am.

Vice Chancellor Prof AMM Safiullah will preside over the session while former VC Prof Dr Wahiduddin Ahmed will be present as the chief guest, Buet authorities said at a press conference on Thursday.

The launching ceremony will include reminiscence session and discussion. Former VCs of Buet, faculty members, alumni and engineers will attend the launching ceremony.

The six-month long programmes will focus on previous and current status of engineering education in the country and will seek direction to keep pace with the progress of engineering education worldwide.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BBC World Service kicks off the third series of the 'BBC Bangladesh Sanglap' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm today.

Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, BNP Joint Secretary General Ashraf Hossain, Jatiya Party presidium member GM Quader and former Dhaka University Teachers' Association president Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique will feature in today's Sanglap.

"Bangladesh Sanglap is designed to create a platform where ordinary people are able to interact with policymakers, and debate important issues of the day with civil society personalities," said Sabir Mustafa, head of BBC Bangla Service and editor of the Bangladesh Sanglap.

"The goal is to encourage and facilitate interaction among people and their leaders and representatives, thus making a contribution to strengthening the country's democratic political culture," he said.

Shakeel Anwar of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the programmer produced by Waliur Rahman Miraz.

Monitoring of water quality stressed

A seminar on the 'Medium-term Operational Plan for Strengthening Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance System in Bangladesh' was held in the city recently, says a press release.

The seminar was organised by DPHE in collaboration with JICA.

The Mid-term Operational Plan was presented at the seminar for discussion and it would be finalised based on the recommendations raised in the seminar. The Mid-term Operational Plan is one of the outputs of JICA Preparatory Assistance Project formulated with the objective to institutionalise Water Quality Testing, Monitoring and Surveillance towards ensuring safe drinking water.

The Mid-term Operational Plan covers all the important aspects of water quality monitoring and surveillance system such as technical management and the institutional and financial management.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mustafizur Rahman, chief engineer of DPHE, emphasised the importance of water quality monitoring and surveillance to ensure safe drinking water for the people while Bangladesh is facing serious arsenic contamination of groundwater.

Obituary



heart surgery at the United Hospital on July 25 at the age of 64, says a press release.

He was also a former chief engineer of Bangladesh Betar. He is survived by his wife and two children.

He was buried at Mirpur Intellectuals' graveyard with state honour.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 11/2 Kabi Jasimuddin Road, North Kamalapur, in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

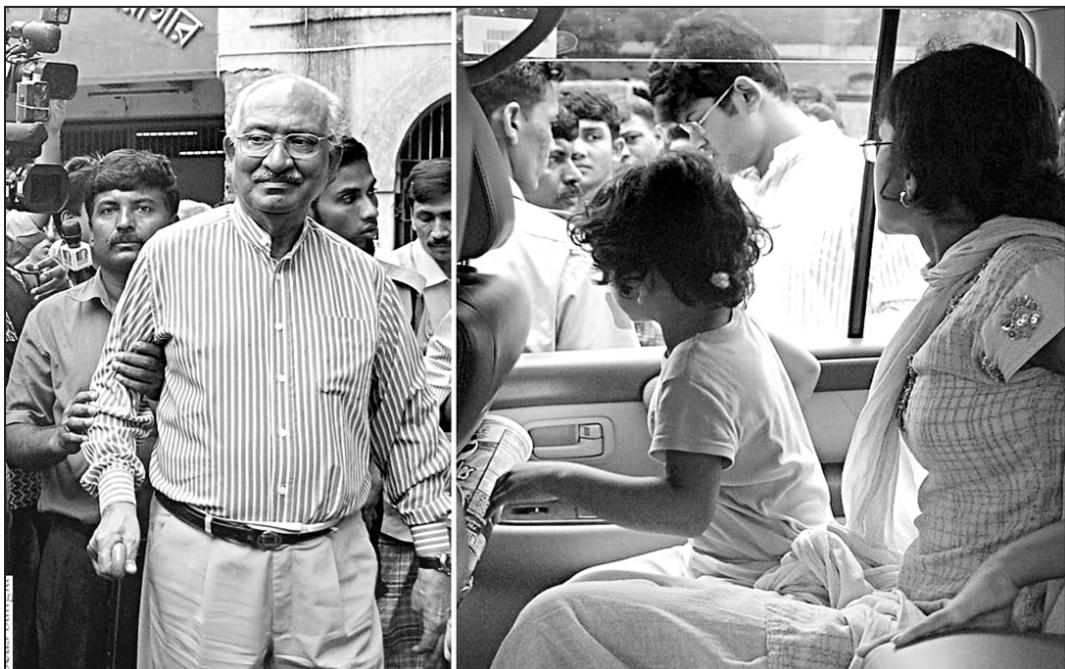


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman comes out of Dhaka Central Jail after meeting his detained son Naser Rahman yesterday. The son and two daughters of Naser Rahman also met their father.

BSF assures BDR of maintaining peace

BSS, Rangpur

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday assured Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of all possible cooperation for maintaining peace along the common frontiers.

Official sources said Additional Director General (ADG) of BSF (East) UK Bansal gave the assurance while exchanging views with senior BDR officials at Panbari border near Tinbigha corridor under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat.

The high-ranking BSF official visited the Tinbigha corridor and met BDR officials during his scheduled 30-minute visit.

Acting Sector Commander of Rangpur BDR Lt Colonel Safat Ally received the BSF delegation at the border at 2:45pm.

A smart contingent of BDR jawans gave a guard of honour to the ADG of BSF when he took salute and inspected the guards before attending the meeting with BDR officials.

Mrs Bansal, BSF Inspector General of North Bengal Frontiers RA Tewari, Deputy Inspector General RM Kadian of Jalpaiguri Sector, Commandant of 50 BSF battalion Shushil Kumar and other

2 youths found slaughtered in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered bodies of two youths from Bhabanipur area in Gazipur yesterday.

The victims -- Mohammad Jewel, 25, an employee of a jewellery shop, and Nazrul Islam, 26, employee of a tailoring shop, -- were found slaughtered near the Shaheed Muktijoddha College.

Joydebpur police sent the bodies to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ripon, owner of the jewellery shop, filed a murder case. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

Workshop

A three-day workshop on gender and sexuality will begin. Venue: Brac Centre. Time: 8:30am.

Seminar

The Monthly Legal Aid organises a seminar titled 'Rule of law to establish corruption-free society'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Certificate distribution ceremony

Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will distribute certificates among the participants of training course on 'Leadership quality: Development and management'. Venue: IDEB, Kakrail. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

The daily Bhorer Kagoj organises a roundtable titled 'Reforms of FBCCI and business associations'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

The 16th monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Society seminar room. Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion

An open discussion will be held to mark the 6th death anniversary of Ahmed Safa. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Conference

A conference of the branch managers of Karmasagsthan Bank will be held. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 9:30am.

BNSK workshop

The inaugural ceremony of a weeklong workshop on gender-sensitive reporting for the female journalists from outside Dhaka, organised by Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (BNSK), will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

View exchange

meeting

Nagorik Udyog organises a view exchange meeting titled 'Social movement: Context good governance and development'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of Dhaka Samity fir July 2007- June 2009 will be held. Venue: Samity auditorium, Naya Bazar. Time: 7:15pm.

Liberation War Museum programme

Obaidullah Mia, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdur Rahim, and Shariful Islam Bablu, who narrowly escaped death during the War of Liberation, will recount their experiences of 1971 for the young generation. Venue: Butchers' Den, Mirpur. Time: 4:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

SBFF Discussion

Switzerland-Bangladesh Business Forum (SBFF) will hold a discussion on the 'Problems, prospect and future of Bangladesh economy'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 12:00noon.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Oitijhya-Etcetera-New Age Story Writing Contest 2006 will be held. Venue: STM Hall, Uttara. Time: 11:30am.

Reception

Katha Lalitakala Academy will accord a reception to noted singers Ajit Roy and Shaheen Samad. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.