



Waste collected after clearing the storm drain under Panthapath Road in the city lies right on the road for days obstructing free flow of traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Dhaka firm to ensure fair war crimes trial

### Ambassador Qader tells briefing in US

BSS, Dhaka

The government is committed to bringing to justice the persons who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation, Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Akramul Qader said.

"The trial will be fair and transparent as per the provisions of Bangladesh constitution and law enacted in the national parliament," he told a briefing session on the International War Crimes Tribunal in Washington on May 19.

Stephen J Rapp, US Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues, also joined the briefing session organised by American Society of International Law, according to a message received here yesterday.

It was also addressed by Caitlin Reiger of International Centre for Transnational Justice (ICTJ) and John Cammegg, a lawyer.

Ambassador Qader also said the judiciary in Bangladesh is free and has been functioning independently.

Ambassador Rapp briefed the gathering on his recent visit to Bangladesh and his interactions with the authorities concerned in Dhaka.

The briefing session was attended by legal experts, State Department officials, media representatives and expatriate Bangladeshis.

## 'Govt mulls timeframe for case disposal'

BSS, Dhaka

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said initiative has been taken to bring necessary amendments to the laws for ensuring swift disposal of pending cases.

"The government is thinking over to fix a timeframe for every step of case disposal process including issuing summon and service return for reducing the period of case disposal," he said.

The minister yesterday inaugurated the 105th Judicial Administration Training Course for the senior assistant judges, judicial magistrates, and officials of the similar ranks at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the city.

At the inaugural ceremony, he urged the judges to address the delaying factors in the case disposal process so that people get justice in proper time.

He, however, also noted that number of judges decreased sharply after separation of the judiciary from administration. The minister said 200 judges have been appointed so far during the present government, and another 100 judges are awaiting appointment.

## Journo Saleh Chy hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Veteran journalist Saleh Chowdhury, vice-president of Commonwealth Journalists Association, Bangladesh (CJA,B) has undergone a prostate gland surgery at city's Modern Hospital.

CJA global President Hassan Shahriar and CJA,B President Farid Hossain and General Secretary Abdur Rahman Khan prayed for Chowdhury's early recovery. They also urged the authorities at Modern Hospital to provide him good care.

## Call for more budgetary allocation in ICT sector

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a pre-budget roundtable called for more fiscal allocation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the forthcoming national budget to build Digital Bangladesh as declared by the present government.

They said the budget should be pro-people and welfare-oriented so that it could bring economic emancipation of the people in general.

Bangladesh ICT Journalists Forum (BIJF) organised the roundtable titled "Towards a Digital Bangladesh" at Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) auditorium here.

State Minister for Science and ICT Architect Yeafesh Osman addressed the discussion as the chief guest with Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) President Mustafa Jabber in the chair.

BCC Executive Director Mahfuzur Rahman and Lawmaker Dr Akram attended the programme as the special guests.

It was also addressed by Cambrian College Vice-Chairman Khondaker Selima Rowshan, BCS former presidents Sabur Khan and Faizullah Khan, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) vice president Habibullah Niamat Karim Zia Hasan Khan.

## Cooperatives movement to be expanded

Says Nanak

BSS, Bogra

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday said cooperatives movement would be expanded to every village across the country to accelerate rural development and lessen the rural-urban gap.

"Steps are underway to form at least one cooperative at every village," Nanak said at the 40th board meeting of the Rural Development Academy (RDA) here.

Cooperatives Secretary Mihir Kanti Majumder, Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan, Cooperatives Registrar Sagufta Ifquat, Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Mohammad Ataur Rahman, and Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Humayun Mallik were present.

Nanak said the proposed cooperatives would help rural folks gain expertise on economic and livelihood development that include poultry and livestock rearing, plantation, fisheries and vegetable cultivation.

The fate of Bangladesh would be changed provided the gap between rural and urban areas could be lessened, he added.

## Review creative question method

Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a roundtable discussion here yesterday said creative question method at schools should be reviewed to see if it really improves the education standard although the results in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations have improved this year.

Expressing satisfaction at the progress in school education, they said the review would help retain the present standard of education and discover the lapses.

Remarkable progress has been attained in education sector, especially in rate of school admission, yet school dropout rate remains alarmingly high, they told the discussion titled "Standard school education: aspiration, reality and field of solution."

Power and Participation Research

Centre (PPRC) Chittagong Research Initiative with support from AK Khan Foundation arranged it at the auditorium of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) in Agrabad of the port city.

PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman, who moderated the programme, said presently lack of quality education at schools is the prime concern that forces us all to think about it.

East Delta University Vice Chancellor Sekandar Khan, Chittagong Board Chairman Md Nurul Huda, Chittagong University's former museum curator Shamsul Hossain, Prof Md Manjurul Kibria of CU, Agrabad Mahila College Principal Anwara Alam, and Sunshine Grammar School and College principal Safia Gazi also spoke at the discussion.



North South University (NSU) Foundation Chairman Mr Azim Uddin Ahmed addresses the orientation ceremony for the newly enrolled students under Summer 2011 semester on the university campus yesterday. NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi chaired the programme.

PHOTO: NSU

## Orientation ceremony of NSU held

METRO DESK

The orientation ceremony for the newly enrolled undergraduate students under Summer 2011 semester in North South University (NSU) was held on the university campus yesterday.

NSU Foundation Chairman Azim Uddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest while Vice Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqi chaired the ceremony, says a press release.

Dr AKM Atiqur Rahman, dean of SASS; Dr ATM Nurul Amin, dean of SEAC; Dr Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, dean of SOB; and Dr Donald James Gomes, dean of SLS; attended the event.

Also present were the registrar, proctor, chairpersons, students, and guardians.

The NSU Foundation chairman welcomed the freshers and thanked the guardians for their trust in NSU.

The orientation ceremony was held for fresh students of BBA, economics, environment, architecture, English, computer science, computer engineering, computer science and engineering, ETE, EEE, microbiology, pharmacy, and biochemistry.



A child holds a placard protesting frequent power cuts at a rally organised by National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. The rally demanded not to allow export of natural resources.

PHOTO: STAR

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