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Students lose interest in science

Study says number of science students in decline as more and more opt for business education

WASIM BIN HABIB

While the country desperately needs more science graduates as human resource, the number of science students at the secondary and higher secondary levels is dropping rapidly.

More students are opting for business education as new commercial institutions like bank, insurance and other financial service providers are coming up, according to a research by Bangladesh Freedom Foundation, a non-governmental organisation.

Besides, some go on to study humanities to complete the courses with less effort and expenses, it mentioned adding, the learners also lack confidence and motivation to study science.

The number of science students at secondary level in 2010 had plummeted to almost half that twenty years back.

Experts have identified weak teaching and assessment methods, irregular practical classes and poor salaries of the teachers as some of the major reasons for the quantitative decline in science education.

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A worker is breaking used batteries in the open to get reusable parts out of them. The act poses health risks for people as the broken batteries release carbon particles and toxic chemicals into the environment. The photo was shot at the city's Kakrail a few days ago.

Indian defence minister's office bugged

PTI, New Delhi

Authorities have detected alleged bugging of the office room of Defence Minister AK Antony and the Intelligence Bureau has been asked to probe the matter.

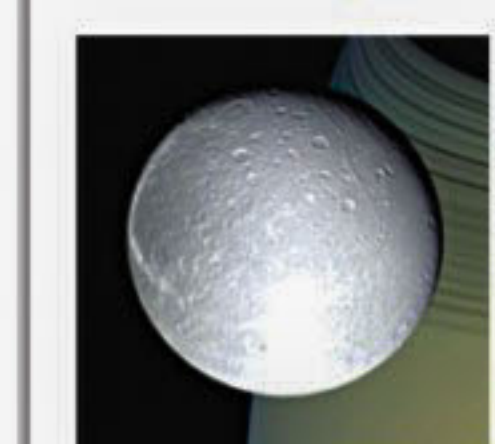
Sources in the ministry told PTI yesterday that the development came to notice on February 16 following which Defence Secretary Shashikant Sharma took up the matter with IB for a probe.

The matter was brought to notice by two Army personnel who were manning the telephone lines in the ministry.

After this was brought to notice, ministry officials refused to get their phone lines checked by the Army personnel, they said.

Last year, a similar incident was reported from the office of Finance Minister Pranab

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Oxygen envelops Saturn's icy moon

BBC ONLINE

A Nasa spacecraft has detected oxygen around one of Saturn's icy moons, Dione.

The discovery supports a theory that suggests all of the moons near Saturn and Jupiter might have oxygen around them.

Researchers say that their finding increases the likelihood of discovering the ingredients for life on one of the moons orbiting

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KL plans crackdown on illegal migrants

Bangladeshi workers waiting for registration under amnesty programme in fear of arrest

PORIMOL PALMA

Many foreign workers including Bangladeshis face arrest threats in Malaysia as the immigration authorities are conducting periodic raids following an announcement of massive crackdown on "illegal" migrants.

Malaysia's home ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Mahmood Adam last week said they would start a massive crackdown on illegal foreign workers without mentioning the date.

Meanwhile, police on February 11 arrested over 100 migrant workers and refugees, said Kuala Lumpur-based migrants' rights body Tenaganita in a press statement on February 22.

"Many workers are living in a tense situation after the arrests," said Harun Al Rashid, a Bangladeshi working at a regional migrants' rights organisation, Caram Asia, in Kuala Lumpur.

It could not be learned immediately if there were any Bangladeshis among the arrestees, he said on February 26.

Bangladesh high commission's labour counsellor Mantu Kumar Biswas in Malaysia told The Daily Star he had no idea about such arrests.

"There might be some stray incidents of arrest, but not any wholesale roundup of foreign workers yet," he said over phone in his immediate response.

The foreign workers who have not registered or applied to the immigration authorities are facing sheer threats of arrest, according to the Bangladeshi expatriates in Malaysia.

An estimated 5 lakh Bangladeshis work in Malaysia. According to the Bangladesh High Commission, around 2.7 lakh irregular Bangladeshis got registered and a few thousand of them returned home without giving any penalty.

The rest secured passports so they could apply for regularisation.

However, on average, 150 Bangladeshi expats are going to the high commission every day to secure passports so that they

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Bike-riding criminals shoot DB constable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A constable of Detective Branch of police was shot and injured by bike-riding criminals fleeing from him at Rajarbagh Police Lines area in the capital yesterday.

Police caught one of the criminals from opposite the Police Lines Hospital with a revolver, 13 bullets and a cartridge, while two of his associates managed to flee.

Abdur Rahim, a sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station, told The Daily Star constable Lutfar Rahman, 30, was shot around 1:15pm as he tried to stop the trio when they were fleeing on a motorbike after being chased by the locals.

Lutfar was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injury to his throat. The injured constable

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Muggers on bikes go desperate

M RAHMAN

Stepping onto the streets of the capital with considerable amount of money may turn fatal as there could be someone on a motorbike watching you and might mug you. If you are lucky, they would probably leave you alive to tell the sorry tale. So, think twice, be careful or you may invite the fate of tax lawyer Nazir Ahmed.

On January 22 morning, the tax lawyer and his son Asif Ahmed were shot and robbed just a few yards from their house in Shantinagar by muggers on motorbikes. The father and son were going to the Motijheel branch of Sonali Bank to deposit Tk 11 lakh.

The muggers shot Nazir in the leg before snatching the bag of money and then shot Asif in the right leg as he tried to run away.

Law enforcers are yet to detect the muggers and recover the money.

On February 6, muggers shot two officials of a private firm and snatched Tk 23 lakh from them on Elephant Road. They too used a motorbike for the getaway.

The victims had just drawn the money from a bank. They were about to get on to their car kept in front of the bank when the muggers attacked them.

Sources in the Detective Branch (DB) of police said

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

DB men in drug trade!

3 arrested with phensidyl suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A narcotics control taskforce yesterday arrested four persons including three Detective Branch (DB) constables with 954 bottles of smuggled Indian Phensidyl from a drug trading spot in Rajpara area of Rajshahi.

The arrested members of DB of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) are Abdus Samad, 33, of Shingra, M Lalon Mahmud, 27, of Gurusapur in Natore district, and Siddikul Islam, 35, of Kurigram.

The arrested police members were suspended and departmental proceedings were drawn against them, said M Moniruzzaman, additional commissioner of RMP.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi that prime minister was serious about her proposal to nominate Prof Muhammad Yunus as the president of the World Bank?

Yes (15.7%)
No (82.9%)
No Comments (1.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 434

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there is a chance of more SEC officials' involvement in the recent stock market scam?

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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING March 3

Asan Jamaat

Fajr 5-15 5-50
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-30 4-45
Maghrib 6-05 6-10
Esha 7-30 8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



Jobseekers are throwing brick chips at ASA Tower at the capital's Shyamoli yesterday, following alleged misconduct by the non-government organisation. Police say over 20,000 people, *inset*, turned up to attend an interview for the posts of loan officers in the morning. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

55 killed in Pak violence

AFP, Peshawar

At least 55 people were killed yesterday in violence in Pakistan's troubled northwestern tribal region of Khyber, which borders Afghanistan, local officials said.

Twenty-two people were killed in a suicide attack targeting a mosque after Friday prayers in the Tirah valley, while at least 10 soldiers and 23 Islamist militants died in an earlier clash around 10 kilometres away.

Khyber is a haven for militants linked to the Pakistani Taliban and the threat of renewed fighting there between the army and insurgents prompted some 18,000 people to flee their homes in October last year.

Local administration official Jamilur Rehman told AFP that the suicide blast killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 20 others, adding the toll may rise.

"The bomber detonated himself near the gate of a mosque in Tirah valley of Khyber tribal region when people were returning from the prayers," he said.

The mosque is located in an area controlled by warlord Mangal Bagh, he said, adding that most of the dead were from his Lashkar-i-Islam -- a group widely linked to militants and criminal gangs.

Earlier, at least 10 Pakistani soldiers and 23 militants were killed in a gunfight in the Tirah valley.

"At least 10 soldiers embraced martyrdom and three others were wounded," a senior security official told AFP, adding that the fighting lasted for nearly six hours.

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