

PHOTO OF THE DAY

FIROZHAMED



A bus emits black smoke forcing two jaywalkers to cover their mouths. The new Road Transport Act came into effect on Friday with provisions for harsher penalties and stringent punishments for violation of traffic rules. But unfit vehicles continue to ply the city roads while drivers and pedestrians flout the rules. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE
Region-based strategy needed, experts say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists and economists at a seminar yesterday urged the government to prepare its strategies for combating climate change impacts based on region and geographic condition.

In Bangladesh, geographic pattern is not the same everywhere, while the type and intensity of natural disaster and other climate change impacts also differ region-wise, they said.

Therefore, the government strategy on climate change should vary for regions and all regional strategies should be unified under one national strategy, which is absent now, they added.

Coastal Association for Social Transformation (COAST) Trust and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) jointly organised the seminar to review the proposed draft of "National Strategy on Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSMDCIID)".

The event was held at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital. Providing his observations on the draft strategy, Salehin Sarfaraz, a coordinator and advocacy officer of COAST Trust, said the proposed national strategy lacks participation of relevant people -- like climate victims, activists and civil society representatives.

"That's why, it might become a standalone policy document -- as in many other cases when the policy is developed by consultants only," he said in a keynote presentation.

To make the strategy people-friendly, he suggested the authorities concerned to share the draft with the communities who are vulnerable to climate change and

AL'S 21ST COUNCIL
No foreign delegates to be invited this time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League will not invite any foreign delegates at its 21st triennial national council, slated for December 20 and 21.

"As per custom, political leaders from other countries are invited to attend Awami League's national council, but this year we're not inviting foreign delegates," Dipu Moni, joint general secretary of Awami League, said yesterday while talking to reporters at the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Earlier, a meeting of sub-committee on reception formed as part of the party's efforts to make the council successful was held at the party office where AL presidium member Mohammed Nasim, also convener of the committee, was present.

Awami League has chalked out March 2020 to March 2021 to observe "Mujib Year" across the country, to mark birth centenary of Father of

Be smart while dealing with China
Prof Belal Ehsan Baaquie tells govt



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will have to deal with China intelligently since for the first time in its history, China has been fully engaged with the world and the global power may rise as the world's largest economy, said Belal Ehsan Baaquie, a professor at International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

"The impact of China on us is basically creating a new space [for us] that did not exist before. That is a good development. We have to be intelligent while using the opportunity," said the noted physicist and social researcher.

He said this while addressing a memorial lecture in honour of Quazi Nooruzzaman Bir Uttam, commander of sector 7 during the Liberation War, at Social Science Building of Dhaka University. Quazi

Nooruzzaman Trust organised the lecture. Among others, distinguished personalities and academics were present at the lecture titled "Modern China and Chinese Dynasties: Unification and Fragmentation".

During his lecture, Baaquie, a professor of quantitative finance, said examples of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be followed while dealing with China.

"You don't make China your enemy. You get a better deal. They know that USA is waiting to grab the opportunity... Japan will also do the same... We must play the game," he said.

Prof Baaquie said China's One Belt, One Road initiative is a reflection of its strength. "China's presence in the world is bringing about a qualitative change in the architecture of international

JSC AND JDC EXAMS
66,000 candidates absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 66,194 candidates were absent on the first day of Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations while 38 students were expelled for resorting to unfair means.

Madrassa board stood highest in terms of absentees as 21,232 students did not appear at the Quran Majid and Tajbid exams yesterday.

A total of 44,962 candidates of nine general education boards were absent at the Bangla exam, according to the control room of the education ministry.

Among the general boards, highest 13,192 examinees under Dhaka board were absent while Sylhet board had the lowest number with 2,996 absent candidates.

Of the expelled students, 18 are from Mymensingh board, eight from Barishal, five from Rajshahi, two each from Dhaka, Cumilla and Madrasa boards, and one from Dinajpur board.

Meanwhile, one invigilator from Mymensingh board was expelled for "assisting" students in using unfair means.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said law enforcers are vigilant about those who spread rumours on social media about leaking of question papers.

"There is no question paper leak this year but still rumours are being spread. Strict action will be taken against those who spread rumours," she said.

The minister was talking to reporters after visiting PM Pilot Secondary High School in Jinjira area of Keraniganj, a centre for Junior School Certificate examinations.

The minister also urged students and guardians to focus more on education rather than worrying about question paper leak.

She further said action will be taken against coaching centres that are still operating, ignoring the government instruction to stop their operation during the examinations.

JSC exam will end on November 11 while JDC will end on November 13.

'We're with AL'

Affirms Menon at inauguration of Workers Party's 10th congress



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst a boycott by six dissident central leaders and two politburo members at the party's 10th congress, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday affirmed that his party will continue its alliance with the ruling Awami League.

"Maintaining an alliance with Awami League is still needed to establish a Bangladesh in line with the spirit of Liberation War," he said.

Menon was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of his party's 10th congress held "with a vow to continue its fight against corruption, inequality and sectarianism" at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh

auditorium in the capital.

The party president, who has been facing a chorus of criticism on ideological grounds from some central leaders, said his party had formed its alliance with the pro-Liberation War forces to fight against militancy, fundamentalism and communalism that increased during the BNP-Jamaat period.

Citing existing disparity among people, Menon said there have been many development activities in the country. "But not all have a fair share in that development. Rather, a handful of people made a lot of money and they are smuggling it abroad," he alleged.

He also hailed the government's

Residential Model College student buried
Remarks on social media causing misunderstanding, Kishor Alo editor says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Residential Model College student Naimul Abrar, who was electrocuted to death on Friday, was buried at his village home in Noakhali yesterday.

Meanwhile, fellow students of the ninth grader yesterday demonstrated in front of the college, demanding proper investigation into the death during anniversary celebration of the youth magazine Kishor Alo.

After Abrar's janaza at his village home, his father Mujibur Rahman told the media that he had no complaints against anyone.

Mujibur Rahman, however, said it would have been better if his son were taken to a nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, Editor of Kishor Alo Anisul Hoque expressed deep shock over the tragic death.

"We are shocked and speechless... Kishor Alo strives for safe childhood, for the development of children as enlightened persons. It's a great blow and matter of regret that an adolescent became a victim of a tragic death while attending a Kishor Alo programme," he said.

The editor said some remarks are being posted on social media which are not true and causing misunderstanding. It has been said that Abrar's death news was "concealed" and the programme continued, which are untrue.

The accident happened when the last artist was performing on stage. Immediately, he [Abrar] was taken to the emergency medical camp set up near the venue. Later, he was taken to the intensive care unit of Universal Hospital in Mohakhali in an ambulance.

Kishor Alo authorities came to know about his death after the programme ended. So, the programme did not continue, neither was the news concealed.

Anisul said some commented that Abrar was taken to the hospital as it sponsored the programme but it is not true either. Rather, two of its doctors were working at the emergency medical camp. They immediately decided to take him to Universal Hospital during the crisis.

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Country needs a political research institution

Speakers say at Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation's book launch



From right, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury; National Professor Anisuzzaman; renowned economist Dr Akbar Ali Khan; member of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation board of trustees M Syeduzzaman; Foundation Director General Prof Ahrar Ahmad and Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair at the book launching event yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An institution or think tank should be developed in the country to conduct research on specific political issues, eminent citizens said yesterday.

The activities of such an institution can help solve many problems and provide answers to the questions prevailing in

our country's political scenario at present, they said at a book launch ceremony.

Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation organised the event at Bengal Boi, a bookstore and community space in the capital.

At the ceremony, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation's book "Samaj Rashtira Bibartan: Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Gunijan

Bakritamala", a compilation of memorial lectures delivered by seven renowned personalities during 2017-18, was formally launched.

The seven authors are National Professor Anisuzzaman, Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Akbar Ali Khan, Rehman Sobhan, Rounaq Jahan, Badruddin Umar, and Hasan Azizul Huq.

PHOTO: STAR

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ARCHITECTS REGIONAL COUNCIL ASIA
Annual forum kicks off in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is hosting this year's prestigious five-day annual forum of Asian architects, known as "Architects Regional Council Asia" (ARCASIA). The event kicks off today at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The biggest of its kind, this year's conference deliberates on the theme "Architecture in a Changing Landscape", and marks ARCASIA's golden jubilee.

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), one of the 21 ARCASIA members, is organising this year's forum and the 40th council meeting, to be participated by all member country representatives.

Over 1,500 Asian architects from member countries are expected to take part in the forum.

A series of events that the conference comprises of are aimed at promoting exchanges among architects and sustainable architectural practices in Asian countries.

The events include IAB Build Expo, photography and green architecture exhibition, exhibition on architecture of Bangladesh at Manik Mia Avenue and at Shahid Tajuddin Ahmad Smriti Park in Gulshan, architecture award ceremony, heritage walk for foreign guests and cultural programmes.

According to Dr Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, convener of this year's conference, the theme reflects innovative and appropriate architectural solutions to face the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation and climate change effects to both human and natural landscapes.

The conference intends to get closer to people and raise awareness on contributions of architecture to the society and overall development of the country, says IAB President Jalal Ahmed.

ARCASIA member countries include Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Macau, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Mongolia.

The council consists of all presidents of the national institutes.