

# Govt to set up computer labs at 1,400 edn institutions

## Set to ban 'religion-based politics' on campuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to set up modern computer lab with internet connections at around 1,400 educational institutions as part of building a digital Bangladesh.

State Minister for Science, Information and Technology Yafesh Osman said this in the House yesterday while replying to lawmakers' queries.

"The government plans to expand ICT technology and usage of Internet technology in all secondary and higher secondary education will be ensured in phases," Yafesh said.

Bangladesh Computer Council under the ICT ministry would set up the modern computer labs, which are now under process, he said.

He said Tk100 crore has been allocated for the ICT ministry in the budget for current fiscal year to build a digital Bangladesh.

The state minister said a modern computer lab with 16 computers has

already been set up at each of 64 colleges and the same number of schools in 64 districts. Of them, modern computer training labs with dialup Internet connections have been installed at 96 educational institutions in 48 districts.

He said Tk 5.5 crore has been saved after implementing those projects for setting up the computer labs. He said computer labs would be installed at more educational institutions with the saved money.

Yafesh said a process is also going on to set up modern computer labs at least at 10 educational institutions in each metropolitan city.

### SELF-EDUCATED SCIENTISTS

Yafesh Osman quoting the National Science and Technology Museum (NSTM) told the House that there are 80 self-educated scientists in Bangladesh.

He said the NSTM has taken measures to develop quality of the projects prepared by 15 self-educated scientists.

"Self-educated scientists may conduct researches at Bangladesh Science and

Industries Research Council, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and any public universities through creating opportunities," the state minister said.

### MASS EDUCATION

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin told the House that a project is also underway for approval for educating 3.73 crore illiterate people under the age group of 11-45 years.

### POLITICS BASED ON RELIGION

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told the parliament that the government is determined to ban "religion-based politics" in the educational institutions.

In a scripted query, Awami League lawmaker asked whether the government would take steps to stop "religion based politics" in the educational institutions and when the steps will be taken in this regard.

In response, the education minister only informed the House about his government's determination to stop such politics in the institutions, but he did not specify any timeframe.

## DEFAMATION CASE Court asks Bashundhara to submit statement by April 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and other defendants in a Tk 200 crore defamation case to submit a statement by April 22.

Chairman and Managing Director of Mediastar Ltd and Transcom Group Latifur Rahman, and Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matur Rahman filed the lawsuit against Bashundhara Group on November 22 last year with the 4th Joint District Judge's Court in Dhaka.

The court order came after a time petition was submitted on behalf of Sobhan and others yesterday.

The other defendants include Senior Deputy Managing Director of Bashundhara Group Md Belayet Hossain, Bashundhara Chairman's Technical Adviser Latifur Abedin Hossain, Bashundhara Steel and Engineering Ltd Executive Director Maj (ret) Zahidur Rahman, and the group's 11 companies registered with the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

On behalf of Matur Rahman and Latifur Rahman, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates filed the defamation suit on charges of publishing highly libellous advertisements and posters, and other malicious activities.

The defendants appeared before the court on January 27 and sought time until March 11 to submit a statement.

The case statement said Bashundhara Group has been involved in malicious activities since October 13 last year to tarnish the image of the complainants.

Reports on the fire incident at Bashundhara City on March 13, 2009 were published in the media. The home ministry later formed a committee to probe the incident.

But Bashundhara Group filed a general diary and published libellous advertisements in some newspapers implicating the complainants (Latifur Rahman and Matur Rahman) in the incident to tarnish their image.

The Bashundhara Group chairman was given the chance to offer apology but he declined, said the statement.

### TAX EVASION CASE AGAINST BABAR

Hearing on charge framing on Apr 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 11 for hearing on charge framing against detained former state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar in a tax evasion case.

Judge Nasiruddin Mahmud of the Special Judge Court-5 fixed the date following a time petition submitted by a counsel of Babar.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court yesterday asked the Criminal Investigation Department to submit by May 2 the probe report of the Bashundhara bribery case filed against Babar and three others.

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam passed the order as Assistant Superintendent of CID and investigation officer of the case Syed Momin Hossain failed to submit the report to the court on the day.

On February 14, Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court issued an arrest warrant against Babar hours after a National Bureau of Revenue filed the case against him on charges of dodging Tk 2.65 crore income tax from 1999-2000 to 2008-09 fiscal years.

### Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Kazi Mohsin Ahmed, wicketkeeper-batsman of the then East Pakistan cricket team, will be held at his own residence (19/2/A Faridabad Lane) in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He played for Mohammedan Sporting Club, Wanderers and Wari.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Kidney Awareness, Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS) takes out a procession from the Shishu Academy in the city yesterday to mark the World Kidney Day.

## WORLD KIDNEY DAY OBSERVED Kidney dialysis service to be extended to district level: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday said kidney dialysis service would be extended to all the district Sadar hospitals gradually to provide treatment for kidney patients at low cost.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB) in the city.

Bangladesh Renal Association, Kidney Foundation and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh jointly organised the discussion to mark the World Kidney Day.

The World Kidney Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere across the globe. This year the theme of the day is 'Protect your kidney, control diabetes'.

The health minister also said necessary equipment will be managed and specialists would be posted to the district hospitals in this regard.

"The modern treatment of

kidney diseases are very expensive and very few people in this country can afford the treatment. So, awareness should be raised in the society to prevent and control the disease," he said.

President of Bangladesh Renal Association Prof Mohammad Habibur Rahman presided over the discussion.

State Minister for the Health and Family Welfare Ministry Mojibur Rahman Fakir, National Professor MR Khan, Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Pran Gopal Datta, President of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh Prof AK Azad Khan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Renal Association Prof Shaheedul Islam Selim, Secretary General of Kidney Foundation Prof M Muhibur Rahman and Director of National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology Prof Firoz Khan were also present.

The health experts said around two crore people are affected with kidney diseases. But as the symptoms are not vivid at the primary stage, people don't go to the doc-

tors. By the time the symptoms become clear, 75 percent of the kidney get damaged.

So, the people should be made aware of preventive measures. People aged over 40 years and having diabetes or high blood pressure should go for kidney screening, they said.

To mark the World Kidney Day, the Barakah Kidney Hospital and Research Centre started a month-long free treatment programme yesterday.

It also offers a 40 percent discount for urology and kidney related surgeries. Four camps will be held at Dhaka and its outskirts to provide health counseling free of cost. Furthermore, two free urine infection screening programmes will be held at two educational institutes in the capital.

International Diabetic and Kidney Foundation and Kidney Awareness, Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS) held rallies in the city to mark the day.

## SNATCHING CASE Milon asked to surrender before trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed former BNP state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon to surrender before the trial court in Chandpur within eight weeks in connection with a mobile phone snatching case.

The HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque also directed the trial court to consider the bail prayer of Milon on his surrender.

The court passed the order upon a bail petition filed by Milon.

Mohammad Fuad Hasan, a Jubo League worker of Chandpur, filed the case with Chandpur Police Station against Milon on March 1.

In the case statement, Fuad said Milon and his men had beaten him (Fuad) and snatched his mobile phone on March 1 in 2004, but he could not file any case at that time due to political situation.

Milon appeared before the High Court during the hearing on his bail petition yesterday.

Barrister Rafique-ul Haq assisted by advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for the petitioner.

## Campaign for war crimes trial kicks off tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, a platform for cultural organisations, will start countrywide cultural movement tomorrow to make people united in the demand for trial of war criminals.

As part of the movement, cultural leaders and workers will visit across the country covering eight regions and hold rallies, processions and cultural programmes.

They will sensitise people to the issue of immediate trial of the war criminals and make people united against all sorts of conspiracies against the trial.

"As per our programmes, we will start our first journey from the Dhaka University campus on March 13 towards Chittagong," said Hasan Arif, general secretary of the alliance, at a press conference at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

As many as 40 noted cultural workers and

alliance leaders will lead the first journey from the city while local freedom fighters, cultural workers, leaders and workers of Awami League-led 14-party alliance and other progressive political parties will join the programmes at nine spots in Narayanganj, Comilla and Feni on way to Chittagong.

The two-day second phase team will leave the city for Nilphamari region on March 19. As per schedules, cultural workers will visit Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Faridpur and Mymensingh regions.

The organisation hoped that the demand for trying war criminals will be consolidated more through the countrywide tour and it will also create consciousness among people about the conspiracies by the anti-liberation forces to foil the trial process.

Cultural activist and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor said the tour will play a major role in make people aware of the demand and it will help start the trial process.

## Woman found dead in city slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a slum at Nobin Bagh in the city's Meradia area.

The victim, aged around 25, was wearing salwar and kameez.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College

Morgue for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge of Khilgaon Police Station Nazim Uddin said they recovered the body from the residence of Manik Mia, an age-old rickshaw puller.

He said the girl's neck was tightly tied with a rope.

Police is looking for Manik Mia who resides alone in the house.

## RU STUDENT MURDER Shibir men give info 'spontaneously' Says Tuku

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir men, who have been detained on charge of killing a Rajshahi University student, are delivering statements "spontaneously" about the involvement of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haq Tuku said yesterday.

"The detained Shibir men are delivering 'spontaneously' on the involvement of Jamaat leaders in the killing of a Rajshahi University student," he said adding that the Shibir men are not being forced to make the statements as claimed by Jamaat leaders.

Talking to The Daily Star, Tuku said the law enforcement agencies are examining the statements and if the allegations are found to be true, the involved Jamaat leaders would be brought to book.

The law enforcement agencies are keeping constant watch on the Jamaat leaders whose names came up in the statements of Shibir leaders, a top home ministry official said adding that they might face arrest anytime on instructions of the government high-ups.

Ekram Hossain, a top RU Shibir leader and accused of murdering the RU student Faruk Hossain, linked key central leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and Shibir with the killing during interrogation by Rab.

Ekram recently told a press briefing that prior to the attack on February 9, RU Shibir unit president Shamsul Alam Golap was in constant contact with the key Jamaat leaders and Shibir central president Rezaul Karim.

The Jamaat leaders involved include Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi.

## Cop killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Ansar member was killed when an oil-laden lorry hit him in front of the Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Moholal Miah, 28. He was returning to his Ashkona residence after discharging his duty.

Police have arrested the driver Abul Hossain and seized the lorry.

**BRITISH COUNCIL**

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