

Summit Group joins Spelling Bee

CITY DESK

Summit Group of Companies has joined The Daily Star and Champs21.com to organise Spelling Bee this year.

An agreement was signed in this regard in a ceremony at Summit Centre in the capital on Tuesday.

Last year, nearly 300,000 students of class VI to X from across the country participated in the spelling contest.

At the ceremony, Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group of Companies, said they are happy to be a part of Spelling Bee.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the quality of spellers in the country is quite high and that he hopes that the competition this year reaches new heights.

Russell T Ahmed, CEO of Champs21.com, also spoke.

The online round of the fourth season of Spelling Bee is set to start in the first week of June.

Mobile phones

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"The number of mobile phone users is over 12.36 crore, which is 75 percent of the population. So people representing different regions can be reached within a short period," said Mahmudur Rahman.

The two rounds of surveys were focused on communicable diseases.

Khaleda Islam, senior scientific officer at IEDCR, said the US has been conducting phone based surveillance since 1984, and countries like Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and Italy have been trying to introduce it.



GANG RAPE OF GARO WOMAN Highest punishment turning out to be popular demand

DU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding immediate arrest and the highest punishment for those who gang raped a Garo woman in the capital, Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad rallied on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

It also demanded that the government ensure security for all the indigenous people of the country.

If the government does not investigate the rape incident properly and fails to ensure justice, they will go for tougher movement, said Ananta Dhamai, president of the parishad.

Nine student organisations, including Garo Student Union and Pahari Chhatra Parishad, expressed solidarity with the rally.

Bangladesh Chhatra Front also brought out a procession on the campus protesting the incident.

The 21-year-old Garo woman was gang raped in a moving microbus in Kuril on Thursday.

ASSAULT ON JOURNOS AT JU Victims seek punishment for BCL activists

JU CORRESPONDENT

Farzana Islam also seeking security for journalists on the campus.

On Tuesday, at least three reporters were assaulted and three BCL men were injured during a factional clash on the JU campus allegedly over sharing the money one group obtained out of a bidding process.

BCL insiders said two expelled BCL leaders, Abdur Rahim Jewel and Sanowar Hossain, helped a wood trader of Savar win a Tk 1.45 lakh contract for removing the trees destroyed by storms on the campus, but actually the two used the trader's name to get the work for themselves.

Jony Alam of the daily Independent, Shafiqul Islam of bdnews24.com and Mizan of greennewsbdb.com were attacked as they were covering the incident.

Maheshkhali war crimes suspect dies in DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A war crimes suspect died around 2:45pm yesterday after being admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday with old-age complications.

Arrested at Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali upazila on Sunday, Moulovai Samsuddoha, aged around 100 years, fell sick after being produced on Monday before International Crimes Tribunal-2 which then asked the jail authorities to provide immediate treatment.

The body will be handed over to family member today after an autopsy.

Samsuddoha is among seven arrestees of Maheshkhali against whom the tribunal issued warrants over crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Police say arrest warrants have been issued against 12 others on the run.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 7 divisional spl tribunals to be formed

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government will form seven special tribunals at seven divisional headquarters of the country to try and punish the offences of human trafficking, and curb such crimes.

District and session judges concerned will conduct the tribunals, which will be established under the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012, the minister said while talking to reporters after a meeting with Swedish Ambassador Johan Frisell at his Secretariat office.

The minister said there were 557 cases, filed on charges of human trafficking, pending with different courts across the country. Charge sheets were submitted in 257 cases and trial proceedings of 12 cases have been finished, he said.

Meanwhile, a writ petition filed by the National Forum for Protection of Human Rights was moved before the High Court seeking its order on the government to immediately take steps to rescue the Bangladeshi stranded in sea and detained in different camps abroad.

US surveillance flights may help locate boat people

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US hopes that information from maritime surveillance flights will provide a better understanding of the position of boat people at sea.

A US Navy aircraft has begun conducting maritime surveillance flights to locate and mark the positions of the boats possibly carrying migrants on the Asian sea, said Jeff Rathke, director of the US State Department, at the daily press briefing at Washington yesterday.

KISHORI UNNAYAN KENDRA IN GAZIPUR Guard jailed for sexual harassment of females

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur mobile court yesterday jailed a security staff of Kishori Unnayan Kendra for one year on charges of physically and sexually harassing the inhabitants of the centre.

The convict is Kawser Bhuiyan, 30, son of Harish Bhuiyan of Kishoreganj's Abdullahpur village.

Executive Magistrate in Gazipur Snigdha Talukder passed the order.

Snigdha told The Daily Star over the phone that Additional District Commissioner SM Mostafa Kamal along with other senior administrative officers went to the centre yesterday morning on a regular visit when a number of girls complained to them about the mistreatment by the guard.

A mobile court was immediately set up there and the accused confessed to his crime.

On Tuesday, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha at a programme said after a recent visit to the shelter home he found that a number of girls had been getting sexually assaulted for years and awaiting trials.

Probe report submission

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human chain in front of the district commissioner's office protesting former SP Amena's progress report.

Amena, in the report, said since Kalpana was the main witness, the final report could not be submitted until she was found or a final decision was taken about her whereabouts.

The organisations alleged that Amena was trying to save Lieutenant Md Ferdous Kaiser Khan and Village Defence Party men Nurul Haq and Saleh Ahmed by not recording accounts of two witnesses, Kalpana's brothers Kalindi Kumar and Lalbhabri Chakma.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

This half kilometre portion of Chakta Khal is completely covered with water hyacinths in Chittagong city's Bakalia area. The major parts of the canal stretching around 12 kilometres from Bahaddarhat to Karnaphuli river have been narrowed down due to encroachment for a long time. The adjoining areas are waterlogged as the water body cannot carry rain and flood water to the river during the monsoon. Despite repeated assurance from the city corporation authorities, the canal is yet to be saved from grabbing and pollution. The photo was taken recently.

HC set to deliver

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government for strict enforcement of House Rent Control Act 1991 to prevent the capital's house owners from arbitrarily raising and taking in advance rent.

The next month, the court issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to enforce the law properly.

During the hearings, Manzill prayed for HC directions on the government so that the transactions took place through banks so as to ensure the government can collect due revenue.

The house owners arbitrarily increase rent and evict tenants without notice defying the law, he argued.

The attorney general's office opposed the petition saying there were several government rent controllers for disposing of the allegations.

Hasina hopes Bangladesh will build fighter

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at the maintenance, repairing and overhauling (MRO) plant and work for completing the MRO unit for the Mi series helicopter overhauling was at the final stage.

"I hope such establishments would help the air force achieve self-reliance and create scope for earning foreign currency through conducting overhauling activities of the aircraft and helicopters of foreign air forces."

She also asked the air force personnel to be careful in flying and maintaining the L-410 aircraft which were procured with taxpayers' money.

According to the air force, the government approved the procurement of L-410 on June 26, 2014.

Consequently, 103 Air Transport

Training Unit (ATTU) started its journey from April 15, 2015.

This unit will operate Czech Republic made three L-410 aircraft. Four pilots and 23 airmen were trained.

The aircraft will be primarily utilised for conversion, instructor, airmen, aircrew and air movement procedure training and air navigation.

Besides, the aircraft can be used for SAR mission, aerial survey and photo reconnaissance, paratroopers and aerial delivery. With two pilots and capacity of 19 passengers, the aircraft has a maximum range of 1,400 kilometres.

Hasina said a contingent of Bangladesh Air Force comprising 110 members and three helicopters would soon join the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

OC, SI sued for destroying evidence, filing

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released him and instead detained the victim, her mother and brother.

After the incident was published in a daily, a Supreme Court lawyer filed a petition with the High Court seeking its order summoning Rangunia police for filing a fabricated case.

A petition seeking the brother's bail was rejected by another Chittagong court, said Ritu.

The HC on Monday directed Rangunia police to immediately arrest Shah Alam.

Meanwhile, the victim's brother is now at a juvenile correction centre in Gazipur.

A petition seeking the brother's bail was rejected by another Chittagong court, said Ritu.



Participants at a grand reception ceremony in honour of Madame Liu Yandong, the vice premier of China, organised by the Confucius Institute of North South University on the NSU campus in the capital on Tuesday. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed was the chief guest while Prof Amin Sarkar presided over the ceremony. Benajir Ahmed, chairman, NSU Board of Trustees, was present among others.

PHOTO: COLLECTED