

Create more peaceful, stable region

PM urges Asian leaders
BSS, London

Viewing stability as the key to Asia's future, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Asian leaders to build bridges and strive for connectivity to make the region more peaceful and stable for its further development and prosperity.

The premier was speaking at a Commonwealth Business Forum event titled, "Asian Leaders Roundtable: Can Asia Keep Growing" at Guild Hall in London.

UK Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Hugo Swire delivered the welcome address, while CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, India Zarin Daruwala moderated the roundtable.

Hasina said the Asian countries need to be more inclusive in growth -- not just within the nations but

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Motor vehicles move in a single file on a strip of this busy road amid the ongoing construction work of the metro-rail project. With Dhaka already plagued by crippling traffic jam, this situation only adds to the sufferings of the city residents. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

14 journalists win Migration Media Award 2017

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen journalists received the Migration Media Award 2017 for their contributions in promoting and protecting the rights of migrants and their families.

An award ceremony was arranged by Brac at its headquarters in the capital yesterday to announce the winners under six categories, including print newspapers (national), print newspapers (local), television, radio, online news sites and photography, said a press release.

The awards were handed over by Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Md Nurul Islam.

The winners are Abu Jar Ansar Uddin Ahammed of Samakal; Adil Sakawat of Dhaka Tribune; Muhammad Wasim Uddin Bhuyan of New Age; Md Kamrul Islam of Dainik Jalalabad; Ashish Kumar Sarkar of Somoy Television; Jhumur Bari of Ekattor TV; Mashreq Rahat of Masranga Television; Saleh Noman of Radio Today; Md Fazlur Rahman of Dhaka Tribune; Md Kawsar Azam of thereport24.com, and Jasmine Akhter of Bannernews.

The winners also include photojournalist Saiful Islam Ronny and Abdus Salam of Prothom Alo, and Mahmud Hossain Apu of Al Jazeera and Dhaka Tribune who were also awarded for their brilliant photography.

Dr Muhammad Musa, executive director of Brac; eminent writer and journalist Anisul Hoque; and Abdusattar Esoev, Deputy Country Representative International Organisation of Migration were present among others.

The jury consisted of Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University; KM Ali Reza, deputy chief (planning) of expatriate

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Govt approves 2 more private universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved two more private universities.

The new universities are Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah University in Khulna and Ahsania Mission University of Science and Technology in Rajshahi.

The education ministry's secondary and higher education division issued an order on Tuesday giving temporary approval to the universities.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, is the patron of the universities.

With the two, the number of private universities in the country stands at 99. At present, Dhaka alone has 55 private universities.

The approval came at a time when the government is struggling to streamline some of the existing private universities, which are reportedly functioning without meeting some of the criteria laid down in the Private University Act 2010.

Besides, there were questions over the standard of education in some of these universities.

Over the last eight years since the passage of the act, the government has approved 50 private universities, many of them allegedly on political consideration.

"Prior to giving the approval, the authori-

ties of the universities were asked to strictly maintain the provisions of the act," said an official of the education ministry, preferring not to be named.

The official said around a dozen more private universities are waiting to get the government's approval.

Since the beginning of their journey in 1992, private universities have been playing a significant role in accommodating a large number of students pursuing higher education. Some of them provide high-quality education and maintain a global standard.

But there are some universities which are still running without complying with the act.

For example, the act makes it compulsory for a private university to have a permanent campus within five years of launching. But more than two dozens of universities could not move to their own campuses despite the government's several warnings.

On February 6 this year, President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of all the universities, sat with the vice chancellors of the universities.

He gave 16 directives to the universities including moving to permanent campuses, not charging additional admission fees and preparing a policy to recruit teachers.

SSC, equivalent exam result May 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously across the country on May 6.

Confirming the date, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star that he along with all 10 chairmen of the education boards will hand over a summary of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 10:00am on that day.

Later that day, the official announcement of the results will be made in a press conference at the education ministry at 12:30pm, the minister added.

This year also, results will be made available from the respective schools and education board website. Students will also be able to receive the results through SMS.

A total of 20.31 lakh students from 28,551 educational institutions under 10 educational boards appeared in this year's SSC and equivalent examinations.

Confined, she was raped for two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A 24-year-old woman has accused that a person has repeatedly raped her after confining her to an abandoned house in Wedda Dighi area of Gazipur's Sreepur.

Police sent the victim to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital for medical test yesterday noon.

The woman said a youth named Shamim got acquainted with her through one of her friends when she used to work at a garment factory in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila.

Soon, Shamim started calling her over the phone, and at one point he proposed her. As she refused, Shamim threatened to kill her. Out of fear, she left her job and started living with her family in Madhya Bhurulia area of Gazipur city. But Shamim kept on disturbing her over the phone.

On Saturday, Shamim along with his associates forced her into a car when she was returning home from her aunt's house in the area, said Moniruzzaman, sub-inspector (SI) of Sreepur Police Station, quoting the victim. They first took her to Rajendrapur in Gazipur and later Bhaluka in Mymensingh. The same night, she was taken to the house in Wedda Dighi area of Gazipur's Sreepur, said the SI.

Shamim raped her there several times in the two days till Monday, alleged the victim, adding that he had also gagged her mouth with paper so that she could not scream.

On Tuesday, she was taken to another house nearby after stuffing her into a sack with an intention to kill her, she said. But Shamim left her there after untying the sack, allowing her to draw the attention of locals who rescued her.

On information, Sreepur police reached the spot and admitted her to a hospital. The victim's uncle filed a case with Sreepur Police Station the same night. Accused Shamim could not be arrested, said police.

200 illegal structures

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there is no fish in the river now due to pollution.

"Turag is dying day by day as many influential people are grabbing the river," said Kanchan, adding that the government should stop river grabbing with strong hand.

However, some of the locals cast a doubt over the outcome of such drive. They said similar drives were conducted in the past, but the grabbers with strong political affiliation returned in the absence of a proper monitoring system.

DU withdraws Iffat's expulsion

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just 48 hours after expelling her from the organisation. Resident students of the hall alleged that Iffat had assaulted three female students of Sufia Kamal Hall on April 11 for taking part in demonstrations for quota reform.

The pro-Awami League student body said it found the BCL hall unit

assault through two sources -- DU proctor and the hall administration -- and immediately expelled Iffat.

Meanwhile, the Disciplinary Board will also issue a show-cause notice against 26 resident students of Sufia Kamal Hall who created chaos and spread rumour on the night of April 11 at the dormitory, said DU VC Akhtaruzzaman.

Hours later, the DU VC told journalists that he had verified the incident of

assault through two sources -- DU proctor and the hall administration -- and immediately expelled Iffat.

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2 girls, parents, 3 cousins held over militancy

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students, said police. The SP said they received a complaint that three women were distributing leaflets among villagers in Godagari upazila asking them to

refrain from celebrating Pahela Baishakh as "it is prohibited". Police arrested four of the women from Godagari last night and following their statements arrested the other two from Kashiadanga area in

Rajshahi city. They also held Hamid from Bagmara early yesterday. The group also ran a Facebook page, he added. "Our investigation and raids are still going on...", said the SP.

Father helps Rab arrest 'JMB militant'

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Commanding Officer Kamrul said Mitu got acquainted with Masud in July 2016 through Facebook.

Masud supplied her extremism provoking sermons of militant leader Jasimuddin Rahmani, urging her to work for the oppressed Muslims across the world. Rahmani is now in jail.

She also agreed when Masud asked her to sacrifice herself by fighting the government and its forces, the Rab official said.

Later, she started circulating extremism provoking images and video clips using her two fake Facebook IDs -- "Esho Allahr Pothe" and "Alor Poth Islam".

She intended to leave her family and accept "martyrdom for the sake of Islam", failing to radicalise her husband. She had planned to divorce her husband and marry Sumon as per the outfit's decision, Rab said.

As part of the plan, she left home on March 31 for Chittagong where Masud and Sumon arranged a house for her. The trio soon returned to Narayanganj to recruit fresh operatives in Narayanganj, Comilla and Dhaka.

According to Rab, Masud converted into Salafism through one Sami Bhai in 2005. He visited Narayanganj several times this year to recruit operatives. He used to give

sermons in the meetings and met Mitu several times.

Sumon got acquainted with Masud in late 2016 while working as a sales manager of a food product company.

Sumon got radicalised by Masud and joined JMB. He has so far recruited 10 people to the militant outfit, Rab said.

2 JMB MEN JAILED FOR 20YRS Meanwhile, a Narayanganj court yesterday sentenced two JMB men to 20 years' imprisonment each and fined them Tk 20,000, in default, to serve six months more in jail.

Judge Md Abdul Hannan of Special Tribunal-7 in Narayanganj gave the order in a case filed under the explosives act with Sonargaon Police Station.

The convicts are -- Saiful Islam, 33, and Mofizul Islam, 31, -- hailing from Narayanganj district.

SM Wazed Ali Khokhon, public prosecutor of Narayanganj court, said Rab arrested Saiful from Tangail on December 29 in 2006 along with a huge amount of arms and explosives.

Based on his information, Rab carried out a raid at Mofizul's house in Sonargaon of Narayanganj and arrested him. They also seized 19 hand grenades and bomb making materials from his possession.

Father, daughter among 4 killed

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in critical condition.

Also in Pirojpur, Abdul Jalil Gharami, 60, died at a local hospital after being injured in a motorcycle accident at Mathbaria upazila, reports our local correspondent.

Meanwhile in Chittagong, Joni, 31, died after being knocked down by a truck while he was crossing the street on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda upazila, police said quoting locals. No further details could be known immediately.

Capacity	MRP	OFFER PRICE
1 Ton Split	@ 44,900	@ 42,900
1.5 Ton Split	@ 52,900	@ 49,900
2 Ton Split	@ 67,900	@ 64,900