



Recipients of Bank Asia scholarship pose with the guests at the scholarship giving ceremony at the bank's Lohagara branch in Cox's Bazar recently. The bank has given higher studies scholarships to 14 meritorious students as part of its corporate social responsibility. Shafique Uddin, vice-chairman of Mostafa Group, handed over the scholarship to the students. Parimol Singha, UNO of Lohagara, Ziaul Huq Chowdhury Babul, Lohagara Upazila chairman, and Swapan Dasgupta, executive vicepresident of the bank, were also present.

## suspended for breach of discipline

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Krishna Devnath yesterday suspended a court official temporarily on charges of breach of discipline.

Abdul Majid Pramanik, a Serestadar of the Third Artharin Adalat of Dhaka, was suspended, as he called her twice -- first identifying himself as a High Court judge and later as an Awami League lawmaker -- and asked her not to transfer him (Pramanik) from the present court.

Judge Krishna Devnath also issued a notice asking Pramanik to explain within ten days why he should not be dismissed from the service.

A departmental case was also filed against him, sources

On February 2, District Judge Krishna Devnath transferred Pramanik to the Third Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka and asked him to join by 4:30pm the same day.

The same day, she received a call on her cell phone. The caller identifying himself as a High Court judge asked her not to transfer Pramanik.

The district judge received the second call with the same request on February 7. This time the caller identified himself as an AL lawmaker from Bagerhat.

Following the incidents, the authorities concerned tried to unearth whether the callers were real or fake.

Sensing troubles, Paramanik went to the residence of Judge Krishna Devnath and admitted to her that he himself made the calls dentifying himself as a HC Judge and a lawmaker.

## Court official Two bills to set up hi-tech based units

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bills were placed in parliament yesterday seeking to enact laws for growth and development of hi-tech based industries in a planned way and innovation of sustainable and environment-friendly technologies in agriculture, environment, medicine and industries.

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman placed the bills with the provisions for establishing hi-tech parks in different parts of the country and a national institute of biotechnology for carrying out research.

Yeafesh also placed three other bills on National Science and Technology Museum, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre and Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC).

The organisations were created and are being managed and run through government circulars.

In defence of enacting legislations for the three organisations, he said as a special type of organisation, the Bangabanhdu Novo Theater needs its own law and regulations for taking important decisions for its development. On the other hand, national

science and technology museum has been facing difficulties to run its activities as an autonomous body for lack of its own law. Similarly, BANSDOC also needs its own law, he added.

All the five bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on science and ICT ministry for scrutiny and to submit reports.

Explaining aims and objectives of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority bill, Yeafesh said it is very important to expand and develop export oriented hitech based industries to ensure socio-economic development.

"It will be possible to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country through expansion and development of hi-technologies,"Yafesh said.

He said the government has already decided to establish country's first hi-tech park at Kaliakoir in Gazipur and such parks will be established gradually in other parts of the country.

The proposed law also offered tax holiday and bonded facilities to the industries established in the park for carrying out their export and import activities. It also proposed to empower the government to suspend enforcement of any existing laws to set up and develop hi-tech parks and attract investment.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Prof Nitai Chandra Sutradhar, DG, Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), gives away a certificate to a successful participant at the closing ceremony of workplace assessment training programme at a city hotel recently. Arthur Shears, chief technical adviser, TVET Reform Project, was also present.



#### Khaleda condemns killing of Ahamad STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned the killing of ward councillor Haji Ahamad Hossain and demanded arrest and punitive actions against killers immediately.

She blamed criminals backed by the government for the killing, saying that they killed Ahamad to weaken the nationalist forces so that the youth cannot protest the government's illegal activities, misrule and conspiracy to sell the country.

Khaleda, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, said the government has committed the murder only to divert people's attention from criminal activities like extortion and tender manipulation by Chhatra League and Jubo League.

The BNP chief also prayed for salvation of departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

### Agronomists' convention today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 4th national convention of the agronomists will be held on the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh premises at Farmgate in the city today.

AFM Bahauddin Nasim, secretary general of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, announced this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) audi-

torium in the city yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the convention. About 6,000 agronomists from all over the country will participate.

Speakers at the press conference said agronomists, scientists and researchers will innovate new techniques and technology to make the agriculture sector of the country more sustainable coping up with the challenges of climate change that makes the sector most vulnerable.

Seven agronomists will be awarded for their contribution to the agriculture at the convention.

Krishibid Institution Bangladesh President Md Wasiuzzaman Akonda and agronomist Dr Nitish Chandra Debnath also spoke at the press conference.

#### Workplace assessment training held

METRO DESK

The first workplace assessment training programme was held in the city recently under the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Project, says a press release.

The project is jointly funded by the government, the European Commission (EC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

As part of the project's component - 4, the three-day training programme was held from February 6 to 8.

At the programme, the participants were trained on how competency-based assessment is done at workplace.



As part of Nestle worldwide initiative of creating shared value, Managing Director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited Laurent Therond inaugurated a clean drinking water facility at Kawaltia Zahir Uddin High School in Gazipur on Sunday. Nestle Bangladesh Limited has provided funds for drilling and constructing the water tank that stores clean drinking water for the schoolchildren. Mirza Golam Hossain, senior manager, Corporate Affairs and communication, also spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

### Nurses' body opposes dist quota in jobs

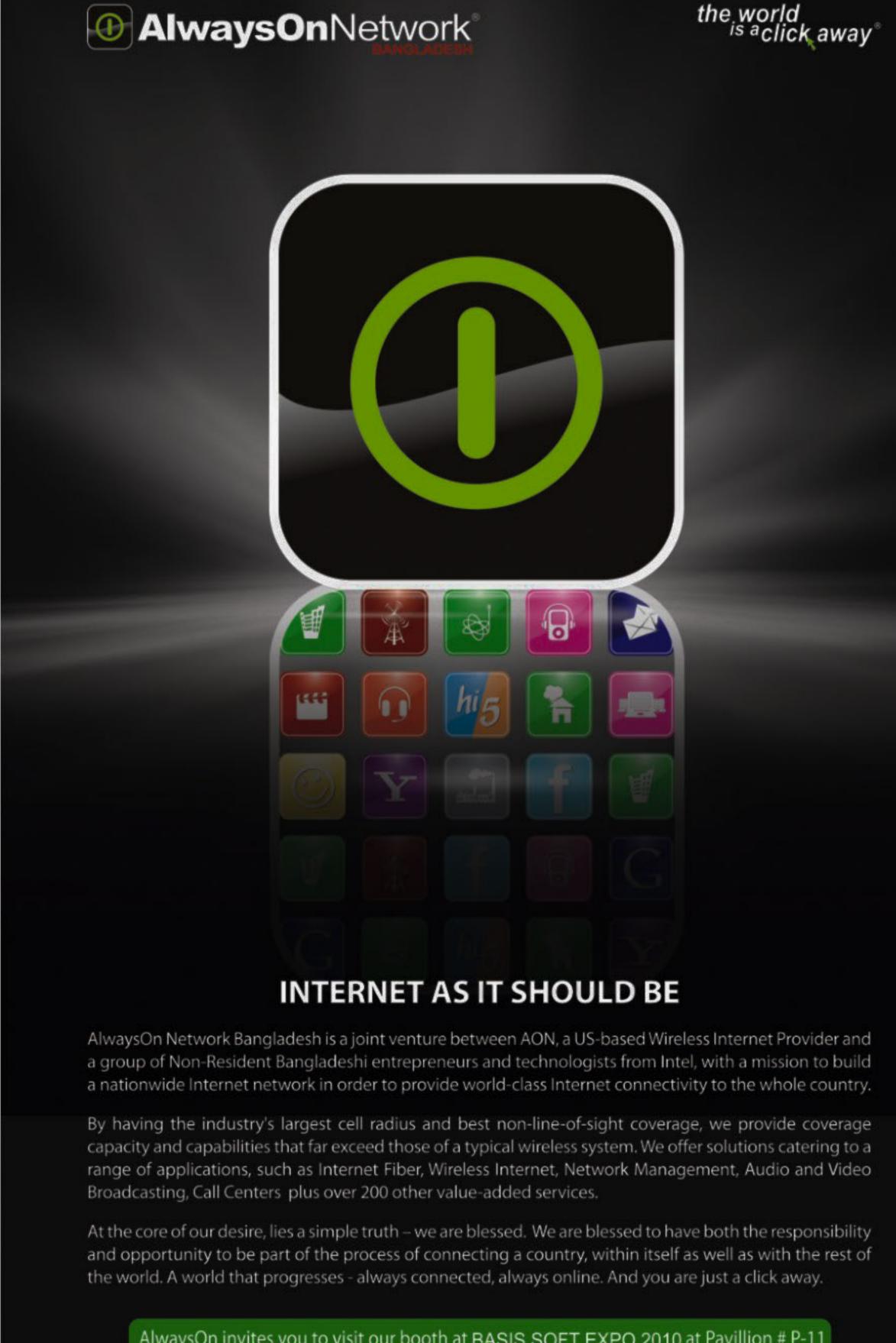
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the government's decision to recruit nurses in district quota, the Bangladesh **Diploma Unemployed Nurses** Association yesterday staged a hunger strike for the second consecutive day.

They held the programme at Muktangon in the city yesterday as police created obstacle to holding it at Central Shaheed Minar on Tuesday.

In a statement signed by the president of the association Taslima Begum and Secretary General Iqbal Hossain Shabuj said the prime minister earlier announced for seniority and batch wise recruitment. Ignoring her direction, the new process has been started following district quota, they said.

They also said the hunger strike would continue until the government meets their demand and starts seniority and batch wise recruitment.



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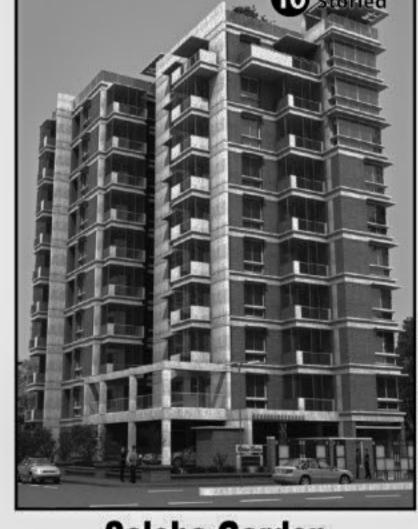


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