

PM opens national data centre

3 more dev projects launched

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened four newly-completed development projects, including installation of solar panels in CHT's remote areas and a national data centre in Kaliakair.

She also commissioned five ships and one survey vessel for Kaptai Lake, reports UNB.

She launched the projects through a videoconference from her official residence Gono Bhaban. "Our progress will continue," the PM said.

Through the installation of solar panels, some 10,890 families of 1,927 villages in 26 upazilas of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban will come under electricity coverage.

The project was implemented as it will not be possible to supply electricity in the villages from national grid for the next 20-25 years, said CHT Affairs Secretary Md Mesbahul Islam.

The prime minister said her government has started massive development activities in the CHT areas.

She also commissioned the "CVASU Research Vessel", an initiative of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, to conduct study for increasing fish production in Kaptai Lake -- the biggest artificial lake in Southeast Asia -- located in Rangamati district.

Senior Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division Md Sohorab Hossain made a presentation in this regard.

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Online complaint service to launch soon: NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission will launch an online complaint management system to help people in remote areas to lodge their grievances without any hassle, commission chairperson Nasima Begum said yesterday.

"People can easily lodge complaints online from anywhere [once the system is introduced]," she said at a dialogue with civil society members and human rights defenders, organised by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) at The Daily Star centre.

Now, people of different districts have to travel to the commission office to file complaints. There are no district level commission offices except in Rangamati, Khulna, Gopalganj and Cox's Bazar.

The chairperson said people wonder about complaints that are lodged but they never get to know the outcome. This system will ease that process.

Nasima, a former senior secretary, said it is her first participation in a roundtable since she joined the office on September 22.

"Many other organisations invited me before but I did not agree to



Participants at the discussion at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

participate, because what would I say if I do not know anything. I needed more preparation, at least to understand the law," she said.

The chairperson, however, said she will try her level best to strengthen the commission.

In the programme, several human rights defenders from different districts urged the commission to expand its activities at the rural level, work more effectively for the protection of victims and human rights activists, and launch a massive campaign to ensure easy access to the

commission. Some of the speakers raised question about the process of appointment of the commission's chairperson and its members.

Before the commission chairperson's arrival at the programme, Tamanna Hoq Riti, assistant coordinator (media and international advocacy) of ASK, said "It is a matter of concern and frustration that we are seeing bureaucrats being prioritised during appointment at the commission."

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Kidney transplant better solution than dialysis

Says globally-renowned expert Dr Masri

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World-renowned organ transplant expert Prof Dr Marwan Masri yesterday at a programme in Dhaka said kidney transplant is easier, more sustainable and economic than dialysis.

He also said none of the Muftis (Islamic scholar) he has met across the world said there is any objection in Islam to donate kidney.

"Life expectancy for a kidney dialysis patient is around five to six years, and it is costly. Kidney transplantation is easy; it is not a rocket science," he said at a press conference at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital.

Dr Masri, a Lebanese national, is in Dhaka to attend a two-day international conference on nephrology, organised by Gonoshasthaya Hospital.

He, however, said what is important for kidney transplantation is to have a good ICU, efficient and dedicated ICU staff and pre- and post-transplant monitoring.

Citing the flourish of kidney transplantation in Iran, Dr Masri said around 4,000 to 5,000 kidney transplantations are being carried out each year in the Islamic republic.

Besides, he said, another 1,000 kidney transplantation surgeries are being carried out each year from kidney donated by people posthumously.

"In Iran, no kidney patient needs to wait for a donor for their transplantation," he added.

He said in Iran and several other countries, people willingly donate their organs, including kidney, as the governments of their countries give various kinds of incentives to donors.

"There is no obstacle in our religion -- Islam -- to donate organs for saving the lives of other humans," he also said.

Speaking at the briefing, Prof Dr Tauqueer Karim, president of Drug & Device Safety LLC, said due to modern technology, kidney donors can now go home within a day of the transplant.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury called upon the government to amend the existing law on donation of human organs, to encourage people to donate their organs to non-relatives, to save ailing people.

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DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE
Socio-political aspects of rumour
Organiser: Reading Club
Venue: IML, University of Dhaka
Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Time: 10am

FILM FESTIVAL
Organiser: Embassy of Republic Korea
Venue: National Museum
Time: 4pm

DISCUSSION
On road safety
Organiser: Rastrachinta
Venue: Ibrahim Mansion, Paltan
Time: 4pm

TRAINING
Health, Safety and Environment Management
Organiser: Bangladesh-Japan Training Institute
Venue: Eastern Plaza Complex, Hatirpool
Time: 9am

HUMAN CHAIN
Protesting carbon emission from oil companies worldwide
Organiser: Stop Emission Now, Bangladesh

SC seeks Khaleda's medical report

Tells BSMMU to submit it by Dec 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday sought a medical report from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health condition.

The apex court asked the authorities concerned of BSMMU to submit the report by December 5.

A six-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain gave the order while hearing an appeal filed by Khaleda, seeking bail in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case. She was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court in the case.

The bench also set December 5 for passing order on the appeal.

At the hearing, Khaleda's lawyer Advocate Zainul Abedin

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SENT ON FORCED LEAVE

DU teacher's sit-in goes viral



PHOTO: COLLECTED

DU CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Dhaka University's economics department, who was sent on forced leave in 2017, was staging sit-in in front of the department chairman's room for the third consecutive day yesterday -- demanding to be reinstated to his duties.

The image of the assistant professor, Rushad Faridi, holding a placard that reads "I'm a teacher, let me go back to classroom" went viral on social media platforms.

On the third day, a number of students joined the teacher, expressing solidarity with him.

A syndicate meeting chaired by the then vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique sent Faridi into forced leave on July 13, 2017 after the Economics department filed a complaint with the VC alleging that he personally attacked some of his colleagues in a few of his Facebook posts.

Talking to The Daily Star, Faridi claimed that he was always outspoken about irregularities in the department,

and became a victim of personal grudges.

The DU teacher also sent a legal notice to five people, including then VC Arefin Siddique, demanding reconsideration of the decision. But he never got any response, he added.

On July 24, 2017, the High Court questioned the legality of the syndicate's decision to send Faridi on forced leave.

The court then issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of DU to explain in two weeks why the syndicate's decision to send Faridi on forced leave should not be declared illegal.

After a legal battle of two years, on August 25 this year, the High Court declared the syndicate's decision illegal, and also ordered the DU authorities to allow Faridi to join work.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the verdict following a writ petition filed by Rushad Faridi, challenging the legality of DU syndicate's decision to send him on forced leave.

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Nine Buet students suspended for ragging

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) authorities yesterday suspended nine students from the university for their involvement in previous incidents of ragging at Suhrawardy Hall and Ahsan Ullah hall.

Board of Residence and Discipline of the university took the decision following a report from a probe body formed by the university in light of students' demands, according to two press releases from Buet.

Six students of Ahsan Ullah hall and three students of Suhrawardy hall were suspended from academic and other activities of the university for different periods of time, and expelled from their respective dormitories, the press releases added.

The suspended students are, Sabyasachi Das Dibya, Soumitra Lahiri, Plabon Chowdhury, Nahid Ahmed, Arnab Chowdhury, Md Forhad Hossain, Mobassher Hossen Shanto, ASM Mahadi Hasan, and Akib Hasan Rafin.

The board also suspended 21 other students from their respective dormitories for different periods on the same grounds and alerted

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The city corporations are installing sewage lines in South Banasree road at a snail's pace. Locals have been putting up with the dug-up road for almost a year now. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Man dies after falling into lift shaft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after falling into the elevator shaft of a high-rise in Karwan Bazar area early yesterday.

The deceased, Swapan Recta (24), was a security guard of BDBL building.

A resident of Naogaon's Patnitala, he came to Dhaka a couple of months ago, his colleagues told this newspaper.

Shamimur Rashid Talukder, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, said the lift is old and has a mechanical problem. Users had to open the lift door manually.

As Swapan pressed the call button on the seventh floor, the elevator came up. Thinking that the lift was there, Swapan opened the door with hands and stepped in, immediately falling into the shaft.

The fall left him critically injured. He was declared dead after being rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

An unnatural death case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station, while the body was sent to the DMC morgue for autopsy.

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