

NEWS IN *brief*

Cuet students to participate in Nasa's lunar robotics contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team from Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) will compete in a five-day-long international lunar robotics contest to be held in the United States of America from May 20 next year. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), USA will organise the competition titled "Lunabotics Mining Competition-2013" at Florida's Kennedy Space Centre, said Dr Sajal Chandra Banik, associate professor of mechanical engineering department of Cuet. Total 50 teams from different universities across the world will participate in the competition. Banik would be leading the five-member team from Cuet, consisting two students from his department and three students from computer science and

Youth fatally run over by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth died after he was run over by a train in Karwan Bazar area of the capital yesterday. The deceased was Mirza Minhazuddin, 24, a resident of the city's Shaheedbagh and a student of Siddheshwari University College. Witnesses said the train struck Mirza when he was walking on the railway crossing near FDC gate in the area around 2:30pm. He was wearing headphones and apparently could not hear the shouts of people warning him of the approaching train, said witnesses. Mirza was going to Motalib Plaza in Hatirpool to fix his mobile phone, said police, quoting the vic-

Dhaka to host 19th IAS conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will be hosting the 19th International Conference of Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) in May next year, said a press release of the foreign ministry. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni conveyed Bangladesh's interest in hosting the event when IAS Director General Dr Moneef Rafe' Zou'bi called on her at the ministry yesterday. She said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has herself attached importance to hosting this conference. Moneef Rafe' Zou'bi expressed his satisfaction at Bangladesh's advancement in the fields of higher education, industry, science and technology.

FERB elects new executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mollah Amzad Hossain, editor of the Energy & Power, has been elected chairman of the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) unopposed for 2012-2014. Arun Karmakar, a special correspondent of the Prothom Alo, was elected executive director at the forum's biannual general meeting election at Jatiya Press Club in the capital on Saturday. Other elected office bearers are Shahin Chowdhury (The Daily Swadhinmot), Kawser Rahman (The Daily Janakantha), Rafiqul Bashar (The Daily Ittefaq), Nazmul Imam (the daily Shamokal) and Sharmin Rinvi (Bangla Vision). Two elected members are Farid Hossain (Associated Press) and Akram Hossain Khan, according to a

HUMAYUN AZAD MURDER CASE

Charges framed against five JMB men

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activists in Prof Humayun Azad murder case. The court also fixed September 16 to start the trial and summoned the complainant on that day. On February 27, 2004, JMB activists stabbed the 56-year-old linguist Azad while he was trying to catch a rickshaw to go home from the Ekushey Boi Mela at Bangla Academy in the capital, said the investigation officer of the case. Azad of Dhaka University's Bangla department died from what an autopsy said was a heart attack in Munich on August 12, 2004. Meanwhile, an attempted murder case was filed against several unknown people on the day of the attack. In March 2006, Rapid Action Battalion's the then intelligence wing chief

disclosed JMB's link to the attack at a press briefing in the police headquarters. The accused are Salehin alias Salahuddin, Hafiz Mahmud alias Hassan, Anwarul Alam alias Anwar, Mizanur Rahman alias Minhaz and Nur Mohammad. Nur is on the run while the remaining four are in jail. The four pleaded not guilty before Judge AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan of Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday after the charges were read out. The investigation officer, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Kazi Abdul Malek, submitted a charge sheet on November 15, 2007 accusing JMB leaders Anwarul, Mizanur and Nur. On April 30, 2012, CID again pressed charges against the five and appealed for the case to be converted into a murder case.

2 commit 'suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man and a woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping off roofs in two separate incidents in Elephant Road and Hazaribagh areas of the capital yesterday. Garment worker Mainul Islam, 20, jumped off the roof of a six-storey factory building in Elephant Road. Mainul, hailing from Muslimpara of Patuakhali, had been working as a quality inspector at Tulip Garments Ltd. Witnesses said after receiving a call Mainul rushed to the roof and jumped off of it around 1:30pm. Mainul was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. In another incident, Rafia Afrin Roba, 30, also jumped off the roof of a six-storey building in Hazaribagh area around 5:20am. The victim's brother Shakhawat Jewel said his sister had been suffering from mental problems. "We were keeping an eye on her as she was behaving peculiarly for the last few days. We were sleeping when she jumped off the roof. Locals informed us about the incident," he added. The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET Cabinet okays work plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government aims to reduce extreme poverty rate, 31.5 percent at present, to 25 percent by 2013 and to 15 percent by 2021 by continuously and more effectively implementing poverty alleviation and social safety net programmes. With this target, the cabinet yesterday approved some suggestions of the Central Monitoring Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Net Programmes. Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan placed a report, "Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Net Programmes", at the cabinet meeting in Bangladesh Secretariat, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In 2010-11 fiscal year, the programmes' allocation was 14.85 percent of the budget. A total of 99 programmes were implemented, the report says. Musharraf proposed a five-point recommendation to effectively implement the programmes to alleviate poverty. The recommendations include formation of a comprehensive social safety network strategy, preparation of a database on the overall social safety net programmes and a list of the beneficiaries and increasing the implementing organisations' involvement. It also comprises evaluation of the programmes after a certain period and expansion and implementation of school feeding and national nutrition programmes. Briefing journalists, Musharraf said over 24.74 crore people were benefiting from the programmes and the number of beneficiaries crossed the total population as



PHOTO: STAR

United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne S Verveer, second from right, hands over Prothom Alo and Asian University for Women (AUW) scholarship documents to a student at Grassroots Women's Political Leadership Forum at AUW in Chittagong yesterday. On her left is Matur Rahman, editor and publisher of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, and on her right are Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for Women and Children Affairs, and Rokia Afzal Rahman, a former adviser to a caretaker government. (Story on Page 3)

HRW criticises govt's move to control NGOs

Complains about graft in NGO Affairs Bureau

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday criticised the Bangladesh government for its move to control the activities of the NGOs. In a statement released early today, the New York-based rights body urged the international donors to put pressure on the government to ensure the NGO sector can work without unnecessary interference from the government. "The Bangladeshi government increasingly acts as though it is interested in controlling the NGO sector to a minute level detail, which will only stifle the activities of the civil society," said Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW. The Awami League regularly claims that it is the only political party that will protect democracy and pluralism in Bangladesh, but its attempts to control NGO activity call this into serious question, he mentioned. Many NGOs, noted the release, have reported corruption in the NGO Affairs Bureau and in various ministries and local government offices. The NGO Affairs Bureau in the Prime Minister's Office often simply rejects any requests for registration or project proposals on arbitrary grounds, at times for apparently political reasons. Adams said instead of setting up a commission to breathe down the necks of the NGOs, the government should set up a commission to investigate the alleged epidemic of corruption in the NGO Affairs Bureau and other government agencies.

Four cops suspended for robbing woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Four policemen were temporarily suspended yesterday on charges of robbing a woman at Munshikhola check-post in Pagla on Sunday night. The four are Kamrul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Fatullah Model Police Station, Habildar Ujjir Ali, Constables Shahid Mia and Golam Mostafa of the Police Lines. Sheikh Nazmul Alam, superintendent of police of Narayanganj, said they were suspended as the allegation against them was primarily proved. ASI Kamrul and the three policemen allegedly stopped Romana Islam, a housewife, when she along with her nephew reached near the check-post on a CNG-run autorickshaw en route to Narayanganj. They searched Romana's handbag and snatched Tk 3000, threatening her to implicate her in a false case, sources said. Romana soon informed the matter to Abdul Matin, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station, who later forced ASI Kamrul to return her the money.

Buet classes likely to start Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) are likely to resume on Saturday after about two months. The university's deans at a meeting yesterday chalked out a new academic calendar with classes resuming from Saturday. The meeting was held at Buet Civil Engineering Building yesterday, a day after the government removed the university's Pro-VC Prof M Habibur Rahman following about five-month long agitation of teachers and students. Classes were held sporadically during the agitation. Buet Teachers Association in another meeting yesterday decided to return to classes from Saturday. However, Prof Ashraful Islam, the association's general secretary, told The Daily Star, "We have 'no confidence' on VC and our

demand for his removal is still on." Teachers and students of Buet have been agitating since April 7 demanding removal of the university's VC and pro-VC raising 16 allegations of corruption and irregularities against them. PLEA FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CASES Police on Monday appealed to a Dhaka court to discharge 24 Buet students and teachers from two cases filed against them for vandalising offices of the VC and former pro-VC on September 2. MA Jalil, officer-in-charge of Shahbag Police Station, submitted a probe report to the court saying Buet authorities submitted applications requesting withdrawal of the two cases. The Buet authorities said the conflict between them and the protesters has been resolved. So, they would not proceed with the cases.

Protest procession

Bangladesh Diploma Bekar Nurses' Association will organise a protest procession; Venue: from in front of Central Shaheed Minar; Time: 11:00am.

Open discussion

Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will hold an open discussion; Venue: 2/4, Nabab Habibullah Road; Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain

Gonoforum will form a human chain;

Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally

Four journalists' organisations will organise a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Human chain

Maasranga Television will form a human chain; Venue: on the road in front of its office; Time: 11:30am.

Education exhibition

Australian High Commission will

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees at Srirangal.

The highest and the lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	26.2	82	70
Chittagong	31.0	26.3	82	80
Rajshahi	31.8	25.8	93	82
Rangpur	32.6	26.8	79	69
Khulna	32.2	26.0	97	92
Barisal	31.5	25.5	93	83