

Air quality monitoring centre set up at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A modern air quality monitoring centre was inaugurated at Dhaka University yesterday.

The centre, Air Quality Research and Monitoring Centre (AQRMC), will measure the quality of air in the country, and provide information on air pollutants so that measures can be taken against them.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the centre at the senate building on the campus.

The centre has been set up under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) of the World Bank, and it was implemented by UGC in collaboration with Wuppertal University, Germany.

Charge d'Affairs of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka Ferdinand von Weyhe called the centre an outcome of academic exchange programmes between Bangladesh and Germany and said, "This mutual collaboration and cooperation between these two countries will continue in the days to come."

Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Shahid Akhter Hossain said the link to the centre's webpage would be made available on DU's official website.

"We have already set up

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KIBRIA KILLING CASE Court permits corrections in name, address of two accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday asked the investigation officer to correct the name of one accused and the address of another and then file a third supplementary charge sheet over the murder of former finance minister SAMS Kibria by December 21.

The order came after the investigator, Meherunnesa Parul, senior assistant superintendent of police (ASP), Criminal Investigation Department, petitioned the judicial magistrate of Habiganj-1 to permit her to correct the name of Sylhet city Mayor Ariful "Haque" Chowdhury, which was mistakenly written as Ariful "Islam" Chowdhury and the address of Habiganj Municipality Mayor Golam Kibria Gous, which shows Shaistaganj in place of Shaistanagar, the two places being 8km apart, said a counsel of the deceased's family.

AL leader Kibria, along with four others, was killed in a grenade attack in Habiganj on January 27, 2005. Nine years later, on November 13, the CID submitted the second supplementary charge sheet, accusing 11 more persons including Mayor Arif, ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury, and Habiganj's GK Gous.

This raised the total number of people accused in the case to 35.



With a footbridge a few feet away, a guardian helps a schoolgirl cross the road, dangerously passing in front of moving vehicles in Dampara of Chittagong city Monday. The practice not only increases the chance of road accidents but gives a bad lesson to the youngsters.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Multiple glitches bog down community health clinics

Says study by World Vision Bangladesh, Centre on Budget and Policy

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Infrastructural weakness, irregular medicine supply, a lack of monitoring and negligence in duties of caregivers are the major barriers to delivering expected healthcare services from community health clinics, according to a study.

Besides, inadequate training for service providers and their limited capacity to deal with things during emergency situation and critical diseases are hindering the optimal services, says the study report.

World Vision Bangladesh, and the Centre on Budget and Policy jointly conducted the research on 25 community clinics--12 from Muktagachha

upazila and 13 from Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh--in July this year. The Daily Star got a copy of the report.

None of the community clinics has electricity connections and in most of those, tubewells do not work and the toilet facility is not available, the report said.

About the skills of the service providers, the report says only 30 percent of the chief health care providers (CHCPs) have completed post-graduation, 44 percent graduation, and 74 percent higher secondary education.

As the caregivers are from diverse fields of education like humanities, business, and science, one-time, short term training do not make them eligi-

ble enough for delivering the services.

Officially every community clinic should open at 09:00am every day, except Friday, of a week and it should close at 3:00pm.

But actually, the service is provided not more than three-and-a-half hours as they come to the clinics around 10:30am and leave much earlier than the legal timeframe. This situation prevails in almost all the clinics, the report adds.

Some residents said that in every visit to the clinics a patient suffering from fever can get one or two pieces of medicine as 34 percent of the clinics did not receive medicines on a regular basis.

The study team leader and CBP

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JS needs improvement to reach int'l standard

Saber tells Bangladesh Parliament Journalist Association reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad "will have to be improved" to reach "an international standard" and this can be achieved if political parties reach consensus and make a commitment, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, president of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), yesterday.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), said 153 lawmakers were elected unopposed, in line with the Representation of the People Order, through the January 5 national polls.

The statements came during a reception accorded by Bangladesh Parliament Journalist Association for the duo being the first Bangladeshis to be elected on October 16 and 9 respectively to lead the international parliamentary bodies representing over 45,000 lawmakers of 192 countries with a population of around 650 crore.

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Rally demands gas connection in Rajshahi city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Around 100 people from all walks of life, including businessmen and social activists, demonstrated under the banner of "Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad" yesterday demanding gas connections to households, industries and hotels and restaurants in the city.

They staged a sit-in and later organised a rally in front of the local office of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL). They also demanded setting up a CNG filling station in the city.

Liakat Ali and Jamat Khan, president and general secretary of the parishad, and Md Sharif, director of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others, spoke.

The agitators also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Petrobangla through engineer Tofail Ahmed, in-charge of the local PGCL office, in this connection.

With the slogan "gas is not a demand; it is a right", the agitators threatened tougher agitation if gas

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Road crashes kill 4, injure 2

CITY DESK

Countrywide road accidents killed four people and injured two others yesterday.

Our Staff correspondent reports, Alamgir Hossain, 30, died when a truck hit another speeding one and turned turtle as the driver lost control over the vehicle in the capital's Paltan area.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, Simul Hossain of Kushtia died and two others were injured when his motorcycle knocked a standing oil tanker at Duadshar Bazar in Shaikupa upazila.

A correspondent from Chittagong reports, Nurul Afsar, 32, of Rangunia upazila died when a covered-van hit his motorcycle from behind at GEC intersection in the city.

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Bangladesh land of dead

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Haider, who came to Dhaka last month to attend the Hay Festival, was also critical of the dominance of Bangladeshi politics by two ladies who according to him "stand in the shadow of the dead" and rely on their dead relatives to legitimise their moral authority to rule the country.

Ideas need to be resurrected from the dead and people have to find ways to stop imposition of political and other forms of restraint on freedom of speech, he said.

Haider shared anecdotes of how he failed to properly communicate with colleagues at TIB, staff at Sonargaon Hotel, and even with the Hay organisers in Dhaka.

Comparing the country's present situation with that in 2002 when he worked at the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), he said the country had become more

dangerous.

In a reply, he said he did not see light in Bangladesh's picture and that it was going to be very hard for the younger generation to bring reform.

Haider also read out from his debut novel, and said his publishers would bring out a low price edition for some South Asian countries and that he planned to publish a Bangla translation.

While replying to Prof Fakrul Alam of the English department about the presence of the 1971 Liberation War in his novel, the author said many in the West including young Bangladeshis in London did not know about the war though it was a significant phenomenon.

"It is now the subject of political competition," he said, referring to the war.

Chair of the English department Prof Tahmina Ahmed presided over the programme.

Common policy must

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capital.

It marked the end of the four-year "Ecosystems for Life" project, implemented by IUCN Bangladesh and country offices in India with support from the Netherlands embassy.

Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam

Mahmud opened the discussions while Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, former Indian environment secretary Meena Gupta and the Netherlands First Secretary for Water Resource Management Carel de Groot were present.



Participants at a roundtable "Rural Land Market in Bangladesh: A Situation Analysis", organised by the Sustainable Access to Land Equality Project, which is being implemented by a consortium of Uttaran, Manusher Jonno Foundation and CARE Bangladesh with support from the land ministry, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SC to hear

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which was an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army.

In 1971, Mojaheed was a top leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat.

The convicted war criminal filed the appeal with the SC on August 12, 2013 seeking acquittal of all the charges.

Mojaheed was made a technocrat minister during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance rule in 2001-2006.

Barisal cops

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peacefully...police suddenly attacked us without any provocation," said the association Convener Md Hossain.

Justifying the police action which he termed "light", Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shakhawat Hossain claimed that police at first tried to talk them into freeing the road and end public suffering but were instead pelted with brickchips.

Law enforcers, family still

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The CID received the BCSIR report in October 2011 but did not consider it.

Asked, CID's Assistant Superintendent of Police Shahinur Bari, the then investigation officer, told The Daily Star, "We...tested those (ashes and water) in the CID laboratory, but it didn't reveal the existence of any explosive compound."

On December 3, 2008, a fire engulfed Nurul's Lalmatia house in the capital and killed his son Tamohar Islam on the spot and left the politician severely injured. Nurul died 36 hours later.

The postmortem report did not say Nurul died from toxic fume inhalation, said his daughter Moutushi. She however doubted the findings and added that autopsy was not conducted on Tamohar at all.

Just a few days before the fire, Nurul Islam had submitted his nomination papers to contest from Noakhali-1 constituency in the 2008

general elections with the Awami League ticket.

The family said the investigators never took their suspicions into account, as they were yet to arrest and interrogate Nurul's political rivals.

"We always suspected my father's political rivals but neither CID nor Rab did weigh up our suspicions," said Moutushi. She declined to name the suspects on security grounds.

Asked why the CID did not arrest or interrogate the people suspected by the family, Shahinur Bari said, "If we could ascertain that the fire was an act of arson, we would make arrests."

DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam, who is now monitoring the investigation, said, "We talked to Rubi Rahman (Nurul's widow) and several others but we are yet to find anything beyond the findings of the CID and Rab."

He, however, said they were continuing the inquiry.

Reducing marriageable age

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the government's move is contradictory in fighting repression of women.

Officials of Nari Mukti Sangshad, and

Ayesha Khanam and Maleka Banu, president and general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, among others, addressed the human chain.



Rotary International President Gary CK Huang addresses a press conference at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Rotary Governor Safina Rahman, Governor Elect SAM Shawket Hossen, Governor Nominee Md Ayub, former governor Rafique Ahmed Siddique, Salim Reza, Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, AKM Shamsuddin, Shamsul Huda, Ghulam Mustafa, Anisuzzaman, Dr Mosharrar Hossain and District Secretary Ibrahim Zayed were present.

PHOTO: COURTESY