

Lot to do for female edn
Says Muhith

STAFF CORESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Though the present government sincerely took different effective measures and achieved a lot in raising the standard of female education, there is still a long way to go, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

He was addressing a reunion at Sylhet Agragami Girls High School in the city marking its 108th founding anniversary. National Professor Dr Shahla Khatun chaired the function.

Former students of the school including the former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, the reunion committee's member secretary Nazma Begum and senior teacher Jyotirmoyee Devi were present at the reunion with another former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal, Headmaster Abdul Mannan and Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Bilal.

Earlier, a one-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the school's founder Hemanta Kumaryi Chowdhury.

Fire drill for BCS officers at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-member team of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) yesterday took part in a fire security rehearsal arranged in Tower Bhaban on Dhaka University campus to raise awareness on ways to save lives and valuables in case of any fire incident.

The government officials, who were trained at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre in Savar, performed rescue activities during the hour-long training from 11:00am.



Beshorkari Prathomik Shikkhak Oikya Parishad stages a token hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

BB to remove SMEs constraints

Says governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman yesterday said the bank has disbursed Tk 19.75 billion to 21,191 entrepreneurs during his tenure to promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of the country.

Dr Atiur, who took over in May 2009, said the bank has distributed the amount through its refinance lines for banks and financial institutions against their SME loans till this October.

He said the current size of revolving refinance lines managed by Bangladesh Bank is Tk 16.18 billion and another Tk 3.9 billion is expected to add to this amount from donor organisation Japan International Cooperative Agency (Jica) soon.

Last year, SME lending constituted 21 percent of the total bank lending, he said.

Dr Atiur was addressing a seminar, "Access to Finance and Technological Upgradation for SMEs: Bangladesh Perspective", organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

The governor said a strong, dynamic, and efficient SME sector obviously holds the key to the sustainable economic development and industrialisation of a country.

In most of the developing economies, including Bangladesh, lack of adequate access to finance is considered one of the major constraints to the growth of SMEs, he added.

Atiur said the other key issues affecting the country's SMEs include lack of access to technology and market and lack of entrepreneurial capacity, management expertise, skilled manpower, and promotional support service.

He, however, assured that the central bank would address the constraints through policy support and guidelines. The BB has already taken a number of structural and policy measures to increase the SMEs' access to institutional finance, he said.

The governor said an elaborate SME guideline has already been issued, which prescribes a "cluster or area approach" in identifying and utilising specific comparative advantages of different regions for a diverse range of SME activities.

At the event, FBCCI President AK Azad urged the central bank to keep the lending rate of commercial bank at 12 percent.

The seminar was also addressed, among others, by FBCCI first vice president M Jashim Uddin, vice president Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, and director Monwara Hakim Ali.

NU ADMISSION PROTEST 5 madrasa students held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested five activists of Madrasa Chhatra Oikya Parishad from in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque as they tried to bring out a procession protesting the 'discrimination' in admission process of National University for madrasa students.

The arrestees are Majedul Islam, 17, Md Shafiullah, 16, Md Salauddin, 23, Mahiuddin Masum, 25, and Habibullah Bahar, 23.

Paltan Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Haque said they tried to bring out a procession without taking prior approval from the authorities concerned.

When police asked them not to bring out procession, they hurled brickbats, prompting to make the arrest, said Shahidul adding that a case for obstructing police from discharging their duties will be filed against them.

Meanwhile, in a press release, the organisation claimed that police arrested seven of their members while they were trying to bring out a procession protesting the discrimination.

The madrasa students fall victim to 'admission discrimination' in Bangla and English subjects, the press release added.

Power price hike protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday strongly protested the government's decision of increasing price of power and said it will intensify the sufferings of the common people.

They said the government took the decision without removing corruption and mismanagement in the power sector, which will put the national economy into jeopardy.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) held a protest meeting in the party's central office in this regard yesterday.

The party's general secretary, M Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, told the meeting that the 21.28 percent increase in power price is an arrogant and unfair decision of the government.

In a written statement, the Revolutionary

Workers Party of Bangladesh general secretary Saiful Haque said the decision will create negative impact on industry and agriculture.

He said the power and energy crisis is not removed as the important energy sectors like oil, gas, and mineral resources are controlled by the foreign companies.

Addressing a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the leaders of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal said the people will be in peril when they are already leading miserable lives due to increase in transport fare, house rent, and prices of everyday commodities.

They demanded the government contain transport fare, house rent and withdraw the increased price of power and called for the people to wage a mass movement against the government's undemocratic move.

The increase in the price of power was also protested by Ganosanghati Andolon.

TIPAI DAM Indian decision 'undemocratic'

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protibesh Andolon, a social organisation, yesterday urged the common people to wage movement in protest of the Indian government's decision to build Tipaimukh dam.

Protesting the same, they formed a human chain in the city.

They said the Indian government took an undemocratic decision to build the dam on Barak river in India ignoring Bangladesh's interest.

The dam will damage ecosystem of the eastern part of Bangladesh including the river's natural flow, they added.

The organisation's Coordinator Abul Hasan Rubel chaired the programme while Haor Development Board's former director general M Enamul Haque and Leftist Democratic Front leader Advocate Abdus Salam spoke among others.



Protibesh Andolon forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday in protest of the Indian government's decision to build Tipaimukh dam on the Barak river in Manipur.

PHOTO:STAR

Announcement: Written Test Result has been published

The Written Test Result for the position of **Trainee Junior Officer (TJO)-Cash** of The Premier Bank Limited (i.e. held on November 19, 2011) is now available at our Bank's website @ www.premierbankltd.com

We will communicate the qualified candidates and will inform the date and time of interview of the respective candidates very soon.

Human Resources Division

Head Office, Iqbal Centre (14th Floor), 42, Kemal Ataturk Avenue
Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh. Phone: +880 2 9887581-4 (PABX)
Fax: +880 2 8815393, 9889153, Email: info@premierbankltd.com
Website: www.premierbankltd.com

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PIB's PGDJ course starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The freshers' reception and inaugural ceremony of Post-Graduate Diploma in Journalism (PGDJ) course for 2011-2012 academic session conducted by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) was held at its seminar room on Thursday.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and journalist Abed Khan, among others, spoke at the event, says a press release.

PIB Director General Dulal Chandra Biswas chaired it.

The speakers urged students of the course to be imbued with the spirit of non-communalism, honesty and to be committed to the society and the nation as a whole.

With the affiliation of National University, PIB introduced the one-year course from 2000-2001 academic session.



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The Daily Star

Star Campus

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW LINKING YOUNG MINDS

Check out this week's Star Campus to get a glimpse of Christmas cheer, true Bangladeshi style, with Santas on rickshaws and students decorating churches. Apart from that it will contain a number of good reads such as a story of young professionals who are making an effort to save the deprived freedom fighters from clutches of poverty, and an article about young creative thinkers from across the nation coming together under one roof to make innovative TV commercials. Our regular Campus Edibles section will let you know where you will get the best food on campus, plus there will be an exclusive interview with cartoonist Mehedi Haque which will inspire you to get creative with your favourite campus magazine.



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