2,730 more schools get MPO benefits

UNB, *Dhaka*

The government has brought 2,730 new educational institutions from across the country under the monthly pay order (MPO) scheme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina revealed the names of the new institutions at Gono Bhaban yesterday. The new list includes 1,651 schools and colleges, 557 madrasas, and 522 technical and vocational institutions.

The decision will take retrospective effect from July this year.

The last time 1,624 institutions were brought under the MPO scheme in 2010, and up till now more than 4.5 lakh teachers and employees of 26,340 educational institutions were enjoying MPO benefits. Under this scheme, non-government teachers get their basic pay as well as some monthly allowances from the public fund.

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Police drag a protester during the primary school teachers' demonstration for better pay in front of the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. The teachers want pay upgrade for headmasters and assistant teachers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PAY DISPARITY

Pry teachers threaten to boycott tests, close schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of government primary schools yesterday issued an ultimatum that they would boycott the upcoming Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) if their demand for better pay was not met by November 13.

They announced this at a brief rally at Doyel Chattar in Dhaka University area after police thwarted their scheduled rally at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The PECE is to start on November 17.

Several thousand teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Prathomik Shikkhak Oikya Parishad, a platform of 14 teacher associations, started to gather at the Central Shaheed Minar since morning, but police did not allow them to gather for "not having permission".

The teachers then wanted to demonstrate on the street. As police started

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ROHINGYAS IN RAKHINE

UN sees risk of genocide recurring

AP, *United Nations*

The head of a UN fact-finding mission on Myanmar warned Tuesday that "there is a serious risk of genocide recurring" against the estimated 600,000 members of the Rohingya Muslim minority still living in the country.

Marzuki Darusman told the General Assembly's human rights committee that "if anything, the situation of the Rohingya in Rakhine state has worsened," citing continued discrimination, segregation, restricted movement, insecurity and a lack of access to land, jobs, education and health care.

The government of Myanmar, a Buddhist-majority nation, has refused to recognize Rohingya as citizens or even as one of its ethnic groups, rendering the vast majority stateless.

Myanmar's military began a harsh counterinsurgency campaign against the Rohingya in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and burning of their homes.

The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, which Darusman heads, said in its final report last month that Myanmar should be held responsible in international legal forums for alleged genocide against the Rohingya.

"There is a strong inference of

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PROBE INTO ILLEGAL CASINOS

ACC seeks travel ban on 22 people

Most of them former, current leaders of ruling party and its associate bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has asked the Special Branch (SB) of police to impose exit restrictions on 22 people -- most of them current or former leaders of Awami League and its front organisations -- who have allegedly amassed illegal wealth.

An exit restriction would prevent the named individuals from leaving the country.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, who is leading an enquiry into the illegal wealth of the leaders, sent the letter to the special superintendent of SB.

The letter said they had information that the leaders might be trying to emigrate to evade trial and asked steps be taken to prevent them from doing so.

A police high up confirmed receiving the letter. "We're taking necessary steps in this regard," he said.

Meanwhile, the ACC yesterday filed two separate cases against Dhaka Wanderers Club's casino shareholder Enamul Haque Enu and his brother Rupon Bhuiyan, who are both on the run, for amassing Tk 35 crore beyond their known source of income, said ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

Earlier on Monday, ACC had filed two separate cases against contractor SM Golam Kibria Shamim and his mother for amassing Tk 297.08 crore and expelled Jubo League Dhaka South Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan for having Tk 5.58 crore beyond any known source of income.

In yesterday's letter, the ACC also said it had primarily found the leaders involved in money-laundering.

The ACC asked for the exit restrictions on lawmakers Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon and Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, expelled Dhaka South Jubo League president Ismail Chowdhury Samrat and his aide Enamul Haque Arman, organising secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan,

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ROAD TRANSPORT ACT

The law goes into effect on November 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a year after it was enacted, the Road Transport Act-2018 will be enforced from November 1.

In the last one year, officials of the road transport and bridges ministry on multiple occasions said the government had not been able to enforce the law because its rules were not framed yet. The officials still do not have the rules, but are going to enforce the law anyway.

Following widespread student protests for safe roads last year, the parliament passed the act in September, aiming to bring discipline on the roads.

But the government had not issued a gazette putting the law into effect.

Then the Road Transport and Highway Division last Tuesday issued the gazette stating that the law would be enforced from next month, according to its Secretary Nazrul Islam.

Meanwhile, different transport organisations have been demanding amendments to several

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Russia discovers 5 Arctic islands

AFP, *Moscow*

Russia's navy said on Tuesday it had discovered five new islands revealed by melting glaciers in the remote Arctic.

An expedition in August and September charted the islands, which have yet to be named and were previously hidden under glaciers, said the head of the northern fleet, Vice Admiral Alexander Moiseyev.

"Mainly this is of course caused by changes to the ice situation," Moiseyev, who headed the expedition, said at a press conference in Moscow.

"Before these were glaciers; we thought they were (part of) the main glacier."

"Melting, collapse and temperature changes led to these islands being uncovered."

Glacier loss in the Arctic in the period from 2015 to 2019 was more than in any other five-year period on record, a United Nations report on global warming said last month.

Russia has opened a string of military and scientific bases in the Arctic in recent years, with interest in the region growing as rising temperatures open up shipping routes and make hitherto

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NUSRAT MURDER

Tribunal set to deliver verdict today

A CORRESPONDENT, *Feni*

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Feni is set to deliver the verdict in the madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi murder case today.

The victim's family and the state counsel hope for maximum punishment of the accused.

"We have succeeded in proving that the accused are involved in the killing. People are eagerly waiting for the verdict. We hope that the tribunal will give the accused maximum punishment," said Feni's Public Prosecutor Hafez Ahmed.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the victim's brother Mahmudul Hasan

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 24

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-36	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-39	7-45

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