



Using traditional instruments and wearing colourful clothes, a troupe performs a dance during Nabanna Utsab-2018 on the premises of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka yesterday. This festival is organised around this time of the year to celebrate new harvests, with food, dance and music.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Education system has to shed colonial legacy

Speakers say at DU conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday urged the government to take proper initiatives to improve the existing education system which still bears "legacy of the British colonial era".

They demanded global-standard education facilities, including focus on information technology and special care for students with disabilities.

A group of educationists and researchers placed the demands at a conference titled "Future of Education: Fellows' Visions" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury senate building at Dhaka University (DU). In collaboration with the Bangladesh unit of German political foundation Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Centre for Genocide Studies of DU organised the conference.

In opening remarks, Professor Imtiaz Ahmed of DU International Relations department said the British introduced an education system in the subcontinent to serve its own interest, and that is why our education system is divided into three mediums: Madrasa, English and Bangla.

"The country should create its own iden-

tity and modernise the education system," he added.

Presenting a research paper on "Educating Children about peace and education: perceptions of the educators of BD", DU Center of Advanced Research in Arts and Social Science's senior fellow Kazi Sameed Sheesh said children may grow up to be violent in future if they are taught glorification of war and violence in the form of history.

"Lessons on peace should be given to children," he added.

Presenting her research on "Schools of the Future in Bangladesh", Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies Director Dr Sercin Tunali said the country's education system should be reformed in line with the global job market.

She urged teachers to be more practical instead of using traditional methods during lecture delivery.

Presenting a research on "Online Distance Learning (ODL) policy framework for Bangladesh: An empirical perspective", Islamic University of Technology teacher Dr Md Aktaruzzaman said if DU introduces online distance learning method for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Ershad appoints Masud Chy as defense adviser

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Lt Gen (ret'd) Masud Uddin Chowdhury, much-discussed for his role in the 1/11 incident, has been appointed as presidium member of Jatiya Party and defense adviser to the party chief HM Ershad.

The appointments were made following the party constitution and it will come to effect immediately, said a letter, signed by Ershad, issued yesterday.

Earlier, Masud bought nomination forms from both Awami League and Jatiya Party on November 9 and November 14, to contest the upcoming national election from Feni-3 constituency.

Masud was general officer commanding (GOC) of 9 Infantry Division at Savar when a state of emergency was declared across the country on January 11, 2007.

He was made chief coordinator of the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Govt considering free insulin for disadvantaged diabetes patients

State minister for health and family welfare says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is mulling distribution of free insulin to disadvantaged diabetes patients, who cannot survive without the drug on a regular basis.

"Destitute people who have type-1 diabetes should get insulin free of cost. We are considering how we can provide them with the drug," Zahid Malik, state minister for health and family welfare, said yesterday at a press conference organised by the ministry on the occasion of World Diabetes Day [on November 14].

According to government data, 80 lakh to one crore people in the country have diabetes and almost 50 percent of them are undiagnosed. Also, 50,000 people

die of diabetes every year.

The state minister said diabetes is a cause of a number of other diseases, including heart disease, brain stroke, kidney and eye damages.

"Diabetes also financially strains the patient. A person with diabetes spends six times higher on health than a non-diabetic person," Zahid Malik said, adding that it is a loss and suffering for the individual, family as well as the country.

Prof AK Azad, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said insulin for patients of type-1 diabetes is a human right, and the government should provide it free of cost. Type-1 diabetes is caused

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PM inaugurates new Toshakhana Museum

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged everyone to work together for upholding the country's dignity and making it a poverty and hunger-free nation.

The PM made the call while inaugurating the newly built State Toshakhana Museum (state depository) near Bangabandhu Military Museum on Bijoy Sarani in Dhaka.

She said during her government's tenure over the last 10 years, living standards of people have improved. "We want to improve the quality of life further," she said.

"We are aspiring to celebrate the golden jubilee of independence through freeing the country from poverty and hunger, and Bangladesh would be a developed nation by 2041," she said.

The five-storey state depository spanning 50,000 square feet area was constructed under the supervision of Bangladesh Army at a cost of about Taka 80 crore.

All gifts received by the president, prime minister, ministers and officials in their official capacity should be deposited to the Toshakhana under the supervision and maintenance of the Cabinet Division.

Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed, PM's Principal Secretary Md. Nozibur Rahman,

PM's Military Secretary Major General Mia Muhammad Joynul Abedin and Engineering Chief of Bangladesh Army Major General Siddiqur Rahman Sarkar also spoke on the occasion.

Bangabandhu's younger daughter Sheikh Rehana, cabinet members, PM's advisors, members of diplomatic corps, chiefs of the three services and senior civil and military officials attended the function chaired by Cabinet Secretary Md. Shafiul Alam.

Laying importance on proper preservation of all gifts received by the state dignitaries at home and abroad, the prime minister said all those gifts are state property and carry dignity and honour. So they should be properly preserved, she said.

Sheikh Hasina lamented that many gifts, documents inscribed with her name and the "boat" (election symbol of Awami League) and many rare photographs were destroyed during the BNP-Jamaat regime.

The PM thanked officials of the cabinet division, defence ministry and Bangladesh Army for their sincere work to complete the construction of the museum ahead of the schedule.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with sister Sheikh Rehana takes a walk at the newly opened Toshakhana Jadugar inside the premises of Bangabandhu Military Museum on Bijoy Sarani in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

Primary and Ebtedai terminal exams to begin on Nov 18

30 lakh students to sit for exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Ebtedai terminal examinations for fifth-grade students of schools and madrasas will begin across the country on November 18 with more than 30 lakh examinees.

There will be no multiple choice questions (MCQ) this year, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday.

The number of examinees have decreased by 28,826 this year, making it the third year in a row that the number of students have dropped.

This year, a total of 30,95,123 students have registered for the test, considered the largest public examination in the country.

Of them, 27.04 lakh students are from primary schools and around 3.18 lakh from madrasas, said the minister.

The examinees will take 600-mark examinations on six subjects in as many days with English on the first day. The tests will end on November 26.

"We have already made all-out preparations to hold the examination in free and transparent manner," said Mostafizur Rahman.

He also said the ministry took special security measures to prepare and distribute question papers.

This year, 3,294 students with special needs will sit for the exams, and they will get additional 30 minutes.

SONARGAON FARMLAND SC extends stay on earth filling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its earlier order that asked the authorities concerned to stop sand and earth filling of farmlands and wetlands around Meghna river in six moujas of Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila.

The apex court also directed the High Court bench led by Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury to expeditiously hear and dispose of a rule issued by the HC in 2014, questioning the legality of earth and sand filling.

The six moujas are: Pirojpur, Jainpur, Chhoyhissa, Char Bhobonathpur, Batibandha and Ratanpur.

A seven-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers

Association (Bela).

Bela's lawyer Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan told The Daily Star that the apex court order will continue until the HC delivers a verdict on its 2014 rule.

On November 5, Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner Rabbi Miah appeared before the apex court as per its earlier order. He had produced some photographs before the judges, saying no earth and sand filling is taking place in the agricultural land and wetlands in six moujas.

Following Bela's petition, the apex court on August 14 had ordered Sonargaon Economic Zone's Managing Director Md Noor Ali to refrain from sand and earth filling of farmlands and wetlands around Meghna river in the six moujas.

The highest court also ordered the Narayanganj DC to halt the earth filling and remove whatever has been

dumped, in compliance with the HC order and an order by the DC.

DC Rabbi Miah, in the October 2016 letter, asked the local Upazila Nirbahi Officer to halt the work, remove whatever has been dumped and take legal action against the offender in keeping with the HC's ban.

On March 2, 2014, following Bela's writ petition, the HC directed Unique Properties Development Ltd, a private housing company, to stop further filling up of land for establishing its Sonargaon Resort City, a housing project, at Sonargaon upazila.

The court also ordered it to remove the soil it had already dumped in the project area and advertisements from its website within the next two months.

Advocate AM Aminuddin, Advocate Minhazul Haque Chowdhury and Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Kabir appeared for Bela.

Govt body to review 'moving road' concept

Abu Sayeed's radical plan to ease Dhaka traffic

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

A design concept to ease Dhaka's traffic congestion, by creating an overhead moving walkway, is being reviewed by a government committee.

Abu Sayeed, who conceived the project last year, made the disclosure yesterday during a demonstration of his prototype at the parking area of his

house in the capital's Mirpur.

On September 27, 2017, a working scale model of the moving road was first showcased in an exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka. On October 30 this year, it was displayed at the monthly coordination meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

Abu Sayeed informed that the government has formed a 10-member

committee led by additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) Md Zakir Hossain Majumder. On November 26, the committee will sit in its second meeting in this regard.

The moving road, six feet in width, will be elevated 20 feet above the ground, with stations at every 200 metre intervals. It will stop every two minutes for 10 seconds for passengers to get on and off board. There will be seats on the road, as well as standing space.

Abu Sayeed claimed that a one-kilometre stretch of moving road -- that will run on electricity -- could transport 10,500 passengers one kilometre within a minute or two.

He further made the ambitious claim that the mode of transportation will cost one-fifth of the metro rail, with a cost of around Tk 200 crore per kilometre.

The same length of metro rail costs over Tk 1,000 crore, he said.

Besides, it will give city dwellers respite from traffic mess and air pollution by reducing dependency on public and private vehicles.

Contacted, Md Zakir Hossain Majumder told The Daily Star,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A simulated image of the moving road.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DU 'GHA' UNIT Fresh exam for admission today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fresh admission test of "Gha" unit under social sciences faculty of Dhaka University will be held today.

University authorities on October 23 decided to hold the test afresh, following a question leak scam, but did not scrap the entire test.

A total of 18,463 admission seekers, who scored the pass mark in the first exam, are eligible to retake the test against 1,615 seats.

The hour-long exam will be held from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at 19 centres inside DU campus.

The allegation of the question paper leak surfaced midway through the test on October 12. Authorities initially denied the allegation, terming it a "digital forgery".

In face of protests, the authorities formed a probe body, which found evidence of question leak.

Six people, including an admission seeker and his father, were arrested over the incident.



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