

Quality education top priority

Says Dipu Moni at Rajshahi College reunion

BSS, Rajshahi

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said the government is working relentlessly to ensure quality of education along with improving human resources.

"We have adopted diversified measures including infrastructural development, teachers' training and recruitment of quality teachers to ensure quality of education for achieving sustainable development goals," she added.

The minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a two-day reunion celebration of the HSC alumnus of Rajshahi College as chief guest.

Established in 1873, the college is hosting this festival for the first time in its 146-year history. More than 10,000 attendees including some 8,400 alumnus are taking part in the celebration.

Dipu Moni said all the 13 century-old colleges in the country, including Rajshahi College, will be transformed into a centre of excellence to enrich the education sector.

She urged all, particularly teachers, to ensure quality education terming it the first and foremost demand of the nation. This should be given the top priority and teachers and other stakeholders must play proactive



Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni inaugurating the event at Rajshahi College yesterday. PHOTO: BSS

roles in this regard, she stressed.

In response to some demands placed before the minister for further improvement of the college, Dipu Moni said a new 10-storey dormitory for female students and an administrative building will be built soon.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak, and lawmakers Abdul Quddus, Ayan Uddin and Adiba Anjum Mita

also spoke at the event, chaired by college Principal Prof Habibur Rahman.

The event was told that Rajshahi College has been adjudged as the country's best educational institution for the fourth consecutive year for its outstanding performance in the academic arena since 2016. National University also declared the college as the best, based on its ranking.

It is said to be the third oldest institutions for higher education in Bangladesh after Dhaka College and Chattogram College.

Within a short period after its establishment in 1873, the college became one of the main centres of higher education for people in East Bengal, North Bengal, Bihar and Assam.

Before the opening ceremony, a rally was brought out from the college premises.

Dhaka, Hanoi to work to double bilateral trade volume by 2021

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Vietnam want to work closely to enhance the bilateral trade volume from around US \$1 billion to \$2 billion by 2021.

The two countries held the second meeting of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in Hanoi on Thursday and yesterday and discussed ways to double the bilateral trade volume.

Dhaka and Hanoi discussed trade and investment issues and identified 11 priority areas including agricultural trade and pharmaceutical exports from Bangladesh to Vietnam.

Vietnamese investment in Bangladesh's special economic zones, ICT sector cooperation, bilateral cooperation in textile and garments sector, trade in halal products, trade in software services, direct air link, promotion of trade in jute and jute goods, banking sector cooperation and tourism sector cooperation (including Buddhist tourism) were also discussed.

Commerce Secretary Dr Md Jafar Uddin and Vietnam's Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Cao Quoc Hung led their respective sides at the JTC meeting.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Vietnam Samina Naz and Director General (South-east Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs MJH Javed attended the meeting as members of the Bangladesh delegation.

Bangladesh requested Vietnam to send delegations to visit Bangladesh

and gain firsthand experience about the pharmaceutical industry, hi-tech parks and special economic zones in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh also urged Vietnam to assist Bangladeshi potato exporters to enter Vietnamese markets by completing the SPS registration process.

The Vietnamese side responded affirmatively to Bangladesh's request, according to Bangladesh embassy in Hanoi.

Vietnam suggested that in case of future requirement, Bangladesh may import quality rice from Vietnam in fulfillment of the existing MoU on rice import from Vietnam.

Both sides recognised the high potential of tourism sector to flourish and in that respect viewed that direct air link between the two countries can hugely contribute.

They agreed that private sector airlines operators between the two countries would be encouraged to assess the market and introduce flights.

Bangladesh requested Vietnam to ease the visa process for Bangladeshi tourists, especially businesspersons.

To ease business transaction, both sides agreed to encourage commercial banks to open branches in each other's capital.

The commerce secretary also called on vice-president of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) Doan Duy Khuong at the VCCI office and requested for more cooperation at B2B levels and sought interventions of VCCI.

A lifetime of lifting

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economist Rehman Sobhan, lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah, businessman Abdul Awal Minto, media personality Shykh Seraj, among others, were present at the qulkhani.

Foreign Minister Momen said Sir Abed's demise is an irreparable loss for the country.

"His contribution towards educating and helping the underprivileged become self-sufficient around the world will keep him alive," said Momen.

On behalf of family members, Sir Abed's son-in-law and Brac's Executive Director Asif Saleh expressed his gratitude to all.

"He used to listen to everyone attentively. He gave emphasis to personal problems of family members and colleagues and tried to resolve those," said Saleh.

He led by example, Brac's executive director said, adding, "Throughout his life he thought about the development of the people who are lagging behind."

Sir Abed breathed his last on December 20 in Dhaka. He was laid to rest on Sunday at Banani graveyard.

Govt to procure food grain directly from farmers thru app

Says food minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government will use a mobile application -- billed as "Krishoker App" -- to collect food grain directly from farmers across the country, said Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday.

The minister made the announcement while inaugurating the Aman rice collection programme in Naogaon in the morning, reads a handout from the PID.

"As a pilot project, the app will be used in 16 upazilas on an experimental basis during the Aman season. A farmer can apply to the government to sell his paddy and avail all the information through this app," the minister explained.

He said rice is being procured in a transparent manner from the farmers under the supervision of food collection committee in districts and upazilas according to the list provided to the agriculture ministry.

"Instead of organising lottery throughout the country, we want to gradually procure rice using the 'Krishoker App'. More rice will be collected in the next Boro season using this app. One hundred percent rice procurement by the app will be ensured in the next Aman season," the minister said.

He said the mobile app will allow

farmers to know if they have been selected or not and the amount of paddy they can sell. "If the pilot project is successful, this service will be spread all over the country," he added.

Minister Majumder said the government is already taking all the necessary preparations because it will procure more paddy in the next Boro season.

"Procurement of rice began on November 1 across the country. There was a slight delay in the first year due to the registration procedure in the app. Collection of rice will be completed on time next year," he stated.

In the current season, 6,158 tonnes of rice at Tk 36 per kg, 866 tonnes of Atap rice at Tk 35 per kg and 1,000 tonnes of rice at Tk 26 per kg will be procured through the "Krishoker App" at Naogaon Sadar food warehouse.

Besides, 17,114 tonnes of rice at Tk 36 per kg, 2,381 tonnes of Atap rice at Tk 35 per kg and 19,912 tonnes of rice at Tk 26 per kg will be procured directly from farmers this year at 19 food warehouses in Naogaon.

Naogaon Deputy Commissioner Harun Ur Rashid, SP (acting) Rashidul Haque, district controller of food GM Faruk Hossain Patowary were also present.

Barishal univ

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over 1,440 seats in 24 subjects under six faculties divided into "Ka", "Kha", and "Ga", units. This means 35 candidates will vie for each seat.

Of them, 10,106 candidates sat for 560 "Kha" unit seats; 6,012 candidates sat for 300 'Ga' unit seats; and 20,567 candidates will today sit for 580 'Ka' unit seats.

Detailed information can be found on BU's official website (www.admission.eis.bu.ac.bd).

The exams for the "Kha" and "Ga" units were originally set for October 18 and 19, but were postponed due to the vacancy of vice-chancellor, treasurer, and registrar's posts of the university.

Benapole Customs fails to achieve revenue target

UNB, Dhaka

Benapole Customs House has failed to achieve its revenue collection target for the period between July and November.

Uttam Chakma, assistant commissioner of the Customs House, said out of the initial target of Tk 2,427 crore, the house has managed to collect only Tk 1,252 crore in these five months, falling short by Tk 1,175 crore.

He said the decrease of imports due to high tax and strict rules and regulation at the port have played significant roles in preventing the house from achieving its goals.

Commissioner of customs house Mohammad Belal Hossain Chowdhury said, "Some importers avoid the port as it has increased level of transparency and accountability required for clearance of goods and shipments."

Gaibandha-3 MP

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senior vice-president of Sadullapur upazila Awami League.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed sorrow and deep shock at the death of AL lawmaker Yunus Ali Sarker, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, the prime minister prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul of Yunus.

At the same time, the premier also conveyed her profound sympathy to the bereaved family, the news agency added.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, in a separate message, also condoled the death of the Gaibandha MP.

Besides, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury also expressed shock and sorrow at the MP's death.

Stories of struggle

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government platforms play an important role in reducing unemployment in Bangladesh, he added.

NGO Affairs Bureau Director Shahadat Hossain hoped BYLC's role in creating leadership and growing confidence among youths will extend further. He said the organisation should contribute further by creating employment opportunities.

Speaking at a separate session, SBK Tech Ventures Founder and Chairman Sonia Bashir Kabir said it is possible to take technology-based services to the country's rural areas and young people can play a big role in this regard.

Rural people are still deprived of many basic services, said Sonia, also former managing director of Microsoft Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, there are only one lakh physicians for 16 crore people, she said.

"So, if someone can provide [any technology-based] service that enables rural people to speak to a doctor sitting at home then that is creating a value [for the country]," she added.



Officials of Kurigram administration place a wreath at the grave of the eminent author on the occasion of his birth anniversary yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Don't hold

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responsibility to finish our unfinished task," said Laila Hasan.

Liberation War Museum Trustee and SSA President Ziauddin Tariq Ali also spoke at the programme, among others.

Several artists of Anandan performed a number of songs and recited poems on the occasion.

Back to back accidents

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The deceased was identified as Sirajul Haque (45), hailing from Toukirpara in Taherpur municipality of Bagmara upazila.

Quoting locals, Kajol Kumar Nandi, in-charge of Shibpur police outpost, said Sirajul died on the spot when a goods-laden truck hit him from behind while trying to overtake a motorcycle.

BNP fears vote rigging

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Asked, Returning Officer Muhammed Hasanuzzaman said the BNP candidate did not contact him over the issue. "I cannot confirm whether he complained or not," he added.

Lawmaker Nadvi and AL candidate could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

In the constituency (Boalkhali-Chandgaon), six candidates are contesting the polls. A total of 4,75,988 voters are expected to exercise their franchise through electronic voting machines, said Election Commission officials.

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BIG AWARDS FOR SHORT FILMS
Three young film-makers have won awards in the Short-Film making competition organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) keeping the theme in mind - "Breaking the Discrimination Chain, Living with Respect". The award giving ceremony was held on a festive mode at Chayanaut auditorium on 10 December, 2019, World Human Rights Day. Sayed Abu Raihan was the winner of this competition with the Short-Film called "Tonni". For "Shonga- The Definition" the 1st runner's up was Mubidul Alam Shayan and for the short-film called "Shortart 2" runner's up was Soheli Arjyan. The prize money was awarded 50000, 30000 & 20000 accordingly. Former Chief Justice of the High Court Division A. F. M. Abdur Rahman was present as the chief guest and the guest of honor were the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Senior Advisor in Bangladesh Heike Aelfsen, musician Farzana Wahid Shayan, Professor Dr. Geeta Ara Nasrin and Sarah Hossain, executive director of BLAST.

It is important to note that in addition to awarding the best three film makers out of hundreds of films, seven other young makers were awarded certificates as best film makers as well. Filmmaker Zahidur Rahim Anjan, Professor Zakir Hossain Raju, Head of Media and communications at Independent University, Musician Farzana Wahid Shayan and Khushi Kabir Co-ordinator of Nijera Kori were connected to the judging process for an entire month.

34th Death Anniversary



The 34th Death Anniversary of Late Rahimullah Choudhury, a renowned industrialist of the country and former Member, National Assembly (M.N.A.), is being observed on the 28th December, 2019 both at his village home in Matubhuiya, Feni and in Dhaka by The Insiyatiyat Society, an N.G.O. founded by him for the education and welfare of the destitute in the society.

We request all his relatives, friends and well wishers to pray for his departed soul.

Family Members of Late Rahimullah Choudhury

Remembering Syed Shamsul Haq

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The district administration organised a daylong programme, including rally, placing wreaths at his grave, book fair, discussion and prayers, reports our correspondent.

A discussion on Haq's life and work was held at Kurigram Primary Teachers' Training

Institute, attended by among others, the deputy commissioner, additional deputy commissioner, vice principal of Kurigram Government College, additional police superintendent, principal of Kurigram Law College, public prosecutor, president of Kurigram Press Club and general secretary of district Shilpakala Academy.

Missing teen's body found

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rushed there around 5pm on the day and recovered the body.

The body was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Sahana Begum, victim's mother, said Sumon had been missing since three of his friends called him out of home on

December 17.

AKM Nazmul Quader, officer-in-charge of Haragachh Police Station, said criminals dumped the body in the septic tank after killing the teenager elsewhere.

The reason behind the murder was yet to be ascertained, he added.

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS- BAN-2019- 9155276
Request for Proposal (RFP): To provide Technical Support for Development of Education Sector Information Management System
UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org".
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The deadline to submit proposal is **Thursday, 16th January 2020; Time: 11:00 Hrs**
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