



Mohammed Ali Reaz Haider

Reaz president, Ali general secretary of CUJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Reaz Haider Chowdhury and Mohammed Ali were elected president and general secretary respectively of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ).

A total of 325 out of 347 members voted in the biannual election on Thursday.

Other office bearers are: Senior Vice-President Ratan Kanti Debashish, Vice-President Nirupam Dasgupto, Joint-Secretary Swarup Bhattacharya, Organising Secretary Sabur Shuvo, Treasurer Ujjwal Dhar, Press and Publication Secretary Alokmoy Tolapatra and Executive Member Mainuddin Dulal.



Garbage heaps up in front of Curzon Hall at Dhaka University, spreading malodour and tarnishing the architectural beauty of the hall of historical value. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN brief

20 crude bombs found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered 23 bombs from a house in Bhogra area of Gazipur city and detained two people in this connection yesterday.

The detainees are Farid Uddin, 48, owner of the tin-roofed house, and caretaker Sohel Rana, 22.

Officer-in-Charge of Joydebpur Police Station Khandaker Rezaul Hasan Reza said on information, they raided the house and recovered 20 crude bombs and three petrol bombs from there.

Youth held with arms in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested an arms trader with one pistol and three rounds of bullets in the capital's Agargaon area yesterday.

The arrestee was Masud Rana, son of Abdul Hye Sarkar of Shahjapur upazila in Sirajganj, said Yeasir Arafat, operation officer of Rab-2, who led the drive.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-2 raided the New Colony graveyard near the social service department at Agargaon around 4:30pm and made the arrest and seizure, added Arafat.

Jayanta president, Tapash GS of Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jayanta Sen Dipu and Tapash Kumar Pal were elected president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad for 2016-2018 term, says a press release.



Jayanta Sen Tapash Kumar

They were made president and general secretary at the biannual council of the Parishad held at Dhakeshwari Jatiya Mandir yesterday.



Albert Jaap van Sant Brink, executive director of Terre des Hommes, cuts the ribbon at the inauguration of a three-storey building for "SSS-Pouro Ideal High School" yesterday at Harijan Palli in Tangail town where community students from nursery to class VIII will receive free education. The Society for Social Service, a local NGO, established the school with help of Terre des Hommes. Abdul Hamid Bhuiyan, SSS executive director, Murshed Alam Sarkar, its executive president, Sanwar Hossain, lawmaker of Tangail-5, and Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre des Hommes, were present. PHOTO: STAR

20pc enrollment in technical edu by 2020

Hopes Education Minister Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister yesterday stressed the need for participation of students in technical education and giving social recognition to technically educated persons.

"Technical and vocational education can open up a new horizon for new generation and can contribute to our economy," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a job fair inaugural programme at Dhaka Mohila Polytechnic Institute in Agargaon, said a press release. The fair was organised with the support of Skills and Training Enhancement project.

The minister said "I hope students' enrollment in technical education would be upgraded to 20 percent within 2020 as technical knowledge will help young generation build themselves as skilled manpower." Currently, 13.11 percent students are taking technical education which was only 1.2 percent in 2008, he added.

Additional secretary to the Ministry of Education AS Mahmud, Director General of the Department of Technical Education Ashok Kumar Biswas and representatives from different renowned industries were present at the fair.

Fire incidents posing threat to Sundarbans

UNB, Bagerhat

The only Chandpai Range of the Sundarbans saw 14 fire incidents in the last 12 years, raging through some 40 acres of forest, said a forest department data.

This unique mangrove forest frequently suffers from disasters, but most of which are manmade.

A recent visit by the news agency showed that the Sundarbans is struggling to have its ecosystem restored after the recent fire incident. Though fresh grasses were seen there, Sundari plants were not growing in the affected areas.

On March 27, 2016, the latest fire broke out in the Dhanshagar station's Nangli forest camp area of Chadpai Range, located in the eastern part. Forest officials said many precious plant species like Sundari, Goran and Geowa were burnt into ashes.

Dr Mahmud Hossain, a forestry professor at Khulna University, said the recurring fire incident is posing a threat to the biodiversity of the forest. Soil fertility is declining in the Sundarbans due to frequent fires, he added.

According to the residents of Uttar Rajapur village in Khulna, those living nearby the Sundarbans often set fire to it to collect firewood. The burnt area goes under water during monsoon and local fishermen use the area for fishing.

They said fishermen also use the fire-ravaged areas as cattle grazing ground during the dry season.

A three-member probe body has already been formed to find out the cause, said Md Saidul Islam, divisional forest officer.

Belayet Hossain, probe body chief

and assistant forest conservator, said the committee will submit its report soon.

Stressing the need for making the forest dwellers aware of protecting the Sundarbans from fire incidents, Saidul called for setting up a special fire station.

A high-profile Unesco delegation recently visited the Sundarbans to assess the possible impacts of the recent manmade disasters on the mangrove forest.

Besides the fire incidents, a tanker carrying about 350,000 litres of furnace oil crashed in the Shela River on December 9, 2014, while a cargo sank on March 19, 2016.

The Sundarbans, a natural habitat to the tiger, crocodile and dolphin, is located in three coastal districts, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira, covering a stretch of 6,017 square kilometers.



Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajot brings out a procession yesterday, following a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, demanding arrest and punishment for perpetrators of the post-UP election attacks on Hindu community in different parts of the country, and Ashish Kumar Boral, newly elected chairman of Jalabari Union Parishad in Pirojpur's Swarupkathi. PHOTO: STAR

2 bodies recovered in Savar, Ashulia

BSS, Savar

Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified people from Savar and Ashulia on Thursday.

On information, police recovered a slit-throat body near Nandakhal Hallmark Garments in Hemayetpur of Savar. Injury marks were also found in different parts of the body, police said.

Meanwhile in Ashulia, another body was found in a house in Jamgora area. The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsies. Two cases were filed.

Dhaka trader found dead

UNB, Netrokona

A Dhaka man was found dead in Bichitra Guest House at Birishiri of Durgapur upazila in Netrakona yesterday.

The hotel cleaners found Nurul Islam, 30, of Shantinagar in Dhaka with his throat slit around 2:00pm, said police. Hotel manager was held.

CJ wants to introduce

FROM PAGE 3
come between our heartiest endeavor and success, last year our all-out effort had pushed us up and we could able [sic] to dispose of more cases than before. The cumulative figure of disposal crossed 100% in both higher and subordinate judiciaries in 2015 compared to 2014," Justice Sinha said.

There are more than 30 lakh cases pending across the country now. The CJ said 173 of around 1,500 lower court judges had to discharge duties in phases due to the shortage of courtrooms that caused a backlog of cases.

"In the last one year I extensively inspected the courts of the subordinate judiciary to find out the problems they are facing and the areas needed to be intervened. I found, alongside shortage of judges, paucity of logistic support and inadequate infrastructures contribute to case backlog. How a modern society can conceive that a judge is waiting for his turn to come to use court room for

hearing and deciding the cases!" he said.

The chief justice said the government had to look into this reality and take urgent steps to solve the courtroom crises.

"It is deplorable that progress in constructing building for magistracy in most of the districts is very pathetic."

The chief justice said judges were working tirelessly to serve people. "I have issued practice directions to them to utilize best of their court hours and following my directions judges in the subordinate judiciary [are] now doing judicial business in two shifts, i.e. even after the recesses at noon."

Justice SK Sinha urged the lawyers to cooperate with courts in hearing cases in the afternoon.

"All concerned have to bear in mind that we cannot afford to sit idle while millions of cases are pending," he said.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat also spoke on the occasion as special guest. Forty judicial officials participated in the workshop.

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