

Niaz Ahmed Khan new IUB pro-VC

CITY DESK Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan joined as the pro-vice chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) yesterday.

He has been appointed by President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of the universities, for a four-year term, said a press release.

Dr Khan is a professor and former chairperson at the Department of Development Studies, Dhaka University; senior academic adviser at National Defence College; senior academic adviser at Brac Institute of Governance and Development; and chairperson at Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation (Arannayak) Foundation.

Prof Khan pursued higher education and research at University of Oxford, University of Wales Swansea, and Asian Institute of Technology.

Besides serving as Bangladesh country representative of IUCN, other positions previously held by him include senior programme coordinator at UNDP-Bangladesh and South Asian fellow at Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

bKash to distribute 20,000 copies of 'Mujib' in 500 schools

CITY DESK To spread the ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman among students, bKash will distribute 20,000 copies of the graphic novel "Mujib" in 500 Bengali and English medium schools across the country this year.

The mobile financial service provider has taken the initiative to mark Mujib's birth centenary and golden jubilee of the country's independence, said a press release.

Under patronisation of bKash, the graphic novel, published by Center for Research and Information (CRI) and based on Bangabandhu's autobiography "Oshompto Attojiboni (The Unfinished Memoirs)", will be distributed in schools by Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK).

bKash will expand the programme with support of BSK to more schools, after publication of next editions of the graphic novel.

BSK founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed inaugurated the project by handing over the books to the school representatives at BSK Auditorium on Wednesday.

bKash Chief Executive Officer Kamal Quadir, BSK Trustee Arif Khan, and bKash Chief External and Corporate Affairs Officer Major General (ret'd) Sheikh Md Monirul Islam were present on the occasion.

Forty copies will be given to each school across the country.

Empower

FROM PAGE 3 However, although there has been a lot of progress in women's lives, the Covid-19 pandemic has stalled all the progress, she said.

Violence against women has increased, women's participation in the labour force has decreased, the discriminatory attitude of the society towards women is still prevalent, she added.

Christine Johansson from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh said due to Covid-19, the rate of child marriage has also increased and it has been putting girls' physical and mental health at higher risk.

She also urged everyone to work together on preventing child marriage as well as other aspects, such as ensuring justice for all, creating equal opportunities at work, and stopping discriminatory practices.

Public gatherings

FROM PAGE 3 said, adding that everyone coming from abroad will have to go to mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

Meanwhile, movement of all tourist ships on the Teknaf-Saint Martin's Island route of Cox's Bazar has been suspended from yesterday.

No vessel left Teknaf for Saint Martin's Island since yesterday morning, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

However, many small engine boats sailed for Saint Martin's from the Kawkhali Canal of Teknaf poura area in the morning to ferry residents and daily commodities.

Tofael Ahmed, president of Tour Association of Cox's Bazar and owner of a ship -- FB Cruise -- said the district administration instructed them to halt plying of all tourist-carrying ships on the route until further notice due to the current coronavirus situation.

Assistant Commissioner Syed Murad Hossain, also in-charge of the tourist cell of the district administration, confirmed that his office issued instructions for halting ship movement between Saint Martin's and Teknaf.

Movement of water vessels carrying regular passengers and daily essentials will remain normal, maintaining health guidelines.

Accept

FROM PAGE 3 "It is a proven fact that humane border practices can be upheld amid public health and other border control measures, to ensure that people in need of protection can access territory and asylum."

Triggs said children, women and men fleeing for their lives should be given sanctuary, and must not be returned to a place where their lives or freedom may be at risk.

"As the situation in Myanmar deteriorates further, we call on states to continue their lifesaving humanitarian tradition of safeguarding the lives of all those forced to flee."

Across the region, UNHCR and partner organisations stand ready to step-up support to national and local authorities to ensure that refugees receive the protection they need, Gillian said.

Synergy is

FROM PAGE 3 has been a part of Bangladesh's foreign policy priorities since then.

The ministerial meeting approved and endorsed several BIMSTEC agreements, conventions, MoUs and other important documents/instruments to be signed or adopted at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2021 subject to the Covid-19 situation.

The meeting approved and recommended the finalised draft text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the finalised draft text of the Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) in Colombo, and the draft text of the MoU on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies/Training Institutions of BIMSTEC Member States for signature during the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit.

The meeting approved the rationalisation of sectors and sub-sectors of BIMSTEC and the Template of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Centres or Entities for adoption during the summit.

The meeting also adopted joint statement of the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity for onward submission to the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit.

A father's dream

FROM PAGE 3 After that, government agencies, acquaintances, friends, well-wishers and people from different walks of life came forward to cooperate with money, toys, furniture, electric fans and whatever else they could manage, he said.

Some volunteers expressed interest to work as teachers in the school. The landlord of the building where the school is situated offered a discount on the rent. "The financial and logistical supports from friends and well-wishers keep us motivated to continue," said Bablu.

Now, there are 115 children studying at Blooming Roses school.

Everyday, from 10am to 1pm, the children go to school for yoga, instrumental exercise, speech

therapy, and pre-primary education. No guardian has to pay for these services. In addition to that, financial aid is provided for poor children. The teachers get a nominal fee.

"This school teaches autistic children various life skills. We teach them how to better communicate their needs and wants and overcome limitations in their motor functions," explained Bablu.

"After receiving those lessons here, some children are able to enter the mainstream schooling system. Six of our students including Debabrata (now 17) are now in the sixth grade, while one student is studying in the ninth grade at a local school," Bablu added.

"The school offers physical exercises alongside typical learning

activities. Speech therapy is a necessity for autistic children. We are very happy for their initiative," said Husna Begum, whose son is a student of Bablu.

Mother of another student, Reshna Begum, said, "My son could not move without a wheelchair before. But now he can walk alone."

Debosmitha Deb Roy, a dance and music teacher of the school, said, "I have been teaching autistic children for nine years without payment. I love the work I do here."

Contacted, the district's deputy commissioner (DC) Mir Nahid Ahsan praised the initiative and said the school needs more support from the government for expanding its reach.

Row over

FROM PAGE 3 ACC however found no fishery project in Mirsarai as mentioned in the tax file, it says.

But tax official Bahauddin claimed that he physically visited the fishing project in Mirsarai upazila and declared Tk 1.10 crore as legal income in the tax statement, it adds.

Later on August 1 in 2018, Gulzar Begum filed a GD with Double Mooring Police Station, saying that the fishery project's main documents went missing on July 20, 2018 while she was going to Agrabad tax office.

The IO mentioned he came to know that tax inspector Dipankar helped Gulzar stage the GD "drama".

The ACC official told The Daily Star that he went to the Chattogram tax office from Dhaka on November 25, 2019 to seize the couple's tax files.

At that time, Dipankar and another tax official told him that the documents were at another circle's office, he said.

"But I didn't get the files from there. On January 13, 2020, I seized those from tax office circles-9 and 10," said the IO.

"During the time, Dipankar ripped off my seizure list," he said. "Later, I sent an official letter, seeking his version over the whole situation, but he did not respond."

Denying the allegations, Dipankar told this correspondent, "I don't even know the police officer and his wife."

"I joined the tax department on March

12, 2017 and was transferred to Chattogram on August 10, 2017, and the corruption happened before I joined office. How did I help them? If I didn't cooperate, how were the files seized then?" he said.

"I didn't get any letter from ACC. The allegation of tearing the document is false. I informed the matter to my senior officials as such an allegation will deteriorate relationship between the two government agencies," he added.

Contacted, tax official Bahauddin, who retired in December 2020, said, "I was not involved in the incident."

"I talked to the IO about the assessment mistake of the case. I don't know why he did not take it into his cognizance during investigation," he added.

Asked about the situation, Tax Commissioner Md Riazzul Islam of Tax Region-1 in Chattogram said, "I learned about the matter through the media. As I did not receive formal documents, I don't want to make any comment over the matter."

On March 9, a Chattogram court sent Gulzar to jail on surrender when it issued an arrest warrant against her, her husband and the two tax officials. However, the other accused did not surrender nor were arrested till April 1, court sources said.

CID SI Nawab Ali could not be contacted as his cellphone was found switched off.

First depositions

FROM PAGE 3 Tarique Saif Mamun, and Sagor Hossain Osman, on July 22, 2001. The court framed charges against six on December 10, 2003.

During yesterday's hearing, Imon was produced before the court.

Four other accused -- Mona, Mamun,

Munna and Zaved are on the run, while Osman died during trial.

"Most remaining witnesses are not appearing before the court due to security concerns, as the accused are top-listed criminals," said Special Public Prosecutor Mohammad Anwer Shahadat Shawn.

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Computers FROM PAGE 3 is because Sadarghat saw little foot-traffic even on a Thursday evening. With the weekend ahead, Thursday usually witnesses a swell of city-dwellers trying to leave for their village homes.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), in Cox's Bazar, invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of Driver (group V)

LUTFOR RAHMAN Advocate Supreme Court of Bangladesh Chamber Room No.4016, Supreme Court Bar Association Annex Building Shahbag, Dhaka-1000. Mobile : 01819-284940

Statutory Notice IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) COMPANY MATTER NO. 75 OF 2021