

Initiate tiffin system at secondary level schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday emphasised on initiating tiffin system for the students of non-government secondary schools.

The ministry, in a circular signed by Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, yesterday said, although two school-feeding programmes for primary schools are being run in the country, no such programmes are there at secondary level.

The circular came following the prime minister's direction to initiate tiffin system at the high school level that came at Deputy Commissioner's conference on July this year.

Ensuring nutrition to the students will help reduce the drop out rate, the circular said.

The ministry requested assistance from school managing committees, well-off people, educationists, former students and solvent parents to initiate the programme.

The ministry requested the schools to arrange a fund by opening an account in a nearby bank, which will be operated jointly by the managing committee president and school headmaster.



Devotees of Gautam Buddha light candles at Nandakanon Buddhist Temple in Chittagong yesterday on the occasion of 'Madhu Purnima', one of the two biggest festivals of the Buddhist community. The day commemorates Buddha spreading the message of peace for mankind.

PHOTO: STAR

2 women found dead at railway stations in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two women lost their lives in separate incidents at Kamalapur and Gandaria railway stations in the city in the last two days.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged around 30 years, from near platform number 5 of Kamalapur Railway Station around 7:00am yesterday.

Jamal Majumder, assistant sub-inspector of Kamalapur Government Railway Police (GRP) Station, said the body did not bear any injury marks. Also, the people at the station could not say how the woman died, he added.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Laily Begum, 45, a vagabond who used to beg from the train passengers, died when a train hit her at Gandaria Railway Station.

GRP Sub-inspector Ohidul Haque said a Dhaka-bound train coming from Narayanganj hit the woman around 8:30pm leaving her spot dead.

Locals said she was sitting by the rail track when the train hit her.

\$359m WB loan for health sector

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank will provide \$359 million loan for implementing the Health Sector Development Programme (HSDP).

An agreement to this effect will be signed at NEC 2 in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area today.

The assistance will come as a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the bank's concessionary lending arm.

The credit carries a 0.75 percent service charge, a maturity of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period.

The HSDP aims to support the efforts of the government to improve health services, especially for women, children, the poor and the marginalised people.

2 Mirsarai tragedy survivors fight on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The two surviving schoolboys of the July 11 Mirsarai tragedy are still fighting with the odds in the city's Apollo Hospitals.

Among them, Jewel Barua has been kept on life support at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

His uncle Saikat Barua yesterday told The Daily Star that Apollo's doctors informed them that Jewel's condition is very critical.

Jewel was taken to the Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday along with two other survivors, Raihan Uddin Shuvo and Nayan Shil, from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for better treatment.

They were injured when a truck loaded with school-going football fans turned turtle in a roadside

water-filled ditch at Mirsarai in Chittagong on July 11.

Of them, Raihan succumbed to his injuries early Thursday raising the death toll to 42.

After surviving the incident, Jewel even attended his second terminal examination at his school, said his aunt Suchitra Barua.

His condition began to deteriorate on August 13 as he felt severe headache and chest ache with respiratory problem and was admitted to CMCH, she said.

He was admitted to the Apollo Hospitals in an unconscious state five days back but his condition still remains unchanged, she added.

According to CMCH doctors, Jewel is suffering from fungal meningitis.

Fungal meningitis is a non-operational, medically curable, but highly infectious illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord, said Professor Dr Tahmina Banu, head of paediatric surgery at CMCH.

Jewel is receiving treatment under the supervision of Apollo's Dr Sandwip Kumar Das, who could not be contacted being on leave till September 17.

Also, the ICU's on-duty physicians hesitated to make any comment about Jewel's condition.

Meanwhile, Nayan is undergoing treatment at High Dependency Unit of the same hospital.

His cousin Basudev Shil said Nayan is supposed to undergo an operation coming Wednesday.

"Nayan is being treated under the supervision of Dr Mathews

Sandy," he said, adding that Nayan's condition has deteriorated from Friday.

Nayan has been undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Chittagong and Dhaka since the accident. He was admitted to CMCH on August 14 from where he was shifted to Apollo Hospitals.

Both Jewel and Nayan are students of class VIII at Abu Torab Bohumukhi High School in Mirsarai.

Mirsarai upazila Chairman Gias Uddin told The Daily Star that they are prepared to take the two survivors to All India Medical Research Centre in Delhi.

"We arranged their passports on emergency basis and are waiting for their health condition to improve for the flight to India," he added.

50 injured as RMG workers clash with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 people, including eight policemen, were injured as garment workers agitating for salary set fire to a garments factory and clashed with police at Mauna Chowrasta in Gazipur yesterday.

The workers also put up barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway for two-and-a-half hour from 12:00 noon creating long tailback at both end of the spot, which caused sufferings to the commuters.

Witnesses said workers of Golden Times Sweater and Dyeing Factory went out of the compound around 11:00am from the factory after setting fire to generator room and warehouse as they were not paid last Eid bonus and salary for July.

They said workers from adjacent factories joined the agitation and locked into a chase and counter chase with police.

Fire fighters from Valuka Fire Station managed to put out the fire after two hours of efforts.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Dr Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury, eminent academician, dramatist, and a teacher of Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University, says a press release.

On the occasion, the 22nd Dr Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury memorial speech-2011 will be held at the Modern Language Institute and foods will be distributed at orphanage.

Prof Dr Khandaker Ashraf Hossain will deliver the memorial speech with Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

Dr Nazma, wife of Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, passed away due to cancer on this day in 1989.



World Bank Vice President Isabel Guerrero calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

PADMA BRIDGE Hasina for early construction

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasised early construction of the Padma Bridge for connectivity with the southern region.

She laid importance on the early implementation of the bridge when World Bank Vice President Isabel Guerrero paid a courtesy call on her at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.

During the meeting the premier and the World Bank vice president discussed various issues of development, said deputy press secretary to the Prime Minister Bijan Lal Dev.

They also discussed how the World Bank can assist Bangladesh in achieving its development goals, including poverty alleviation.

Appreciating the government development projects, Isabel assured Bangladesh of continuing its assistance.

World Bank Country Director Ellen Goldstein accompanied Isabel.

Advisers to the Prime Minister Gowhar Rizvi, Dr Mosiur Rahman, Ambassador At-Large M Ziauddin, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim were present at the meeting.



Workshop

Multimedia Development & Communication Centre will organise a workshop; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 8:30am.

Human chain

Swasthya Andolon will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Save the Environment Movement will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Star Tailors, Armanitola, Bangshal; Time: 11:00am.

General meeting

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will organise its general meeting; Venue: its auditorium; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

University Laboratory School and College will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of the school; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Jagrata Janata Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Programme

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi Central Committee will organise a programme; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 5:00pm.

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