



Gur or jaggery made from sugar cane is a winter favourite. Here in Baneshwar of Rajshahi, these blocks of jaggery are being sold for as low as Tk 70. It costs around Tk 150 in the capital.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Nahid, two others receive global award for education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and two other Bangladeshi nationals have received the World Education Congress Global Awards 2017 for their outstanding contribution to education sector.

He received the award on Thursday at a ceremony of the sixth World Education Congress held at a hotel in Mumbai of India, said a press release.

The other awardees are Afroja Parvin, executive

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Ensure sustainable urban dev: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban development should be sustainable and inclusive so that every stratum of the society reaps its benefits in the long run.

Speakers said this at a roundtable discussion at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday. The discussion was organised to come up with experts' suggestions as to how to implement the new urban agenda sketched out by the government.

Project-oriented development will fail to turn Dhaka into a liveable, modern mega city, they said. Instead, it will cause barriers to long-term solutions, said the speakers consisting experts on housing, transport, disaster resilience and urban governance.

Referring to the \$3 billion metro rail project, Prof Shamsul Hoque of Buet's civil engineering department said the project had been taken up finally without meeting the preconditions.

There are at least two development steps to be made for mitigating Dhaka's

traffic situation -- disciplining buses plying different routes and constructing Bus Rapid Transit route for uninterrupted travel on dedicated lanes.

The government skipped these steps that would involve no cost or minimum cost, and jumped to a mega project like the metro rail project that will not solve the entire problem, Shamsul said.

Speaking at the discussion, the experts said the Strategic Transport Plan and revised STP had comprehensive solutions with short-, medium- and long-term priorities, but different ministries, including the ones not having the mandate, took it upon themselves to implement various projects.

A modern Dhaka was kept in mind while making the plans, which could be replicated in other cities across the country. But the disaster that is taking place in the capital is encouraging similar situations elsewhere, they added.

Maruf Hossain, programme manager of Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust, said had there been a consistency in development, many high-cost pro-

jects like flyovers and elevated expressway would not have been needed.

The authorities should facilitate cycling and walking inside the city, which will solve 70 percent of the transport problem, he said.

Besides, people like garment workers, labourers would not be able to afford travel through metro rail or bus. They should have means to travel at minimum or without cost, Maruf added.

On affordable housing, Prof Shahidul Ameen, department of architecture at Buet, said, "If your only tool is a hammer, then all your problems will look like nails."

He was very critical of the ideas that the Housing and Building Research Institute had come up with regarding cheaper and alternative materials for construction.

Low-cost housing and low-income housing were completely different things, he said. Low-income housing

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Visitors crowd the "1st Malaysian Public Universities Education Fair 2017" in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The two-day event is organised by ACE Education.

PHOTO:
STAR

Ctg lawyer murdered in house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A lawyer has been murdered in his West Bakalia house in Chittagong city.

The caretaker of the house, Mohammad Ilias, noticed the half-naked body of Omar Faruque Bappi, 34, in the morning yesterday and informed police.

He said he knocked on the door after he had found it open. As nobody responded from the inside, he entered the room, said the caretaker.

The hands of the deceased were tied with a rope while the mouth was taped, said, adding that his penis was cut off.

Jahangir Alam, an assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, quoted the landlord as saying that a woman introducing herself as the wife of Bappi rented the house on KB Aman Ali Road on November 21.

Since then, Bappi and the woman had been living on the ground floor of the three-storey building, said the police official.



Omar Faruque Bappi

"Primarily we assume that he was strangled," said Jahangir.

Omar Faruque Bappi, 34, son of Ali Ahmad, from Chowmuhani village in Lama upazila of Bandrban, was a lawyer of Chittagong District Judge's Court, said police.

Abu Hanif, general secretary of Chittagong District Bar Association, said as far as he was concerned Bappi had married several years ago.

Thereafter the couple misunderstood and sued each other, he said, adding that recently he heard that they settled the matter.

"I am not sure whether the woman with whom Bappi resided in the house was his wife," said Abu Hanif.

Santosh Kumar Chakma, an inspector of Police Bureau of Investigation, said it seems that the murder was committed out of "personal rage".

The man might have been murdered in the dead of night, he added.

Reps from writers in organising Ekushey book fair sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Writers Unity, an organisation of a group of writers, yesterday demanded that their representatives be included in organising and decision making process of the upcoming Ekushey book fair.

The organisation raised the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The participants said their representatives will uphold the interest of writers.

Representatives from publishers are included in the process, but those from writers are not, said

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