

NEWS IN *brief*

**Technical education to build human resources**

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday laid emphasis on expansion of modern and technical education for implementing the Digital Bangladesh vision announced by the present government.

"Technical education would be one of the tools for implementing Digital Bangladesh," he said while addressing the central delegates' conference of Bangladesh Technical College Teachers Association at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

The minister regretted that despite immense prospect of technical education in the country, the sector has still remained neglected.

"We have to focus more on technical and vocational education to turn the huge population into human resources," he said, adding that steps should be taken to build skilled manpower with technical education.

**NSU career fair begins Saturday**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh National Career Fair, organised by the department of career and professional development services (CPDS) of North South University (NSU), will begin Saturday on the university campus in Basundhara in the city, says a press release.

Around 70 organisations representing various industries are expected to participate in the two-day fair, which will also feature seminars, workshops, and on-spot interviews.

**RMG worker kills herself**

UNB, Gazipur

A female garments worker allegedly committed suicide at Chandana village of Gazipur yesterday. The deceased was identified as Hasina Begum, 25, wife of Kanchon Miah of Haluaghat village in Mymensingh district.

Police said, Hasina strangled herself by hanging from the ceiling with a scarf in her rented house possibly due to family feud.

Her body was taken to Gazipur Sadar hospital for autopsy.

**Sanvir, his partners killed Sabbir for Tk 21cr**

*Alleges victim's father in court*

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Hashem Chowdhury, father of the slain Humayun Kabir Sabbir, yesterday told a Dhaka court that his son was killed allegedly by Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of the Bashundhara Group chairman, and his accomplices for evading his (Sabbir) Tk21 crore.

Hashem said this while he was giving deposition before the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka. Later, he was cross-examined by lawyers of the accused Shamsuddin Ahmed and Kahirul Hassan Uzzal, now on bail.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam recorded statement of the witness and then fixed May 31 for the next hearing. On that day, Hashem will be cross-examined again on behalf of Shamsuddin and Uzzal.

The witness identified Shamsuddin and Uzzal on the dock who were also allegedly involved in the killing. The two were accomplices of Sanvir, the prime accused in the case.

Hashem said after getting job to the post of computer engineer of Telecommunications Unit, Bashundhara Group sent his son Sabbir to London for running securities business where he earned a amount of Tk 400 crore.

As per the deal with Bashundhara, Tk 20 crore (5percent of the total profit of Tk 400cr) was payable to Sabbir from the securities business profits, said Hashem in his statement. Another Tk 1crore was refundable to Sabbir as he deposited the money to the company as security, he said.

Hashem came to know from his son-in-law ASM Asif that Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Chief Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, called his son Sabbir out of Asif's residence at the night of the incident.

Later, his son was killed by Sanvir and his accomplices at their Dream Apartment in Gulshan as Sabbir pressed the company for paying his total Tk 21 crore, Hashem continued.

Sanvir and the two and his two security guards -- Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir--are on the run since the case was filed.

Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Telecommunications Network Ltd, was brutally killed on July 5, 2006. His body was found outside a building in Gulshan in the city.

Victim's brother-in-law Asif filed a murder case with Gulshan police on July 7 without mentioning any suspects.

Mohammad Arman Ali, assistant superintendent of police of Criminal Investigation Department, pressed charges against Sanvir and four others on May 12, 2008.

**16th anniversary of DRU today**

BSS, Dhaka

The 16th founding anniversary of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will be celebrated in a befitting manner today.

DRU chalked out elaborate programmes marking the occasion. The day's programmes will begin through hoisting of flag and cutting cake at 11:30am.

Besides, a reception will be accorded to freedom fighter members of DRU on May 29 at 2:30pm. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam will attend the function as the chief guest.

A seminar styled "The Role of Reporters in Democratic March" will be held on May 30 at 2:30pm. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad will attend the seminar as the chief guest.



**Bangladesh Ambassador to France Enamul Kabir receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris yesterday.**

PHOTO: PID

**25kg touchstone statue found**

UNB, Faridpur

A touchstone-made statue of Hindu god Bishnu was handed over to the National Museum by Faridpur district administration yesterday.

The 25-kg statue was recovered from Deoa village of Bhanga upazila on April 12.

ADC General Arun Chandra Mahottam, ADC (education) Rashidul Alam, Assistant Commissioner Abu Sayeed were present at during the handover.

Dibakar Shikdar and Noor Islam Molla, assistant directors of the museum, received the statue on behalf of the museum.

Dibakar said the statue is thousand years old. He said the National Museum would be enriched if such costly statues are handed over to it.

**Policy sought to help grow ship-breaking**

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday focused on a common policy that would help ship-breaking industry grow in the country giving equal emphasis on environment protection.

They stressed that the policy should be made by listening to all stakeholders so the progress of the ship-breaking industry does not get stuck midway.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua assured, "Nobody will be able to impede the progress of the ship-breaking industry but the industry will have to be environment-friendly."

The minister was addressing the chief guest the seminar on "Problems and prospects of iron and steel industry: Bangladesh perspective."

The Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the event at its conference room in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud said the government wants to work together with all concerned to help flourish the sector by protecting environment.

"We've to think of environment protection and flourishing of the sector simultaneously. We've to take up such a policy which won't impede the progress of the industry," he said, adding that the government is not an opponent to anybody rather it is complimentary.

Hasan Mahmud assured the ship-breakers of simplifying environment clearance certificate issuance without any delay.

FBCCI President AK Azad, who chaired the seminar, urged the government to withdraw import duty and increase income tax to help businesses grow in the country.

He said the government should prepare a people-friendly budget and urged not to impose tax burden on businesses that are contributing immensely to the country's economy.

The government can survive a five-year tenure but cannot hang on to power for a longer period unless it increases the civic facilities, he said.

Some of the stakeholders came down heavily on Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) and urged the government not to listen to this organisation for their "controversial observation".

"Stop Bela. They're our enemy. Bela will use court and stop ship-breaking in the country," said FBCCI member Jannatul Islam.

Abu Naser said they requested Bela officials to attend the seminar to have an open discussion on the issue.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Morshed Murad Ibrahim, FBCCI First Vice President M Jasim Uddin, Vice President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, and FBCCI Director M Helal Uddin, among others, took part in the discussion.

Adviser of Bangladesh Steel Mills Owners Association Dr M Bashir Ullah and Technical Adviser of Bangladesh Ship-breakers Association Capt Salah Uddin Ahmed presented papers at the seminar.

**Govt blamed for terming Limon 'criminal'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties yesterday expressed deep concern over statements from high government officials bracketing Limon and his family as criminals while the incident is under investigation.

In a joint statement, the leaders specifically pointed at the statement from the defence advisor of the prime minister, terming it beyond his jurisdiction.

Although the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) director general termed Limon, after being shot in the leg by Rab, as a "victim of circumstance", he later denied saying so and identified the victims as criminals.

Drawing the prime minister's attention, the leaders said these senseless statements are creating frustration and anger among general people and is spoiling the image of Bangladesh abroad.

"We expect the prime minister's personal intervention to put a stop to these senseless comments from government officials and an end to the sufferings faced by Limon and his family members.

"She should start a judicial investigation on extra judicial killings and tortures and ensure proper treatment for Limon," read the statement.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badshah; Shirin Akhter; Dr Mushtaq Hossain; Noor Ahmed Bakul; Ragib Ahsan Munna; Ruhin Hossain Prince; Aslam Khan; and Mokhesur Rahman Muktedir, among others, signed the statement.

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, in a separate statement, also condemned the statements from top government officials.



**Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses the Atlantic Council of the USA in Washington DC on May 24.**

PHOTO: BNP

**Export-import thru Benapole suspended**

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Import and export between Bangladesh and India through Benapole port were suspended yesterday noon.

The suspension followed a clash between CPM and Trinamool Congress backed workers at Indian port of Petrapole, opposite Benapole, over establishing control at Petrapole.

Kartik Chatterjee, general secretary of Petrapole Port C&F Agent Staff Welfare Association, confirmed the clash.

Aminul Islam, director (traffic) of Benapole Port, said despite the export-import interruption, work at Benapole port went on normal.

Several hundred trucks carrying goods stay stranded in the port areas of both countries with highly perishable goods including fruits, vegetables, and fish facing threat to be rot.

**RE-CHECKING SSC ANSWER SHEETS**

**Record number of applications this year**

WASIM BIN HABIB

A record number of applications for re-checking the answer sheets of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations were received in the country's education boards this year thanks to technology.

The 10 education boards recorded around 75,000 applications sent by Short Messaging Service (SMS) using the service providing telecommunication company Teletalk with a charge of Tk 125 for each subject.

Dhaka Education Board alone received 21,800 applications, said

the board officials. Each year, the boards receive only around 15,000 to 20,000 applications in total for re-checking.

Formerly, students who either failed to pass or did not achieve desired results had to apply for the re-checking by going to the respective board, filling up an application form and depositing the desired money in a bank.

"Now the hassle is over as all the students needed to do is send an SMS from their mobile phones," said Syed Sadik Jahidul Islam, controller of Dhaka Education Board and chief of Inter-Education Board Exam

Controller Sub Committee.

The controller and the board officials believe the huge number of applications was due to the easy application process ensured by the use of mobile phones.

Around 13.07 lakh students from 26,225 institutions appeared in this year's SSC and equivalent examinations and of them, 10.75 lakh passed. A total of 2,31,269 examinees under 10 education boards failed to pass.

The date of applying for the re-checking ended on May 21.

Rajshahi Education Board received 7,039 applications while the number was 16,000 in Jessore; 8,084

in Chittagong, 4,879 in Comilla; 1,200 in Sylhet; 1,000 in Barisal; 7,303 in Dinajpur; 6,000 under Madrasa Education Board; and 1,200 under Technical Education Board, says board statistics.

The boards already asked all head examiners and other examiners concerned to start re-checking the answer sheets from next week, said an official of Dhaka Board.

The re-checking result would be published before admission begins in colleges, he said, adding that the students have to collect their results from their respective boards.

**Glaxose WEATHER TODAY**  
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**Rain likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over all the seven divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Mongla and lowest 22.3 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	24.5	80	67
Chittagong	32.5	26.0	85	81
Rajshahi	32.8	23.1	94	80
Rangpur	32.2	24.0	79	67
Khulna	36.5	26.0	83	76
Barisal	34.6	23.0	77	96
Sylhet	32.0	22.3	78	75

Instant energy, Instant recharge



**Non-government teachers with a 12-point demand form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Dr Sattar's anniversary of death today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of Dr MA Sattar, a former secretary

and founder of the Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE), says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion and milad mahfil will be held at the BACE office in Purana Palatan in the city.

Relatives, friends, and admirers are requested to attend the programme.