

Everest successes inspire 100 DU students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspired by the successes of Bangladeshi Everest conquerors, around a hundred students of Dhaka University are receiving training to scale the world's highest mountain.

Among the trainees, a maximum of four will be selected for trekking Mount Everest by 2014, Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi Everest conqueror, said yesterday.

He was addressing a daylong "Adventure Fest 2012" marking the second anniversary of conquering of Everest by a Bangladeshi for the first time.

Everest Academy in support with North Alpine Club, Bangladesh (NACB) and Dhaka University Mountaineering and Adventure Club (DUMAC) organised the fest at DU's Physical Education Centre.

"Bangladesh reached new height in the global arena by being the 67th Everest conquering country on May 23, 2010", said

Musa, who touched the peak of Everest on that day.

Within a period of two years, the number Bangladeshi Everest conqueror has increased to three, Nishat Majumder, the first Bangladeshi woman to have conquered Everest on May 19.

Another mountaineer, MA Mohit, who accompanied Nishat, is the first Bangladeshi, who has reached Everest summit twice.

Musa congratulated Nishat on her success, saying, "I am really delighted to know that Bangladeshi woman has scaled Everest."

"I hope to see such more feats of women in both professional and personal life", said Musa, also the general secretary of NACB and director of Everest Academy.

DU Physical Education Centre Director Shawkur Rahman and Extreme Bangla President Kazi Hamidul Haq, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Dhaka University students craving for Everest climb train during daylong Adventure Fest 2012 at the university's Physical Education Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Army officer arrested with 100 Yaba tablets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An army officer, who is also a doctor of Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH), was arrested with 100 Yaba tablets in the capital's Dakkhinkhan area on Tuesday night.

Capt Basharul Anam Ahmed, 31, was detained in front of Chhotti Garments in the area around 11:00pm. He hid the Yaba tablets in a cigarette packet.

Personnel of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) led by Deputy Director (DD) Ali Aslam of Dhaka Metro made the arrest after searching the car of Capt Basharul.

Abu Taleb, additional director of DNC, said after the arrest, some army officials had asked the DNC officials to hand him over to them so that they could take departmental action against him.

"But their demand could not be met, as police already recorded a case with Dakkhinkhan Police Station", he said.

Lokman Hekim, officer-in-charge of Dakkhinkhan Police Station, said DD Ali Aslam filed the case against the detained captain under the Narcotics Control Act last afternoon.

Ali Aslam said the detained army official was produced before the court. "But I am not sure whether the court granted him bail or sent him to jail".

Contacted, Shahinul Islam, director of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), told The Daily Star that the army authorities were aware of the incident and they would take stern punitive measures departmentally.

DU teacher's laptop stolen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University professor, who was supposed to make a presentation on Bangladesh's maritime feat, lost his laptop at the central auditorium of Jagannath University (JnU) yesterday.

"Someone might have taken it by mistake. I had 22 years' data in the laptop. I will be grateful if that person writes the data into a CD and sends it to me. I have nothing more to say", said Dr Kawser Ahmed, professor, Department of Fisheries, DU.

Someone took the laptop away from the bag when he, along with other guests, was receiving floral reception from the students of the university, he said, and added that all other documents and the cables were untouched.

The disappointed professor delivered his speech, but expressed his astonishment over the carelessness of the JnU authorities.

HC questions cancellation of JP leader's candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has questioned the legality of a section of the Representation of the People Order (RPO), under which the candidacy of Abul Kashem from Tangail-5 constituency was cancelled and Mahmudul Hasan was declared elected.

The Election Commission (EC) on May 7 declared BNP leader Mahmudul Hasan elected MP from the constituency, and cancelled candidacy of Jatiya Party MP Abul Kashem, who was elected from the constituency in the parliamentary

polls on December 29, 2008.

The EC issued a gazette notification to this effect on that day in line with a Supreme Court verdict that declared Kashem disqualified for contesting the 2008 polls, as he had been a loan defaulter then.

The HC on Tuesday issued a rule upon the CEC, secretary to the EC, and Mahmudul Hasan to explain in 12 days why the Section 51(2)(b) of RPO, 1972, which empowered the election tribunal to declare any other candidate securing second highest vote as returned, should not be declared contrary to the constitu-

tion.

In response to a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain also asked them to explain why the notification issued by the EC declaring Mahmudul winner and canceling Kashem's candidacy should not be declared illegal.

Twenty five voters of Tangail-5 constituency have jointly filed the writ petition with the HC, challenging the legality of the section of the RPO and EC's gazette notification.

They said Kashem had got 147,152

votes, while Mahmudul secured 72,805 votes in the 2008 polls. But the EC had declared Mahmudul elected under the RPO section, which is against the democratic spirit ensured in the constitution.

In the democratic system, the representatives will be elected by the majority votes of people, they said.

Assistant Attorney General Yeadaia Zaman, who represented the government, told The Daily Star that the HC bench expressed the parliament speaker would not administer oath to Mahmudul Hasan till the hearing of the rule was finished.

Recent attacks on Adivasis protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A non-government organisation, Brotee, has condemned a series of recent attacks and repression on indigenous people in different districts across the country.

In a statement yesterday, Brotee Chief Executive Officer Sharmin Murshid demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and their punishment.

A seven-year-old girl of in Naogaon was killed after rape on May 19, while four indigenous farmers were chopped to death on May 4 in the same district, the statement says, adding that five houses of indigenous people of Tanoir of Rajshahi were burnt down on April 22.

Indigenous people are being oppressed all the time but law enforcement agencies are playing a silent role, it alleges.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, along with other organisations, will form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club today, protesting the attacks on Adivasis and demanding punishment of the culprits.



The lawyers of top opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, coming out of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka yesterday. (Story on Page-1)

PHOTO: BNP

RU teacher's death in mystery

RU CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouded the death of a Rajshahi University (RU) teacher, who was punished for sexual harassment of a female student, at his in-law's house in Upashohor of the city on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Zulfikarul Amin, a lecturer of the marketing department, used to stay in his father-in-law's residence with his wife Mamtaj Akter Shompa and her family members.

Shompa told The Daily Star that around 12:00midnight on Tuesday, he went out of the house to buy medicine on a bicycle.

At 1:00am, he fell into a drain beside Nahar Academy at Upashohor in an unconscious state. Later, pedestrians rescued him and took him to his in-law's residence, she said.

After 19 hours later around 8:00pm on Tuesday, he was taken to Rajshahi Medical

College and Hospital (RMCH) where doctors pronounced him dead.

Locals alleged that members of his father-in-law's family did not arrange "proper treatment timely" that led to the death.

"He was not taken to the hospital though he was unconscious on Tuesday. When he died at night, his in-laws took him to RMCH to conceal the incident of death," a teacher of marketing department told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

His wife said he might have died of "high blood pressure" as he was penalised for sexual harassment of a female student of the department.

"He might have taken a medicine named "Analogue" to recover from the high blood pressure," she added.

Teachers and students of the department termed the death "mysterious."

BNP hiding Ilias, Tuku tells JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Neither the government nor the law enforcers can do anything if BNP continues hiding their missing leader M Ilias Ali, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku told a parliamentary body yesterday.

A Jatiya Party lawmaker, who was present in the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, told The Daily Star quoting Tuku.

Earlier on April 19, the state minister said that his ministry had already directed every law-enforcing agency and detective wing to find Ilias. However, he defended the law enforcers and the government itself following sharp criticisms from members of the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry.

Ilias Ali, 51, a BNP organising secretary and a former MP, and his driver went missing in the wee hours of April 18.

Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnun, MP of Jatiya Party raised the issue of Ilias's disappearance and enquired Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker of the progress made in tracking down Ilias.

"You [IGP] have to inform us [lawmakers who are also members of parliamentary panel] about the progress made and inform us categorically whether you have failed or not," Chunnun quoted himself to the reporters as saying.

The IGP informed the committee that no "desired progress" on the much-talked about issue has been made so far.

At one stage of the conversation between the IGP and committee members, Shamsul Haque sided with the IGP saying, "What can the law enforcement agencies or the government do if Khaleda Zia or BNP keeps him in hiding," meeting sources quoted Tuku.

Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Salam, chief of the House body then asked the IGP and Rapid Action Battalion Chief to find Ilias within the shortest possible time.

"People want to know about this sort of sensational incidents. So the law enforcement agencies should perform more efficiently," the chief told the reporters at a briefing. In the spate of criticism by the committee members, the IGP assured that his forces were trying their level best to track down Ilias Ali's whereabouts.

The committee members also blasted Director General of Rapid Action Battalion Moklesur Rahman for Rab's failure to find killers of journalist couple Sagar-Runi who were brutally assassinated early February at their home.

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