

Free wi-fi at all education institutions by 2021

Assures Palak at Rajshahi event; stresses ICT education for youths at another programme

BSS, Rajshahi

All the education institutions across the country will be brought under free wi-fi connection by 2021, said State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Zunaid Ahmed Palak yesterday. "We are going to launch free wi-fi at 37 public universities within a shortest possible time to make the students competence in world-standard ICT," he further said while launching wi-fi connection at Rajshahi College yesterday as chief guest.

Among others concerned, college Principal Prof Habibur Rahman was present at the launching ceremony on the campus.

Palak said in addition to the public universities more than 1.7 lakh educational institutions including primary schools will be brought under optical fiber minimum broadband connection by 2021.

He said the youth forces have already started building a digital Bangladesh through their learning and earning activities as the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is extending all support towards them so that they could build themselves as ICT-based income-generators.

He added that the government is extending all-out support to impart IT and basic computer literacy to 14,000 students under the ICT Division and its "Learning and Earning Development Project" aiming to earn money from online outsourcing.

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Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star; A Rouf Chowdhury, member of the board of directors of the company; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of the newspaper, along with guests, cut a cake marking Staff Day at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

AL to accept president's decision on EC: Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a programme in Sunamganj yesterday said his party would accept any decision the president makes as per constitution to form the Election Commission (EC).

He said this at the inaugural ceremony of the construction of a bridge over the Kushiara River in Ranigan area of Jagannathpur upazila.

The BNP has become a party full of complaints, the minister said, adding that they (BNP) used to complain to the foreign countries about the ruling government, not taking into consideration the latter's development work.

Quader asked his party men to take preparation for

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14 lives lost on the road

Six alone in one accident in Comilla

CITY DESK

Fourteen people, including a man and his three-year-old daughter in Savar and six people in Comilla, were killed and 61 others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday and on Friday.

In Comilla, six people were killed and 35 others injured as a bus plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Zimlatoli in Daudkandi upazila early yesterday.

The incident occurred as the driver of the Comilla-bound bus, coming from Nilphamari, lost his control over the vehicle leaving five people dead on the spot and injuring 36 others, said Officer-in-Charge of Daudkandi Highway Police Station Abdul Awal.

One died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Three among the injured were sent to DMCH from Gouripur Upazila Health Complex while 32 others were given first aid, said the OC.

Of the deceased four were Atiur Rahman, 48, and Faruq Hossain, 22, of Melapanga village, Babu Mia of Gonnati village, Enamul Haque, 60, of Nilphamari.

The identity of the two other deceased, age around 40 and 42, could not be known.

The deceased worked as day labourers in Comilla Biswa Road and adjacent area, police said.

Bodies were handed over to the relatives, said Sub-Inspector of Daudkandi Highway Police Station Nasir Uddin.

A correspondent from Savar reports, a man and his three-year-old daughter were killed and his wife was injured as a truck hit a battery-run rickshaw carrying them on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Niribile area of Savar yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Azad Hossen, 35, of Manikganj and his daughter Moriom.

Sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station Ruhul Amin said the Azan with

his family was going to Manikganj to attend his father's funeral.

Quoting witness police said the incident occurred when a soil-leaden truck hit the rickshaw leaving Moriom dead on the spot. Critically injured Azad died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Azad's wife Shilpi was taken to Gonoshastha Kendra Hospital of Savar and later shifted to National Orthopaedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Institute of Dhaka for better treatment, said police.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, two people were killed and four others injured as two three-wheelers collided head-on in Rasulpur village in Atrai upazila of Naogaon yesterday.

The deceased were Bishwajit Kumar, 26, Jahangir Alam, 36. Both hailed from Rasulpur village in the district.

In Naogaon Sadar, Apu Mia, 36, of Joypurhat was killed as his bamboo-laden

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Star celebrates Staff Day

Awards 21 journalists, employees for performance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday organised Staff Day at the capital's The Daily Star Centre on the occasion of the 26th founding anniversary of the country's leading English language daily with the commitment to continue upholding the standard of journalism.

The two and half hours programme started with the national anthem followed by performance of the employees.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, shared anecdotes of his 26-year journey with the newspaper and vowed to continue journalism without fear or favour in coming days.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of the newspaper, and A Rouf Chowdhury, member of the board of directors of the company, praised its journalists for their dedication and hard work.

Different organisations congratulated the newspaper by handing bouquets over to the editor at yesterday's programme.

Twenty one journalists and employees of the newspaper received accolades for their

outstanding performance.

Wasim Bin Habib and Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary received the "Reporter of the Year-2016" award while MA Shahtub Siddique Anik received "Sub-Editor of the Year-2016" award.

Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu received the "District Reporter of the Year-2016" award and Mintu Deshwara got "District All-round performer of the Year-2016" award. "Photographer of the Year-2016" award went to Amran Hossain.

Amitava Kar received the "Employee of the Year-2016" from the Editorial Section while Mahamudul Hasan Sunny from Digital Media; Iftakhar Hossain from Multimedia; Zina Tasreen from Business Section; Sakeb Tahsin Subban from Sports Section; Mamunur Rashid from Graphics; MH Haider from Life Style; Shahriar Rahman from Bytes, Shift and Next Step; Zahangir Alom from Arts and Entertainment; Naziba Basher from Star Weekend; Shahrul Ikhtear from SHOUT; Shawkat ul Islam from Business

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Hasina rejects possibility of holding dialogue with BNP

Expresses expectation to be on 'leave' after next general polls, urges AL to prepare for it

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday turned down any possibility of holding a dialogue with BNP ahead of the 11th national election, slated for 2019, Awami League sources said.

Meanwhile, she expressed her expectation to be on "leave" after the polls and asked her party colleagues to take preparation for the election from now on, they said.

Hasina, also the president of the ruling AL, however, did not clear the leave whether from the party or both from the party and the government.

She came up with the rejection a day after BNP hoped that the PM would arrange talks with different political parties to hold the polls in a credible and



inclusive manner. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, at a press conference on Friday, urged the prime minister to hold such dialogues.

The AL chief yesterday visited her political office at Dhanmondi after around two years where she had a meeting with her colleagues.

During the meeting, an AL leader drew PM's attention over holding the dialogues and Hasina rejected its possibility saying that no dialogue is possible with "killers".

"I will not sit with them who killed innocent people to foil the elections, and with those who tried to kill me staging the 21 August grenade attacks," a leader, who was present at the meeting,

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Movement at appropriate time: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said they must take to the streets against the government again at an appropriate time and fight till the last drop of their blood to materialise Ziaur Rahman's idealism.

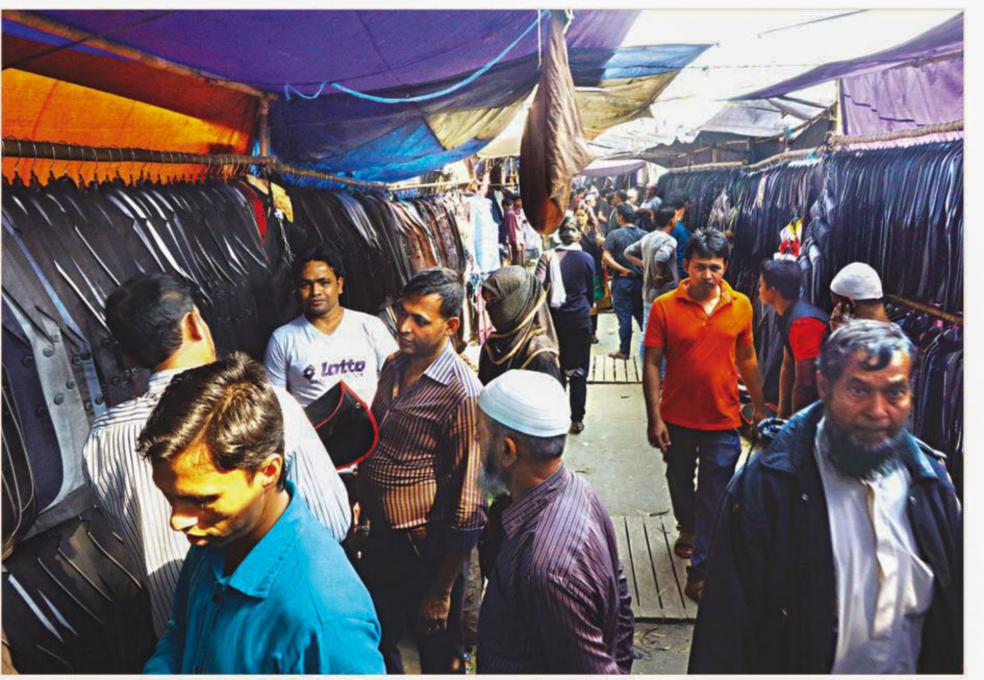
He said these while addressing a launching ceremony of the 4th edition of the books Jotirmoy Zia [enlightened Zia] and Kalomegher Dal [Black Cloud] written by Abdul Hye Sikdar at the capital's The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Fakhrul claimed that in the last eight years over a thousand BNP men lost their lives due to the government's

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Twenty-one journalists and employees of The Daily Star, who received accolades for their outstanding performance, pose for a photograph with distinguished guests at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



Street vendors have set up makeshift shops occupying the footpath in front of GPO in the capital's Zero Point, which remains overcrowded with buyers, causing sufferings for pedestrians by halting their smooth flow. The photo was taken last week. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Sustainable cities an uphill task

Say urban experts emphasising 'de-concentrate Dhaka policy'

UNB, Dhaka

Amid rapid urban population growth, it will be very difficult for the country to make its cities sustainable by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unless there is an inclusive urbanisation policy and strong political commitment, said urban experts.

They said Bangladesh needs to go for rapid decentralisation, reducing internal migration with a special focus on the growth of all the cities and towns with socioeconomic opportunities to attain the 11th goal of the global agenda.

Besides, coordination among different government bodies and strong city governance are also vital to ensure the better use and management of the urban spaces. They also suggested taking steps to

reduce the overburdened urban population from the capital through planned decentralisation and developing its adjacent towns.

Urban expert and former chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Nazrul Islam said attaining the goal of sustainable cities will be very difficult for Bangladesh as its most cities and towns have developed in an unplanned way.

Prof Nazrul said the country's urban population is growing fast due to huge migration to urban areas. "The government must focus on rural development to check the growing migration to cities, mainly to Dhaka and Chittagong."

He suggested developing divisional cities, district and upazila towns with enhancing economic opportunities and incentives.

He said the government's plan to set up 100 special economic zones will be very effective to reduce internal migration. A special focus needs to be given on Dhaka as it is an unplanned city with a population of 17 million, he stressed.

According to the UN projection, he said, its population may shoot up to 23-25 million by 2030. A "de-concentrate Dhaka policy" is necessary to make the city livable, manageable and sustainable, he said.

"It means a portion of Dhaka's population should be shifted to its adjacent areas by developing new and satellite towns like Purbachal and Jhilmil with civic amenities."

Besides, Prof Nazrul said, more investment is necessary to develop the existing towns near Dhaka like

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