

# Upazila chairmen of Khulna take oath

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Thirty-six newly elected upazila chairmen, 36 vice-chairmen and 36 women vice-chairmen of seven districts in Khulna division took oath yesterday, at the conference room of Khulna DC office.

Khulna Divisional Commissioner Lokman Hossain Mia administered the oath to the elected public representatives of 36 upazilas in the division.

Hossain Ali Khandoker, director of Local Government Division in Khulna, presided over the ceremony.

# JCI Bangladesh to hold leadership conclave

CITY DESK

JCI Bangladesh is organising "JCI Bangladesh Leadership Conclave: Together Towards Tomorrow", says a press release.

The conclave is designed with three topics where experts will discuss leadership topics in three sessions.

The sessions -- "The Influx of Generation Z: Deal to Lead", "Embracing Creativity and Innovation in Finance Industry" and "The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Are we there" -- covers a broad spectrum of issues relating to the economic and social growth.

Salman F Rahman, adviser to the prime minister for private industry and investment, will be present as chief guest.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for Information and Communication Technology; and Sheikh Fazle Fahim, senior vice president, FBCCI, will attend as special guests.

JCI Executive Vice President Amzad Hussain and JCI Bangladesh National President Irfan Islam will also join the event.

# New executives for Lions Clubs International

CITY DESK

Ln Dr Shahidul Islam was elected as district governor for 2019-20, during the 24th annual district convention of Lions Clubs International, District 315A1 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on April 15, says a press release.

Ln Md Nazrul Islam Sikder PMJF became the 1st vice district governor while Arch Nikhil Chandra Guha became the 2nd vice district governor.

Newly elected district governors appointed as PDG honorary committee are Ln Dr MA Halim Patwary, Vice Chairman Ln Kalpana Rajiuddin MJF, Cabinet Secretary Ln Dr Shameem Alam, Cabinet Treasurer Ln Akkas Ali, Convention Chairman Ln Dr Mohammed Saiful MJF, Convention Secretary Ln Nowzatr Sarwat Islam MJF and District Training Coordinator Ln Dr Anisur Rahman MBA.

# Attract youth to agricultural sector

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Mentioning that rural areas of Bangladesh remain underserved and face a wide array of challenges, the report called for rural revitalisation, highlighting policies, institutions, and investments that can transform rural areas into vibrant and healthy places to live, work, and raise families.

"Rural revitalisation is timely, achievable, and most importantly critical to ending hunger and malnutrition in just over a decade," said Shenggen Fan, while presenting the report. "Revitalising rural areas can stimulate economic growth and tackles challenges hold-

ing back achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and climate goals by 2030."

To overcome these challenges, IFPRI recommended a systematic approach to address rural employment, women's empowerment, environment, rural energy and rural governance.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said the "youth exodus" from agriculture and rural areas is a big problem.

"We have to think how to incentivise the youth to stay in rural areas."

About this, agriculture minister Dr

Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said, "I would like to see the youth take agriculture as a prestigious occupation."

"We have surplus production of different agricultural products. But problem is we cannot export those due to some barriers," the minister added.

Mentioning increased labour and other production material cost, including fertiliser and pesticides, speakers urged the government to address the issue of farmers' profits.

"There must be a clear vision in rural urbanisation," said Khan Ahmed Sayeed Murshid.

# Dhaka-Rajshahi under 5 hours

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launch the service on April 14, first day of the Bangla year.

The train, that has 12 new coaches imported from Indonesia, is waiting at Ishwardi junction and it would be taken to Rajshahi on April 23 for the inauguration, railway officials in Rajshahi said.

As per its regular schedule, the 928-seat train will start at 7am from Rajshahi station and reach Dhaka at 11:40am. It would start again from Dhaka at 1:30pm and reach Rajshahi at 6pm.

Three intercity trains -- Silk City, Padma and Dhumketu Express -- are currently operating daily on the Rajshahi-Dhaka route, having stoppages at 10 to 14 stations.

A nonstop train between the capital and Rajshahi has been a long-time demand of the region's people.

**ADVANCE EID TICKETS AT 6 SPOTS**  
Advance train tickets for upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr for travelling from Dhaka will be available at six

spots -- five in the capital and one in Gazipur, Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon said yesterday.

The six spots are Dhaka University, Fulbaria, Mirpur, Kamalapur Railway Station and Airport Railway Station in the capital, and Joydebpur in Gazipur, reports UNB.

**MOBILE APP LAUNCHING ON APRIL 28**  
A mobile app -- enabling passengers to avail a number of services -- will be launched on April 28, Pronab Kumar Ghosh, additional secretary of the railways ministry, said yesterday.

The railways minister is expected to inaugurate the service at Kamalapur Railway Station at 11 am on that day.

At first, all intercity trains will come under the service, Pronab, also head of a member committee formed to implement the project, said.

Total number of trains in Bangladesh is 352, of which 90 are intercity, according to BR.

Officials said once the app is operational, a

passenger will be able to book and buy train tickets and pay using their phones, as well as locate nearby railway station, trains and transport service.

A passenger will also be able to buy food using the app. To avail the services, a passenger has to download the app and register -- providing name, address, mobile number and NID card number or birth registration certificate, they said.

Currently one can avail several services -- including booking of tickets -- online and via SMS. Once the app is launched, people can avail all services from one platform, they said.

Of the total tickets, 25 percent are sold online currently which may increase up to 50 percent after the app is launched, an official said.

Pronab, however, said the minister will take a decision in this regard later.

*Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi contributed to this report.*

# United Hospital observing National Healthcare Week



CITY DESK

United Hospital in Dhaka is observing National Healthcare Week 2019, says a press release.

As part of it, a free health checkup booth was inaugurated at the hospital lobby by Mohammad Faizur Rahman, CEO of United Hospital, in presence of doctors, nurses and other officials yesterday.

He lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's call to encourage all healthcare organisations to provide clean and conducive environment, and extensive healthcare

services which eventually will increase health awareness.

More than 500 patients and their families availed free health checkup from the booth.

In addition, programmes like strengthening of hospital cleanliness activities and distributing pamphlets on health awareness were undertaken.

Dr Shagufa Anwar, chief of communications and business development at the hospital, thanked the hospital's consultants and nurses for their dedicated services on National Health Service Week (April 16-20).

# 63pc female terror

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militancy being influenced by their family members, mostly their husbands.

Influence of family members, a sense of belonging and empowerment, ideological commitment, hope of reward in the afterlife, frustration and fear of uncertainty, and revenge for loss of family members are the major causes of females joining militant groups, CITC officials found.

The Daily Star Associate Editor Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahedul Anam Khan said terrorism arose in the country because of external influence, and at times lack of good governance is also responsible.

Canadian High Commissioner Benoit Préfontaine stressed on raising awareness among people and coordination among law enforcement and security agencies.

Chiran Jung Thapa, a Nepalese security analyst; Silvia Tieri, research analyst of Institute of South Asian Studies at National University of Singapore; and Shafqat Munir, a research fellow at BIPSS, presented separate keynote papers.

BIPSS President Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman and Ayesha Kabir, consulting editor (English section) of Prothom Alo, spoke on the occasion, among others.

# Understanding

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said the active participation of small ethnic groups with their creative ideas and knowledge is important for the successful implementation of Vision 2021.

He said understanding cultural diversity would help the country to prevent ethnic divisions.

# Road accidents

FROM PAGE 5

In Feni, an assistant of an ambulance was killed as the vehicle and a covered truck collided on Feni-Noakhali highway in Ramnagar of Daganbhuiyan.

The deceased -- Rubel, 25 -- was from Yakubpur area in the upazila.

An elderly person died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Khaiara area of Sadar upazila, said police.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

In Cumilla, a motorbike rider was killed and another injured as a vehicle hit the bike on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Jhagurjhuli area of Sadar upazila.

Riad Hossain, 18, from Durgapur in Adarsha Sadar upazila, died instantly.

The injured was admitted to a hospital. Highway Police said they could not identify the vehicle.

# Ministry takes action

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After investigation, the ministry found proof regarding the allegations.

The ministry afterwards cancelled Ababil Travel's license and also forfeited its security deposit after hearing.

In some cases, the religious affairs ministry also advised victims to file criminal cases against the owners of respective tour agencies.

Contacted, Shahadat Hossain Taslim, secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), said only realising fines or cancelling licenses of hajj agencies could not deter hajj operators from causing sufferings to pilgrims.

"The government should be careful so that middlemen are not involved in hajj operations," he added.

The secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh said middlemen were mostly behind the irregularities.

Proprietor of Mouri Air International, Nozir Ahmed Azad, said he has appealed to the ministry for reviewing its decision, which was made on Wednesday.

"We are waiting for the final decision following the review," he added.

Phone numbers provided on web sites of Ababil Travel and Salwa Overseas were found to be incorrect.

# Make disaster

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BNP-Jamaat regime, she said, "The then government was not aware about the disaster for which tens of thousands of people were killed."

In this context, she said her government had successfully tackled the 1997 cyclone and the 1998 flood, minimising the casualties significantly.

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