

High achievers of Cambridge exams lauded

Forty-eight English medium students, who won "Top in the World" awards in this year's Cambridge examinations in June, received accolades for their academic results at a ceremony yesterday.

The students, from 13 different schools, achieved the highest marks in the world in a range of individual subjects in Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), Cambridge O-level, and Cambridge International AS- and A-level exams.

The ceremony was jointly hosted by Cambridge International and British Council, Bangladesh, at the International Convention City, Bashundhara in the capital. At the ceremony, 35 students were also recognised for achieving "Top in Country" awards in the exams. Organisers said 98 Bangladeshi students received "Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards".

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



Environmental activists demand an official list of the people grabbing river land across the country. They made the call from a human chain organised under the banner of "Nongor Bangladesh" in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

7 held over question paper leak in Dhaka

The Detective Branch of police yesterday claimed to have arrested seven members of a question paper leak gang from different areas of the capital.

The arrestees allegedly leaked question papers of exams held at different ministries and used to charge the candidates Tk 5 lakh to Tk 8 lakh, said Mohammad Alaiddin, assistant commissioner of DB (serious crime unit).

The arrestees are Sohel Rana, Robiul Auwal, Mahmudul, Anarul Islam, Sri Debasish, Rajiul Rahman and Rezaul Karim.

On information, law enforcers conducted drives in Siddheshwari, Mirpur and Kalabagan and made the arrests. The team also seized eight electronic devices, 29 batteries, three pendrives, nine Bluetooth devices, nine SIM cards and eight cellphones.

"Of them, Sohel is the mastermind and in primary interrogation, he admitted to have collected over Tk 1 crore from admission seekers," said AC Alaiddin.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the gang used to leak question papers of ministries' recruitment and competitive exams.

He was addressing reporters at DMP media centre yesterday.

The gang members usually get inside the exam hall as examinees. They take pictures of the question paper with electronic devices and send those to others waiting outside. They then quickly solve the questions and forward the answers to the actual examinees, he said.

A case was filed with Ramna Police Station, he added.

Beijing for 'strategic mutual trust'

Five suggestions placed

UNB, Dhaka

China has placed five specific suggestions for deepening the Bangladesh-China strategic partnership of cooperation with an emphasis on deepening "strategic mutual trust", saying the next decade will see "faster changes" in the international alignment of forces.

"First, we need to deepen strategic mutual trust and then we need to deepen economic integration," said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo while sharing his thoughts at Cosmos Dialogue yesterday.

Cosmos Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bangladeshi conglomerate Cosmos Group, hosted the symposium titled 'Bangladesh-China Relations: Prognosis for the Future' at a city hotel yesterday, where Bangladeshi and Chinese experts participated.

The three other suggestions are to deepen innovation and interaction; have stronger cooperation on experience sharing on security; and deepen cultural and people's connectivity.

Ambassador Zuo was addressing as chief guest at the dialogue.

About the upcoming election, The Chinese Ambassador said, "We hope, you'll have a very smooth election." He was talking to reporters after attending the dialogue.

About the Rohingya issue, Zhang Zuo said China will continue to play a constructive role in properly solving the problem of Rakhine State, in accordance with

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Section of Viqarunnisa students to boycott classes

They demand release of teacher Hasna Hena

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meanwhile, some guardians present there yesterday expressed frustration as they think such protests by different groups would hamper educational environment at the institution.

Wishing anonymity, father of a class XI student said a vested quarter is trying to provoke the students. "This has become chaotic, with students protesting and boycotting classes for two opposing reasons. If Hasna Hena is innocent, it will be proved legally," he said.

The annual examinations resumed Friday after three days of protest over the suicide of Arityr.

On Thursday, the students decided to go back to class after getting assurances that their six-point demand would be met. They said their protest had nothing to do with the arrest of Hena as it came following a case filed by Arityr's father and an education ministry investigation.

After the death of Arityr, protests by students and guardians rocked the 66-year-old institution and prompted the education ministry, school authorities and law enforcers to take action.

In a probe, the ministry found three teachers responsible - acting principal Nazneen Ferdous, morning shift in-charge Zinat Akhtar, and class teacher Hena. They were suspended later.

The authorities appointed Assistant Professor Hasina Begum as acting principal and Mohsin Talukder as morning shift in-charge.

A group of students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College have decided to boycott classes from today demanding release of their teacher Hasna Hena from jail.

The students demonstrated in front of the college for around two hours yesterday and declared to start a class boycott at the end of the programme. Around 100 current and former students and some guardians took part in the demonstration.

The protesters said only students of class XI will boycott classes because all other students are taking their annual examination at present.

Hasna Hena is one of the three teachers sued for "provoking the suicide" of ninth-grader Arityr Adhikary. A Dhaka court sent her to jail on Thursday.

The protesters claimed that Hasna Hena was not involved in insulting Arityr and her parents; she was accused in the case for being the class teacher of Arityr.

Asked about the education ministry's probe finding Hasna Hena and two other teachers responsible, they expressed displeasure and demanded a proper investigation.

The group started their agitation after students demanding justice for Arityr's death postponed theirs on Thursday.

On Friday, some teachers were also seen taking part in the demonstration for release of Hena.

JUJA awards 3 journalists

JU CORRESPONDENT

Three campus reporters of Jahangirnagar University (JU) were awarded the "Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) Investigative Journalism Award-2018" yesterday, for their outstanding reports on the university.

The awardees are: Md Nur Alam of banglanews24.com, Md Asaduz Zaman of The Daily Star and Saif Uddin Abir of daily Manobkhantha.

Asaduz Zaman won the second prize for a report titled "Curious case of JU," published in The Daily Star June 10 last year.

The awards were handed over to the winners by university's Treasurer Prof Sheikh Md Monzurul Huq, in a ceremony held at the university's Zahir Raihan Auditorium.

JUJA President Nur Alam Himel chaired the event while advisor Prof Bashir Ahmed and JU Proctor Sikder Md Zulkamaine were present, among others.

No need to sugarcoat disability: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A person with disability has the same fundamental rights like everyone else. Having some form of disability is a natural, normal part of society, so there is no need to sugarcoat it with words like "differently-able" or "specially challenged", speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

They said these expressions acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses, thus highlighting what people with disabilities can do. But those do not do enough to recognise the physical, emotional, and psychological limitations disability places on an individual just by the nature of its existence.

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) organised the session titled, "Communication Skill Development and Use Media to Protect and Promote Human Rights of Women with Disabilities" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Members of the rights organisation, journalists and people with disabilities took part in the programme.

Zahirul Islam Mamun, chief executive editor of ATN Bangla, said, "There is a tendency among some parents to hide their children with disabilities due to social stigma. A change in mindset is a must in this regard."

Shirin Akhter, chairperson of WDDF, said persons with disabilities face discrimination in every sphere of life. "Women with disabilities are the worst sufferers as they are deprived of rights because of the existing social attitude towards them."

Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director of WDDF, said there are 11 acts and policies on women and persons with disabilities but they are not being implemented properly.

Mahfuza Jasmine, special correspondent



of news agency Bangladesh Sangha Sangstha (BSS), recommended reserving some seats in parliament for people with disabilities to ensure their political rights. Rabeya Baby, staff reporter of The Daily Ittefaq, focussed on enhancing awareness so that persons with disabilities could have better access to education and employment opportunities. Masum Akhter, vice chairperson of WDDF, also spoke.

Obaidur Rahman Khan
01.07.1944 - 09.12.2017

"Wise men at their end know dark is right"
He went gently into the night

"For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life"

Ensure legal

FROM PAGE 3

system in the country. BLAST Executive Director Sara Hossain chaired the session.

At the closing session, speakers urged government to bring the laws concerned in conformity with international human rights standards, and situating the rape law reform agenda in the national action plan on violence against women. They said the law should be reformed if the government wants fulfillment of sustainable development goals.

With Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam in the chair, Programme Analyst of UN Women Mahtabul Hakim, Prothom Alo News Advisor Qurratul Ain Tahmina and journalist Nobonita Chowdhury spoke at the session.

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Good Change for the World

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Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.
Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

Good Neighbors is an International NGO in general consultative status with UN ECOSOC

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