

BINA selected for IDB's science and technology prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Institute for Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), under the ministry of Agriculture, has been selected for Islamic Development Bank's prize for science and technology, says a ministry press release.
The institute has been selected for the prize in the category of most noted research institution among IDB's list of the least developed member countries.
The prize, which consists of \$10,000, a trophy and a certificate, will be given to the institute at a ceremony to be held for the IDB's board of governors' meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on May 15 and 16.

BINA, which was set up under the instruction of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in July, 1972, has so far invented 83 improved and high yielding

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Chittagong city is long plagued by a water crisis, which got worse around two weeks back, but there is a contrasting picture of the activities of the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa). On one hand the government agency struggles to meet the water demand, and on the other a huge amount of water is wasted every day through a leaking supply line. And slum people and an auto-rickshaw driver, inset, make use of some of the wasted water. The photos were taken in Tiger Pass area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



NEWS IN brief

Abbas president, Farooque gen secy of Dhaka Taxes Bar Assoc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Abbas Uddin and Sarder Akil Ahmed Farooque have been elected president and general secretary respectively in the election of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association.



Abbas Akil

Out of 23 executive posts, pro-AL White Panel bagged 13 positions including general secretary while pro-BNP Blue Panel got nine positions including that of the president.

Other office bearers are Abdul Halim Sardar and Ali Ahmed Farhad, vice-presidents, Syed Zafrul Hasan Apu, treasurer, and Zahurul Islam, assistant general secretary, says a press release.

Omar Rahman stays as VC of IUB

CITY DESK

Prof M Omar Ejaz Rahman, a renowned demographer and psychiatrist, has been reappointed Vice-Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), for a four-year term, effective from January 26, 2016.



He is presently an adjunct professor of public health at Harvard University.

Prof Rahman was VC of IUB from 2012 to 2016, VC in-charge from 2011-2012 and Pro-VC from 2006-2011. He is also concurrently professor of demography and director of the Centre for Health, Population and Development at IUB. He was a faculty member at the Harvard School of Public Health prior to joining IUB in 2003, said a press release.

MRDI starts project on news literacy to enhance child rights

CITY DESK

MRDI has launched a project "Exploring Young Mind: News Literacy and Ethics in Child Reporting" in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission with support from Unicef Bangladesh, said a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Debate Federation is the implementing partner of the initiative.

Under this campaign, a national debate competition will be organised through a two-day event in 12 regions covering 64 districts and a gala final in Dhaka involving participants from both schools and colleges. Sixteen teams from each region will participate in the competition. A total of 600 debaters will participate in the competition and orientation sessions.

Case filed over seizure of foreign cigarettes at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Customs House yesterday filed a case over Wednesday's seizure of foreign cigarettes, worth over Tk 7 crore and imported in place of yarns through a false declaration, at Chittagong Port.

Managing director and all directors of Genetic Fashions Ltd, the owner of C&F Agent Four Star Trading Company Kamir Hossain and its staff were accused in the case, said police.

Obituary

CITY DESK



Jalaluddin Ahmed, former secretary of the government and a member of the Board of Trustees of East West University, died at a hospital in Singapore yesterday. He was 79. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. He joined the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan in 1961 and retired as the secretary in 1994. He was also a chairman of Petrobangla and regional advisor of International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNFPA. His namaz-e-janaza will be held tomorrow at 11:30am at East West University premises at Aftab Nagar and at Gulshan Azaad Mosque after the Zohr prayers. He will be buried in Banani graveyard.

Indian minister Swaraj calls

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call, Mahmood Ali assured that Dhaka was conscious of the importance of checking activities of radical forces.

Mahmood visited New Delhi on March 1-3 to join the first Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference to engage with geo-politics and geo-economics.

Vacate public spaces in one month

DNCC mayor asks shop owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shop owners in North Dhaka have to vacate any public spaces that they are occupying illegally around their businesses within a month, said Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq yesterday.

They also have to put up signboards on their businesses as per approved size within the same deadline.

The mayor made the calls during a meeting with various shop owners' associations at Gulshan Club.

He also called upon the shop owners to contain the solid waste they generate at a designated place and hand it over to city the corporation waste collectors instead of throwing garbage at random.

A trade licence or shop lease issued by the corporation does not allow the shop owners to occupy footpaths, roads and public passages at markets, said the mayor.

He said unless the businessmen cooperated, it would be very difficult to manage waste disposal.

According to a city corporation official, there are 43 kitchen and super markets owned by the city corporation with 15,756 shops in North Dhaka. Together with those in private ownership, the figure is 1.5 lakh.

Issue recruitment cards for construction workers

Suggest rights activists for curbing exploitation in the sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists yesterday demanded that the government must make a mandatory rule for the employers to issue recruitment cards to the construction workers with a view to eliminating exploitations in the sector.

Thousands are working in the construction sector without any formal recruitment procedure and thus being deprived of their basic rights and exploited by the employers, contractors and sub-contractors, they observed at a workshop, organised by RMMRU on "Recruitment of Internal Migrant Construction Workers in Bangladesh," at the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

"The employers have a little interest in recruiting workers directly. They prefer hiring through middlemen," said Prof CR Abrar, executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, adding, "We didn't find any worker who was hired with a letter of

appointment from the employer. They are working without any formal recognition and not getting basic facilities."

Prof Abrar said the recruitment of the workers is generally held through their relatives, friends or acquaintances and the middlemen, without any better negotiations for the wages.

"There is no government monitoring system in this sector where about two million people are working, he added quoting a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report about the country's labour forces published in 2014.

The workers are facing serious problems in terms of their security and identity documents, wages and living conditions, other benefits etc, according to a RMMRU study findings, collected from a field work in Dhaka between May and July last year.

"There is no fixed minimum wages. The contractors or sub-contractors determine the wages and the dates for their payments," it mentioned. If the contrac-

tors or sub-contractors exploit the workers, there is less scope of getting justice as the workers have no legal documents for the recruitment, the report said.

Addressing the programme, noted rights activists Hamida Hossain said the government should make it a mandatory rule to issue a letter of recruitment if there is no scope of formulating a definite law soon. Mamun-Al-Rashid, who works as a government relations and policy advisor, said when the workers become victims of any accident, they have little options to get legal facilities due to lack of formal recruitment documents. Even the police have to register a worker's death as an unnatural case for not having legal documents, he added.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies assistant executive director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmad, Jahangirnagar University teacher Mirza Taslima Sultana also spoke.



Outgoing Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander A Nikolaev calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Probe if AL lawmaker Nizam completed his 10-year jail term

HC asks IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the inspector general of police to probe whether ruling Awami League leader Nizam Uddin Hazari had completed a 10-year jail term in an arms case and asked for a report in 30 days.

The court passed the order while hearing a rule issued over the legality of Nizam Uddin Hazari's holding the office of a lawmaker.

The HC issued the rule on June 8, 2014 asking the government, Election Commission, and Nizam to explain why his parliament seat should not be declared vacant.

The rule was issued following a writ petition filed by Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan, a Jubo League leader of Feni, claiming that Nizam, who was elected unopposed from Feni-2 constituency in the January 5 elections in 2014, had resorted to forgery to get out of jail early and run in the polls.

Quoting a newspaper report, Shakhawat, in his petition, said a Chittagong court had sentenced Nizam to 10 years' imprisonment in an arms case on August 16, 2000.

He surrendered on September 14, 2000, and was sent to Chittagong jail to serve the term.

But he had been in jail for only five years and was released on December 1, 2005, through fraudulence, Shakhawat claimed.

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Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Moklesar Rahman Scot, upazila correspondent of Uttorer Khobor, and deed writer of Sherpur upazila, died of a cardiac arrest at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra on Wednesday night. He was 45.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Chehlum

CITY DESK

The chehlum of Gulzar Hossain Alamgir, who died on January 24 in

Canada, will be observed today on the Madrasa-tut-Takwa premises at Khilgaon Chowdhurypara in the capital, says a press release.

Alamgir had served as deputy general manager of Bakhrabad Gas System Ltd before he immigrated to Canada.

Tribunal asks for probe report

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Abdul Mosabber Mia, 64, of Rajnagar upazila in Moulvibazar. Of the four, Akmal was arrested at his Panchgaon village residence in Rajnagar on November 26 last year, hours after the tribunal ordered the arrest of the four. The rest are still on the run. Meanwhile, Akmal's lawyer Abdus Sobhan Tarafder filed a petition seeking bail for his client. The tribunal fixed April 16 for hearing the petition. According to the investigation agency, the probe into the case started on October 12, 2014, and the investigation officer has already found evidence of the involvement of the four in "Panchgaon Genocide", where at least 59 Hindu men were slain, and in the killing of two other men in 1971.

JESSORE

Meanwhile, the tribunal recorded the testimony of Liakat Ali Sheikh, the seventh prosecution witness in the case against nine Jessore men, including former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain.

Liakat, a freedom fighter from Mahadebpur village in Keshabpur upazila in the district, said he learnt from his uncle Miran Sheikh that Shakhawat, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2), Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol, and Ibrahim Hossain had confined and tortured him at a Razakar camp in Jessore.

Miran, as the sixth prosecution in the case, gave a vivid description of the incident on Wednesday.

The three others are Kazi Ohidul Islam, Mujibur Rahman and Billal Hossain. The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run.

Liakat also said Aziz, Aziz (2), Ibrahim, Khaleq, and Lutfar had also abducted his father Zohar Ali Sheikh and took him to a Razakar camp. His father, however, was released later. The tribunal adjourned the proceeding until March 7 after the defence completed his cross-examination.

13 student

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demonstration for the same demands yesterday, at Carmichael College in Rangpur.

Protesting the allegations, DU unit BCL President Abid Al Hasan said "guestroom duty" does not mean a torture cell but rather the leaders listen to and solve problems of junior activists.

DU Proctor AM Amzad said, "I have heard about forming an investigation committee, but have not received the report yet."

Saikat Mollik, central president of Ganasamhati Andolon backed Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, later announced holding a press conference at Modhur Canteen of DU on March 6, to announce further movements.



Heaps of earth and construction material are kept on Hatirjheel- Saatrasta Link Road in the capital for quite a few days, completely blocking a footpath and causing huge sufferings to pedestrians.

PHOTO: STA