

# Prothom Alo-SCB coding contest crowns winners

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Some 122 teams of school- and college-level computer programmers put their heads down yesterday at the University of Asia Pacific (UAP), in a battle for coding supremacy. Eventually, team Too Slow, from BCIC College emerged victors in the school level, with Team CCS from Chittagong Collegiate School coming in second. At the college level, Notre Dame College squad NDC Night King became champions, ahead of Submit DC from Dhaka College. With the slogan "Code Bhanga Jobab Dao", Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Standard Chartered Bank jointly organised the nationwide competition's final stage, with a view to increasing the interest of school and college students in computer programming and assessing their skills. A total of 582 teams registered online from the competition. Earlier, Shahriar Manzoor, the only

Bangladeshi judge at the International Collegiate programming contest (ACM-ICPC), inaugurated the competition. Speaking as chief guest at the closing ceremony, UAP Vice Chancellor and National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said it was difficult to arrange computers for the 48 contestants when the first university-level programming competition was held in the country in 1998. He said it was heartening to see a large number of school and college teams at the event. In his speech, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman said, "We want to see Bangladesh's victory in every sector. Programming and coding can play a big role in this." Among others, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Naser Ejaz Bijoy, its Head of Brand, Corporate Affairs and Marketing Bitopi Das Chowdhury, Chief Executive of Duronto TV and coordinator of Prothom Alo's youth programme Munir Hasan were present at the closing ceremony.

# Investigators fail

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Some senior teachers and students expressed their dissatisfaction, terming it a "shameful incident" in the university's history. Earlier in 2014, question papers of three courses were stolen from the office of the same department, but none could be identified by the probe committee. A senior teacher, wishing anonymity, told this correspondent that such incidents were recurring because the miscreants were not being punished. Meanwhile, the CSE department arranged fresh examinations for those courses after the incident caused resentment among students. "My previous exams went well. But this time, I had a bad exam. The incident is very disappointing. It's also frightening because it's a question of security on the campus," said a fifth semester student, requesting anonymity. CU Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury said they would take stern action against the culprits as per the recommendations of the probe committee. A general diary was filed with Hathazari Police Station on May 17. Inspector (investigation) Mohammad Shamim of the police station said they have not found "anything" in the investigation.

# 45 years of continuing friendship

**Koica, KBAA celebrate Bangladesh-South Korea ties**  
**UNB, Dhaka**  
Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) and Koica Bangladesh Alumni Association (KBAA) have celebrated 45 years of friendship between Bangladesh and South Korea. To mark the festivity, an annual event "KBAA AGM 2018" was held at a Dhaka hotel yesterday. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended it as chief guest. The minister appreciated Koica's contribution to various sectors of Bangladesh. Nazrul Islam, secretary, road, transport and bridges ministry; and Zahidul Haque, additional secretary (chief of Asia wing), economic relations division, also attended the event. They said Bangladesh is looking towards Korea for its greater role in economic growth in Bangladesh, primarily through investments and economic cooperation. Monzur Hossain, chairman of Rupali Bank Ltd and president of KBAA, highlighted the growing ties between the two countries. Joe Hyun-Gue, country director of Koica Bangladesh, mentioned that this year, Korea and Bangladesh are celebrating 45th anniversary of friendship and spoke about how Koica aspires to work towards stronger relationship.

# RAJSHAHI-GOPALGANJ ROUTE Railway launches 'Tungipara Express'

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
The west zone of Bangladesh Railway has launched "Tungipara Express" on Rajshahi-Gopalganj route for convenience of passengers. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the service through a videoconference on Thursday. For the first time, the intercity train left Rajshahi station at 3:00pm yesterday for Gopalganj. Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and railway high officials were present at the station on the occasion. Earlier at 1:30pm, the train reached Rajshahi via Ishwardi junction after it left Gobra Railway Station in Gopalganj at 6:45am, making a 256-kilometre journey in six hours. Golam Mostofa, station superintendent, told the new agency that the train will run on the route every day except for Monday and Tuesday. The zone has constructed a 55km new railway track from Kasiani to Tungipara via Gopalganj and renovated another 82km line from Kalukhali to Bhatiapara with a total cost of around Tk 1,101.33 crore. There are 14 stations and 120 bridges on the route, said Executive Engineer Mustafizur Rahman. He said the west zone has been implementing four mega projects at a cost of around Tk 1,829.76 crore aiming at bringing dynamism in the railway transportation along with boosting quality of services. At present, the zone, covering Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions, has been operating 133 trains, including 42 intercity, on different routes including the capital. Forty-seven local or shuttle and 46 commuter or mail trains are also being operated on various routes.



Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Parishad, Bangladesh Janatar Mancha and Jatiya Ganatantrik Jote form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding fixing of the maximum age to enter government service at 35 years. PHOTO: STAR

# Bam Oikya

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Referring to the dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition alliances, Zafar Hossain, president of Naya Ganatantrik Ganamorchha, said, "Is there any democratic aspect [of the dialogues and the upcoming election]?" "People in our country believe and participate in election. [But] today, they don't want to go to polling centres because they can't cast their vote..." he added. Nasir Uddin Nasu said, "A reform in the system of the government is urgent to remedy the present crisis." Among others, alliance leaders Moyeen Uddin Liton, Sarwar Morshed and AHM Shahjahan, were present at the seminar.

# Eminent citizens

**FROM PAGE 3**  
Though Gonoshasthaya officials and Limon have filed four written complaints, police were yet to record those as general diaries or cases, said Sheikh Alamgir, administration officer of Gonoshasthaya Kendra. The signatories include Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury; former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan; eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik; Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman; Barrister Sara Hossain; environmental attorney Syeda Rizwana Hasan; rights activist Badiul Alam Majumdar; Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua; Prof Dilara Chowdhury; columnist Badruddin Umar; Prof Anu Muhammad; former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, and local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed.

# 5 held with 18,000 yaba pills in capital

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Detectives arrested five alleged drug traders and recovered 18,000 yaba pills from Mirpur area of the city on Thursday night. The arrestees are Nurul Amin, 35; Abdul Aziz, 27; Md Rafique Uddin, 31, a truck driver; Md Giasuddin, 37; and Abdur Shukur, 32. Based on a tip-off, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) conducted a drive in Mazar Road area under Darus Salam Police Station around 10:30pm. During the raid, the detectives searched a truck that was parked near Dhanshiri Restaurant, said DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman yesterday. They recovered 18,000 pills from the truck and arrested the five in connection with it, he said, adding that the truck was also seized. During preliminary interrogation, the arrestees revealed that they used to bring yaba tablets to Dhaka from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, hiding those inside the truck, and then distribute those in various areas in Dhaka and nearby districts, Masudur said. **58 ARRESTED IN 24 HRS** As part of the ongoing anti-narcotics drive in the capital, DMP arrested 58 people on charges of selling and consuming drugs in 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday. DB, in association with local police stations, carried out the simultaneous drive starting at 6:00am on Thursday. A total of 18,470 yaba tablets, 1,185 packets containing around 1.05kg heroin, 1.65kg marijuana, 90 bottles of phensidyl and 475 ampoules of sedative injections were recovered from the arrestees' possession, said DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman. Some 39 cases were filed with different police stations under the Narcotics Control Act over the arrests and drug recovery, he said.

# BNP may join

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The senior AL leader said, "Oikyafront placed their seven-point demand including the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, but we want to request them not to go beyond the constitution."

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# 4-day Iranian

**FROM PAGE 5**  
as special guests. Director, Film and Cinematography Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Badrul Anam Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting. Organisers also said that a film is scheduled to be screened on the inaugural day. Two films will be screened from 11:00am to 1:00pm and from 3:00pm to 5:00pm every day, they added. Besides, another five-day Iranian film show is also going to be arranged in three different cities of the country. The film show will start from November 9. The five-day exhibition will be organised at the Shilpakala Academy auditoriums in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna cities. The exhibition will continue until November 13.

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