

NEWS IN *brief*

Cuet to house country's first software incubator park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government is going to build the country's first full software technology incubator park at the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), said Information and Communication Technology Secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan.

He was addressing a seminar styled "Future Energy of Bangladesh: Nuclear or Solar" organised by the Cuet at its auditorium yesterday.

Under a two-year project of Tk 9.40 crore, 60 incubators would be built at the park, said Cuet Vice Chancellor Prof Jahangir Alam.

Dr Nawshad Amin of National University of Malaysia presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

Juta election tomorrow

JU CORRESPONDENT

Election to the executive committee of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) will be held tomorrow for 2013.

The voting will be held from 9:00am to 1:30pm at the university teacher's club without any break, said Chief Election Commissioner Prof AKM Abul Kalam.

Prof Khabir Uddin and Prof Lutfar Rahman will contest for president and general secretary posts respectively from an Awami League-backed faction.

Meantime, Prof Ajit Kumar Majumdar and Prof Sharif Uddin will contest for the two posts from Sammilita Shikshak Parishad belonging to progressive, BNP and another AL faction.

Anwarul chairman, Joynal Abedin GS of Bikrompur Foundation

METRO DESK

Renowned astrologer Anwarul Rahman, also former professor at Dhaka University, and Md Joynal Abedin, a freedom fighter, have been made the chairman and general secretary respectively of Bikrompur Foundation's Board of Governance for the period 2013-14.

Sheikh Abdul Bakir, a banker, has been made the treasurer of the 42-member body, said a press release.



Bicycle procession

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Bangladesh Environment Network, and WBB Trust will bring out a bicycle procession demanding protection of water bodies; Route: Central Shaheed Minar to Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network will form a human chain demanding trial of the

murderers of Thomaching Marma of Kawkhali in Rangamati; Venue: In front of National Museum, Shahbagh; Time: 11:00am.

Rally

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal will stage a rally with a demand for expediting the on-going war crimes trial; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Samaj Gabeshona Kendra and Progressive Forum will hold a discussion on tomorrow's Bangladesh; Venue:



Jubilant students of Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School, which topped the list of this year's 20 best schools under Chittagong board in terms of Primary Terminal Examination and Junior School Certificate Examination results.

PHOTO: STAR

Formulate coordinated policy for safe roads

Amputee journalist Nikhil urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Nikhil Bhadra, who lost his right leg in a road accident last year, yesterday urged the government to enact a coordinated communications policy to ensure a safe road network.

He said governments always emphasize on road-based transport system neglecting the two safest ways of communications, rail and water, while security issues of pedestrians and commuters were ignored.

"This type of wrong thinking cost too many lives. Several thousand people are being killed in the rush of vehicles driven by careless drivers. Insensible pedestrians are also responsible for the incidents," he said.

Nikhil was addressing a press conference organised by Media Forum for Human Rights and Environmental Development in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity marking the day of Nikhil's accident and to raise awareness on road accidents.

On December 28, 2011, the 38-year-old senior reporter of Bangla daily Kaler Kantho was run over by a BRTC bus before Jatiya Press Club and doctors had to amputate his right leg from the knee hours after the incident.

Saudi Shura Council Speaker to arrive Jan 6

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Speaker of the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia also known as Shura Council Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al ash-Sheikh will arrive in Bangladesh on January 6 on a three-day visit.

He will be visiting at the invitation of Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Abdul Hamid, foreign ministry officials said.

The Saudi Speaker has no specific agenda of his visit, but during his stay in Dhaka, he will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, meet with his Bangladesh counterpart and Saudi-Bangladesh Parliamentary Group.

He has been the chairman of the Majlis ash-Shura (Consultative Assembly) since 2009.

Shura Council is the formal advisory body of Saudi Arabia, which is an absolute monarchy.

JSC RESULT OF CHITTAGONG EDUCATION BOARD

Girls lead in GPA-5 but fall behind in pass rate

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Although a higher number of girls under Chittagong Education Board secured Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 than boys, their pass rate decreased in this year's Junior School Certificate examination.

The board saw 3,531 students achieve GPA-5, 1,340 more than last year. Of them, 1,908 are girls and 1,623 are boys.

A total of 1,04,578 students, out of 1,33,472 sitting for it, passed the exam from 1,086 educational institutions. Of those who passed, 48,260 are boys, taking the pass rates of boys and girls to 81.41 and 75.91 respectively.

The board's pass rate is 78.35, a 5.69 percent increase from last year.

On why the pass rate of girls fell, the board Controller Pijush Dutta told The Daily Star, "The parents did not give proper attention towards the education of their daughters."

He, however, was optimistic about the increase in the number of girl examinees as parents were becoming more interested in sending their daughters to school due to the stipends being provided to girls.

Pijush hoped that the guardians would be more conscious about the education of their daughters as they also form a significant part of society. "If guardians monitor their daughters properly, girls' pass rate would also increase."

Terming the overall result satisfac-

tory, Pijush said, due to governments' special care and monitoring, students from both inside and outside metropolitan areas have done better.

PASS RATES IN AND OUTSIDE METRO AREAS

The pass rate of students in metropolitan areas is 85.17 percent, a 3.69 percent increase from last year, while that outside is 75.77 percent, a 6.4 percent increase from last year.

TOP LISTED SCHOOLS

Khastagir Government Girls' High School topped the list of top-ranking schools under the board in terms of rate of regular examinees, pass rate, number of GPA-5 achievers, number of students and the institution's average GPA.

A total of 264 out of 333 successful students of the school achieved GPA-5 while the school has a 100 percent pass rate.

The school's headmaster, Hasmat Jahan, complemented the combined efforts of teachers, students and guardians for the "great success".

"Our teachers monitored each student carefully. Students were attentive in classes and guardians also took care of their children. These brought the result that we have achieved today," she added.

Collegiate School, Chittagong stood second in the list with 258 out of 343 successful students achieving GPA-5 and a 100 percent pass rate.

The third and fourth positions were taken by Fauzdarhat Cadet

College and Government Muslim High School. The former has 47 GPA-5 achievers from 57 examinees, who all passed, while the latter has 141 GPA-5 achievers out of 247 examinees.

Silver Bells Girls' High School, Chittagong Public School and College, and Ispahani Public School and College secured the following three positions with 96, 95 and 64 GPA-5 achievers respectively.

COX'S BAZAR TOP DISTRICT

Among the districts under the board, Cox's Bazar took the lead with a pass rate of 80.80 percent, an increase of 5.7 percent when compared to last year.

Cox's Bazar Government Girls' High School secured 12th position and Cox's Bazar Government Boys' High School secured 16th position in the list of top schools with 82 and 61 GPA-5 achievers respectively.

Of the remaining three hill districts, the pass rate in Rangamati is 78.49 percent, Khagrachhari is 70.35 percent and Bandarban is 71.77 percent.

This year, none of the educational institutions under the board had a zero pass rate. The number of institutions with 100 percent pass rate was 58 while it was 52 last year.

The examination was held in 193 centres. A total of 3,040 students were absent, 25 were expelled and the results of 10 were withheld.

BNP to chalk out fresh agitation programmes tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP policymaking body, National Standing Committee, will sit in BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office tomorrow to discuss the latest political situation and chalk out fresh agitation programmes.

Meanwhile, Tariqul Islam, BNP spokesperson, yesterday said people have no confidence towards the government as Khaleda Zia's Wednesday's mass contact programme demanding restoration of caretaker government system was a success.

"Tens of thousands of people came to the street, which turned the chairperson's meetings into grand rallies, protesting the government's misdeeds including taking away people's right to vote," he said while addressing a discussion meeting at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Local government forum, a pro-opposition organisation, organised the programme demanding release of BNP leaders Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu.



WEATHER TODAY

Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Thick fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon, said Met Office.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Madaripur and it may continue.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

Country's highest temperature 25.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 06.8 degrees at Chuadanga.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	20.5	11.8	87	80
Chittagong	21.0	12.0	89	74
Rajshahi	18.5	09.2	91	86
Rangpur	16.8	10.3	99	89
Khulna	18.5	09.8	100	89
Barisal	20.0	09.0	96	93
Sylhet	23.0	10.0	89	88



Passengers suffer as vehicles remains stuck behind a procession brought out by the capital's Uttara unit Awami League in front of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. The procession was heading towards Suhrawardy Udyan to attend AL's Dhaka city unit's council.

PHOTO: STAR