

4,032 students receive DBBL scholarship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd yesterday awarded scholarships to 4,032 underprivileged and meritorious students who passed the SSC examinations this year.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Law Minister Anisul Huq and Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir handed the awards over to the recipients at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in the capital, said a press release.

In his speech, Muhith congratulated the students and hoped that all corporate bodies would come forward with such programmes for the benefit of the society.

Under its social cause programme, Dutch-Bangla Bank has awarded scholarships to some 47,660 students since the initiative was launched.

Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the bank, presided over the programme.



A winner receives the DBBL scholarship award from Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in the capital yesterday. On his right is Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd Abul Kashem Md Shirin, and on his left are Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Law Minister Anisul Huq, and DBBL Chairman Sayem Ahmed.

PHOTO: STAR

WATER TREATMENT IN BARISAL

New plant crumbles before start

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Even before inauguration, a surface water treatment plant built in Beltola area to mitigate the water crisis in Barisal city has partially collapsed into the Kirtonkhola River, raising concerns whether it could be made operational at its current location at all.

In the last one year, especially during monsoon, parts of the plant's guide wall, walkway, and the pump broke down and were washed away.

According to the Water Supply Department of Barisal City Corporation (BCC), the city of over a half million people has a daily demand for 4.5 crore litres of water, while BCC can produce a maximum of 2.5 crore litres.

Built at a cost of Tk 25 crore, the plant was scheduled to start in July 2016. Another such plant is being built in Rupatali, around 7km from Beltola, with 90 percent of its construction work done. Each of the plants is able to produce 1.6 crore litres of water per day.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, an Awami League lawmaker and then state minister for LGRD, laid the foundation stone of the Beltola plant on February 16, 2012. The plant would purify water from the river and supply it to the city residents.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), which sees water supply and sanitation issues of the whole country except for Dhaka, Chittagong and Narayanganj cities, has built the plant and is supposed to hand it over to the city corporation.

Talking about erosion, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Barisal Abu Sayeed said there should be at least a 100 feet distance between any establishment and the river bank; but in this case, the plant was built just on the bank of the Kirtonkhola.

He also said the establishment was built without taking their permission.

About the matter, a BCC engineer said they did not know why permission was not taken from WDB; it was the duty of the ministry concerned to get authorisation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Executive Engineer Manirul Alam Swapan of BCC's water supply department said the city corporation was yet to receive the custody of

neer of division-2 under the West Zone Power Distribution Company, said, "We asked the BCC authorities to pay the arrears in instalments, but they failed to do so."

He said a new electricity connection would not be given to the plant unless the dues were paid.

BCC's Chief Executive Officer Md Wahiduzzaman said they were able to pay up to Tk 1 crore in the first instalment but the power distribution company wanted Tk 2 crore to

authorities concerned to shift the plant to a safer place soon.

WDB, however, said it would build a protection embankment to save the plant.

The "Kirtonkhola River Erosion Protection Project", worth Tk 31 crore, was initially approved and waiting for final endorsement by Ecneec or Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, said Abu Sayeed, WDB's executive engineer.



Parts of a surface water treatment plant collapsed into the Kirtonkhola in the last one year. The plant was set up to treat the river water and ensure fresh water supply to Barisal city residents, but it has been damaged due to erosion before starting operation. The photo was taken early last month.

PHOTO: STAR

the plant from DPHE, but the plant had already collapsed partially.

Asked why the plant was not handed over yet, SM Shohidul Alam, executive engineer of DPHE in Barisal, said BCC owed a Tk 22 crore bill to the West Zone of Power Distribution Company Ltd, so the electricity line was cut off.

Without electricity, they cannot run the plant on a test basis, hence unable to hand it over, he said.

Amzad Hossain, executive engi-

establish a supply line to the plant.

He said if the plant went into operation, BCC would get more consumers and more water bills, with which they could pay the dues.

Meanwhile, considering the present situation of erosion, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association's (BELA's) local coordinator Lincon Bayen said it would not be wise to start operation of the plant at the place because the whole area might be eroded.

He urged the

Under the project, a 4.5km protection embankment will be constructed from Chakawa to Charbaia, and there will be a capital dredging of 5.5km in the river, he said.

The official said the WDB authorities already dumped 1,000 sand bags in the affected area last month to save the plant.

BCC officials said doing some repairs and building an embankment could save the plant and make it operational.

Former RMG factory officer held for 'raping' workers

Two accused of baul singer rape case produced before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A former production manager of a garment factory was arrested in Noakhali early yesterday on the charge of raping five female workers of the factory in Ashulia.

The arrestee, Harun-Ur-Rashid, 38, of Kobirhat in Noakhali, used to work at Annesha Style Ltd in Ashulia.

Mizanur Rahman, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station, said one of the victims filed a rape case accusing Harun on August 3.

According to the case statement, Harun raped the five women after calling them into his office room at different times. He was suspended after the victims informed the factory authorities of the incidents, said Mizanur.

After the case was filed, Harun went into hiding. Later, police arrested him in his Noakhali residence, the SI said, adding, he will be produced before a Dhaka court today.

Meanwhile, two men -- Ataur and Razzak -- accused in the baul singer gang rape case were produced before a Dhaka court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer, said Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

The duo were arrested on Friday.

NEWS IN brief

Three Apan Jewellers owners sued over money laundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday sued three owners of Apan Jewellers on the charge of money laundering in importing around 15 maunds of gold.

Three separate cases were filed against Dildar Ahmed Selim, father of Banani double rape prime accused Ahmed Shafat, and Selim's brothers Gulzar Ahmed and Azad Ahmed, said CIID Director General Moinul Khan.

Moinul said CIID will investigate the cases filed with Gulshan, Ramna, Uttara and Dhanmondi police stations as per the direction of National Board of Revenue.

Man held with 16.2kg of gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers detained a man and seized 140 gold bars, worth Tk 8 crore and weighing 16.2kg, from his possession in the capital's Paltan yesterday.

The detainee, whose identity could not be known immediately, carrying the gold in a black bag, was moving around Baitul Mukarram Market around 6:00pm, said Shiblee Noman, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel zone).

On suspicion, security guards of the market intercepted him and found the gold bars, the police official said.

On information, police rushed there and handed him over to customs officials, he added.

Medical board formed for Siddiqui's follow up treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) authorities formed a five-member medical board yesterday to provide follow up treatment to Titumir College student Siddiqui Rahman.

The board members include Dr Dipak Kumar Nath, Dr Golam Haidar, and Dr Iftekhar Md Munir, said NIO Director Dr Golam Mostafa.

Siddiqui, 23, suffered injuries in both the eyes on July 20 when police lobbed a teargas shell on the students of seven colleges during a demonstration.

Following treatment in India, he returned home on Friday.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Abul Hashem, secretary of Bhaluka upazila unit BNP and joint-secretary of Mymensingh (south) unit BNP, died of cancer at a Dhaka hospital early yesterday. He was 65.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter.

He was buried in his family graveyard at Satenga in Bhaluka upazila yesterday afternoon.

Youth have to volunteer

For helping attain SDGs, speakers tell Int'l Youth Day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participation of the youth in different voluntary works is a must to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), speakers told a youth day programme yesterday.

Calling them the main force of today's world, they stressed the need for giving priority to their opinions.

The programme, "SDG Youth Carnival", was organised by UN Volunteers Bangladesh, and UNDP Bangladesh, celebrating International Youth Day.

Speaking on the occasion, cultural personality Sara Zaker called upon the youth to raise their voice to stop child marriage and ensure gender equality. Otherwise, SDGs will be difficult to achieve, she said.

Fakrul Ahsan, a project adviser of UNDP, said the youth would have to work together and come forward to address key problems including hunger and poverty.

The youth can bring change, said Md Ashadul Islam, secretary-in-charge of the youth and sports ministry. Citing examples of young people stopping child marriage in villages, he said that if given the opportunity, the youth could play an important role in development.

ULAB communication officer Ayesha Khanom said their participation in different activities could bring changes in the society.

WAR CRIMES SC may fix date for hearing 2 appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has included appeals of two war crimes related cases in its today's cause list.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, is set to pass an order on the appeals filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam and Jatiya Party leader Syed Mohammad Qaisar.

Assistant Attorney General Bashir Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that the SC might today fix dates for hearing the appeals. The SC did not hear any of 20 war crimes-related appeals pending with its Appellate Division since it disposed of the appeal of war criminal and Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali about one and a half years ago.

Nineteen of the appeals were filed by convicted war criminals, and the other by the government.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Azharul on January 29, 2015, challenged the death penalty awarded to him by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in December 2014.

In his appeal, Azharul claimed himself innocent and sought acquittal on the five charges he was found guilty.

Tribunal-1 on December 30, 2014 handed death penalty to Azharul on three out of six charges of crimes committed during the Liberation War.

The 62-year-old Jamaat leader was awarded imprisonment on two charges. The court, however, acquitted him of the other charge.

Qaisar, former state minister during the HM Ershad-led regime, on January 19, 2015, challenged the death penalty handed down to him by Tribunal-2 for his crimes in 1971.

His lawyer Joynul Abedin Tuhin filed an appeal with SC, which mentioned 56 reasons why the apex court should consider acquitting him of all war crime charges.

Qaisar was sentenced to death on December 23, 2014.

Ctg waterlogging will be gone in 3 years

Assures CDA chairman, citing mega-project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Abdus Salam yesterday said the city dwellers might see a visible improvement to the waterlogging problem in at least one affected area of the port city in the next rainy season, as the CDA has undertaken a mega project to address the crisis.

Residents will get rid of the problem after completion of the three-year project, he said.

Salam made the comments while exchanging views with journalists at a local hotel in the port city.

He said the Executive Committee for National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the Tk 5,616-crore project to address the city's waterlogging.

Under this project to be implemented by CDA, the depth of 36 canals will be enhanced by excavation and extracting mud, he said, adding, tidal regulators will be constructed at the mouth of five canals including Mahesh Khal.

A total of 42 silt traps will be constructed, he said, adding a total of 48 bridges and six culverts over the canals would be rebuilt.

Around 10.77km new drains will be constructed while 176km retaining walls will also be constructed, he said.

In addition, retaining ponds will also be excavated at the mouth of all canals, said the CDA chairman.

Salam said around 302km roadside drains will be repaired while all the drains linked with canals will also be expanded.

He said the project was taken after a feasibility study conducted by CDA following the guideline of CDA master plan 1995 and an upgraded master plan formulated by Chittagong Wasa in 2016.

Salam said the project will be implemented in consultation and combination of other service provided organisations including Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

"I had a talk with Wasa managing director and he assured me of cooperation," said the CDA chairman, adding, "I believe, the CCC mayor will also cooperate with us in all respects."

Apart from this project, CDA has already been implementing a number of projects including construction of flyovers and outer ring roads, Salam said.

After completion of the projects, people from northern and southern upazilas of Chittagong would be able to come to the city within 30 minutes.

Industrial investment over Tk 1,00,000 crore might hit southern part of Chittagong within a year as CDA is developing the connectivity of southern Chittagong with Chittagong port, added the CDA chairman.



As the international trade fair ground in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar collects water after heavy rain, drivers take the opportunity to wash their vehicles there. The photo was taken yesterday around noon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

1,510 bottles of Phensedyl seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion arrested two persons at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong yesterday with 1,510 bottles of Phensedyl.

The two alleged drug peddlers were identified as Md Aman Mia, 26, and Md Selim, 25, said Rab.

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