

Noncompliant pvt universities to face punitive actions

Says Nahid at convocation of East West University
CITY DESK

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday warned that tough action would be taken against the private universities failing to build their own campuses within the stipulated time and meet the prescribed standards.

Addressing the 13th convocation of East West University in the capital's Aftabnagar, he recommended that other private universities follow the example of EWU in this regard.

This year 1,341 students, including four gold medal winners, were awarded certificates. The education minister presided over the graduation ceremony as the representative of the president. In his speech, he praised the role of private universities in imparting higher education, according to a press release.

Convocation speaker
SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presents a graduate of East West University with a gold medal during the university's 13th convocation on its campus in the capital's Aftabnagar yesterday. A total of 1,341 students were conferred degrees this year.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SAARC LITERARY FESTIVAL

Starts in capital on Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the participation of writers, poets and scholars from eight South Asian countries, The Write Foundation, the Bangladesh chapter of the Foundation of Saarc Writers and Literature, will organise the two-day Saarc Literary Festival in the capital that begins on Thursday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the festival at the National Museum, said Rubana Huq, general secretary of the Bangladesh chapter, at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

Some 30 authors of international repute from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and 38 Bangladeshi authors are expected to join the festival, she said.

The theme of the festival is "Beyond Borders: Towards Trust and Reconciliation".

Ashish Nandy, Gopal Krishna Gandhi, and Arundhati Subramaniam from India, Somaia Ramish, and Waliyullah Aryan Aroon from Afghanistan, Kunzang Choden from Bhutan, Professor Prakash Subedi from Nepal, Dr Raza Rumi from Pakistan, and Daya Nanda Dissanayake from Sri Lanka, among others, are expected to take part in the event.

Dhaka University English professor Fakrul Alam, also vice-president, and Syed Badrul Ahsan, member of the foundation's Bangladesh chapter, among others, were present at the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

FLIGHT OF FOUR ACCUSED

Judge didn't alert cops

States PP in response to show cause notice, bench assistant says he could not identify them

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The judge did not give any hint before cancelling bail petitions and ordering to send to jail four accused in the Jahangirnagar University student Zubair Ahmed murder case on Sunday and none had noticed them fleeing court afterwards.

A court usually asks law enforcers to remain alert before it cancels bail or issues any such order.

These were stated in the written explanation of Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam of Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 yesterday in response to Judge ABM Nizamul Haque's show cause notice on how the four fled.

Bench Assistant Mostafizur Rahman, in his written explanation, said he could not identify the four as they were with seven other accused, now on bail.

The court will decide on March 27 whether a fresh case will be filed against them.

The four are Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik, Khan Mohammad Rais, Ishtiaq

Mehbub Arup and Mahabub Akram, all former Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of JU unit.

Apart from them, the court also cancelled bail petitions of two other accused, Rashedul Islam and Zahidul Hasan, who did not show up at the court on Sunday.

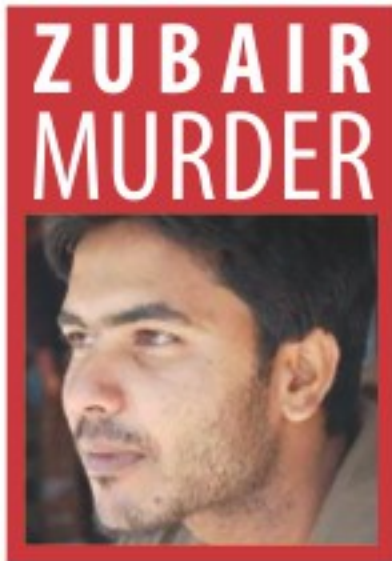
The bail petitions were cancelled following a petition Rafiqul submitted on January 23.

It said the six assaulted two activists of "Shontrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar", a platform of JU students, while the two were leaving the court premises after watching proceedings on January 18.

By fleeing, the four violated rules and provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure and legal action should be taken against

them, said Rafiqul.

Zubair, an honours final year student of English in JU, was allegedly tortured and stabbed by the accused on January 8, 2012. He succumbed to his wounds at a hospital in the capital the following day.



ZUBAIR MURDER

English publications accompany Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the majority of stalls in Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 are offering books in Bangla, several have ones in English by Bangladeshi writers.

Among them, University Press Limited,

Academic Press and Publishers Library, Osder Publications, AAH Development Publishing House, Nymphaea Publication, Adorn Publication, Polol Prokashani, Srabon, Asia Publications, Palok Publishers have research-based books on subjects like history, politics, sociology, economy and development.

Even publications that mainly publish Bangla books have English ones. Of them, Prothoma Prokashon brought out "Two Friends, One Cause: Remembering the Concert for Bangladesh" while Abasar Prokashona Sangstha released Biren Chakraborty's "A Nation Confesses", SK

Bhattacharjee's "A text book of Spherical Astronomy" and Jaglul Alam's "The Birth of Bangladesh in American Press" this year.

Besides putting up for sale books and publications of Daily Star Books, Pathak Samabesh has their own English publications including M Harunur Rashid's "Moments in the Mirrors" and a translation of his, "Selected Surrealist Poems by Abdul Mannan Syed".

Meanwhile, "bengal lights books" has made available all three of its English books in its stall in the fair's Suhrawardy Udyan portion.

Works on mystic Lalon Shah in English can be found

in Polol Prokashani and Sadar Prokashani. Iiti Prokashani is selling books on another mystic, Kanganal Harinath, titled "The enlightened soul: In search of Kanganal Legacy" by Dr Amanur Aman.

People looking for French translations of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

43 more selected for second round

CITY DESK

A total of 43 students were selected from eight Dhaka schools for the second divisional round as the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday and Sunday.

The schools are Viquarunnisa Noon School and College, Faizur Rahman Ideal Institute, International Turkish Hope School, Scholastica, Cambrian School and College, Bonoful Adibashi School, Cantonment Girls' School and Sunbeams.

Students from ten schools in Comilla attended a written test on Sunday as the Spelling Bee team held an activation programme at Ibn Taimiya School and College. The other participating schools are Comilla Zilla School, Government Laboratory School, Shikhabord Model School, Nowab Foyjunnesa School, Rose Garden International School, Our Lady of Fatima Girls' School, Housing State School, Comilla City School and Comilla Residential School. The results will come out soon.

Throughout February, students from class VI-X from both Bangla and English medium schools, except SSC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Declare missing Rana Plaza workers dead

Demand relatives of victims
CITY DESK

The victims of the Rana Plaza collapse yesterday demanded that the government declare the missing workers dead so that their families could be entitled to compensations.

The demand came from a human chain formed at the site of the nine-storey building in Savar, outside the capital. Over a hundred workers and relatives of the deceased and missing victims joined the demonstration, blocking the Dhaka-Aricha highway for half an hour.

The protesters also submitted a memorandum to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ARNAB MURDER

SC asks acquitted to surrender to Satkhira court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed the state and complainant to move separate appeals before it against a High Court verdict that acquitted five convicted accused in eight-year-old Arnab murder case in Satkhira.

The dismembered body of Arnab Kumar Das, son of Bimal Krishna Das of Saihati village in Kaliganj, was recovered from a ditch near their house on June 21, 2000 after abduction by miscreants.

Yesterday, the apex court also ordered the acquitted persons to surrender before

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

NEWSINbrief

West Bengal for Bangladesh-Kolkata river cruise services

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal Transport Minister Madan Mitra yesterday conveyed his government's interest in starting river cruise services between Bangladesh and Kolkata.

He made the statement during signing of a memorandum of understanding in Kolkata between West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation and Heritage River Cruises, under which MV Bengal Ganga will take tourists on cruises up the Ganga river from Kolkata to Patna via Farakka.

Able to accommodate around 56 people, the vessel has 28 rooms with modern facilities. The minister said this cruise would be extended to the temple town of Varanasi.

Two confess killing former BCL leader Rana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths, arrested in Madaripur's Shibchar on Sunday in connection with the killing of former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League Mahbubur Rahman Rana, have confessed to the murder.

Rana, former senior vice president of BCL Ramna unit, was hacked to death in the capital's Moghbazar on January 23.

Detectives at a press briefing yesterday said Rana had rivalry with a goon of his neighbourhood, Roni, over a business of cable TV service in Ramna area. The arrestees, Quamrul Islam Kamran and Md Saddam, with three others killed Rana upon Roni's instruction. Based on Kamran's information, police seized a pistol and seven bullets from his Moghbazar residence.

Prof Din Md Nurul Haque, new director general of DGHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Din Md Nurul Haque, director of National Institute of Eye Science and Hospital, was made the director general (acting) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

He replaced Khandaker Md Shefayetullah, who was made an officer on special duty (OSD).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a gadget notification on the appointment.

Fire guts two Chandni Chawk shops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two tailoring shops were gutted in a fire suspected to have originated from an electric short circuit in one of them on the second floor of the five-storied Chandni Chawk Market in the capital around 10:30pm yesterday.

This correspondent saw an unconscious firefighter being taken away from the spot after the fire had been doused around 12:30am by eight firefighting units. Further details could not be known immediately.

PROMOTING BANGLA

State's indifference frustrating

Academicians, writers tell int'l confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academicians and authors at an international conference yesterday expressed frustration over the state's indifference to promote Bangla language and Bangladesh's history.

Criticising reluctance of successive governments to endorse the necessity of applying and enriching Bangla for academic and official purposes, they apprehended that Bangladesh will witness a grave identity crisis.

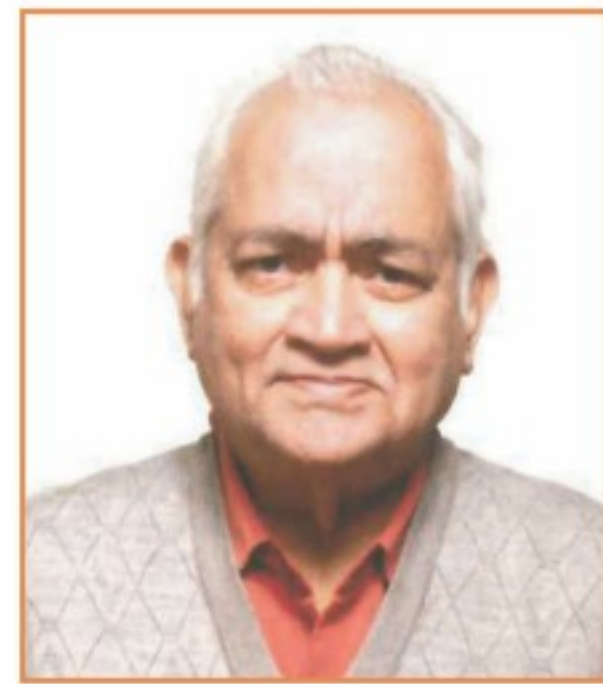
They also blamed "impractical" education policies for damaging the dignity of Bangla language and history in educational and national institutions.

The conference, "Reconstructing History in Mother Tongue", was organised by The Bangladesh Itihas Sammilani in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum.

Prof Muntassir Mamoon of Dhaka University's history department termed a recent High Court rule on the government regarding use of Bangla at public institutions a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CONDOLENCE



We are deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Mr. G M Chowdhury, the first Bangladeshi Managing Director of our organisation, on February 11, 2014 (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilaie Rajeun) in Coventry, UK. He was 77 years old.

Mr. Chowdhury served the organisation for more than 18 years and finally retired as the Managing Director in 1997 and Chairman in 2000.

May the Almighty give his family and well wishers the patience to bear the irreparable loss.

We pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Colleagues of GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd



2 ship breaking yards

FROM PAGE 3

started foresting 125 acres of land along the Sitakunda coast, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the coastal division RSM Munirul Islam.

But in 2009, some land and district administration officials illegally leased out 14.5 acres of the land to SK Steels, and SK Ship Breaking and Recycling, said Range Officer of the coastal forest division Muktaruzzaman. He said the officials admitted this before court.

To set up the yards, the lessee felled 15,000 trees on July 3, 2009, said officials. Yesterday, two buildings were demolished, while the rest of the installations, including power generators, will be removed today.

Kamal Chowdhury, one of the three owners, alleged that they were not informed of the drive beforehand. "Now we have crores of taka in loan. How will we repay?"

The Forest Department filed a case against the leasing of the land in 2009. The case finally ended up in the SC.

Declare February 25

FROM PAGE 3

SOCIETY" that organised the memorial, demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya as chief guest said the government investigation report by the committee headed by former secretary Anisuzzaman should be made public.

He read out the report's section-19 which noted that the grievances of the BDR men could not be the only reason behind the mutiny. "The main planners have remained out of reach," he said, summarising the section.

Afterwards, the families lit candles.

Condemned to a life of trauma

FROM PAGE 3

ASF Executive Director Selina Ahmed. Majeda lost eyesight in an attack 16 years ago. "I am glad I can't see anymore--at least I don't have to see what my face has turned to," she told The Daily Star.

Munira who was burnt in 2002 at the age of 12, keeps a picture of her former self in her phone, to be retrieved and reminisced about whenever she wants.

"Special occasions are the most painful when we have to dress in our best. People often pass remarks because they think now that I have lost my former looks, I should not attempt to dress up anymore," she said.

Why case not filed

FROM PAGE 3

in seven days to investigate the negligence allegation and submit a report in 30 days.

It issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why the inaction should not be declared illegal.

The order and rule came following

She dropped out of school after the attack because she was bullied. Afterwards, when she went to seek a job at a garments factory, the owners complied only under the condition that she would hide her face behind a veil so as not to scare other workers, narrated Munira.

"Sometimes village leaders suggest that we get married to the person who threw acid on us, as a punishment to him, without thinking how we would feel."

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International, Bangladesh, and Priya Powell, an official of Australian High Commission, also spoke.

hearing of a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on Sunday seeking necessary orders.

During yesterday's hearing, the petitioner's counsel, Manzill Murshid, said the negligence compelled the victim to commit suicide.