

# Utilise ICT properly to build prosperous country: Yeafesh

CU CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Science, Information and Communication Yeafesh Osman has called for a revolution to build a prosperous country through proper utilisation of information and communication technology (ICT).

"To materialise the dream of 'Digital Bangladesh', we should have to understand the theme first and then work together involving mass people to achieve it," he said.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day programme organised to mark the 'World Telecommunication and Information Society Day'.

The programme was organised for the first time outside the capital by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) with the slogan 'Protecting children in cyberspace' at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in Chittagong.

BTRC Chairman Brigadier General (ret'd) Zia Ahmed presided over the ceremony where Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Postal and Telecommunication Secretary Sunil

Kanti Bose were present as special guests.

BD Com Managing Director Sumon Ahmed Sabbir presented a keynote paper on the theme 'Protecting children in cyberspace' at the inaugural session.

Referring to the progress of China in the ICT sector, the state minister said, "Bangladesh will have to keep pace with our neighbours and we would like to observe the golden jubilee of the country as Digital Bangladesh."

"We want to start this revolution from Chittagong," he added.

The dissemination of ICT has already started in the country through call centres at the remote villages where even the farmers are being benefited from this knowledge.

"It is not possible to provide a computer to each person or teach them over night, but using the ICT development of livelihood is possible," he added.

He observed that if parents cannot be friend of their children, it will not be possible to protect them from cyber crime.

CCC Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury stressed the need for introducing computer literacy from school level and said the process of manufacturing laptops and mobile phones from Chittagong is underway.

BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed said the programme is aimed to create awareness among the mass people by disseminating the facilities of ICT from door to door.

Two mobile phone operators are now taking preparation for 3G technologies while steps for introducing WIMAX technology and alternative submarine cable are going on, he added.

"We are also thinking of terrestrial fibre net link and making the ICT facilities affordable for all," he added.

Later, the state minister formally inaugurated the programmes that include ICT-based exhibition, ICT classes, seminars, online competitions and demonstration of all new technologies.

Different ICT-based organisations with their services are taking part in the two-day programmes through 20 stalls.

The organisations and services include 3G Service Station, WIMAX Services, Call Centre Services, Software and ITES Services, Armed Forces ICT, Internet Services and Safety Tips for Children and Parents, Telecommunication Infrastructure Services, Video Conferencing and Streaming, PSTN Services, Mobile Telecommunication Services, Vehicle Tracking Services and Community Radio.



Ambassador of the European Commission Stefan Frowein calls on Food Minister Abdur Razzak at his office in the city yesterday.

## Debate contest begins in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An English debate competition titled 'South East Bank-Drishy Debate Competition '09' begins in the port city today.

Bangladesh Debate Federation President and popular TV presenter Abdur Nur Tushar is expected to inaugurate the competition at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC).

Resident Editor of the daily Prothom Alo poet Abul Momen will attend the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, is organising the competition featuring the 9th Inter-School and 3rd Inter-University English Debate Competition.

The Financial Express and Star Campus, a weekly supplement of The Daily Star, are the media partners of the competition.

## ROHINGYA REFUGEES

# Repatriation only solution

Minister tells EC ambassador

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Repatriation of Rohingya refugees, camped in Cox's Bazar, to their homes in Myanmar is the only permanent solution to their problem, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razaque yesterday.

He said Bangladesh would extend all-out assistance to the refugees as long as they stay in this country, but permanent solution to their problem is their repatriation.

The minister was talking to European Commission Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein who met him at the ministry.

The ambassador sought increased cooperation from the government for better operation of the activities of the NGOs working for

healthcare services and skill development of the refugees with the support of the European Union, says a press release.

"Locals in Cox's Bazar are facing various problems because of the presence of Rohingyas there, but we are giving cooperation to the refugees and the NGOs are working for them on humanitarian grounds," said Dr Razaque.

There are 24,000 Rohingyas in two camps at Kutupalong and Nayapara of Cox's Bazar.

Besides around two lakh unregistered Rohingyas are believed to be living illegally in the southern parts of the country.

They fled Myanmar for fear of persecution by the Myanmar military government.

## 3 die in Pabna road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Madhupur village in Pabna yesterday.

The dead were identified as Md Abdus Samad, 62, Md Shariful Islam, 24, and bus helper Md Shahidul Islam.

Sources said the accident occurred when a passenger bus collided head-on with a truck at 7:00pm.

## Trader stabbed, robbed of Tk 6 lakh in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Snatchers took away Tk 6 lakh from a rice trader stabbing him in Pahartali area in the port city yesterday.

The injured Yeasin Sawdagor, proprietor of Agrani Traders a rice-trading house at Pahartali Kitchen Market, was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and later, shifted to a private clinic.

Sources said three youths intercepted Yeasin on DT Road while he was going to his shop with Tk 6 lakh at around 9:30am.

When the snatchers tried to take away the money he screamed for help and then they stabbed him and fled the scene with the money hurling cock-tails.

Protesting the incident, traders of the market shut down their shops and staged demonstration at the DT Road for around one and a half hour from 10:00am. Later, the traders opened their shops at around 11:30am following assurance of arresting the snatchers and recovery of the money.

The victim's brother Humayun Kabir filed a case with the Double Mooring Police Station.



Bangladesh Mobile Phone Load Businessmen's Association forms a human chain in the city yesterday to mark the World Telecommunication Day.

## BANGABANDHU MURDER

# US ready to deport killers

## Says state minister

UNB, Dhaka

The United States responded positively to identify and deport Bangabandhu's killers hiding in US and other North American countries, the state minister for foreign affairs said here yesterday.

Dr Hasan Mahmud, who was briefing the reporters on his just concluded visit to USA and Canada, said the US has already deported Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin, a convict in the Bangabandhu murder case and hoped that the other hiding convicts will be identified and deported to Dhaka.

The state minister said his visit to America was aimed at establishing contacts as new governments were installed in Dhaka and Washington.

During the visit, he had meetings with US Assistant

Secretary of State for South Asia Richard Boucher, National Security Council Director Donald Camp and Congressmen Joseph Crowley and Jim McDermott.

Hasan also exchanged views with US think tanks during a seminar at the Heritage Foundation.

He sought increased cooperation from US for development of Bangladesh. The US Congressmen and officials expressed willingness to extend cooperation in environment protection, education and capacity building.

Asked about the prime minister's visit to USA and her request for some appointments in Washington, Hasan said Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina had to postpone her visit because of her husband Dr MA Wazed Miah.

It is heartening that she could stay beside him at his last moment.

The state minister said the US administration is also willing to meet the prime minister and convenient time and dates would be worked out.

Asked if the visit would take place before the next UN General Assembly in September, he said the PM has got busy schedules at home and she will also remain busy with parliament budget session.

Hasan, who had meetings with Canadian ministers including his counterpart in Canada, said that the Canadian government is also willing to help Bangladesh in education and environment protection.

## Four female pickpockets caught red-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police caught four female pickpockets red-handed yesterday while they were stealing cellphone sets from pedestrians at Malibagh intersection in the city.

The arrestees were identified as Milon Akhter, 20, Bilkis Akhter, 24, who had a three-month-old baby boy in her lap, her younger sister Nargis, 12, and Naju, 20.

They live on the footpath of Gabtali Bus Terminal area.

A team of police in plain clothes noticed that the gang of four within half an hour stole two cellphone sets from the bag of Nahida Akhter and from the pocket of Mahmudul Haque while they were crossing the intersection at around 12:00 noon.

The team led by ASI Karim arrested the four with the stolen cellphone sets and handed them over to Ramna Police Station.

Police said several gangs of female pickpockets are active in different intersections, including Mouchak, Malibagh and Maghbaraz areas.

## 12TH NSU CONVOCATION

# Extend support to poor meritorious students

Nahid urges private universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid urged the authorities of private universities to attract meritorious students from financially less fortunate section of the society by providing generous financial assistance along with maintaining reasonable tuition and fees, says a press release.

He was speaking at the 12th convocation of the North South University (NSU) on its Bashundhara campus in the city yesterday.

He chaired the ceremony on behalf of chancellor of the university President Md Zillur Rahman.

Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, was the convocation speaker.

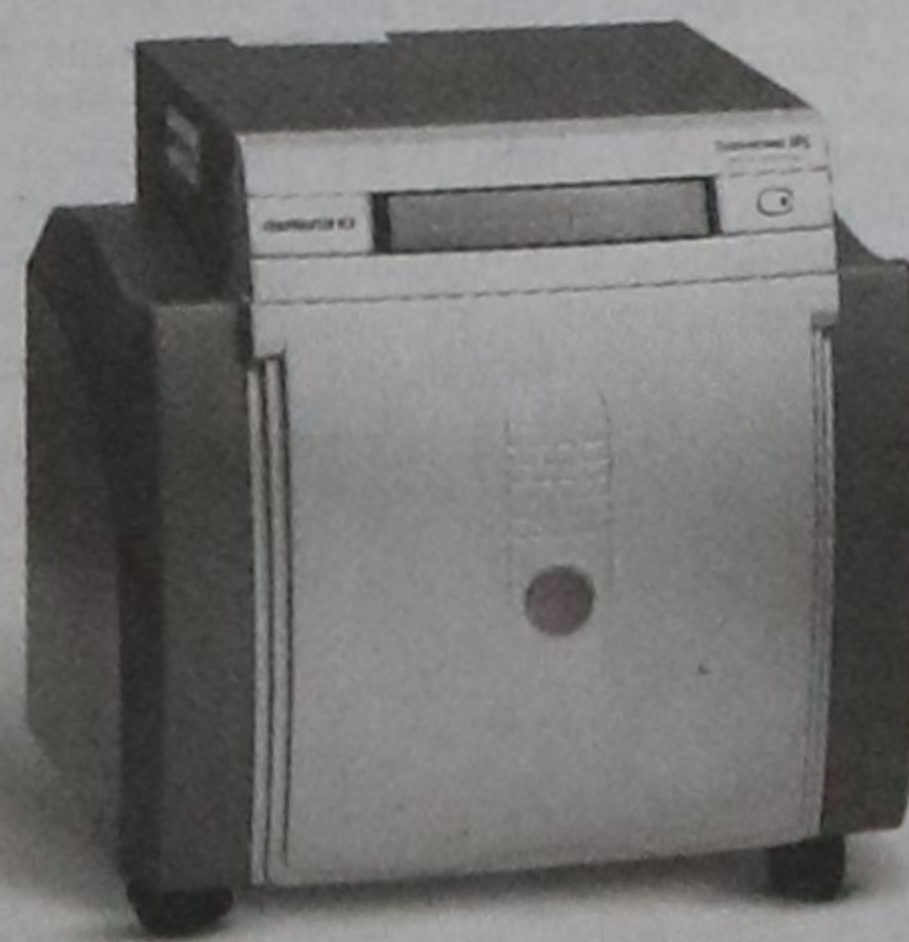
Lee said in addition to advancing education, Australia's aid programme focuses on health and supporting the eradication of extreme poverty. He also spoke on the relationship of his country with Bangladesh.

NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi said a modern university brings ideal social changes for betterment of the society. NSU is striving to do so for the good of the society and the country, he added.

A total of 1074 students (816 undergraduate and 258 graduate) were conferred degrees at the convocation.

NSU Foundation Chairman MA Awal, convocation marshal Dr Golam Mohammad and vaedictorian Amith Khandakar also addressed the convocation.

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