



All Party Garment Worker Oikya stages a demonstration demanding Tk 5,000 as minimum wage for garment workers at Muktangan in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

ICT facilities to all UPs by December

BSS, Dhaka

To fulfil the dream of 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021, ICT facilities will be expanded to all unions in the country by this year to reach such facilities to the doorsteps of the rural people.

"After tremendous success in 102 unions, the information and communication technology (ICT) facilities will be expanded to all 4,484 unions by December, envisioned by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," a review meeting on the activities of Digital Bangladesh was told here yesterday.

The meeting arranged by the UNDP-funded Access to Information (A2I) Programme under the Prime Minister's Office also took a decision to bring all government offices at the upazila level under computer and internet network.

Besides, decisions were undertaken to arrange 'digital innovative fair' in all divisional cities in the country from October to December and to introduce unicode Bangla typing in all ministries.

Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam was the chief guest at the meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office.

With Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office M Abdul Karim in the chair, the function was addressed by Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz as the special guest.

National Project Director of A2I Programme Mohammad Nazrul Islam Khan gave answers

to various questions as the coordinator of the function, while secretaries of all ministries and 'e-governance focal points' were present.

Speaking on the occasion, HT Imam called upon the government officials to work hard for raising literacy rate to implement Digital Bangladesh envisioned by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Without increasing the country's literacy rate, implementation of Digital Bangladesh will not be possible as both are related with each other," he said.

HT Imam urged the secretaries to work with a service-oriented mindset and undertake programmes to reach the digital services to the doorsteps of the people speedily and at a low cost.

The PM's adviser also asked the government officials to take the next steps after evaluating the progress of the earlier programmes.

The meeting reviewed the progress of 53 'quick-win initiatives' innovated by the 53 ministries and government departments to reach digital services to the doorsteps of the people. Besides, 39 'quick-win initiatives' were identified.

At the meeting, all ministries and government departments were reminded to present these new innovations to the divisional innovative fairs as the digital services.

It also discussed in detail the issues of cyber safety and ICT Policy-2009.

No interference in media

Says info minister
BSS, Sirajganj

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said there is no government interference in the media.

Journalists are working more freely during the tenure of the present government than any time in the past, he told journalists after offering fateha at the Khwaja Yunus Ali Darbar Sharif at Enayetpur in the district.

Enayetpur Thana Awami League (AL) President Advocate Abdul Khaleq and other leaders and workers of the party and local administration officials were present on the occasion.

Azad said the opposition party is not cooperating with the government, rather they are misguiding the people through the media to create an unstable situation in the country.

Earlier, he visited the Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College Hospital.

He also exchanged views with local AL leaders and activists on different issues in the afternoon.

Lankan envoy calls on DU VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka Sarath K Weragoda called on Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at latter's office yesterday, says a press release.

They discussed issues of mutual interests especially the possibilities of establishing collaborative programmes between the Dhaka University and universities in Sri Lanka.

Prof Arefin thanked Sarath K Weragoda for his visit and showing interest to improve academic cooperation with DU.

Ershad leaves for UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday left the country for the United Kingdom in a 10-day personal visit, said a press release.

During this period, party presidium member GM Quader, also the Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister, will serve duties as acting chairman of the party.

Ershad's family members and a number of party leaders will accompany him.

The JP chairman is expected to return home on August 3.



Saudi Charge d' Affaires in Dhaka Sami Jamil A Al Hindi calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Call to develop nursing for better healthcare

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a function yesterday said nursing profession should be developed with quality education to ensure better healthcare facilities in the country.

AK Khan Healthcare Trust and American Higher Education Global Healthcare Inc organised the inaugural function of Nursing Bridge Programme at Abacus Convention Centre in the city.

It is not possible to develop the health sector without improving nursing profession alongside proper education and facilities, they told.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB) Dr Atiur Rahman urged the private sector to take initiatives for the development of the health sector, as the government cannot do it alone.

He said banks should come forward with soft-term loan facilities for private sector to flourish healthcare facilities.

The BB observed that Bangladesh has a large number of young people, saying it is an oppor-

tunity as the number of old people is high in many developed nations due to increase of their life expectancy.

He said, "We have to turn the young generation into the best human resources by providing them with necessary education and facilities, which will help them earn foreign currency from abroad."

President of BIRDEM Prof Dr AK Azad said the government is taking various initiatives to increase dignity of nurses to make it an attractive profession.

He said facilities should be increased for nurses so that more people take up this precession.

Atiur Rahman addressed the function as the chief guest with Chairman of Centre for Development Research Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly in the chair.

Chairman of AK Khan Healthcare Trust and Chief Executive Officer of American Higher Education Global Healthcare Nagesh Singh addressed the function.



Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army and Vice Chairman of Trust Bank Limited (TBL) Maj Gen ATM Shahidul Islam hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Theatre School Secretary Ramendu Majumdar at the bank head office in the city recently. Members of the TBL Board of Directors Brig Gen K A R M Mostafa Kamal, Brig Gen Tushar Kanti Chakma and Begum Rokeya Din and Managing Director M Shah Alam Sarwar and Theatre School teacher Ataur Rahman and superintendent Khurshid Alam were present on the occasion.



Patuakhali Zila Chhatra Samity forms a human chain demanding Kuakata to be turned into a full-fledged tourism centre in front of the National Press Club yesterday.

2 fake students' certificates recalled by DU authority

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, recalled the honours and master's degree certificates of two fake students at an emergency meeting recently.

The two fake students are Mohammad Ruble Parvez and SA Ferdous Habib of Geography and Environment Sciences department.

The university officials found the irregularities while scrutinising the list of students who collected their certificates during last couple of years. DU officials started the inquiry following several such incidents occurring in recent days.

Ruble and Ferdous were identified as fake students on August 6, 2008 who took admission to the department under session 2001-02 through fraudulent means. The university administration then issued a circular canceling their studentship.

the High Court against DU's decision. The court then ordered university authorities to allow the students to participate in the examinations but cited that their result would not be published until the issue is resolved, DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told reporters after the meeting.

However, the results of the fake students were published with others and they collected their certificates.

Ferdous and Ruble collected their honours degree certificates on July 16, 2007. Ferdous collected his master's degree certificate on March 30, 2009 while Ruble collected his on June 28, 2009.

DU Syndicate also formed a probe committee headed by Treasurer Prof Mijanur Rahman to investigate into the matter and identify people behind it. The committee has been asked to submit its report by three weeks.

VC Prof Arefin said the writ filed by the fake students is still in the court. He vowed to take action against the people involved in the irregularities.

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