

HIGHER EDUCATION

ADB keen to help improve quality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is interested to study the state of higher education in Bangladesh to take necessary interventions to improve its quality of education, said ADB's Higher Education Specialist William Saint.

He also said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) believes that in a knowledge-based society, the economic and social progress of a country depends on the quality of higher education.

William Saint made the remarks when he called on University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury at the latter's office on Sunday, said a press release.

Now ADB experts and consultants are studying the strength and weaknesses of higher education in Bangladesh. As a part of the ADB's study, they met the UGC chairman to get his view on the issue, it said.

The UGC chairman told the ADB team that higher education in Bangladesh is gaining momentum day by day though the standard of higher education is not uniform in the country.

There are excellence centres of education and research in the country, said Prof Azad, adding that but in some public and private universities, the quality of education and research is not up to the mark.

NBR chief gets extension

UNB, Dhaka

The government has extended the term of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed for one year.

"His tenure has been extended by another year and he'll retire on October 28, 2012," NBR Public Relations Officer Sayed MA Mumen told UNB over phone yesterday.

The NBR chief was scheduled to retire on October 29 this year, Mumen said.

Earlier, the government had extended his tenure for two years.

Obituary

CU CORRESPONDENT

Ahmedul Hoque Chowdhury, former acting registrar of Chittagong University (CU), passed away in a private hospital in the port city Sunday night at the age of 70.

He was suffering from old age complications. Hoque left behind his wife, one son, five daughters, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

CU Vice-chancellor Prof MD Anwarul Azim Arif and Pro-VC Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin condoled the death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 15th death anniversary of noted industrialist Obaidul Hoque

Babul, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Masjidul Takwa mosque at 12/A, New Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Dr Shafi Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of renowned surgeon Dr Shafi Ahmed

Sultan, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and a commemorative meeting will be held and foods will be distributed in orphanage.

Relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to pray for the peace of the departed soul.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at a street rally at Shibpur Itakhola in Narsingdi yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Injured detectives look to suing NSI men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three suspended inspectors of detective branch (DB) of police have sought permission from the authority concerned for filing a lawsuit against the NSI men who caught and "tortured" them for an alleged bribery.

Earlier on Thursday the three detectives, who are now undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital in the city, filed a general diary (GD) with DB office against the NIS men in this connection.

The DB authorities on the day (October 6) suspended the three inspectors--Shafi Uddin Sheikh, Ruhul Amin and Gias Uddin--after NSI personnel caught them while they were allegedly realising bribe money from a person in front of Holy Family Hospital in the city.

Four days into the alleged bribery, the one-member probe body could not make any headway as the bribery victim remained traceless.

The DB Chief Mir Shahidul Islam who leads the probe said, "We will not be able to justify the allegation until we can find out the alleged bribery victim. We have asked the officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station for taking steps to place the victim before the probe body."

During a visit to the suspended DB inspectors at the Rajarbagh hospital yesterday, they said they went to the spot to arrest "criminal" Zahirul Islam Bhuiyan Jewel after one Awlad on October 4 filed a complaint to DC DB South that Jewel had cheated him with Tk 7 lakh on October 3.

They said as they reached in front of Holy Family Hospital on two motorbikes to arrest Jewel where he was asked to come, 10 to 12 persons swooped on them and slapped them repeatedly and took them to a microbus.

They said in the microbus, the persons blindfolded them and took to a room where the persons severely beat them up with sticks.

One of the suspended inspectors, Ruhul Amin, said, "We have already filed a GD in this connection and sought permission from the higher authority to file a lawsuit against the NSI men."

DB chief Shahidul said On Sunday they served a notice to Jewel at his hospital at Senpara Parbarta of Kafrul and the doctors gave them a cell phone number of Jewel but it could not be reached.

However, after repeated attempt, The Daily Star could not reach the NIS personnel for comments.

Youth jailed for stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday sentenced a college student to one year imprisonment on allegation of black-mailing a college girl by threatening her to spread porn video clippings.

Rafiqul Islam Jewel, 25, is a student of Accounting department of Siddheshwari College and owner of a cell phone balance refill shop at Sarulia Bzar of Bamoil in Demra.

He used to store porn videos in a computer of his shop to blackmail the girls, said Rab Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha, who led the court.

He said the girl recharged her cell phone from the shop a few days back. Jewel collected the number from the number sheet and phoned her. He threatened her that he will spread her porn video clippings if she doesn't come to his shop. When she went to the shop, he gave her some indecent proposal, said Anwar Pasha.

Later she informed of the matter to Rab 10.

Hajj train service from Haram Sharif

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah Al Bussairy yesterday said the kingdom has increased huge facilities, including expansion of Haram Sharif in Makkah and introduction of train service, to facilitate the pilgrims to perform hajj smoothly and more comfortably.

King Abdullah by himself is taking care of the activities so that the guests of Allah do not face inconveniences in performing hajj, he said, addressing a press conference at his residence in the city's Gulshan.

The envoy said the Saudi government had undertaken a project of 80 billion Saudi Riyals for expanding Haram Sharif, the grand mosque that can accommodate up to four million Muslim worshippers during the hajj period.

He said the project also included the construction of a 12-storey bridge at the place from where pilgrims throw pebbles at "shaitan" in Meena.

Bussairy said the train service has been introduced to carry the pilgrims to different places from Haram Sharif. About half a million pilgrims will be able to avail the train facility this year, he added.

He also said a giant clock has been installed in Makkah, which could be seen from eight kilometres away.

The Saudi ambassador said about one lakh Bangladeshis will perform hajj this year and all of them will be granted visas. "So far we have issued 58,000 visas and the remaining hajj pilgrims would get their visas in time".

He added that already 35,000 hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh have arrived in Saudi Arabia.

Replying to a question, Bussairy said the embassy previously received a black list of 33 Bangladeshi Hajj Agencies from the religious affairs ministry of Bangladesh, but later the ministry cleared the entire list. "We have yet not received any allegation from the religious affairs ministry".

Gen Moinul's contributions recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a commemorative meeting recalled the contribution and patriotism of Maj Gen (ret'd) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, died on October last year, in the liberation war of Bangladesh.

The memorial meeting on Moinul Hossain who was also an advisor to a caretaker government and a diplomat for 16 years, said former Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

The country has lost a true patriot and valiant freedom fighter who was very honest, courageous, dedicated and idealistic throughout his life, they said.

Moinul Hossain was a very famous among the army soldiers and he did his job as a diplomat nicely, said former army chief Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah, Bir Bikram, while presiding over the meeting.

Former advisor to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan said a person like Moinul is really needed in this "crisis period" of the country.

Terming Moinul a man of principle, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former state minister for foreign affairs, said he was at a time a big brother and friend of him but his (Moinul) love or affection could never influence on his integrity.

Impressive thing of his character is that Moinul had expressed his opinion openly what he believed as true, said Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman who moderated the meeting.

Editor of The Independent and former advisor to a caretaker government Mahbul Alam said he would not only expressed his opinion boldly but also heard the opinion of others with rapt attention.

Mej Gen (ret'd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Bir Bikram said, "We have lost a brave and competent army leader after his (Moinul) death."

Moinul Hossain Chowdhury played an important role against the Pakistani occupational force in 1971. He led the first and second East Bengal Regiment in the war.

DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

Shirin for united bid to mainstream them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury yesterday emphasised united efforts from government, non-government, and personal level for the development of the disadvantaged children of the country.

"We are seeking cooperation from our development partners and rich people of the society, and hope that we would be able to widen our activities for the children with their cooperation", she said at a discussion.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) and Plan Bangladesh organised the programme alongside a children's rally in BSA auditorium in observance of the Child Rights Week 2011.

The minister said the underprivileged children have to be mainstreamed through poverty alleviation. The government is working to ensure the physical, mental, and cultural development of the children in line with the national child policy and has already taken different initiatives to ensure child's rights, she said.

Unicef Country Representative Carol de Rooy and Plan Bangladesh Acting Country Director Anwar Hossain Shikder, among others, were present at the programme while BSA Director Falguni Hamid presided over the programme.

Several hundreds of children joined the daylong programme and enjoyed child film show and cartoon "Mina".

Earlier Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the International Children's Day and Child Rights Week 2011 in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

Drawing competition
National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled will organise a drawing competition; Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will organise a seminar; Venue: its conference room; Time: 11:00am.

Chess competition
Leonine Chess Club will hold a chess competition; Venue: Jatiya Krira Parishad; Time: 2:00pm.

Meeting
Chakuri Rokkha Committee, National University, Gazipur will organise a meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise a discussion; Venue: its premises; Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Bangladesh Buddha Krishti Prochar Sangha will hold a meeting; Venue: Dharmarajir Buddha Mohabihar, Atish Dipankar road, Sabujbagh; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Shiksha Porjebekkhok Society will organise a discussion; Venue: National Museum; Time: 5:00pm.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY Rural level care stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday stressed the need for integrating mental health care alongside physical health care service to ensure mentally healthy people in rural areas.

"Every hospital should have a department for specialising in mental health care," said Prof Dr Golam Rabbani, director of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the conference jointly organised by Ministry of Health and Family Planning, NIMH and World Health Organization.

Being imbued with the slogan "The great push: Investing in mental health" the press conference was organised at Jatiya Press Club marking World Mental Health Day.

Prof Wajiul Alam Chowdhury spoke at the programme, attended by Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Muhit Kamal and Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed.

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