

HIGHER EDUCATION

Growth significant but quality still poor

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has witnessed a tremendous growth in higher education in recent times in terms of increasing numbers of students and universities every year, but quality of education is yet to improve at the desired level, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

"Graduates coming out of the universities have been increasingly facing difficulties in getting gainful employment in highly competitive job markets in the country and abroad. Every year a large number of graduates with higher education degrees

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Man gets life term for abducting girl in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced a man to life-term imprisonment for abducting a girl and demanding ransom in 2009.

The convict, Moslem Uddin, 40, of Bhola Sadar, was also fined Tk 50,000.

According to the prosecution, on January 23, Moslem abducted Tahmina Akhter, 6, from near her house in Shahi Mirpur area of Patiya upazila of Chittagong and took her to Bhola. Later, he demanded Tk 1.06 lakh as ransom from Tahmina's family over the phone.

On January 25, Tahmina's mother filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station and police rescued Tahmina from Bhola on January 27.

Two women found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified women were found dead in the capital yesterday.

One of the bodies, clad in a salwar kameez, was found lying in an alley opposite Ananda Cinema Hall at Farmgate. Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said she was strangled.

Meanwhile on Topkhana Road, police recovered the body of another woman, aged around 25 years, from a room of Uttar Bangla Residential Hotel.

Hotel staff said the woman, Tahmina Akhter Sathi according to hotel register, along with a man, hired the room. In the morning, the man went out and

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Biman halts Delhi

FROM PAGE 3

November 8 by 270 flights, including 224 dedicated flights and 46 scheduled flights, said a Biman press release.

The pre-Hajj flight will continue from August 27 to September 28 and post-Hajj return flights from October 8 to November 8.

The rest of the half Hajj pilgrims will be ferried by Saudia Airlines.

The Saudia Airlines will start flights on September 1 and continue through the month. It will operate post-Hajj flights from October 9 to November 17.

Biman has fixed its fare at \$1,500 for each pilgrim for Dhaka-Jeddah-Dhaka in economy class and \$2,500 in business class excluding all taxes.

Biman will allow the pilgrims to carry 30kg of goods and another 7kg in cabin baggage and 10 litres of Zamzam water to carry to Dhaka free of cost.

Biman has appointed a local agent who will collect baggage from pilgrims at Mecca and Medina and carry those to the airport to reduce hassles of the pilgrims and avoid undue delay at the airports.

Father shot dead

FROM PAGE 3

Subhan Moulana pointed a finger at my father and told the army that he was a leader. So, the Pakistani army opened fire on my father," he said.

The Pakistani troops also set their houses on fire and left the village at about 2:00pm.

After coming out of the field, they heard that some villagers including Bajju Pramanik, Jhoru Mondal, Mojibar Sheikh and Rajab Pramanik were also killed by the Pakistani army, he said.

Shamsul's father was buried that night.

The witness said he knew Subhan beforehand as he held different gatherings in Satbaria of Pabna. About two days before the killing, his father told him that Subhan had become secretary of Pabna Zila Peace Committee, an anti-liberation force in 1971, Shamsul said.

The defence of Subhan, who was produced at the court, completed cross-examining the witness. The proceeding was adjourned until today.



The National Committee to Protect Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources, Power and Ports brings out a procession in Phulbari upazila headquarters of Dinajpur yesterday in observance of "Phulbari Day", which marks the deaths of at least seven people in a firing by law enforcers in 2006, when they were protesting against open-pit mining of coals there, fearing a wide scale eviction and loss of farmlands. Carrying bows, arrows, and sticks, the protesters were headed towards the office of the mining company Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh). About 300 of them were injured as well.

PHOTO: STAR

DURGA PUJA

Hindu Mohajote for 3-day holiday

Also demands 60 reserved seats in JS for the minority community

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote yesterday demanded a three-day government holiday on the occasion of Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindu community.

They came up with the demand at a press conference organised at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) in the capital.

The Hindu leaders said they get only one day as holiday for celebrating the occasion, though Durga Puja is their main festival when they get together with their family and relatives.

Mohajote President Manoj Kumar Mandal said, "We get a one-day leave on Dashami, the last day of the festival, though the whole Durga Puja is a five-day festival."

"So, the government should grant us a three-day vacation to celebrate the biggest religious festival properly," he added.

The jote also demanded 60 reserved seats in the parliament for the Hindu community.

Rice fields emit greenhouse gases

Say agriculturalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While rice production may get affected due to the impacts of climate change, rice farming itself is a contributor to climate change as a substantial source of greenhouse gases (GHGs), agricultural scientists said yesterday.

They recommended that farmers use new irrigation technologies--Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) and Fertiliser Deep Placement (FDP) in rice farming to mitigate GHG emissions.

These observations came at a two-day workshop on "GHG emissions from rice fields: Mitigation options from FDP and AWD", organised by International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council in the capital.

Dr Reiner Wassmann, senior scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), presented a keynote paper on "Assessing the suitability of mitigation options in rice production derived from bio-physical considerations and stakeholder perceptions".

He discussed the benefits of the adoption of AWD, a technology for water-saving with the aim to reduce GHG emissions in rice fields. Around 21 percent of the total GHG emissions in Bangladesh occur in rice fields, he said.

"Various altered crop management strategies have been suggested, ranging from the selection of potentially low-emitting rice cultivars to proper post-harvest management,

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A flood-hit couple with a box of biscuits, provided by the United Nations World Food Programme, at Purar Char in Sadar upazila of Kurigram on Sunday. WFP is distributing 23 metric tonnes of biscuits as relief among 30,000 severely affected people in the district's six upazilas, and in one upazila each of Sirajganj and Jamalpur.

PHOTO: RANAK MARTIN

NEWSIN

brief

227 Shibir activists sued over gunfight with BCL at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police sued 227 Jamaat-backed Shibir activists on Monday night over a gunfight between pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League and Shibir at Chittagong University Sunday.

Nurul Hakim, sub-inspector of Hathazari Police Station, filed the case accusing 107 named Shibir men, including CU unit President Mostafijur Rahman, and 120 unnamed, said Officer-in-Charge Ismail Hossain.

However, no BCL activist was sued till last evening.

The conflict ensued on the campus over a trifle. No casualty was reported.

Navy warship catches fire at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A warship of Bangladesh Navy, BNS Umar Farooq, caught fire at Naval Berth-2 of Ensha Khan Outpost of Chittagong port yesterday.

The fire, originated from an electric short circuit at the kitchen of the ship around 2:00pm, came under control within 20 minutes, said Navy sources.

An enquiry committee was formed to investigate the matter, they added.

No casualty was reported.

Bangladeshi stabbed to death in South Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Some four unidentified people believed to be muggers have stabbed a Bangladeshi to death in South Africa.

Zaber Ahmed, 28, son of Bahar Uddin, hailed from Uttar Raigarh in Golapganj upazila of Sylhet.

Zaber, who had been living in SA for seven years, shifted his cosmetics shop to Johannesburg from Pretoria last year.

On Friday night, he was attacked while going to Pretoria, said Selim Ahmed, member of Dhaka Dakshin Union Parishad in the upazila, quoting the family.

Chevron organises eye-camps in Bibiyana, Moulvibazar

CITY DESK

Chevron Bangladesh, a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, organised day-long eye-camps for underprivileged people living near its Bibiyana and Moulvibazar gas plants as a part of their health initiatives.

The camps, jointly organised with Jalalabad Rotary Club, held at two schools in Nabiganj and Srimangal upazilas.

Apart from providing free treatment and medicines, Chevron sponsored the cataract-removal surgeries of 170 patients at Modern Eye Hospital and gave refraction-support to 333 people.

War crimes convict Alim taken to ICU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Abdul Alim was sent to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University last night after he felt severe breathing complications in the hospital's prison cell where he was taken 10 months ago, said jail officials.

Upon advices of physicians, the prison authority sent the former BNP minister, who has been in the cell since October 9 last year, to ICU around 8:15pm, Forman Ali, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, told The Daily Star.

He has been suffering from lung cancer for the last six months, he added.

Alim's son Sazzad bin Alim told this correspondent that his father might undergo surgery last night or tonight.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on October 9 last year sentenced the 83-year-old from Joypurhat to imprisonment till death for crimes against humanity and genocide during the 1971 Liberation War. He challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court one month later.

People

Khaag

Argho Roy
Anandaniketan School, Sylhet

Naiyareen Fareeza Mayeen
Sunbeams School

Afrodite Andalib
South Point School & College

Ayesha Mehjuba Sinha
Motijheel Ideal School & College

Wasiq Hasan
Marie Curie School

কে হতে দ্বিতীয় ফাটনালিস্ট?

চলছে Spelling Bee Season 3 সেমিফাইনাল পর্বের প্রতিযোগিতা

দেখতে চোখ রাখুন আজ বুধবার সন্ধ্যা ৭:৫০ মিনিটে

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