

Dhaka becomes UN 'Education Initiative' member

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has achieved membership of the United Nations 'Education Initiative' for its huge success in the education sector. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon proposed making Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a member of the 'Education Initiative' and the prime minister accepted it, said an official release yesterday. The UN secretary general has formed the 'Education Initiative' comprising heads of government of 10 developing and developed countries. Meanwhile, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid called on UN Deputy Secretary General Dr Asha Rose Migiro on May 25 at her office in New York. During the meeting, the UN deputy secretary general lauded the tremendous success in the education sector in Bangladesh and thanked the education minister for the achievement.

POLYTECHNIC UNREST Ministry smells a rat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry apprehends that instigation by some vested quarters was behind the recent restiveness of polytechnic students at different places. Speaking on the issue, education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said yesterday the government had neither brought any change in the status of the diploma engineers nor had any plan to do so. "Despite announcing it repeatedly on behalf of the government, unrest has been created through cashing in on rumours," he told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting at the secretariat, adding that stern action would be taken against the instigators following a probe. He urged the students of polytechnic institutes not to get confused by the rumours and pay more attention to their studies. The education ministry convened the meeting on the recent incidents at different polytechnic institutes in protest against the 'downgrading of the rank of diploma engineers'. Students of polytechnic institutes across the country have been demonstrating since Thursday after a rumour spread that the

status of diploma engineers had been downgraded from Class II to Class III. At yesterday's meeting, two committees were formed to identify the prevailing problems of the teachers involved in technical and vocational institutions, and educational problems of the polytechnic students. The committees have been asked to submit their proposals within a month, said the secretary. Public Works Secretary Khandker Shawkat Hossain has been made chief of the committee formed to identify professional problems while Additional Secretary (development) of education ministry Iqbal Khan Chowdhury will head the other. On Friday, the education ministry formed a three-member probe body to ascertain the cause behind Thursday's demonstrations. The secretary said the government in line with the prime minister's directives would take all necessary steps to develop technical education. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA) President Idris Ali and General Secretary Nirmol Chandra Shikdar also urged the students to ignore rumours. In a joint statement, they termed as unwarranted and undesirable the rampage in some polytechnic institutes.

Unrest has been created through cashing in on rumours

NICVD docs successfully control drug-resistant hypertension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in Bangladesh, a team of doctors of National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases yesterday successfully operated on a patient to control drug-resistant hypertension. Typically, the arteries in the kidneys of such patients have bunched nerves. The doctors reach the kidney through a catheter and administer a medicated heat injury in such nerve bundles. This eases the bundle and blood flow through the kidneys improves, helping the patient control hypertension using drugs afterwards. The team, formed by the institute Director Prof AAS Majumder, led by Prof Mahboob Ali and accompanied by Dr Bodo Cremers from Germany, conducted the operation known as "renal nerve de-nerivation interventional" therapy. Only about 1,000 people worldwide



PHOTO: COURTESY

Prof Mahboob Ali of National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Dr Bodo Cremers from Germany at the institute in the capital yesterday after conducting a new type of surgery to control a patient's drug-resistant hypertension.

have been operated upon so far. This is a new approach even in developed countries but has minimal complications, said Prof Mahboob. "The institute can now regularly conduct such interventions for patients resistant to hypertension drugs," he added.

One killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-puller was killed when a truck rammed into his rickshaw in Shyampur in the capital yesterday. Rickshaw-puller Muktar Hossain was critically injured when a truck hit his rickshaw at about 12.30 pm at Lalmasjid in Shyampur, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kadamtoli Police Station. Police rushed the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Mohammad Rafiq Ullah, former deputy managing director of Pubali Bank Ltd. On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held on June 1, says a press release. His relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Rafiq, adviser of Nitol Group, was also managing director of Bay Leasing Company.

Unnecessary speed breakers being removed: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday informed parliament that the ministry has taken various measures, including removal of unnecessary speed breakers from highways, to lessen road accidents, a major concern in the country's road communications. The parliamentary standing body on communications ministry had earlier asked the ministry to take the initiative. Quader also assured lawmakers that the ministry's activities over curbing road accidents will become visible by the middle of next year while incidents of road fatalities will be reduced to a tolerable level. "Speed breakers, in many cases, are erected on highways in an unplanned way and sometimes illegally, resulting in road accidents in many cases. "We have already removed many such speed breakers from different highways,

including Dhaka-Aricha, Dhaka-Mawa and Comilla-Laksam," said Quader. He said several months had passed with only two accidents taking place on the Dhaka-Aricha highway, an outcome of his ministry's measures. He also said measures were taken to halve the number of speed breakers on the Dhaka-Comilla highway. There are over 40 speed breakers on the 30-kilometre Dhaka-Mawa highway, many of which are unnecessary, he said. Apart from the drivers' fault, the minister also blamed people's reluctance to use foot bridges, overloading of vehicles, speeding and overtaking for road accidents. He stated that roads which were in bad shape across the country would be repaired ahead of the next rainy season. Replying to another query, he informed the House that 80 to 85 percent of trains in the country were running on time.



Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad begins a 'fast unto death' before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding the age limit for working freedom fighters be raised to 61 years.

PHOTO: STAR

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