

NEWS IN *brief*

Stop to coaching business demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ovivabok Oikya Forum, an organisation of guardians of students studying in the educational institutions of the capital, yesterday raised several demands, including formulation of a policy for transferring teachers of non-government educational institutions every three years, in order to stop coaching business.

It also demanded digitalisation of curriculums.

The forum leaders raised the demands at their meeting in Shantinagar Plaza of the capital, said the forum's press release.

They demanded inclusion of four more guardians in the eight-member monitoring committee to stop the coaching business, saying that only a single guardian had been included in the committee.

Lightning kills day labourer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A day labourer died after being struck by lightning in Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

Anu Mia, 25, son of Gias Uddin, from Sunamganj, was struck by lightning and died on the spot while he

Rail communication disrupted for 7 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Rail communication between Dhaka, Mymensingh and the north-western part of the country remained suspended for seven hours yesterday due to rescue and repair work following derailment of Sundarban Express in Gazipur Friday morning.

Station Officer of Joydevpur Railway Station Ziauddin Sardar said the rail communication had remained suspended from 4:00am to 11:00am yesterday causing schedule collapse which made thou-

Man dies as train runs him over

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

An unidentified elderly man was crushed under the wheels of a train on Sirajganj-Rajshahi route at Hogolbaria village in Chatmohar upazila on Friday night.

Chatmohar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Habibul Islam said a Rajshahi-bound train hit the man around 11:30pm while he was crossing the rail line absent minded.

Police recovered the body from the area yesterday morning and sent it to Pabna Medical College

Three cheats arrested

UNB, *Dhaka*

Detective police arrested three members of an alleged fraud group from Chandina near Joydevpur crossing in Gazipur yesterday.

The arrestees are the gang leader Babul alias Raju Ahmed, 40, Rashed, 28, and Abdul Mannan, 25.

Detective officials said they have been cheating people introducing themselves as chief judicial



A woman enjoys torrential rain on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Be vocal against unjust acts
PM urges Muslim nationsUNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon Muslim nations to become vocal against all forms of unjust acts to establish a peaceful society and everlasting world peace.

This would be the best example of Islamic culture for the world community, she said at the inaugural ceremony of yearlong programmes at Osmani Auditorium in the capital marking a declaration.

The declaration was made by Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) stating Dhaka as the "Capital of Islamic Culture of Asian Region for 2012".

The ISESCO has been making such declarations since 2005 to spread Islamic culture, reinvigorate its principles and ideals, entrench its values, and perpetuate the historical, civilisational and cultural glories of Organisation of the Islamic Conference member states.

Hasina said Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) spread the message of peace and spoke about waging war against injustice and falsehood throughout his life.

"Millions of Muslims in the world having diverse cultures and traditions stand in one confluence with humanitarian and high moral values and today's idea of globalisation is implanted in the widespread idea of unity enshrined in Islam," she said.

She said Sufi saints spread the message of peace and fraternity, as enshrined in Islam, in this region and the peace-loving people of this soil easily accepted the liberal and humanitarian appeal of Islam in their lives.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad chaired the function. ISESCO Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altawajiri and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also addressed the programme.

JESSORE PASSPORT OFFICE
Asst director withdrawnOUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Assistant Director of Jessore Regional Passport Office Masum Hasan was withdrawn from his duty yesterday after journalists were assaulted by brokers and policemen at the regional passport office on Thursday.

Assistant Director of Rangpur Passport Office Raj Ahmed will take over his position, said Director (admin & accounts) of the Department of Immigration & Passport Rofiqul Islam.

At least 20 passport seekers were wounded after being attacked by police and a section of brokers for protesting against the alleged corruption of Masum Hasan on Thursday.

The journalists who were covering the incident were also assaulted by the police led by Officer-in-Charge of Jessore Kotwali Police Station Abdul Jalil, who was seen squeezing a journalist's throat.

Later on Friday, Jalil apologised for his behaviour with the journalists at Jessore Press Club after

Country faces population boom
Says expert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is now under risk of population explosion as family planning programmes have almost been invisible at field level in the country, said Prof Nurun Nabi yesterday.

Prof Nabi, a teacher of Dhaka University, said, "About two thirds of the women, who want no more children and need help from Family Planning Department, do not get the service."

He was speaking at a symposium on "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Service" at Wings Centre in the capital.

With Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque in the chair, Syed Mohammad Shahed, secretary general of United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB), moderated the symposium organised by the UNAB.

"Field workers of the department are less likely to visit younger members of the society, and newly married women get their visits once a month at best," Nurun Nabi said.

The country's demand and supply of contraceptives remain mismatched, he said, adding that modern women will no more be encouraged by the existing old fashioned approach to use of contraceptives.

Contraceptives should be formulated keeping in mind three stages -- for delaying childbirth, for expanding time period between two pregnancies, and for stopping childbirth -- as women are no longer willing to take birth control pills throughout their reproductive age now, he said.

Though fertility rate has been reducing radically since independence of the country, but the number of women of reproductive age is on the rise.

Speakers in the symposium stressed on women education and employment as educated women usually become jobholders, and are not willing to give frequent births to

Edward M Kennedy Center launched

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The American Center of US Embassy in Dhaka launched Edward M Kennedy Center for public service and the arts in the capital's Dhamondi yesterday.

The center, to open to the public in September, is equipped with wi-fi access, a café, classrooms, a resource and reference room, and a lounge area.

With Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque in the chair, Syed Mohammad Shahed, secretary general of United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB), moderated the symposium organised by the UNAB.

Its mission, in partnership with Liberation War Museum, is "to engage, inspire, connect, and empower citizens of all ages to better themselves, their communities and our world."

The center honours freedom fighters of the 1971 Liberation War and US Senator Edward M Kennedy, who came to Bangladesh in 1972 to extend the hand of friendship.

It recognises and encourages the work of the youth of today and defines public service as "service on behalf of the people by anyone, anywhere, anytime," says a press release of the embassy.

Journo killers' trial demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday reiterated their demand for trial of the killers of journalists and stopping repression on persons working in the media.

At a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club, they criticised the government for failing to identify the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rani, even five months into their killings, said a joint press statement of four journalists' organisations.

They also declared a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday to press home their demands.

Moreover, they criticised the killings of journalists Zunayed of Beanibazar in Sylhet and Jamal Uddin of Jessor, and repression of three photojournalists of Prothom Alo.

Meanwhile, the journalist leaders asked all the media men, politicians, artistes,

professionals, civil society representatives and businessmen not to congratulate ATN Bangla chief Mahfuzur Rahman on the channel's anniversary today.

Mahfuzur made "derogatory statements" on Sagar and Rani, they said adding that even though he claimed to have footage relating to the motive of their murders the investigators were not interrogating him effectively, the statement said.

The authorities are not heeding to the demand for Mahfuzur's arrest who they said was conspiring to destroy the ongoing movement of the journalists.

The statement was issued by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity. Frequent incidents of repression and murder of journalists are a threat to democracy and freedom of the press, the journalist leaders observed.



Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding recruitment of permanent teachers for them.

BNP observes hartal in Kamrangirchar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its different wings yesterday observed a daylong hartal in the capital's Kamrangirchar area protesting the arrest of 18 party leaders on Friday and demanding their immediate release.

According to witnesses, pickets brought out processions and vandalised several vehicles during the hartal.

They locked in a clash with law enforcers when police intercepted their procession at Borogram area around 10:00am.

At one stage, police dispersed the pickets by charging batons while the pickets pelted brickbats at law enforcers.

MA Gaffar, Chhatra Dal Kamrangirchar unit president, claimed that at least 12 of their men suffered injuries in the police action.

Police said they picked up two men from the spot on charge of attacking law enforcers.

Although transport movement in the area remained thin during the first half of the hartal, it became normal later on.

The hartal was called on Friday immediately after police arrested 18 local leaders and activists of BNP and its different wings on charges of possessing 12 litres of alcohol, 200 grammes of heroin, 500 grammes of cannabis and 144 cans of beer while out on a picnic aboard a launch.

Of the arrestees, local BNP member secretary Mohammad Nayeem, Jubo Dal president Md Nazrul Islam, Tantid president Md Shafiqul Islam and BNP leaders Md Shah and Zahirul Islam were placed on a four-day remand while the rest 13 were sent to jail, said police.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Ruling party activists attack BNP men during hartal yesterday called by BNP in Kamrangirchar of the city protesting arrests of its leaders and activists.