

JU 11th batch reunion on Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Reunion of the 11th batch students of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held on next Friday on the university campus.
 The programme will start at 9:00am at central cafeteria, says a press release.
 The students of the batch are requested to join the reunion and contact at the following persons-Sharif (Bangla, Cell no-01817-584918), Mintu (Economics, Cell no- 01711-046633), Rabbani (Economics, Cell no-01199859459) and Rokan (Geography, Cell no-01711-545291).



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia waves to party leaders and activists at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday on her return from China after a five-day visit. (Story on Page 1)

Fight poverty unitedly

PM urges Saarc nations

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Saarc member nations to work together for establishing peace and achieving economic development to eradicate poverty.

"We want to maintain friendly relations with all our neighbours... We want to work closely to fight poverty by maintaining sovereignty of each country of the region," she said at a meeting with the delegation members of Gandhi Ashram Trust and South Asian Peace Youth Camp at Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said peace is the essence of all religions although many create violence in the name of religion. The message Mahatma Gandhi left was also peace.

"We want coexistence of people of all religions in the countries in South Asia. We want to establish Bangladesh as an abode of peace in the region," she said, adding that "we should not fight against each other; rather, we should fight poverty, our number one enemy."

She appreciated the activities of the South Asian Peace Youth Camp and handed over the camp's banner to Sri Lanka, which will host the camp next year.

Camp Director Dr S N Subba Rao, Gandhi Ashram Trust President Gour Gopal Saha and its member secretary Jharna Dhara also spoke on the occasion.



17TH UDICHI CONVENTION

Birangonas demand recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

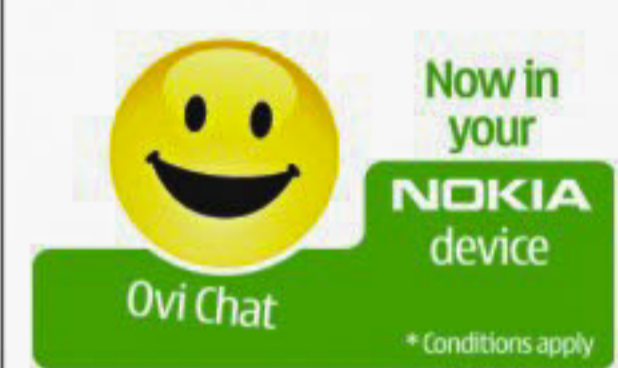
Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi yesterday began its 17th national convention with the demand of war crimes trial and an exploitation-free society.

Twenty-one Briangona (heroic woman) mothers inaugurated the two-day long conference at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city releasing pigeons and balloons.

Birangona Rahela Khatun at the session demanded trial of war criminals and recognition of Birangonas as freedom fighter.

The inaugural ceremony started at national public library auditorium at 11:00am. Educationist Mostafa Nur-ul-Islam was present at the programme as the chief guest.

The organisational session began at 2:00 pm, which was followed by a cultural programme in the evening. Today's programme will start at 9:00am.



Corporal punishment: 7 teachers face music

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

In a bid to implement the court order to ban corporal punishment on school students, different actions were taken against seven school and madrasa teachers for torturing students across the country since March this year.

Ministry of Education and madrasa education board said this in their reports. They submitted two reports to the High Court through the attorney general's office on November 11 as per its earlier directive.

One report informed that the government has framed a rule prohibiting any kind of physical and mental punishment on students in educational institutions.

The institution authorities took action against the accused teachers, including suspension of two teachers for giving corporal punishment, it added.

In response to a writ petition, the HC on October 26 directed the government to submit reports on the steps taken regarding the incidents of corporal punishment in schools across the country between March and October this year.

Human rights organisations Ain O

Shalish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) jointly filed the petition in July this year against the backdrop of the increasing number of such incidents.

The HC will soon hold hearing on the issue, Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star on November 22.

The ministry of education, in its report, said Md Shamsuddin, assistant teacher of Chhoto Munshipara Government Primary School of Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh, was suspended on July 15 this year for beating Md Anwar Hossain, a student of class four, with a stick on July 14.

A departmental case was lodged against Shamsuddin on July 21 in this connection.

Khulna district primary education office recommended the Directorate of Primary Education to take departmental proceedings against Baby Bishwash, assistant teacher of Nazrul Nagar Government Primary School of the district, for beating Laboni Aktar, a student of class four, it said.

Feni district primary education office lodged a departmental case against

Education ministry and madrasa board submit two reports to the High Court on Nov 11 as per its directive

Ratna Roy, headmistress of Birinchi Ideal Government Primary School of Feni Sadar upazila, for caning with 10 to 12 students on March 8.

The case was filed under Government Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1985.

The governing body of Ideal School and College, Motijheel, Dhaka rebuked and warned Md Shahjahan Ali, physical trainer of the institution, on October 7, for cutting the hair of 15 students as punishment on September 22, according to the report.

Madrasa education board, in its report, said the authorities concerned of Jummat Darul Ulum Fazil (Senior) Madrasa of Ulipur upazila in Kurigram

suspended one of its teacher for torturing a student of the institution.

Authorities concerned of Baharbagh Abed Ali Dakhil Madrasa in Magura rebuked its teacher Md Idris Hossain for torturing a student.

Akndapara Dakhil Madrasa authorities fined its teacher Moulana Abdul Wahab Tk 5,000 for torturing its student Mehe, according to the report.

The education ministry on August 8 issued a circular asking the district education officers and upazila secondary education officers to take action under the existing law along with departmental action against such misconduct.

Teachers should help flourish physical and mental growth of the students and groom them up as worthy citizens, it said, adding that students' educational progress is hampered due to physical punishment.

In the circular, the government also directed the heads of respective educational institutions to take necessary steps to stop physical punishment. The school management committees will identify the teachers and take remedial measures to this end, it added.

Check price spiral with farsighted steps, Suranjit urges minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday



said price hike of essentials will be impossible to check if the minister and others concerned are not farsighted enough to deal with the situation.

"The minister and officials concerned should be farsighted enough to analyse the market situation and take steps accordingly," he said.

"The government should

not be blamed always for the price spiral of essential commodities, as it depends on international market too."

He said the price of onions has recently increased in the local markets due to its price rise in international markets including in India and Pakistan.

Suranjit, chairman of parliamentary standing

committee on law ministry, was addressing a discussion at Dhaka University organised by Bangladesh Awami Shishu-Jubo Sangskritik Jote.

Also a member of Awami League Advisory Council, Suranjit said war criminals should be tried to save humanity. He hoped the trial would be finished off soon with due importance.

160 arrested

BSS, Rangpur

Police in separate anti-crime drives arrested 160 people, including notorious criminals, from various places in the district in 24 hours ending at noon yesterday.



The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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