

Notice

The Daily Star could not publish its regular column "Tangents" on Page 2 today due to unavoidable circumstances. It will be published tomorrow (Sunday). We regret any inconvenience.

Workers injured in cylinder blast dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two workers of Western Marine Shipyard, who received burn injuries from gas cylinder blast, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Thursday night.

The deceased Nur Hasem, 22 and Bahar Uddin, 26, were residents of Colagaon union of Patiya upazila in Chittagong.

Police said three workers received burn injuries due to a gas cylinder blast in an under construction vessel of the company on November 26. After the incident the injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Later, Hasem and Bahar were shifted to DMCH.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adrian Robero, an eminent businessman and social activist, died on Thursday at Gulshan in the city after suffering from chest pain. He was 45.

He left behind his parents, wife, two daughters, brothers and sisters, a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death, said a press release.

His funeral was held at Chittagong Patharghata Church yesterday. His father Robert Robero requested all to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.



Human chain

Save the Environment Movement will organise a human chain; Venue: before Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

Cartoon exhibition

Bangladesh Cartoonist Association will hold a cartoon exhibition; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Rally

Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad will organise a rally; Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises; Time: 2:00pm.

Human chain

Jalalabad Foundation will hold a human chain; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Rally

National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled will organise a rally; Venue: Sheikh Russel Square; Time: 3:30pm.



The stall of Champs21.com inside Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday during eAsia 2011, a fair featuring information and communication technologies in Asia.

PHOTO: STAR

Games in city fair foster math solving

WASIM BIN HABIB

There was only 20 seconds left before a "mad patient" had to be cured by solving the value of "x" in the equation "3+x=12". Keeping his cool, Walid Hossain, a 10-year-old boy, clicked on the number "9" on the screen in front of him and the patient leapt up from the operating chair, all cured.

This is not an excerpt from a sci-fi movie. Walid was actually playing an online interactive game at the stall of Champs21.com inside Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday on the occasion of eAsia 2011, a fair featuring information and communication technologies in Asia.

The game "MADMATICS" puts school students in the role of a genius scientist who has to solve arithmetic equations to cure his fellow scientists who went "mad".

Champs21.com, an initiative of The Daily Star, is offering a total of seven such games on its website www.champs21.com, the country's first e-learning site, to encourage students in learning mathematics.

Located on the "MathStation" section of the website, the other games are BATTLE ORDER, The Adventure of Little Tomtoy, JAMUNA rafting, MONKEY JUMP, PRIME PLANET and Time Braker.

"We incorporated different topics of mathematics like addition, subtraction, prime numbers, percentage, algebra and geometry into computer games," said Russell T Ahmed, chief executive officer of Champs21.com.

Playing the games will help students experience a better way to learn and sharpen their mathematical aptitude. Each game has multiple levels with the difficulty increasing gradually, he said.

"We cannot deny children's interest in computers and the internet. We have designed the games exploring their field of interest in order to educate them," he said.

Each game specialises on different branches of mathematics. "A student weak in percentage should play Monkey Jump which is based on percentage. By playing till level four, he or she will surely attain good marks in class exams on percentage."

Russell said around 1,200 registered users are currently playing the games. The first level of each game is free and a subscription fee must be paid for the other levels.

Another section of the website is "Mathoholic", a game designed for real math lovers who want to explore more and improve their skills, he said.

Math textbooks contain a fixed numbers of problems. "We incorporated 50 problems based on each chapter of the textbooks but which are completely new," he said.

The solutions are provided in detail in the website for students who might have difficulty in solving questions.

Champs21.com in association with Designmate, a 3D production house, also launched a 3D video library in its stall containing 1,400 animated 3D videos based on physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics.



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at the launching of US Model School Bangladesh Limited, a USA-curriculum based school, in the city's Dhurer Sumner Tek in Uttara yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

15 killed in political violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 persons were killed and 759 injured in political violence in the country last month, rights organisation Odhikar revealed yesterday.

Odhikar's November report says 27 incidents of internal violence took place in Awami League, leaving four people dead and 267 injured, and 10 in BNP where 163 people were injured.

Moreover, at least 41 women and children were victims of rape, a sign of increasing incidents of violence against women, and 14 journalists were injured by miscreants and police, they added.

Odhikar prepared the report with information from its network of human rights defenders and reports in twelve national daily newspapers.

Over 70 hurt in cop action

UNB, Keraniganj

About 70 to 80 people were wounded in police action in South Keraniganj yesterday.

The law enforcers swooped on the people in retaliation as their three colleagues came under attack by mob.

Three police constables of South Keraniganj Police Station went to rice trader Azam Khan at Rajabari Bazar at about 6:00pm and allegedly demanded Tk 10,000 as bribe.

When the trader declined to give the bribe, the cops wearing civil dress misbehaved with him.

Responding to hue and cry for help, nearby people rushed in and caught the cops.

As the cops failed to show their identity card, the mob beat them up suspecting them criminals.

The cops however, managed to escape during the beating by mob.

Later, a police team in two vehicles rushed to the spot and beat up people indiscriminately, leaving them injured.

Traders in the bazaar instantly closed their shops and took out a procession demanding punishment of the policemen.

Call to play role for sustainable dev

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Professional accountants can play a vital role for achieving sustainable development, speakers said at an international seminar here Wednesday.

Chief guest at the seminar, Industries Dilip Barua said the country needs a sustainable political system for the economic development to sustain. If politics is not on the right track, unrest will follow, holding back the momentum of the economy, he said.

The seminar, "Professional Accountants' Role for Sustainable Development", was organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) at a hotel in the port city.

ICAB president Parveen Mahmud said in her welcome address that the ICAB is focusing on sustainable development. "We deeply believe that sustainable development is essential for advancing the economy and the region", she said.

AN Raman, president of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), presented the keynote paper at the seminar while Sujewa Rajapakse, vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, and Mujahid Eshai, past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, spoke, among others.

NEWS IN brief

Share dermatology knowledge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a two-day conference urged the South Asian countries to help each other develop knowledge and treatment techniques on skin diseases.

The 7th South Asian Regional Conference on Dermatology titled "Dermatology in climate change: A new challenge" organised by Bangladesh Dermatological Society began at a city hotel yesterday.

"We need more exchange among ourselves in terms of training doctors," said Syed Modasser Ali, health adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque inaugurated the conference where South Asian Regional Association of Dermatology President Anil Kumar Jha was present.

Teachers' registration exam begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 7th Non-government Teachers' Registration Examination-2011, a pre-qualifying examination to appoint teachers in schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutes, began across the country yesterday with around 3.21 lakh applicants.

Yesterday, some 2.02 lakh candidates applying for school and madrasa level sat in 259 venues from 8:30am to 12:30pm for 44 subjects, said a handout from the education ministry.

Today, around 1.18 lakh applicants of college level will sit for 36 subjects from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

18 lakh power connections by 2015

BSS, Dhaka

The Rural Electrification Board (REB) is expected to launch a project to provide 18 lakh new connections in next four years as part of a massive government campaign to cover all the villages under the government's Vision 2021 programme.

"We are doing necessary ground work and preparation for providing 18 lakh new connections under the project by 2015," REB chairman Moin Uddin told the news agency yesterday.

He said the infrastructures to bring 18 lakh people under electricity coverage would be built through all the REBs nationwide 70 Palli Biddiyut Samity areas while the development was expected to boost rural economy and poverty elimination.

'Enforce vested property return act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Sanatan Dharmio Sammilita Parishad, a platform of the Hindu community, yesterday demanded the complete implementation of the recently passed Vested Properties Return (Amended) Act 2011.

Other demands, made at a press conference organised by the parishad in the city's Dhaka Reporters Unity, includes appointing Hindus to teach Hinduism in schools and colleges and refraining from amending any Hindu laws, says a press release.

The parliament passed a bill on November 28 amending the Vested Property Return Act 2001.

BRU,R admission tests Dec 12

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The admission tests of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) for first year honours course of 2011-12 session will begin on December 12 and the result will be published on December 18.

A total of 33,536 applicants have registered through online to appear in the admission test.

The university sources said it has a total of 1200 seats under its three faculties of 20 departments. Around 28 applicants will compete for admission against one seat this year.

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