

Japan to provide scholarship grant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan this year will provide a grant of 202 million Japanese Yen (approximately Tk 20.39 crore) to Bangladesh under its Human Resource Development Scholarship programme, said a press release.

Economic Relations Division Senior Secretary Iqbal Mahmood and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima yesterday signed an exchange of note to this effect.

Under the programme, which was established by Japan in 2001, 15 persons will be awarded scholarships this year to study economics, public administration, public relations, and other such fields in higher Japanese academic institutions from August 2013. Bangladesh government will start recruiting candidates for the 12th session of the programme in the upcoming month of July.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday steps outside her office for a photo with the Bangladesh women's cricket team that earned the one-day international status last year. She also handed over "goodwill cheques" worth one lakh taka to each player, coach and official, congratulating them for their successful campaign.

PHOTO:
PID

Death anniversary of Dr Neelima Ibrahim today

METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of eminent educationist Dr Neelima Ibrahim, said a press release.

A pioneer of women's rights and pioneer of cultural movement in the country, Dr Neelima was the founder president of Bangladesh Mohila Samity.

To mark the day, the Mohila Samity will hold a prayer programme at her grave at martyred intellectual graveyard in the capital.

Bangladesh Mohila Samity requests the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to include Neelima Ibrahim's biography and writings in textbooks and literatures across different levels of the national education system.

Gour Chandra Bala

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Faridpur

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Advocate Gour Chandra Bala, a former provincial minister of erstwhile Pakistan.

Recitation from the holy Geeta and pujas will be held at Bala Bhaban in Faridpur town on the occasion.

He died at the age of 82, on June 18, 2005.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ashraf Ali, a language movement veteran of Nilphamari, died on Saturday in the capital. He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn the death. His namaz-e-janaza will be held tomorrow, said a press release.

Born in 1936, Ashraf worked at several government institutions including at the

Sunil Chandra Paul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sunil Chandra Paul, former district and sessions judge, died at the age of 62 in the capital on Saturday.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn the death.

His body was cremated at his village Kharha in Munshiganj yesterday.

China wishes no unrest in Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, Yang Zhaoxun, yesterday said China does not want to see any instability or unrest neither in Myanmar nor in Bangladesh.

On the ongoing sectarian violence in Myanmar, he said, "We want peace and development in our neighbouring countries." Any ethnic or religious dispute should be settled peacefully, he added.

Zhaoxun was addressing a press conference the embassy organised in the capital's Baridhara over the current dispute between China and the Philippines over Huangyan Island, situated in South China Sea and a part of Zhongsha Island.

Huangyan Island has been a part of Chinese territory since the 13th century and the country has been exercising effective jurisdiction on it. But since May 1997, the Philippines, with the help of some other countries, has been claiming ownership of the island, he said.

This has resulted in the deterioration of relations between the two countries, he said, adding, "We hope the dispute can be resolved through diplomatic initiatives."

BANGABANDHU

Autobiography launches today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unfinished autobiography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be launched today.

The University Press Limited (UPL), a publishing house, published the autobiography in its original Bangla version titled "Ausamapta Atmajiboni" and in English translation titled "The Unfinished Memories", said a UPL press release.

The autobiography will also be launched simultaneously in India and Pakistan today. Renowned publishing houses Penguin Books in India, and Oxford University Press in Pakistan, have collaborated with UPL to publish the book in the countries.

The book will be available for Tk 525 and Tk 1,200 for the Bangla and English editions respectively. The deluxe editions are priced at Tk 650 for Bangla and Tk 1,500 for English version, the release said.

According to the press release, Sheikh Mujib penned about his imprisoned life during 1967

to 1969 in this invaluable document. The book also depicts vividly all other aspects of Bangabandhu's life in and out of prison.

In his memoirs, Bangabandhu described the context of writing it, and then he takes readers back to the beginning of his ancestry, birth and childhood, days in school and college, and social and political involvements. The book progresses to recount the historical events the great leader experienced standing at the forefront of famine, communal riots in Kolkata and Bihar, partition, politics of Kolkata-centric State Muslim Student League and Muslim League, post-partition politics in East Bengal till 1954, tyranny of the Muslim League regime at the state level and the centre.

The book also portrays the language movement, founding of Chhatra League and Awami League, formation of Jukta Front and its new government after winning election, riot at the Adamji Jute mills, discriminatory attitude of Pakistan central government and the Agartala conspiracy.

Budgetary allocation alone not enough Say development activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Budgetary allocation alone can not achieve the country's desired development as the allocation sectors and final outcomes need evaluation too, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

There is no scope for parliamentary discussions or criticisms on development planning and environment protection of the budget proposal FY 2012-13 as the prime minister already praised and defended those, said Prof Anu Mohammad.

The roundtable, "Budget Thoughts: Environment and Living", was organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Jonoudyog and facilitated by Institute of Environment and Development (IED) in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"Responsibility lies on those who reside and depend on this country for their future to be aware and active in environment friendly development policies," said Prof Anu, member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

He criticised the government for not conducting any survey before signing the recent agreement with National Thermal Power Corporation of India over the construction of a 1,320 MW coal-fired power plant on a 1,800-acre land at Rampal in Bagerhat.

This power plant will seriously put the adjoining mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, under threat, he said.

Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan, in a keynote, came up with a 25-point proposal for inclusion in the budget so that the country's development activities incorporate environment protection.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mollick, IED Executive Director Numan Ahmed Khan, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manzurul Ahsan Khan, Jonoudyog Jatiya Committee Convener Prof HK Arefin and Poba Joint General Secretary Monoar Hossain also spoke at the discussion.

HC issues contempt rule against Mahmudur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, and its Jatiya Sangsad reporter for publishing a "false and fabricated" report involving Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik.

Issuing the suomoto rule, the HC bench of Justice Manik and Justice ABM Altf Hossain summoned the duo on July 12 to explain their conduct in this regard.

Yesterday, the daily published a report which translates as: "Fate of Speaker's ruling on Justice Shamsuddin Manik uncertain. There is nothing to do if I am termed seditious: It is a problem if anybody feels all powerful after getting power."

The report stated, "Sources said there had been a meeting between the angry parliament members and the judge concerned at Hotel Westin in Dhaka last week to reach a compromise. Moreover, during this time they reached a compromise with the Speaker. Reports are going around that this is the reason why the Speaker is not giving any ruling in this regard."

During yesterday's proceedings, Justice Manik said he did not believe in coming to a compromise with anyone. He said he went to a reception programme at the hotel on invitation from Anwar Hossain Manju, editor of the daily Ittefaq.

"A parliament member was sitting far away from me and we had not even exchanged greetings," said Justice Manik.



The mangled front portion of a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation bus after it collided with a truck at Postogola bridge yesterday.

PHOTO:
BANGLAR CHOKH

Teenage girl's body found in sack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a teenage girl tied up inside a plastic sack yesterday morning, some 14 hours after she went missing on her way home from her sister's house in the capital's Mirpur-13.

There were marks of injury on the head and face of the victim, Popy Akhter, 15, presumably hit with a blunt object, said Dhaka Medical College morgue sources, adding that the head injury led to the death.

Locals first saw the sack lying near a drain in Block C of Mirpur-10 around 8:00am and informed police.

Popy's brother-in-law, Alamgir Hossain, said Popy came on a visit to his house on Saturday and left at around 6:30pm for her house at Puratan Kachukhet, some one and a half kilometres away.

Popy, studying in class six at Kachukhet Lala Sarai High School, had stopped going to school some three months ago due to a lack of interest, he said, adding that they knew of no one who might have had a grudge against her.

Officer-in-Charge Kazi Wazed Ali of Mirpur Police Station said a murder case was filed in this connection.

Jessore journo murder condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday condemned the recent murder of a journalist in Jessore by a local drug-smuggling syndicate.

The two organisations also demanded immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the killers to stop recurrence of such incidents.

Jamal Uddin, a correspondent of Jessore-based Bangla daily Grameer Kagoj, was hacked to death at Sharsha upazila in Jessore on Friday allegedly for reporting on the syndicate.

ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal, in a statement, said recent incidents of repression on journalists, including the one mentioned above, by criminals and police throughout the country have turned into a serious cause for concern, she said.

"It can not be said that the government has taken adequate security measures for journalists. Since criminals are not tried and punished for their past acts, they have dare to commit the crimes again," she said.

TIB, in their annual members' meeting, condemned incidents of repression on journalist by police and criminals, says a press release.

In another press release, BNP protested Jamal's murder, terming the killers activists of the ruling party.

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একটি রবি

The Daily Star উদ্যোগ



An English Language Fair is coming
Schools are singing and kids are humming

মজা চলছে, মজা চলবে!

কারণ, মজার মজার মুড়ি, পেইমস আর দারুণ সব সারপ্রাইজেস নিয়ে আজ সোমবার, আগামী মঙ্গল এবং বুধবার আমরা আসছি তোমাদের স্কুলে! আমাদের এবারের স্কুলগুলো হলো:

১৮ জুন ২০১২

- * এ.ডি.জে.এম. সরকারি বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মুন্সিগঞ্জ
- * হাতিবান্দা এস.এস. উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট
- * নড়াইল সরকারি উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, নড়াইল

১৯ জুন ২০১২

- * রুসদি উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মুন্সিগঞ্জ
- * হাতিবান্দা আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট
- * ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া
- * সেনবাগ সরকারি পাইলট উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, নোয়াখালী

২০ জুন ২০১২

- * নড়াইল সরকারি বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, নড়াইল
- * শ্রীনগর পাইলট উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মুন্সিগঞ্জ
- * তুসন্দর আর.এম.এম.পি. সরকারি উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট
- * সরকারি মডেল বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া
- * বেগমগঞ্জ সরকারি পাইলট উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, নোয়াখালী
- * বিমান বন্দর বিদ্যালয়, যশোর



আফন্য আহমেদ