



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving a certificate to a recipient at the 58th Convention of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at its Khulna centre yesterday. Ninety seven students of engineering professional courses were conferred on AMIE degrees during the ceremony. PHOTO: PTI

Ctg Zoo to get zebras for the first time

World Wildlife Day observed at CU

STAR REPORT

Chittagong Zoo will get zebras for the first time since its journey began in 1989. A group of six zebras comprising four female and two male ones will arrive at the zoo on Tuesday.

The zoo authorities are importing the animals from South Africa spending Tk 48 lakh, Ruhul Amin, senior assistant commissioner of Chittagong Zoo, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The zebras will reach Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka tomorrow in a cargo shipment and will be brought to Chittagong Zoo the next day.

All necessary preparations for accommodation have been completed, said Shahadat Hossain, a veterinary officer of the zoo.

"We are having more visitors now. We are hoping to see more visitors after the zebras reach here," he added.

Meanwhile, a daylong wildlife festival was held on the Chittagong University (CU) campus yesterday to observe World Wildlife Day.

The event was organised by CU Bird Club at the university's biological faculty. CU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shireen Akhter was present as the chief guest.

In her speech, Prof Shireen said wildlife has a considerable impact on the environment.

"For maintaining a healthy and ecological balance on the earth, animals and plants are as important as humans," she said.

The faculty Dean Prof Mahabubur Rahman, Chittagong Bird Club President Dr Mohiuddin Shikdar and Prof M Farid Ahsan also spoke at the programme.

Zero tolerance against drugs

Says IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have adopted a "Zero Tolerance Policy" against drugs to make the society free from the menace, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary in Chittagong city yesterday evening.

Social awareness is needed to fight the menace of drug abuse and dealing, he added.

Law enforcing agencies alone cannot uproot the problem, rather everyone should come forward to fight it, he said while addressing the "Annual Police Conference and Annual Sports Competition" of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) as the chief guest.

Later, the Bangladesh Police chief handed over prizes to the winners at CMP Police Lines in Dampara.

CMP Commissioner Iqbal Bahar was in the chair while Chittagong Range's Deputy Inspector General Dr SM Monir-Uz-Zaman and superintendents of police of different districts were present.

6 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six persons including a woman were killed and four injured in separate road accidents across three districts in the country yesterday.

Among them, four persons were killed when three vehicles collided in Chakaria upazila on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway, reports our local correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Ali Akbar, 18, Shahabuddin, 18, Harunur Rashid, 16, and microbus driver Joyal Abedin, 30, said police quoting locals.

The accident took place when a Cox's Bazar-bound passenger bus hit a Chittagong-bound microbus early in the morning, said highway police.

Two microbuses were on their way to Chittagong from Ukhia upazila when one of them was hit by a bus, causing the microbuses to collide, police added.

Four others were injured in the incident. They have been sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

In Dinajpur, Fatema Begum, 60, died as a speeding pickup van ran her over while she was crossing the Joypurhat-Kalai road in Kalai upazila, police said. She died on the spot, said police.

Meanwhile, Sumon Mia, 27, a helper in a tractor, was killed on Comilla-Sylhet highway in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria district, reports our local correspondent.

Quoting witnesses, police said Sumon died after he suddenly slipped and fell under the wheel of the running tractor while he was getting off the vehicle.

No further details could be known immediately.

STOPPING QUESTION LEAK

Tech-based solution needed

Speakers tell roundtable

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that ethical enhancement of students will not be enough to stop question leaks, Dr Kaykobad yesterday said a technology-based solution is required to stop the spree.

Prof M Kaykobad of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said this at a roundtable on "Question Leaking and its Solution" organised by Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Prof Kaykobad, also the head of Question Paper Leaks Prevention Committee, said an innovative and technology-based solution is needed to stop the menace of question paper leak.

The discussion held between participants from different educational institutions and debate clubs cited the problems and recommended probable

solutions to stop question leaks.

They cited the tendency of achieving GPA-5, the requirement of minimum GPA for admission to better colleges, the loopholes in administrative systems, and an absence of proper and visible legal steps against criminals as reasons behind the phenomenon.

Sayedra Atikun Nahar, associate professor of the Institution of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, stressed that principle of education is to amplify the potential of a child, adding, public examinations are not enough to judge their development.

"In our country examinations and results hold a very important position over true learning; so most of us run after GPA and examination results", she said.

She recommended reconstruction of the entire education system where

students will be evaluated on the basis of overall class performance and extra curricular activities alongside examinations and results.

Zafir Shafiee Chowdhury, director of Bondstein Technologies Limited, recommended using a coding system to stop question leaks. He advised the authorities concerned to use password locked question boxes in examination centres which will open automatically just 10-15 minutes before the exam with the help of software.

Many participants discussed ethical practice of students and parents and urged the government to be more conscious of this issue.

Abdullah Md Shukrana, president of BDF, Dr Nusrat, a member of BDF Committee, spoke. Bulbul Hasan, head of news and current affairs of London-based One TV moderated the programme.



Indigenous Students' Association and Indigenous Youth Association jointly organise a human chain at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding that the government form a separate land commission for the ethnic communities. Their other demands are inclusion of excluded indigenous people in the government gazette, and punishment for those who carried out attacks on the people of these ethnic communities. PHOTO: STAR



Waste bins set up by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) lying as trash. A total of 5,700 metal trash buckets were installed in DSCC area to keep the city clean. Of them, most have been stolen and many others damaged rendering them unfit for the purpose. The photo was taken at Motijheel in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

14 abducted fishermen rescued in Sundarbans

UNB, Bagerhat

Members of forest guard rescued 14 abducted fishermen and six fishing boats following a gunfight with robbers in Gatar Khal area under Katka sanctuary in the Sundarbans yesterday.

A team of forest guards was on patrol in Gatar Khal (channel) around 1:30pm. Sensing their presence, robbers opened fire, forcing the forest guards to retaliate, said Mahmudul Hasan, divisional forest officer (east zone).

Later, they rescued six fishermen, abducted for ransom and seized three boats. In other drives, eight more fishermen and three boats were rescued, said Lt Commander Mahdin, commanding officer of BCG (west zone) in Mongla.

Engage local orgs in aid

FROM PAGE 3

Coast Assistant Director Mujibul Haque Munir said 12 agencies are leading 14 humanitarian response clusters at refugee camps at present.

Only one of those is a local NGO, while four are international NGOs and seven UN agencies, said Munir, stressing the need for providing an opportunity for local organisations.

Helal Uddin, director, NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, said 110 NGOs are operational in Cox's Bazar at present. Most of these are international organisations who are implementing over 250 projects.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said local NGOs have increased their capacity over the years.

These NGOs also needed to bring expertise from outside, "but those days are far gone now", she said.

"Respect the local knowledge. Respect the capacity of local organisations," she added.

Disaster Forum Member Secretary Gowhar Nayeem Wahra said the existing relief distribution is costlier as relief-laden trucks now travel extra miles, with first going to Cox's Bazar town and then reaching the camps in Ukhia and Teknaf due to a bureaucratic process. This could be cut short to save time and money if the relief-laden trucks go straight to the camps instead, he added. Rohingya crisis is a social and moral obligation for the countrymen and a collective effort is required to face it, said Abu Morshed Chowdhury, a civil society member from Cox's Bazar.

Vincent Gule, protection officer, UNHCR Representation in Bangladesh; and Abdusattor Esoev, deputy chief of mission, IOM Bangladesh, spoke, among others.

Coast Trust Executive Director Rezaul Karim Chowdhury moderated the event.

UNHCR, IUCN join hands

FROM PAGE 3

Till 1978, he had been posted in various important ministries and the Prime Minister's Office. He worked as a senior diplomat at various Bangladesh missions including in London, Tehran, Stockholm and Moscow.

From 1996 till 2001, he had been the high commissioner of Bangladesh mission in Singapore. Then he worked as Bangladesh ambassador to Germany till 2003.

Born in Dhaka, he completed his honours and master's degrees in economics

tragically already lost their lives." Other plans include carrying out environmental education and awareness among refugees and the host communities about the importance of forest resources as well as taking steps to improve the environment in the refugee settlement areas and nearby surroundings.

The project leaders will also advocate for reforestation programmes to ensure that natural resources and shared environment are better protected.

Diplomat Ashfaqur Rahman

FROM PAGE 3

from Dhaka University. He was a "Chancellor Gold Medalist" in 1967. He began his career as a journalist, then a teacher and later a civil servant.

Ashfaqur competed in the Civil Service Examination of Pakistan and entered the erstwhile service in 1970.

Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh President Rezaul Karim Lotus and General Secretary Mahfuz Mishu, in a condolence message, prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

The Vietnamese president will hold official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office at 10:00am tomorrow.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon and the FBCCI president will call on the visiting president separately at the hotel tomorrow.

The Vietnamese president will meet President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban at 7:00pm tomorrow.

On Tuesday, the head of Bangladesh-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry will call on Tran Dai Quang. The Vietnamese president will address a session at Vietnam-Bangladesh Business Forum and also attend the opening ceremony of "Vietnam Cultural Days in Bangladesh" on that day. He will depart Dhaka at 3:00pm on Tuesday.

Vietnamese

FROM PAGE 4

Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum tomorrow. The Vietnamese president will hold official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office at 10:00am tomorrow.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon and the FBCCI president will call on the visiting president separately at the hotel tomorrow.

The Vietnamese president will meet President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban at 7:00pm tomorrow.

On Tuesday, the head of Bangladesh-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry will call on Tran Dai Quang. The Vietnamese president will address a session at Vietnam-Bangladesh Business Forum and also attend the opening ceremony of "Vietnam Cultural Days in Bangladesh" on that day. He will depart Dhaka at 3:00pm on Tuesday.

Dev possible while curbing pollution

FROM PAGE 3

growing," she said. She gave an example saying, she just came to Dhaka after attending the World's Sustainable Development Forum in New Delhi, India. There were discussions, for instance, on how Japan took drastic measures in Tokyo to curb pollution.

"And we all know Japan has continued growing a lot while curbing their air pollution," she said.

Also, Mexico City took clear measures against air pollution, and yet Mexico's GDP continued to grow.

In Dhaka's case, during winter, around 58 percent of the pollution comes from brick kilns. So, making decisions regarding those and enforcing those will be vital. Using new technology in the brick kilns industry should be an important policy decision for Dhaka, she said.

Another example of using new technology will be cleaner vehicles.

"Actually Dhaka has done that already, when it introduced the CNG [Compressed Natural Gas]. It was essentially using the enhanced technology for its motor vehicles and at a time it really brought down pollution. Now, it may be the time for a next step," she said.

When asked what about China as they do not care about curbing pollution and they have become one of the largest economies in the world, she said China has very much changed its stance towards pollu-

tion. In the last few years, China has really started to curb its air pollution and focused on reforestation. The World Bank is involved in a large project with China to reduce its air pollution. Beijing itself has taken a number of steps such as closing certain coal-fired power plants that were in its vicinity.

When asked whether it was possible to maintain a higher growth by managing natural resources in a sustainable way, she said a country has different types of capitals. It has human capital, manmade capital or the infrastructure and natural capital. The idea is that one brings these three types of capitals into balance. "Also, you would need better infrastructure and services, especially to serve the poor. A country will also need more water supply, electricity and transport."

"You will also need human capital. Bangladesh has been very good at development of human capital... education and reducing maternal mortality."

Bangladesh has really improved its human capital and it is continuing to do that, she said. "Now it's time to invest in the natural capital. Because, a country needs to manage all its assets to grow in a sustainable way." Natural capital can be defined as the stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. When asked whether she thinks Bangladesh, which has a large population,

can manage its environment in a sustainable way, she said she is convinced that it can be done. "There has been GDP growth of more than 6 percent in Bangladesh for an entire decade. I think entrepreneurship and innovation in the country and the global technological change will enable Bangladesh to do so, which I am really very confident about."

Lately, the prime minister of Bangladesh emphasised the importance of blue economy, when asked how she thinks the country can maximise its benefit from that, Karin said, "It's great that the prime minister has emphasised blue economy as it is a very important part of the economy." The idea of blue economy is that you combine sustainable coastal and ocean management with sustainable growth and development. Bangladesh has a large coastal zone and there are around 30 million people who depend on this coastal economy. Now it is the question how the country can maintain the integrated coastal zone management.

For instance, maintaining the coastal forest and mangroves that provide the nursery for fish that people depend on. At the same time, it is necessary to be climate resilient because that is also important for people living in the coastal zones, she said.