

DEFAMATION CASE
Charges framed against Jugantor editor

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against the editor, executive editor and a reporter of the Daily Jugantor in connection with a defamation case filed by the shipping minister in September last year.

The defendants are editor Salma Islam, executive editor Saiful Alam and reporter Jashim Chowdhury Shabuj.

Metropolitan Magistrate Harun-ur-Rashid fixed March 1 for starting the trial of the case.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan on last September 13 filed the case against the three on charges of publishing two news items with headlines saying 'Wastage of crores of taka by shipping minister in the name of experience' and '14 trips abroad' in the newspaper on August 24 and 25.



Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and WBB Trust yesterday hold a human chain in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University demanding development of railway services.

PHOTO: STAR

SSC EXAMS
7,345 absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations began yesterday with a total of 7,345 candidates absent in the exams.

Thirty-eight students and two teachers were expelled for resorting to unfair means during the examination.

Meanwhile, examinees at many centres complained of being given wrong question papers while others talked about hassles in getting admit cards, highlighting the mismanagement and irresponsibility on the part of the education board, centre secretaries and teachers on the very first day of the examinations.

Eight education boards, one madrasa education board and one technical education board are conducting the month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations for 2012.

This year, the total number of examinees under the ten education boards is more than 14.20 lakh.

Among the expelled students, 25 were from madrasa board; seven from technical board; two from Chittagong board and one each from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore and Dinajpur boards, said the education ministry control room.

Two teachers from Madrasa board were also expelled for helping examinees resort to unfair means during examinations. Apart from having the highest number of expelled students, Madrasa board also had the highest number of absentees equalling to 3,390 students.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited a centre in the city's Dhanmondi Government Boys High School.

EKUSHEY BOI MELA BEGINS

PM for quality books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid fanfare, a month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela-2012 began yesterday on the Bangla Academy premises with a massive crowd thronging the 630 stalls adorned with around 4,000 new books.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Boi Mela (book fair) on the theme "60 years of Language Movement" with the observation, "Those who are writing books and those who are publishing them should know what the people want."

She stressed developing the habit of reading books for building an enlightened society.

The premier visited some of the book stalls, which spilled onto the road adjacent to the academy premises.

She was accompanied by William Radice, British poet, researcher on Bangla language and literature and former professor of London School of Oriental and African Studies, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Pramod Mankin and Chairman of Bangla Academy Prof Anisuzzaman.

Sheikh Hasina also inaugurated the

newly constructed building of Bangla Academy.

As in previous years, the pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League welcomed Hasina, also president of the AL, on the Dhaka University campus where Bangla Academy is situated.

The road in front of the academy was decorated while portraits of important personalities who contributed to Bangla language and literature since 1952 were displayed at the fair venue.

The number of bookstalls at the fair this year is the highest ever. There were 515 stalls with 3,013 new books last year. Of around 4,000 books at the fair this time, 37 are from Bangla Academy, said its officials.

The fair will remain open from 3:00pm to 9:00pm everyday and on holidays from 11:00am to 8:00pm till February 29.

Inaugurating the fair, the prime minister urged the writers and publishers to ensure quality of the books to inspire the book lovers to read those. She also attached importance to protecting the rights of the writers to encourage their creativity and called upon all concerned to take

adequate measures to protect the copyrights of the writers and publishers.

Hasina paid rich tributes to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs, including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, and Shafiqur.

The premier said her government has taken measures to step up research activities of Bangla Academy. A museum on the Language Movement and another on eminent writers had been established, she mentioned.

Addressing the function, William Radice said Bangladesh would not have emerged as an independent state without the Language Movement in 1952. "One of the main reasons for my learning Bangla was your struggle for freedom. As an English poet, I decided to learn Bangla in 1971 during the War of Liberation of Bangladesh."

Speaking in Bangla, he said the world did not have a good impression about Bangladesh earlier. Rather it was considered a country with poverty, natural calamities and political instability. "But Bangladesh in the last 40 years developed a lot, its image has improved in the world significantly, its economy is becoming vibrant and the political situation has been improv-

ing."

The British poet said many countries in the world could now learn from Bangladesh about how it handles global warming, and the country could be the role model in the globe in this respect.

Chairing the inaugural ceremony, Prof Anisuzzaman said every year the book fair has been expanding as more books, more writers and more publishers are coming to the fair.

"So it has become tough for Bangla Academy to manage space for a huge book fair," he said and stressed the need for arranging the fair in future outside the academy premises. Help from the Dhaka University and Dhaka City Corporation could be sought in this regard, he added.

The Director General of the academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan, delivered the welcome address at the function conducted by Ramendu Majumdar.

Meanwhile, Shahbagh police yesterday detained four activists of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) when they brought out a procession protesting the arrival of Hasina on the Dhaka University campus. They were later released. (See Photo Page 1)

wishing

50

years successful celebration

architecture in BUET

Platinum Sponsor

DOM-INNO profile ltd.

Log on to champs21.com

Goodbye Spelling Mistakes

PRIVET ate

The Daily Star
Spelling Bee
Brought to you by Champs21 Powered by Horlicks

শুরু হয়েছে বিশ্বখ্যাত English Spelling প্রতিযোগিতা

• এই প্রতিযোগিতা বাংলা ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের ৬ষ্ঠ থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণীর ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য • রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও Online প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে Log on করে champs21.com -এ অথবা SB লিখে SMS করে 16252 নম্বরে • Online প্রতিযোগিতা চলবে ১ ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে ১০ মার্চ ২০১২ পর্যন্ত • বিস্তারিত জানতে যোগাযোগ করুন ০৯৬০৬২৯২৯২৯ নম্বরে

Title Sponsor: The Daily Star
Powered by: Horlicks
Brought to you by: Champs21
Telecast Partner: CHANNEL I
Knowledge Partner: BRITISH COUNCIL