

'BANGLADESH FIRST' QUIZ CONTEST First round held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first round of "Rin presents Bangladesh First - powered by Standard Chartered Bank", a nationwide quiz contest on Bangladesh launched by The Daily Star and e-learning portal champs21.com, was held in the country's seven divisional cities.

In the round, 8,000 students of classes VI to X from 80 champs21.com partner Bangla and English medium schools answered multiple choice questions (MCQ).

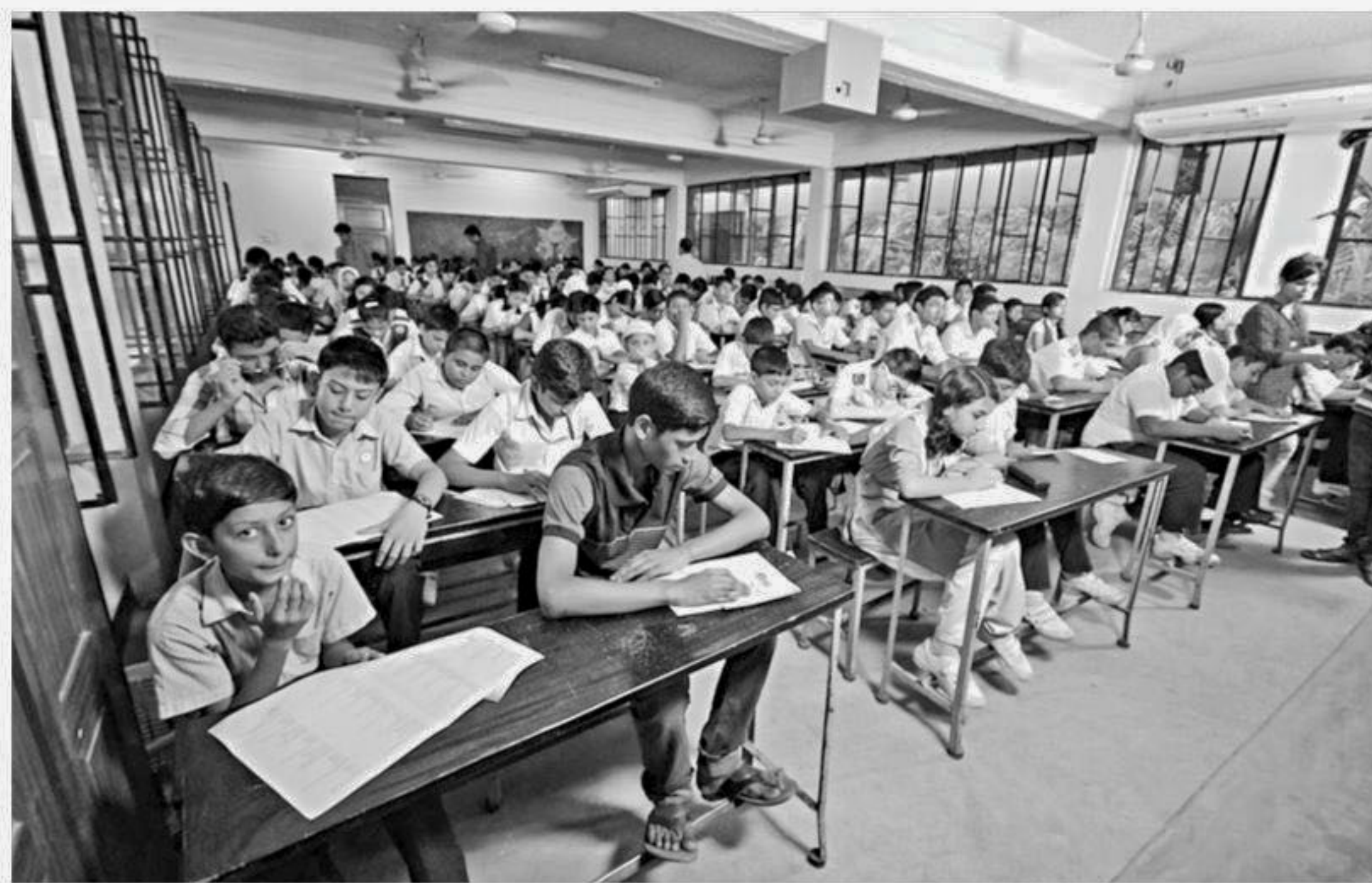
In Dhaka, 4,000 students of 40 schools competed in two shifts at St Joseph Higher Secondary School of Mohammadpur. The next largest participation was in Chittagong where 800 students flocked to Chittagong Government High School in Chawkbazar.

The other venues were Government Agragami Girls' High School and College in Zindabazar, Sylhet; Rajshahi Collegiate School in Shaheb Bazar, Rajshahi; Khulna Zila School, Khulna; Barisal Zila School, Barisal; and Rangpur Zila School, Rangpur.

Comprising two other rounds, namely oral and TV rounds, the contest, Bangladesh First, focuses on facts and figures on Bangladesh's history, heritage, culture, tradition, literature etc and upholds the importance of having extensive knowledge on Bangladesh as a country.

Those who pass yesterday's MCQ round will have to take an oral test, to be conducted by a jury panel from September 14 to 21. A total of 128 contestants will then be selected for the TV round, scheduled to be aired by Maasranga TV from late October.

Russell T Ahmed, CEO of champs21.com, was present at the Dhaka centre.



Some of the contestants of the first round of the nationwide quiz contest on Bangladesh, "Rin presents Bangladesh First - powered by Standard Chartered Bank", in St Joseph Higher Secondary School at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday. The contest was launched by The Daily Star and e-learning portal champs21.com in the country's seven divisional cities.

PHOTO: STAR

Imam strangled in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An imam of a mosque was strangled allegedly by a drug addict at Dhamua in Uzirpur upazila of Barisal on Thursday.

The victim Hafez Parvez Mahmud, 31, son of Mawlana Abul Hashem, was the imam of Uttar Dhamura Jame Mosque.

Mithun Mia, an alleged drug addict and hooligan in the area, might have killed Parvez as he was vocal against drug peddling and addiction, said Uzirpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain.

The victim's brother Abdullah lodged a murder case accusing Mithun.

On information, police recovered the body from a khanka (a place where religious sermons are delivered) Thursday night.

On duty journo

FROM PAGE 5

and grandchildren and got married again.

Some Jigatola locals, claiming that Razzak had duped them of Tk 45 lakh, had hired the miscreants to force

Razzak into paying them back, she claimed, adding that she had accompanied them with hopes of getting justice for her daughter.

Tejgaon police said they were looking into the matter.

Sylhet traders call

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three jewellery shops in Nehar Market of Sylhet. The incident left a security guard dead and two market staff injured.

The business leaders threatened of further agitation if the culprits are not arrested by Sunday.

A CID team yesterday

collected finger prints and evidence from Al-Baraka Jewellers, one of the looted shops.

Police yesterday picked up Bangladesh Chhatra League cadre Dulal Ahmed in connection with the robbery. So far, four people have been detained in this connection.

Unity sought

FROM PAGE 5

fundamentalism lies on the right alongside 231 NGOs, trusts and foundations," he said.

"The economy was created on goods looted by Jamaat in 1971 and the ideological investment after the killing of Bangabandhu in 1975," he said.

This resource is invested in nine sectors including banks, shops and stores, medical facilities, educational institutions, communication and transportation, real estate, media and NGOs, he said.

Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunals, Rana Dasgupta, said investigations were ongoing on crimes against humanity allegedly committed by Jamaat during the Liberation War and soon "the party would be brought to the dock".

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said South Asia would suffer if the rise of militancy was not stopped in Bangladesh.

The platform's Coordinator Ajoy Roy presided over the programme.

Next polls

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Dipu Moni said the government was committed to safeguarding people's right to vote and protect the country from any unelected aspirant which an unelected caretaker government would constitute.

"The major opposition party BNP, together with its allies, has declared their demand for an unelected caretaker government thereby creating an uncertain and unconstitutional pre-election environment," she added.

Moderated by Jessica Mathews, president of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the full-house programme was attended by representatives of the US government, civil society and diplomats.

Ctg round picks

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One competitor, Sabrina Monsur of Bangladesh Navy School, told The Daily Star that the competition made her more aware about the environment.

Homaira Huda Shomee of Bangladesh Mohila Samity Girls' School and College said, "These initiatives will encourage us not to engage in activities that destroy and pollute the environment."

Thanking the competition initiators, one of the judges, Md Manzoor Kibria of Chittagong University, expected every participant to turn into a climate hero in 10 to 15 years and to play a significant role in raising awareness on climate change.

"The arrangement is time-

befitting and I believe future generations, inspired by these kinds of initiatives, will give us a pollution free Bangladesh," said another judge, Prof Muhammad Edris Ali of Chittagong College.

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif, addressing as chief guest, said, "Now, our surrounding environment is being destroyed. Students and youths should come forward to save the environment."

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star; Prof Abul Mansur; Abdullah Al Jubayer, manager of Corporate Sustainability of HSBC; and Shailla Sharmin of CU's Institute of Fine Arts were present.

Jamuna Future

FROM PAGE 3

Party Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, noted film actor Raj Razzak, and some other political leaders also spoke on the occasion.

The Jamuna Future Park complex sits on a total land area of 41 lakh square feet, with 16 lakh square feet used for shopping space. It is located in Kuril on the Progoti Sarani, neighbouring the capital's posh residential areas like Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, and Bashundhara.

The construction of the complex started in 2002. The Jamuna croup chairman hoped that the entire complex would be fully operational by next three months.

Govt should find out

FROM PAGE 3

rights of the indigenous people. If the land dispute is resolved, other problems would go away as well.

"Apart from the land rights of those living in the hills, the government should also ensure the land rights of the plain land adivasis. I personally recommend forming a 'land commission' for the indigenous people living on the plains," said Prof Mizanur.

About the internal conflict between indigenous communities, he observed that it was a "self-destructive" path that some adivasis had chosen.

In a written statement, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum

demanding constitutional recognition of adivasi communities and state recognition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

At an open discussion following the seminar, some indigenous people urged the media and human rights bodies to publish follow-ups on the stories of repression of indigenous communities such as the abduction of Kalpana Chakma in 1996.

Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, vice chancellor of Asa University, also addressed the seminar, chaired by Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

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Prof Dr. Saiful Islam has joined Primeasia University as Pro Vice Chancellor



Professor Dr. Saiful Islam

An eminent Educationist and Electrical and Electronic Engineering expert, Professor Dr. Saiful Islam has joined as the **Pro-Vice Chancellor of Primeasia University** with the approval of the honorable President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of universities. Professor Dr. Saiful Islam received BScEngg(Electrical) degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) Dhaka in 1975 obtaining Honours marks and securing First position in his class. He received MScEngg(Electrical) degree from BUET in 1977 and PhD degree in **Electrical Engineering from Cambridge University, Cambridge (UK) in 1986.**

Professor Saiful Islam has 38 years of teaching and teaching administration experience to his credit. He started his teaching career as a Lecturer of Electrical Engineering Department of BUET in May 1975 and he became a Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department of BUET in 1988. During 1991-93, Professor Saiful Islam was the Head of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department of BUET and the Head of the Computer Science and Engineering Department of BUET during 1996. During 1995-97 he was the Dean of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty of BUET.

During 1991, Professor Islam was with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Japan with the status of a Visiting Professor. During 1999-2000, he was a Visiting Professor of Islamic Institute of Technology (now IUT), Gazipur.

During 2002 - 2005 he worked as the first Dean of Engineering Faculty of American International University- Bangladesh (AIUB), Banani, Dhaka and put significant contribution in building the Engineering Faculty of AIUB and in publishing a yearly Journal 'AIUB Journal of Science and Engineering (AJSE)' (as an Associate Editor) from the very first issue.

Professor Saiful Islam is a Life Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), a Life Fellow of Bangladesh Computer Society, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) UK, a Chartered Engineer (CEng) of the Engineering Council, UK, a Fellow of Cambridge Commonwealth Society, Cambridge, UK, a Life member of Caius Club of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, a Member of IEEE USA, former Vice President of Bangladesh Electronics Society.

Professor Saiful Islam received the "Junior Group Academy Award 1988 Gold Medal" jointly given by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), Third World Academy of Science (Italy) and British Council for contribution in the field of Microwave Engineering.

Prof. Islam has been involved in a number of National Engineering Projects/ jobs related to special lighting, Electrical distributions in buildings, industries, special sites, telecommunications and wireless communications as a technical expert / consultant. He has put significant contribution in National level in Engineering and Educational fields.

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