

First confce of expats in city in December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriate Bangladeshis are going to hold the first ever conference in December in Dhaka with a view to creating a platform in order to share their expertise with policymakers and contribute to the country's development.

ScholarsBangladesh.com, a database-based organisation, will host 'The First Non-Resident Bangladeshi Conference 2007'.

Judgement in graft case against Nasim couple today

UNB, Dhaka

The judgement in a graft case against detained former telecommunications minister Mohammad Nasim and his wife, now absconding, will be delivered by a special court in the city today.

On March 21, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) deputy director Akhter Hossain filed the case against Nasim, also a front ranking Awami League leader, and his wife Laila Arzumand Banu with Dhanmondi police station for giving "false information" in their wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

In the case, the ACC official alleged that the couple amassed wealth worth about Tk 1.26 crore, which was disproportionate to their known sources of income.

from December 27 to 29.

"A huge number of Bangladeshis are spread out across the globe and holding many influential posts in different fields. They feel deeply for their motherland. They can contribute to the development of the country if the state creates such scopes," said ME Chowdhury, president of ScholarsBangladesh.com, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

The organisation has so far listed about 21,000 Bangladeshi scholars working across the world.

ME Chowdhury said the conference would feature 16 seminars on national issues, book publication ceremony, photography and art exhibition and a career fair.

Awards will also be given to five non-resident Bangladeshis and five others living in the country for their outstanding contribution to arts and culture, science and technology, healthcare, politics, social development and education and research.

Speaking at the press conference, Prof MM Akash, one of the advisers to the conference, said the non-resident Bangladeshis who are experts in various fields can immensely help the country in various ways.

"It is possible to make a breakthrough if the policymakers and non-resident Bangladeshi experts can work together," he said.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Moimul Hossain Chowdhury launched a website of the conference while Dr Mushtaq Elahi, a professor of Bloomsburg University, USA, and Dilara Khan, chief executive officer of ScholarsBangladesh.com, also spoke.



Workers of Bandar Knitting Ltd. stage a demonstration in the Chittagong EPZ area yesterday following a rumour that a fellow worker died due to torture by factory owners.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A decomposed body of an unidentified woman was recovered from a ditch in the city on Saturday.

Police found the body aged around 22 from the ditch at Nabinagar Housing area at 4:30pm.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the victims' legs were tied with rope and she might have been strangled three to four days back.

BNP UNITY CALL

Pro-Bhuiyan leaders hits out at Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's remarks on his expelled predecessor's call for unity in the party, BNP chairperson's adviser ZA Khan yesterday said anyone in the party can call for unity and everyone should welcome it in the interest of the party.

"We called for unity in the party since it is badly needed to win the next election but intra-party reform is a pre-condition for its unity," Khan said.

Delwar said on Friday expelled party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has no right to call for party unity since he is no more with it.

Most of the senior leaders and former lawmakers from the BNP as well as executive committee members of the party are with them and they can call a requisition meeting for holding party council, claimed Khan, a close aide to Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, while talking to reporters after meeting Bhuiyan at

his Gulshan residence.

Executive committee members of the BNP have the right to convene party council and it will be done on resumption of political activities, Khan said. They don't want reforms in the party without Khaleda Zia or Mannan Bhuiyan but if the party council wants to abandon anyone, it is a different issue, he added.

He mentioned that Bhuiyan called for party unity but stressed reforms in it. And everyone should welcome that he is trying to protect the party from a break-up.

"Those who believe in democracy will support the reform proposal to make the party democratic and acceptable to the people," the party chief's adviser said.

He also said expulsion of Bhuiyan is not acceptable to them. "We believe that Mannan Bhuiyan is still general secretary of the party, and only he can keep it united. So, everyone should welcome his call."

Low over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

The well marked low over west central Bay and adjoining northwest Bay persists over the same area.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction, said a Met office bulletin.

Under its influence, deep convection is continuing over north Bay. Squally weather may continue over the maritime ports.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.

They are also advised not to venture into the deep sea.

Release of RU teachers before Eid demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Two hundred and forty Rajshahi University (RU) teachers yesterday appealed to the government to release their eight colleagues, who are now behind bars on charges of violating the emergency power rules, before the Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja.

The university teachers in their faxed appeal to the chief adviser pointed out that all the detainees are expert in their respective fields with outstanding academic records.

The law enforcement agencies arrested Prof M Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof M Abdus Sobhan and Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik on August 24 while Dulal Chandra Biswas, Sayed Selim Reza Newton, Abdullah Al Mamun, Prof Dr Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu and Prof Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal surrendered to the court after being sued for instigating violence on the campus in August.

The RU teachers said Prof Saidur Rahman Khan is a former vice chancellor of the university and has played an important role in the development of the institution.

Prof Khan and Prof Abdus Sobhan are well-known national and international figures, they said adding that they believe that all the detained teachers were working for the truth from their respective position.

They urged the chief adviser to take necessary steps for the teachers' release.

The statement was signed by, among others, Prof Khanum Mantaj Ahmed, Prof Khandaker Farhad Hossain, Prof Maksudur Rahman, Prof Dr Kanai Lal Roy, Prof Ramendranath Ghose, Prof Abdul Khalek and Prof Tojazzal Hossain Tarafdar.

SUNAMGANJ BLASTS 2 JMB men get 10yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday sentenced two activists of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in two cases filed in connection with the blasts carried out in Sunamganj on August 17, 2005.

The judge also fined them Tk 5,000 each in default of which they would have to stay one year more in prison.

The convicts are Abdul Aziz alias Hanif of Bashia in Koirapazila of Khulna and Salahuddin alias Salehi of Narayanjan.

Blasts were carried out in six places of Sunamganj town on August 17, 2005, as part of the almost simultaneous countrywide bomb attacks. Six cases were filed in connection with the blasts near Sunamganj Bar association, the DC's office, Judge's Court, Eidgah Maidan and Mollikpur Bus Stand.

Sub-inspector Brojendra Nath Mandal of detective branch on June 30, 2006 submitted the charge sheet against JMB men Hanif and Salehi in two cases filed in connection with the blasts near the newly built Judge's Court building and at the Eidgah Maidan.

Hanif gave a confessional statement before a magistrate last year and the law enforcers captured Salehi afterwards.

Sunamganj Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Dipyoman Sarker sentenced Hanif to 14 years' imprisonment on September 12 in another case filed in connection with storing explosives at a house in Sylhet city.

Hanif, an aide to executed JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, was captured on March 2, 2006 along with Rahman and others.

Judgment of another case filed in connection with the blasts in Sunamganj is expected to be delivered tomorrow at the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Four one-stop windows to issue passports

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to open four one-stop windows in the capital under a pilot project to simplify issuing of passports to citizens.

The Department of Immigration and Passport and the Trust Bank yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect at the Passport office at Agargaon.

Under the pilot project, the Trust Bank will operate the four windows, sources in the Home Ministry told UNB.

The Trust Bank has primarily selected four spots for the proposed outlets - Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Uttara areas, said the official.

Applicants will have to submit their forms depositing a service charge of Tk 200 and the usual amount of passport fees to these outlets under three categories - very urgent, urgent and normal.

"The outlets will start functioning after Eid-ul-Fitr," the Home Ministry official added.



New acting general secretary of Awami League Syed Ashrafur Islam talks to reporters at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

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New train service on Khulna-Dhaka route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The General Manager (West) of Bangladesh Railway Mushfiqur Rahman inaugurated a new train service on Khulna-Dhaka route yesterday.

The new train 'Provati' leaves Khulna at 8:20am with 364 passengers.

The train will halt at Jessore, Darshana, Chuadanga, Alamdanga, Porhadaha, Tangail and Joydevpur on its 530 km journey, said Khulna Station Master Iskander Ali.

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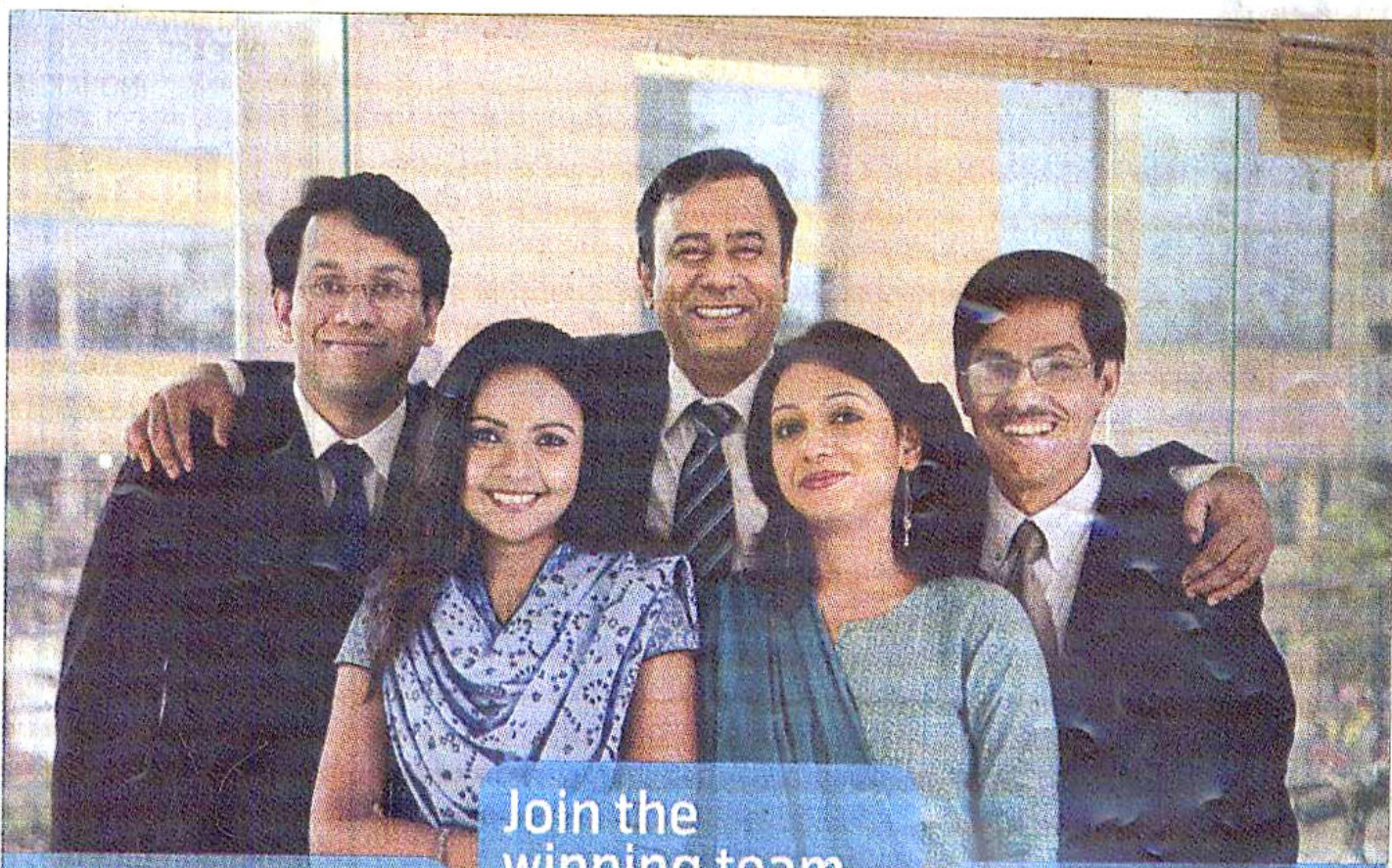
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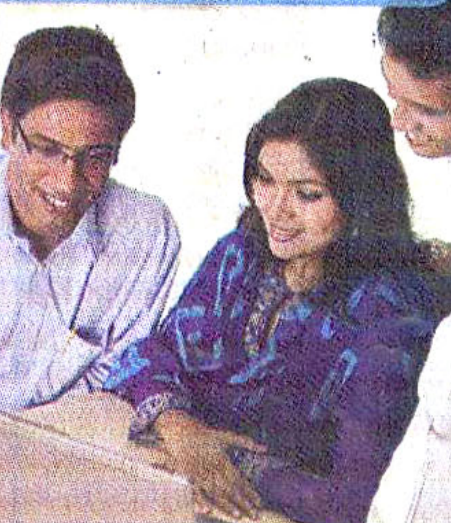
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