

# Multimedia in classes of 20,500 high schools 1,515 govt primary schools also get them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Multimedia classrooms have been set up in 20,500 secondary and 1,515 government primary schools across the country facilitating modern methods in teaching 4.2 million students, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman said yesterday.

The classrooms have been equipped with laptops, projectors and internet modems, and the teachers are trained on using the classrooms, he told a ceremony to launch a report of a study conducted by Save the Children at a hotel in the capital.

The study report "Mapping ICT in Education Initiatives in Bangladesh" has documented the ICT initiatives in education by the government, local and international NGOs and the private sector throughout the country.

The minister said though the government was firm to improve quality of education, expected results could not be attained due to "a lack of sincerity" of different quarters in the sector.

The study found that ICT is being used, to some extent, for e-content development, teachers' training, web portal creation for e-content sharing and teachers' networking, and in community learning centres for underprivileged groups.

But it is not being widely used to support student assessment, e-learning, programme monitoring and evaluation.

Sharon Hauser, development and quality director of Save the Children, among others, spoke.

According to Save the Children, the information gathered in the study will help exploration and review of the ICT in education with a view to guiding strategic thinking about the use of technology in Bangladesh's education sector.

# Sundarbans sludge to exist for several years

## Bangladesh-UN joint response team tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the immediate effect of oil spill in the Sundarbans is not very noticeable, the oil is going to exist for several years as it is very hard to remove, said Prof Badrul Imam, a member of the Bangladesh-UN Joint Sundarbans Oil Spill Response Team, yesterday.

He was addressing a seminar "Accidental Oil Pollution in the Sundarbans: Preparedness for Response to Ecological Disaster" organised by the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) in the auditorium of Geological Survey of Bangladesh in the capital.

"It was not possible to assess the long

term effect of oil spill just visiting the forest for a week. But the UN experts were very critical about the incident," said Prof Badrul of Dhaka University.

Now it is the duty of Bangladeshi experts to monitor the forest for several years, he said.

Prof M Shahidul Islam of the Department of Geography and Environment of DU presented the keynote speech.

He emphasised increasing preparedness and capability at all institutional levels to tackle disasters like the Sundarbans oil spill.

Expressing his concerns about the way the government was dealing with the Sundarbans, Dr Abdul Matin,

secretary general of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), said they heard an international bloc has been working to destroy the Sundarbans.

But seeing the government's attitudes towards the Sundarbans, it seems that it is true, he added.

M Inamul Haque, former director general of Water Resource Planning Organisation (Warpo), and Dr Sirajur Rahman Khan, director general, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, among others, spoke on the occasion.

A tanker carrying 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil sank in a Sundarbans river near Mongla on December 9 last year, spilling oil over a vast area of the world's largest mangrove forest.

# Road crashes kill six, injure 8

CITY DESK

A person died and five others were injured when a truck hit a three-wheeler on Barisal-Dhaka highway in Tarakupi area of Gournadi upazila in Barisal yesterday.

The deceased was Rahima Begum, 44, of south Keraniganj in Dhaka.

In Narayanganj, three people died and another was injured when a truck hit a three-wheeler on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road in Signboard area road yesterday.

The deceased were Oliullah, 35, his daughter Sumaiya, 7, and Samsul Haque, 55.

Meanwhile in Fatulla bazar area of the district Md Rony, 32, of Chuadanga died and two people were injured when a truck hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road.

In Thakurgaon, Rajab Ali, 30, of Sarialjoth village died when a tractor turned turtle in Notunbosthi village under Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh on Friday.

# Astro Olympiad

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first in the junior category while Tahmid Wasif of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in the senior category.

"There were about 120 participants," said Dr Shahnaz Parvin Panna, chief coordinator of the observation unit of the association.

She said there should have been more participants but due to political chaos many students could not attend.

The winners will be trained and afterwards 18 will be chosen to compete in international Olympiads.

The event was held in association with The Daily Star, Biggan Andolon Mancha, Gangaforing and National Museum of Science and Technology.

# Khaleda villain of current

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to hold dialogue with BNP, he said Khaleda would have to first become a member of "democracy club" after shunning unconstitutional paths, militancy and violence.

"And only then dialogues can be held with her...Khaleda Zia will have to clarify what she actually wants...If Khaleda Zia wants to oust the government, there is no need for holding any dialogue," said Inu.

On power supply to Khaleda's Gulshan

office being cut and a minister's statement in this regard, he said he would have to discuss with the authorities concerned before making any comments.

Inu assured citizens that the government had taken up tackling the present situation "as a challenge". "But it is not possible to say at the moment when the situation will become normal," he added.

DRU President Sakhawat Hossain Badsha and General Secretary Elias Hossain also spoke.

# Try liable officials

FROM PAGE 3

taskforce instructed Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority to take over the wrongly set up

pillars, he said.

"It is not understandable why the rivers are not being saved despite prime ministerial directions and decisions of the River Commission and river taskforce," said Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin, according to a Bapa

press release.

Bapa's demands also included demarcation of the original channel of the Buriganga river, setting up boundary pillars, eviction of grabbers from within the channel and freeing Sonai River of grabbers.

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