

BBC World Service Trust head in city

METRO DESK

The Executive Director of the BBC World Service Trust, Caroline Nurse, arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, says a press release.

During her stay, she will meet with a number of individuals and organisations central to the organisation's work and explore the scopes for new projects in Bangladesh.

The BBC World Service Trust has worked in Bangladesh since 2005 when it first launched Bangladesh Sanglap (dialogue).

In 2009, the organisation launched a multi-platform English learning service, BBC Janala (window).

Nurse will meet the partner and partner organisations of BBC Janala, including the Government of Bangladesh, BTV, the daily Prothom Alo, and the country's six mobile phone operators.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Delay unexpected

Says Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's failure to complete war crimes trial even after two and a half years into its term is quite unexpected, said Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, yesterday.

"But I hope that the recent declaration (law minister's) to begin the trial next month will be as per schedule," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion titled "Hundredth birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal: A non-communal Bangladesh free from militancy and war criminals" organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at the city's Dhaka Reporter's Unity.

Except people concerned of International Crimes Tribunal, none, not even a minister, should comment on the trial as it has to be free, fair and of international standard, he said.

He said parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment added some provisions in the constitution to clarify all questions regarding the trial.

On BNP demanding to keep the provision of caretaker government before any talks, he said the demand is antidemocratic and cannot resolve the current political crisis. He urged the opposition to present their suggestions in parliament.

Film actor ATM Shamsuzzaman, speaking as the special guest, said people must remain aware of a certain quarter conspiring to use Islam for political gains.

Lawmaker Tarana Halim, Sheikh Jahangir Alam, MA Karim, Farid Ali and Nurjahan Mukta also spoke at the discussion.

BSMMU's 1st convocation today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first-ever convocation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city today.

President Zillur Rahman, also chancellor of BSMMU, is expected to chair the ceremony while eminent educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui would grace it as the convocation speaker.

The authorities of BSMMU announced the schedules of the convocation at a press conference at the university's Milton Hall of yesterday.

BSMMU Vice-chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta, Proctor Zakaria Swapan, Treasurer Prof Dr Moazzam Hossain, and Prof Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed were present at conference.

Training on PR ends

METRO DESK

The two-week training course on "Modern technique of public relations and communication", organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM), concluded in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamoon attended as the chief guest the concluding and certificate-awarding ceremony held Sunday at the institute's conference room and distributed certificates among the participants.

Mamoon said different organisations can improve their image and can solve their management crisis by using effective public relations strategy and planning.

BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader presided over the function.

UGC signs contract to connect varsities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday signed a contract with Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) in a bid to build an information network among the country's universities and research institutes.

UGC Secretary Md Khaled and PGCB Company Secretary Md Ashraf Hossain signed the contract on behalf of their respective organisations at UGC auditorium in the city.

The contract allows UGC's access to PGCB's countrywide optical fibers network, which UGC will use to build Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) connecting all universities and research institutes across the country.

The UGC, which has to pay Tk 221.884 million for enjoying the PGCB connectivity for 20 years, will establish BdREN under "Higher education quality enhancement project" jointly financed by the government and the World Bank.

The network shall be used for advanced applications such as distance learning, online lecture and resource sharing, video conferencing, digital library, weather forecasting, disaster management through real time data exchange, telemedicine and the like.

Once BdREN is set up, Bangladesh will be connected with Trans Eurasia Information Network (TEIN3), which will enhance collaboration between academic community of the country and international community and academia.

UGC Chairman Prof Dr Azad Chowdhury and PGCB Chairman Md Harun-ur-Rashid were present at the ceremony.

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