

## Schoolchildren need to develop reading skill

Conference on quality primary education told  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children's basic educational skills, particularly reading, have to be improved for the country's overall development of primary education, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

Although the numbers of schoolchildren and their pass rate increased, their reading skill is found poor, they said.

Bangladesh Forum for Educational Development (BAFED) in association with Save the Children and USAID Bangladesh held the daylong conference titled "Primary Education Quality and Outcome" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Prof Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed of BRAC University, also an adviser to BAFED, said if the primary school children are not provided with adequate assistance to achieve their foundational educational skills, they will be handicapped.

Liana J Gertsch of Save the Children said reading is an important aspect that children need to learn at community level to build up their educational skills.

Improving children's reading skill is not only the responsibility of schools but also of families and communities, she said.

Nurul Amin Chowdhury, deputy director (Planning and Development) of the Directorate General of Primary Education, said they took various initiatives to improve primary education.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam, senior education adviser to USAID Bangladesh; Shadhan Kumar Das of ISB, Dhaka; Prof Abu Hamid Latif, chairman of BAFED; Prof M Sekendar Hayat Khan, and Prof M Nazmul Haq of DU, among others, spoke.



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Acting Managing Director of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd Hashem Chowdhury, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, and provosts and students of different halls of the university at the inauguration ceremony of the Season 6 of the Promoting Knowledge programme at the DU administrative building on Thursday. Under the initiative, The Daily Star and Mutual Trust Bank Ltd have been annually distributing one thousand complimentary copies of the newspaper to the residential students of Dhaka University since 2012.

PHOTO: STAR

## Man 'kills wife by hitting her with a brick'

Arrested later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed as her husband allegedly hit her on the head with a brick following a quarrel over "family feud" in the capital's Maddha Badda area yesterday.

In the early morning, after hearing scream of Tahmina Akhter, 40, her daughter Shahnaz, who lives beside them with her family, knocked on the door of her mother's room, said police.

When Shahnaz's 12-year-old brother Ibrahim opened it, she found Tahmina bleeding with her father Shah Alam staying silent, said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station.

Police arrested Shah Alam on the spot in this connection.

Later, Tahmina was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on arrival.

Tahmina's brother  
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# Female workers' migration swelled by 217pc in 5yrs

BSS, Dhaka

The female migration from Bangladesh has increased by 217 per cent in the last five years as some new destinations have opened up for their overseas earnings, said insiders.

The state-owned Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) showed that the number of female migrant workers has swelled to 118,088 in 2016 from that of 37,304 in 2012.

According to BMET, there are 368,411 Bangladeshi migrants working abroad till April 2017.

Jordan is the top Bangladeshi worker recruiter over the last five years, followed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Lebanon and Qatar. Jordan recruited 97,424, Saudi Arabia 89,902, the UAE 72,594,

Oman 51,631, Lebanon 46,468, and Qatar 22,582 Bangladeshi female workers from 2012 to 2016.

The female migration for the overseas jobs was 56,400 in 2013, 76,007 in 2014, and 103,718 in 2015.

The BMET data showed that between 1991 and 2016, the UAE was the largest Bangladeshi women recruiter as it employed 122,729 workers, Saudi Arabia 121,735, Jordan 109,948, Lebanon 102,565, Oman 55,403, Qatar 22,713, Mauritius 15,945, Kuwait 7,793, Malaysia 6,562, Bahrain 4,264, Singapore 1,116, and Hong Kong 1,307.

Experts and officials said the out-bound Bangladeshi women workers are mostly employed at the low-paid and hazardous jobs, which often put them in vulnerable situation.

There is a good demand for skilled

and professional women, including nurses, caregivers, babysitters, drivers (taxi cab domestic), front desk attendants, receptionists and cashiers in the Middle Eastern countries, Europe and Asia, they added.

A UN study on "External Market Analysis for Women Migrant Workers of Bangladesh" showed that around 95 percent of the Bangladeshi women travel abroad as migrant domestic workers mainly to the Arab countries.

It was also revealed that skilled and semi-skilled workers earn higher salary and enjoy a much better living, working and social conditions compared to the illiterate and unskilled workers.

Presently, Bangladeshi female workers are serving in 43 countries. The maximum number went to the Middle Eastern countries as house helps.

# Where do the medicines go?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Just a day after medicines and medical equipment were found floating on a pond inside Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal, police yesterday seized a huge cache of medicines from a ward of the hospital.

On Friday afternoon, medicines and medical equipment were found floating on a pond adjacent to a residential facility of the hospital's class IV employees in SBMCH area.

Later, police also found medicines in the house of Sefali Begum, a class IV employee of the hospital. In this connection, Sub-inspector Arobinda of Kotwali police as a complainant filed a case on Friday, said Officer-in-Charge Shah Md Awlad Hossain. Police arrested Sefali and her son Md Mamun the same day.

Gleaning information from the duo, police said they got vital clues about a syndicate behind this illegal act. Yesterday, a team of Kotwali Model Police Station with the help of the SBMCH authorities conducted

It might be the case that the medicines, which were supplied to the patients, were not distributed among them."

"The medicines we have seized could feed the entire ward for around three months," he added.

"We would take action against those involved in this act," the director told The Daily Star.

Md Asaduzzaman, assistant commissioner, Barisal Kotwali Model Police Station, said the nurse has no legal right to preserve medicine like this.

If the hospital authorities do not file a case, police would file one, he added.

Earlier, yesterday morning, the hospital authorities formed three probe committees to investigate the Friday's incident.

A three-member committee led by Dr Mashiul Alam, assistant director (administration), was asked to investigate if the medicines and equipment were stolen from medicine sub-store of the hospital.

Another three-member committee led by Dr Md Yunus Ali, assistant director (finance and store), was asked to examine if the



Medicines float on a pond adjacent to a residential facility of class IV employees of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

drive in the wards. During the drive starting from afternoon, the team seized around eight sacks full of medicines worth around Tk 7 lakh from the hospital's female medicine ward. Police arrested Bilkis Begum, a senior staff nurse and in-charge of the ward, in this connection.

Dr Md Sirajul Islam, director of SBMCH, said, "Medicines are supplied to the wards on a per-day basis. We do not know how this huge cache of medicines has ended up here.

medicines were stolen from the hospital's main medicine store. The two committees were asked to submit report within next 24 hours, said SBMCH Director Sirajul Islam.

The last one -- a six-member committee led by Dr Md Abdul Kadir, SBMCH deputy director -- will submit its report within three working days after investigating the incident and the distribution list of medicine ward, said the director.

# 9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS Speaker to talk with ministries

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said she would talk to the ministries concerned regarding the issue of constituting the ninth Wage Board for journalists.

She made the remark while responding to a query on the forming of the wage board at annual general meeting of Chittagong Division Journalists' Forum, Dhaka (CDJFD) at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Describing the media as mirror of the society, Speaker Dr Shirin also underscored the need for ensuring the protection and privileges of journalists.

Journalist leaders at the programme demanded immediate constitution of the ninth Wage Board, making it mandatory for all media outlets and allowing trade union.

Presiding over the programme, CDJFD Convener Mahmudur Rahman Khokon said the owners of media houses are always indifferent to forming a wage board as there is no mandatory clause in the existing law.

About section 57 of the ICT Act, she said it will be amended following due process and the law minister has already cleared it. "I think it'll be in your favour."

As Vice-president of the Jatiya Press Club Azizul Islam Bhuiyan demanded reviving Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Services) Act, 1974 to protect the interest of journalists, Dr Shirin Sharmin said she will seek the latest update on it.

When CDJFD demanded allocation of a piece of land for its permanent office, the Speaker said she would try her best in this regard.

President of Dhaka Union of Journalists Shaban Mahmud, former general secretary of JPC Syed Abdal Ahmad and former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan were, among others, present at the programme.



Three young Bangladeshi artists -- Zannatul Maowa, Manha Hossain and Arnika Tahsin Borsha -- with Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor after they were awarded with Prince Mahidol Award Conference by Prince Mahidol Award Foundation under the royal patronage of late king Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. The event took place recently at the residence of Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Panpimon Suwannapongse.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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### Academy Awards in Science and Technology

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announces the following awards in Science and Technology as below:

- 1. BAS Gold Medal Award 2016**  
Two awards, one for Physical Sciences including Engineering & Technology and another for Biological Sciences including Agriculture & Medicine, will be awarded in each of the following two groups:  
a) Senior Group for Scientists no age bar  
b) Junior Group for Scientists below 40 years on 31 December 2016
- 2. BAS-Dr. M.O Ghani Memorial Gold Medal Award-2017**  
For distinguished scientist in the field of Physical, Biological, Engineering and Agricultural Sciences. There is no age bar.
- 3. BAS-National Professor Dr. M. Innas Ali Memorial Gold Medal Award-2016**  
For a distinguished scientist with outstanding achievement in any branch of Science and Technology. There is no age bar.

Bangladeshi scientists and technologists who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding scientific and technological work may apply for the above awards. Heads of research institutions/respective Deans of Universities/Fellows of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences may nominate candidates for the awards or Candidates themselves may apply through their Heads of institutions directly. Each nominee/candidate is required to submit 10 copies of their bio-data, list of publications and patents and a reprint of each of the important publications.

**Note:** Those who were awarded Gold Medal in any of the above categories earlier are not eligible for nomination for any of the categories. However, gold medal awardees in category 1 under junior group may be nominated for award in the senior group, if eligible.

Application/nomination for the above awards must reach the Secretary of the Academy by 15 June 2017 at the latest.

Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed  
Secretary

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### URS MUBARAK

The annual Urs Mubarak of Shamsul Ulema Hazrat Maulana Safullah (R.A) will be held on the Monday, 15 May 2017 at 78 Shantinagar, Dhaka. On this occasion, the Quran Telewaz will start at 11:30 hours, followed by Doa at 13:00 hours and distribution of Tabarak.

### বাড়ী ভাড়া

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