



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid offers prayers after inaugurating Shaheed Begum Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Government College in the capital's Hazaribagh yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Dhaka gets first govt college after independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Begum Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Government College, the first public college founded in the capital after 42 years of independence, started its journey yesterday.

Inaugurating the institution in Hazaribagh, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the college would ease the sufferings of the deprived and poor children whose access to the costly education in the capital was limited.

The four-storey college equipped with four laboratories, a library, and an information technology lab, will offer secondary and higher secondary education. Some 173 students have been enrolled in the college under the current academic session.

The college authorities said two more floors would be added to the college building soon.

At present, the capital has 24 government secondary schools and 11 colleges. The construction of 11 new secondary schools and five colleges in the capital are underway, said Nahid, adding that the Tk 453 crore project was due to end in June 2014.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, also chairman of the parliamentary body on the education ministry, was present on the occasion.

SENDING MANPOWER ABROAD HC stays govt decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed two government decisions regarding sending manpower abroad for the next three months.

The government on March 28 issued a circular prohibiting recruitment of manpower beyond its database, and on April 7 it issued another circular providing for selection of manpower from the same database. In response to a writ petition, the HC yesterday also issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why the circulars should not be declared illegal.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agency (BAIRA) President Md Shajalal Majumder filed the writ petition last week challenging the legality of the government circulars.

Petitioner's counsel Mohammad Hossain told The Daily Star that his client can select manpower beyond the government's database following the HC order.

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ASSET DEVELOPMENTS

NEWS IN brief

Hasina to meet grassroots leaders to pick candidates for next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will start meetings with the party leaders from the grassroots-level from tomorrow to seek their opinions on party's possible candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

As part of the programme, Hasina, also the prime minister, will meet the leaders of Dinajpur, Jamalpur, Rajbari, Manikganj, Lalmonirhat, Gazipur, and Bhola districts, and thanas, upazilas and municipalities under the districts at Gono Bhavan at 3:00pm tomorrow.

RU admission test begins on Nov 10

RU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test of honours programme of Rajshahi University (RU) for the 2013-2014 session will begin on November 10.

The exam will be held under eight faculties until November 14.

No change has been made regarding the terms and conditions for applying, said the RU vice-chancellor.

The schedule of the test will be informed after September 8, said RU officials.

DoE fines RMG factory for pollution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur.

The Department of Environment (DoE) fined a garment factory of Gazipur's Sreepur area Tk 2 lakh for polluting the Turag river yesterday.

M Alamgir, DoE director (monitoring and enforcement), fined Crystal Industries Ltd for discharging its untreated waste materials into the Turag river and ordered the factory authorities to stop the discharge until they install effluent treatment plants.

Free medical services given to poor in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nalta Shareef Central Ahsania Mission Orphanage provided free medical services to around 100 poor people at the capital's Chalabon in Dakkhinkhan Saturday.

Starting from morning, three physicians gave treatment while the orphanage authorities distributed medicines among them, says a press release.

The mission said from now on they would continue the service in the area on the last Saturday of each month, the release adds.

22 touts jailed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty two touts, who illegally charge people for processing driving licenses, were given different jail terms yesterday.

Executive Magistrate Nazrul Islam sentenced 20 of them to three-month imprisonment while the remaining two to 15-day.

They used to harass people at the office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority in Keraniganj who came to apply for driving licenses or change the ownership of their vehicle, said Rab officials. Rab arrested them from the office area in the afternoon.

Korea-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

and Post-harvest Technology Division premises at the BTRI headquarters in Gazipur. The Korean International Cooperation Agency (Koica) is providing the necessary support in this regard.

The details of the programme were revealed at a seminar of the Koica-assisted project in the BTRI auditorium yesterday.

Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Md Anwarul Islam Sikder, Korean counsellor and Deputy Chief of mission to Bangladesh Kim Hyun-Joo and Koica resident representative Kim Bok-Hee were present with BTRI Director General Dr Md Syedul Islam in the chair.

Principal Scientific Officer (PSO) of Farm Machinery and Post-harvest Technology Division of BTRI Dr Md Parul Huda and PSO of BTRI Plant Breeding Division Dr Parul Sarathi Biswas presented the keynote paper in the seminar. Korean mechanisation specialist Hakkyu Kim also presented a paper on agricultural machinery.

AL leaders against major changes to electoral laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Awami League leaders have asked the law ministry not to bring any major changes to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) and the code of conduct except making them consistent with the constitution so that the upcoming election could be held under a partisan government.

The governing party leaders fear that any major changes may trigger fresh controversy centring the election.

If the law ministry follows the advice they made at an informal meeting with the law minister at his residence on Friday night, it

may make uncertain the fate of Election Commission's some crucial proposals for electoral reforms.

The proposals include cancelling an individual's candidacy for giving false information or concealing information in the affidavit, making it mandatory for the government to consult with the EC before making any posting and transfer of government officials during the polls, increasing election expenditures for both parties and candidates, and empowering executive magistrates to hold trial for electoral offences.

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Fakhrul asks govt not to resist programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday requested the government not to make its last days miserable by resisting opposition's rallies and processions.

He said this while addressing a rally of pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, making the 6th anniversary of BNP senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman's release from jail.

JCD leaders alleged that they applied for bringing out a procession but police allowed them to hold a rally. They also said police

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EC to distribute ID cards from mid-Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will start distributing from mid-September 70 lakh new national identity (ID) cards among voters who registered in last year's electoral roll, said Mohasin Ali, director (operations) of EC's national ID card project yesterday.

Meanwhile, the cabinet approved a proposal to amend the ID card registration act to provide the ID cards to people aged below 18, who are ineligible for being voters. The proposals also include a provision to punish individuals, with a maximum five year jail term and a Tk 50,000 fine, who conceal information in their application for the ID cards.

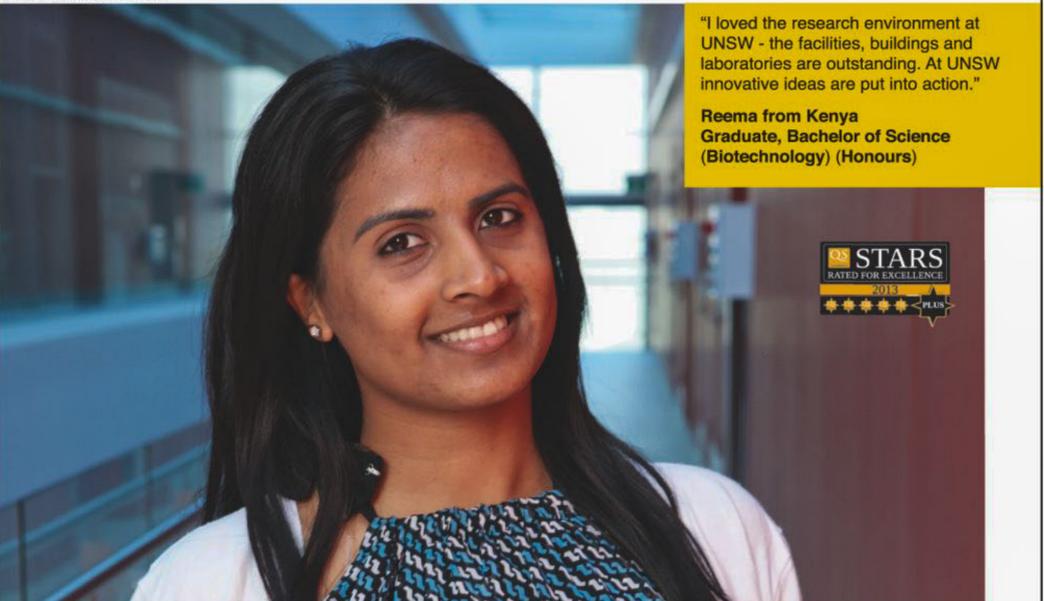
The EC prepared the ID cards, alongside the voter list, with photographs from 2007. With the new cards, the total number of national ID card holders will be over 9 crore.

"We hope to complete the distribution by October," said Mohasin. The new voters can receive the ID cards from district or upazila election offices by showing the slip of paper by electoral officials while taking photos. Before the distribution, the EC will hold media briefings and place newspaper ads.

If the slip is lost, a General Diary must be filed and a copy of it must be shown to the district or upazila election officer, said Mohasin.

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