

## Valuables worth Tk 8 lakh gutted in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted valuables of a shop and two houses at Bahaddarhat Intersection in the port city yesterday, fire service and civil defence men said.

The flames originated from an electric short circuit in the shop and soon engulfed two adjacent houses, said Newton Das of Chittagong Fire Service Control Room.

On information, five fire fighting vehicles from two units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze around 1.45pm.

Valuables worth Tk 8 lakh were gutted, he said, adding, no casualties were reported.



Locals gather at the spot of the blaze at Bahaddarhat in Chittagong yesterday. Two units of fire fighters doused the flame.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Comilla court rejects Khaleda's bail petition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A Comilla court yesterday rejected BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail petition in an arson case filed under the special powers act in Chaudhagram in 2015.

Judge KM Shamsul Alam passed the order after hearing arguments from defence and prosecution lawyers.

Public Prosecutor Advocate Mustafizur Rahman Liton argued against the bail saying her lawyers moved the petition after three years of submitting the charge sheet.

Advocate Kaimul Haque Rinku prayed for Khaleda's bail citing her old age and health grounds and that she is a former prime minister.

The case was filed in January 2015 in Choudhagram upazila of Comilla.

## NEWSIN brief

### CU online admission process begins

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University's (CU) online admission process for first year honours in 2018-2019 academic sessions began yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury inaugurated the process at 11:00am.

The application process will continue till October 6. This year, admission tests will be held from October 27 to 31 under four units.

Applicants will compete for a total of 4,926 seats. Second-time candidates will not be able to apply. The details are available on the website.

### Teenager found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a teenager was found inside a shop in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong, police said yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rifadul Islam, 19, from Lama of Bandarban.

He used to work at Shahid Metal and Steel House, a furniture shop in the upazila, Sub-inspector Mafizul Islam of Lohagara Police Station said.

Two other workers found him hanging from the ceiling and notified the law enforcers, the SI added. His body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital Morgue for an autopsy.

### Language Movement veteran Akmat Ali dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Language Movement veteran Akmat Ali Talukder died yesterday at a hospital in Dhaka, a press release said. He was 90.

A retired teacher of Bhuapur Pilot High School, Akmat Ali was suffering from old age complications.

He left behind his wife, three sons and four daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Ghatail upazila with state-honour following a namaz-e-janaza.

Akmat Ali took part in the 1952 Language Movement, when he was a student of Dhaka University.



## No doctor promoted without political link Says Shahaduz Zaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without having political affiliation, doctors are not promoted to higher posts in Bangladesh, said Dr Shahaduz Zaman yesterday.

As a result, physicians are politically divided, said the anthropologist and litterateur, adding that consequently, the country's hospitals turn into centres of politics.

So, the problems prevailing at the hospitals are the reflection of political, social and economical problems, he said.

That way, each hospital is a reflection of the society, he added.

Dr Zaman was addressing the 25th monthly public lecture titled "A hospital in the eyes of an anthropologist and a writer".

Reading Club Trust and Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation organised the programme at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University.

In his one-hour lecture, Dr Zaman, a faculty of University of Sussex in the UK, said there is "no practice" of conversation between doctors and patients in Bangladesh.

In this regard, a class-IV employee of the respective hospitals work as a middleman, he said.

This lack of communication leads patients towards uncertainty, said Zaman.

He suggested introducing a course of communication in medical curriculum. Such a course will reduce the gap between doctors and patients, he said.

## Child marriage attempts foiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two child marriage bids were foiled at Rangunia upazila in Chittagong by an UP chairman yesterday.

Sheikh Farid Uddin, chairman of Sharaf Bhata union parishad, said when he came to know that the girls' families were marrying them off, he went to their respective residences and foiled the marriage.

"I checked their birth and educational certificates and found that they were 14 and 15 years old. So, I convinced the families [bride and groom] to stop the marriage," he said.

He also took undertakings from the families that they would not marry off their daughters until they become 18.

Imtiaz Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Rangunia Police Station, said a police team accompanied the UP chairman.

## Tragedy begets tragedy

Mother dies trying to save son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The day began like any other at the household of Anwar Hossain of Gazipur. Around 6:00am, his wife, Selina Akter, started making breakfast for the family.

Suddenly, she heard a scream outside. As the 55-year-old went out to look, she found that her only son, Selim Mia, who was charging a battery-run three-wheeler in front of the house, was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live electric wire.

Without any hesitation, she tried to pull Selim, 20, away but consequently got electrocuted herself.

When the family and neighbours found the mother and son, both were lying on the ground while Selim's head was resting on his mother's lap. She was still holding her son's hand. The incident took place at Bepari Para in Sreepur municipality.

Anwar with the help of locals took his wife and son to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared them dead, said Dr Abu Raihan.

At the health complex, Anwar was too distraught to talk. He kept on saying why did he oversleep? The couple also has a 17-year-old daughter. The youth stood silently at a corner trying to cope with the situation.

The family moved to Bepari Para in search of work, said neighbour Ayesha Begum. They had been living at the rented house for the last three years. Anwar drove the three-wheeler, which he also owned, while the mother and son worked at a spinning mill, she added.

The bodies were handed over to the family, said Mostafizur Rahman, sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station.

## Bangladesh gets South-South Award

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has given a special award to seven countries in the Asia and Pacific region, including Bangladesh, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to South-South Cooperation.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UNESCAP, Ambassador Saida Muna Tasneem, received the award given by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), on behalf of the government in a special ceremony at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok yesterday, said a press release of Bangladesh Embassy in Thailand.

Other recipient countries are India, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan.

## Project to strengthen local govt launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will implement a project to further strengthen local government structure in 16 upazilas and 240 unions under eight districts.

The five-year project was launched yesterday at an inception workshop at Department of Public Health Engineering in Dhaka.

The "Efficient and Accountable Local Governance" project, worth around Tk 60 crore (US \$7.11 million), is funded by Danish International Development Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and United Nations Development Programme, according to a UNDP press release.

The Local Government Division, which will implement the project, of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives arranged the workshop.

It will be implemented in Faridpur, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Sunamganj, Rangpur and Netrakona.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee, among others, were present at the event.

## Rise High Bangladesh at CU, Cueta

CU CORRESPONDENT

The campus activation programmes of the third season of export idea contest Rise High Bangladesh were held at Chittagong University (CU) and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cueta) amid much enthusiasm and festivity on Wednesday and yesterday respectively.

The campaign attracted vigorous response from the students. They thronged the information booths set up on the campuses to learn about the objectives, incentives and rules of participation.

The activation programme will continue throughout this month at 15 public and private universities.

Rise High Bangladesh is an initiative of The Daily Star and Crown Cement to recognise and encourage youngsters to contribute to the country's progress by generating export ideas.

**CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY**  
A large number of students thronged the booth, set up in front of the business faculty, where volunteers explained them the objectives.

A puzzle-solving game was arranged beside the booth, which

attracted the biggest crowd. Participants were asked to pick a card, containing export information of an unnamed country, which they had to identify correctly. The winners were given token gifts.

One such winner, Sifat Ullah Sifat, a third-year student of communication and journalism, said, "An export idea contest such as Rise High Bangladesh would help motivate us to think out of the box."

CU Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury said the joint initiative of The Daily Star and Crown Cement would inspire the youth to come up with export ideas and convert them into feasible business products and services.

**CUET**  
Starting at 9:00pm, the event, held at Cueta Gol Chattar, continued till 5:00pm.

Students flocked to the information booth to learn about the objectives of the campaign. Many were seen discussing their export ideas. At Cueta, the puzzle-solving game also drew the biggest crowd.

Welcoming the initiative, Cueta Vice Chancellor Prof Rafiqul Alam said events like this would help students generate innovative ideas.



Students inquire about the export idea contest at Chittagong University.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Dhaka dwellers can catch a glimpse of exotic flowering plants at the Annual Orchid Show today and tomorrow. Orchid Society of Bangladesh is organising the event at House CEN C-2, Road 95, in Gulshan.

PHOTO: ATM FARUQ

## Efficiency will land you a job anywhere in the world

UGC chairman tells CVASU workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Dr Abdul Mannan yesterday said the educated youths will have to enhance their efficiency to cope with the changing situation of the world.

"If you increase your competence, you will have no problem to get a job anywhere in the world," he told the inaugural ceremony of a workshop, "Techniques for the preparation of plastinated organs for the Anatomy Museum", at Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) in the port city.

The UGC chief said the government has approved a project of \$200 million to improve the standards of higher education in the country.

CVASU founding vice chancellor Prof Dr Nitish Chandra Debnath also spoke, among others, with incumbent VC Prof Dr Gautam Buddha Das in the chair.

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