

DIU celebrates its 18th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A four-day programme marking the 18th founding anniversary of Daffodil International University (DIU) began with great enthusiasm on its permanent campus in Savar's Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman inaugurated the celebration programme as the chief guest, while DIU Trustee Board Chairperson Dr Md Sabur Khan presided over the event.

DIU Vice Chancellor Prof Yousuf Islam and pro-Vice Chancellor Prof SM Mahbubul Haque Majumder were present, among others.

To mark the anniversary, inter-department sports competition, Math Olympiad, inter-university cultural competition, IT quiz, project showcasing and photo exhibition have been arranged.

The programmes will also include pitha utsab, kite festival, discussion, picnic and tree plantation, among other activities.

Addressing the event, Dr Enamur said DIU is doing well in terms of providing quality education. He hoped that the university will continue to carry its good reputation into the future.

Dr Sabur, in his speech, said there are lots of opportunities to enhance career building skills and students should take advantage of those avenues.

DIU distributed over 40,000 laptops among students free of cost, and he urged students to fully utilise them for their entrepreneurial journey.

He added that DIU has set up a lab and fund for students to invigorate their entrepreneurial spirit.

It has also brought students and guardians under insurance coverage to provide safety nets for their education, he added.

He hoped DIU will one day become a role-model among universities.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



An artisan puts final touches on the idol of Saraswati, Hindu goddess of knowledge, insight and wisdom, as preparations for the puja are going in full swing in Sylhet. This year's Saraswati Puja, which is on January 30, will be held in around 300 places in the city with throngs of people participating. The photo was taken in Tilagarh area yesterday.

Nine-year-old run over by pickup in Laxmipur

Four killed, 44 injured in other accidents

STAR REPORT

A nine-year-old was killed after a pickup van ran him over at Mandari Burbo Bazar area in Laxmipur Sadar upazila around 2pm yesterday noon.

The deceased is Nishan Ahmed. He was a third-grader at Mandari Govt Primary School.

The accident left Nishan dead on the spot, said police, quoting witnesses.

Police arrested the driver and seized the van from the spot.

Meanwhile, at least four people were killed and 44 injured in other accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondents and a news

agency. In Dinajpur Sadar upazila, at least 22 people were injured after a passenger bus overturned while overtaking a truck yesterday.

The injured were admitted to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital.

Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said a packed passenger bus was coming to Dinajpur around 11:45am. As the bus arrived at Sahapur village, the driver lost control of the vehicle.

On information, firefighters in Dinajpur rushed to the spot and rescued the passengers.

In Tangail, two people were killed and 20 injured in three separate accidents on and around Bangabandhu Bridge in Bhuapur and Kalihati upazilas yesterday.

In Kalihati, Redwanul Haque Khan (32) was killed and eight were injured after a bus collided with a truck on a road connecting to Bangabandhu Bridge at Jokarchar area around 3am. Redwanul was a passenger of the truck.

In Bhuapur, Imon Miah (16) was killed and 10 were injured after two buses collided near the toll plaza of Bangabandhu Bridge around 7am.

Imon helper of a bus driver. He died on the spot.

In another accident, two trucks killed and 20 injured in three separate accidents on and around Bangabandhu Bridge in Bhuapur and Kalihati upazilas yesterday.

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4 hurt in CU BCL infighting

One faction calls indefinite strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least four activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University unit were injured in an infighting on the campus yesterday.

The injured received primary treatment from the university's medical centre, said police. The identities of the injured could not be known immediately.

Activists of shuttle train compartment-based group "Bijoy" launched an attack on an activist of another shuttle train-based group "Choose Friends with Care".

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HILSA IN ABUNDANCE... With fishers bringing their prized catches to the markets and buyers busy negotiating, Barishal markets are buzzing with activities these days. Although winter is usually an off-season for the popular fish, huge shoals of hilsa are being netted by fishermen from different rivers of the division. The photos were taken at Port Road market in the city.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

A welcome winter surprise

Barishal markets flooded with hilsa

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The national fish is typically not associated with winter, but this year, large hilsa fish are being netted from the rivers of Barishal, and wholesale markets of the district are buzzing.

At Port Road's fish market, there were at least thousand mounds of large hilsa. Fishermen and traders were busy negotiating the price, which is cheaper this year due to the high availability.

Traders are sending the fish to Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and other areas in trucks. The people of Barishal are elated to find the delicious fish at cheap prices. Fishermen said the fish weigh 700-1200 grammes on average. "Usually large hilsa cannot be found during winter, but this time we are netting many," said a fisherman.

According to fishermen, many hilsa are being caught from different southern rivers of the division, especially Elisha and Meghna.

Port Road's wholesale hilsa market trader Ujjal Das said there has been a steady supply of large hilsa for the last three days. "If the fish weighs over a kilogramme, it's sold for Tk 800, and fish weighing lower is sold for Tk 650-700. Last year the prices were Tk 1,200 and Tk 800 respectively," said Ujjal.

Anishur Rahman, hilsa researcher and chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) river centre in Chandpur, said the primary hilsa season is between August and October, but there's a short season from November to January. "The government's effort to protect jatka (hilsa fry) and ensuring its safe breeding has resulted in the availability of the fish during winter," he explained.

'Focus must be on skills dev, jobs'

Swiss Development Cooperation DG Manuel Sager tells Star

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh faces a major challenge in providing fair jobs to the two million youths entering job market every year, says Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) Director General Manuel Sager.

"Two million young people enter the job market every year. Not all go to universities. As Bangladesh's economy progresses, it needs different skillsets... I see a major challenge in how to give skills and fair jobs to those who enter the labour market every year," he said.



Manuel Sager visited Bangladesh last week to see the SDC-funded projects on skills development, safe migration and democratic governance. He also visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and held talks with government officials and development partners.

His visit was aimed at understanding the areas of support and collaboration to take the bilateral relations to another level as Bangladesh is progressing towards a middle-income country status and beyond.

Sager thinks Bangladesh government should pay more attention to quality education, health and infrastructure. Particularly, he mentioned that there are rooms for progress in vocational training.

"Education is a major issue in Switzerland. We have very well-functioning vocational training. Other countries can benefit from our experiences on skills development," Manuel Sager said in an interview with The Daily Star, wrapping up his visit.

Switzerland, which plays an important role in migration governance at global stage, said Bangladesh is an important country as about 10 million of its citizens are migrants who send home \$18 billion a year.

"We want the Bangladeshis working abroad to be treated well," he said.

Elaborating on the matter, he said experiences of migrants, as they return home, are often not that great.

"They may have bad experiences. It is a challenge for Bangladesh's society to re-integrate them. We also have various projects in this field. We support your government so the migrants can better integrate in the society," Sager said.

His words are relevant because thousands of migrants, especially female domestic workers, who returned from abroad after facing various forms of abuses, faced challenges in integrating to the society. There is no government initiative yet to address the challenge.

Sager also talked about other development challenges, including inequality, improving governance and democracy.

"Citizens' participation in democracy is very important. We are supporting certain initiatives in Bangladesh to make sure of that... when citizens have grievances with the government or public services, they should be able to voice them and cooperate with the institutions to address them. It's an important aspect of a vibrant and healthy democracy."

The role of any government is to improve citizens' life and wellbeing, and that can only be done in a democracy and through dialogue between government and citizens, Sager added.

He lauded the steady economic growth of Bangladesh

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Two missing persons found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two persons -- son of a police officer and a businessman -- who remained missing in the city for a few days, were found yesterday.

Omar Faruque (34), an air-conditioner trader, who went missing from Moghbazar on Sunday, was found near Postogola Bridge in Keraniganj yesterday evening. He was blindfolded and his hands and legs were tied up, his brother Sarwar Jahan Mamun told The Daily Star last night.

Mamun said unknown people whisked his brother into microbus when he was on his way home near Hatirjheel from Moghbazar area. The abductors took Tk 11 lakh he had, and left him yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, Mazharul Islam Aronno (13), son of police sub-inspector Abdul Motalib Bhuiyan, returned home yesterday.

Motalib said his son actually went to his friend's house in Narayanganj on Saturday fearing scolding from parents, as he did not attend coaching classes.

He came to another friend's house near Bashabo, from where his parents took him home.

One jailed for gang-rape in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police on Tuesday arrested a youth in connection with the gang-rape of a girl in Dhobaara upazila of Mymensingh.

The 18-year-old victim filed a case with Dhobaara Police Station accusing four youths on Monday night.

Soon after the case was filed, police arrested Islam Mia (22) of the upazila on Tuesday night.

The other accused are Ariful Islam (20), Rasel Mia (21), and Nazrul Islam (30) of the same upazila.

After interrogation, Islam Mia was produced before a Mymensingh court yesterday afternoon, which ordered him to be sent to prison, officer-in-charge of Dhobaara Police Station Ali Ahmed Mollah told The Daily Star.

During the interrogation, the arrestee confessed that they committed the crime in a pre-planned manner and Ariful was the mastermind, informed the OC.

Quoting the case statement, OC Ali said Ariful, son of Abdur Rashid Bepari, along with his three associates took the girl to a nearby waterbody, raped her multiple times and left her there.

The girl was able to reach home on Saturday morning with the help of locals.

A medical test was done at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Police drives are on to arrest the other accused, OC Ali Ahmed Mollah added.

Ismat Ara Sadique laid to rest

UNB, Bogura

Awami League lawmaker Ismat Ara Sadique was laid to rest in Bogura yesterday afternoon.

Elected from Jashore-6, Ismat Ara, also the former state minister for public administration, passed away on Tuesday morning while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital. She was 78.

She was buried at her family graveyard in the district town following the third namaz-e-janaza after the Asr prayers.

Her first-namaz-e-janaza was held at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Tuesday afternoon.

After the janaza, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, among others, laid floral wreaths at her coffin.

Her body was then taken to Keshabpur in Jashore where a second janaza was held at Keshabpur Public Field after Zohr prayers.

From Jashore, her body was taken to her ancestral home in Bogura.

Ismat was born in Bogura on December 12, 1942. She left behind a son, daughter and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.



Protesting teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday brought out a masked procession, demanding removal of Prof Farzana Islam from the post of vice chancellor.

PHOTO: COLLECTED