

NURSING COLLEGE QUESTION LEAK

Six including ex-principal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday claimed to have arrested six members of a question leak syndicate, including the former principal of a nursing college.

They were arrested from different areas of the capital on the charge of leaking the questions of the “BSc in Nursing” examination of nursing colleges under Dhaka University (DU).

Rab said the syndicate was involved in question leak of nursing college for the last five years.

The arrestees are Farida Begum (51), Monowara Khatun (52), Nargis Parveen (47), Kohinur Begum, (65), Ismail Hossain (38), and Ariful Islam (37).

Rab also recovered copies of leaked question paper and nine cell phones from their possession.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted to their involvement, said commander Khandaker Al Moin, legal and media wing director of Rab.

The arrestees have supplied questions to at least 15 examinees through social media before the exam that was held on August 20 in exchange for Tk 15,000, he said.

Addressing a briefing, Moin said the arrestees were members of a team that moderated question papers and then printed and packaged it for the nursing college exams under DU.

Syndicate mastermind Kohinur was a trainer in a government nursing college from 2008 to 2016.

And then, she joined as a principal of a private nursing college and retired from there early this year.

Syndicate members Farida, Monowara, and Nargis are presently working as trainers in a nursing college for the last 10 years.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



If you've ever wondered what happens to old buses when they are not in use anymore, the answer is simple -- they get scrapped. These workers spotted in the Postogola area recently were taking apart a bus's metal exterior after it was sold to them by the bus authorities. Different parts of the bus are again sold to different parties after which the parts go through a second round of recycling.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Work for people's welfare

PM tells public servants

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the public servants to carry out their responsibility of serving the people with utmost sincerity.

The prime minister said this while addressing a programme to distribute course certificates marking the course completion of the 73rd foundation training course at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BOATC) in Savar. She joined the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

‘Those are absolutely...’

Momen on seeking India's support to keep Hasina in power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday denied that he urged the Indian government to help Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stay in power.

Yesterday, after the cabinet meeting, journalists approached him for comments but he kept walking.

While making his way to the elevator at the cabinet office in the secretariat, he said, “I didn’t say anything. I didn’t seek assistance.”

“I talked about stability. There is instability globally,” he said.

Asked about his response to the allegations, he said, “Those are absolutely...” He did not complete the sentence.

Speaking at an event in Chattogram on Thursday, Momen requested the Indian government to do whatever necessary for the continuation of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led government.

Finding himself in hot water for controversial comments is nothing new for the foreign minister.

A few days ago, Momen was widely criticised for saying that the people of the country are “living in heaven”.

He later blamed the media for “twisting” his words.



Metro rail to run from dawn to midnight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country’s first metro rail will start operation from Uttara to Agargaon with 10 trains, and each train will leave the station at intervals of 10 minutes for the first few days.

Then, the authorities will change the frequency of departure based on passenger demand and will be prepared to set trains off at 3.5-minute intervals.

The trains would be operated from the time of Fajr to midnight daily. On the first day of train operation, only invited people will be able to take a metro ride, while general people will be allowed to travel the following day.

To inform and educate people about the metro rail, the authorities will open a metro rail exhibition and information centre next month, which was supposed

The blank operation would not take more than 15 days, he said. “Then, we will go for the much-expected commercial operation.”

“The government wants to start commercial operation from Uttara to Agargaon in December. We are moving forward with the plan... We are ahead of schedule for most of the works,” he added.

He said the Uttara to Motijheel section would be operational in December next year, and preparatory works are ongoing to extend the line up to Kamalapur Railway Station.

Siddique said the approval process for dedicated MRT police is now at the final stage, and they would be deployed before beginning partial operation.

He said they were going to sign a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), probably next week, to facilitate



AT A GLANCE

- Each train to leave station after 10 min for first few days
- Authorities will work to bring interval down to 3.5 min
- On first day of operation, only invited people to take metro ride
- General people can travel by metro the following day
- Authorities to open metro
- exhibition, information centre next month
- Testing metro train operation ongoing
- Uttara-Motijheel section to be operational in Dec 2023
- Approval process for MRT police at final stage
- Metro fares to be incorporated in rapid pass

to be opened in January.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, the implementing agency of the metro rail projects, yesterday revealed this information at a press conference at his office, as they are preparing to start partial commercial operation in December.

After the functional test, the performance test of the metro trains is almost over, and authorities will start a “system integrity test” of the trains from September 1, to check synchronisation, he said.

It would not take more than three months, he said, adding that then, they will carry out “blank operation”, which means operating trains without passengers, and will do everything needed to prepare for boarding passengers, he explained.

communication of metro passengers from Uttara and Agargaon.

Although fares for metro rail have not been fixed yet, they are ready with the rapid pass, the prepaid card that will be used for travelling by metro, and will take 15 days to incorporate the fares in the pass, he added.

Officially known as Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT Line-6, it was supposed to be implemented between Uttara and Agargaon at a cost of Tk 21,985 crore by June 2024.

Later, the project was revised for extension up to Kamalapur at the cost of Tk 33,472 crore within December 2025.

The overall progress of the project is 81.70 percent till July, while the Dhaka-Agargaon section saw 94 percent progress, he said.

Samrat gets ad-interim bail in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted ad interim bail to expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat in a case filed for laundering around Tk 222 crore and channelling it to casinos in Singapore and Malaysia between 2011 and 2018.

Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman of the Special Judge’s Court-6 passed the order after Samrat’s lawyer Ehsanul Haque Shomaji filed a petition seeking bail in the case, said court sources.

In the order, the judge said Samrat will have to submit his passport to the court while furnishing his bail bond. His bail period will remain valid until September 19, the next scheduled date.

During yesterday’s hearing, Shomaji told the court that Samrat was earlier released from jail after getting bail on medical grounds. But the High Court cancelled his bail and directed him before the trial court within seven days.

The HC also directed the trial court to call for a medical report and dispose of the bail petition if it is submitted.

Later, Samrat was again sent to jail after his surrender before the court on May 24, seeking bail in the case.

The authority of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) had earlier sent a report on Samrat’s health condition, stating that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Demand for fair polls must come from within

Says UK envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Fair and credible elections are a must to ensure that the democratic institutions of the country are effective, said UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Robert Chatterton Dickson, yesterday.

“A fair election means all parties are allowed to participate, everyone should be able to cast their vote freely, and the results of the election must be accepted by all parties,” he said.

He was addressing “Meet The Ambassador,” event hosted by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh at a city hotel, attended by civil society members, entrepreneurs

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Govt using energy sector to ‘plunder’ public money

Alleges Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka


BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the Awami League government has been using the energy sector as a weapon to plunder public money.

“The main reason behind the current energy crisis is corruption. It (energy) is a great weapon for them (govt). They have been using the energy sector as a major tool for plundering through corruption,” he said.

Speaking at a seminar, the BNP leader said the government has been plundering public money from every sector of Bangladesh apart from the energy one, putting people’s lives and livelihoods at stake.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4





Dengue death toll **19**

Total number of patients **4,619**

496 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **4,104**

139 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Standing on a high-voltage electric post, a worker tries to connect an internet line, an act that is illegal. Many internet-providing companies connect private lines in this manner, risking their workers’ lives while conducting their business. This photo was taken from the Labagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘Regularise, recognise sub-agents’

Lawmakers, activists urge govt to ensure ethical recruitment of migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers and migrant rights activists yesterday said the government needs to regularise sub-agents or middlemen in the labour migration sector in line with the relevant law to address fraudulence and ensure ethical recruitment practices.

They also said despite incidents of fraudulence, migrant workers largely depend on sub-agents for various tasks during their migration abroad. However, sub-agents largely remain unaccountable since they are not recognised by law.

Speakers made the remarks during a roundtable on “Ensuring Ethical Recruitment: Regularisation of Middlemen”, organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), in collaboration with Bangladesh Parliamentarians’ Caucus on Migration and Development (BPCMD) at

Parliament Members’ Club in the capital.

They suggested the government raise the issue during the 9th meeting of Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG) of the Colombo Process on Ethical Recruitment to be held in Dhaka on August 24-25.

Colombo Process is a regional platform of Asian labour sending countries, while Bangladesh is currently chairing TAWG.

While presenting the keynote paper, RMMRU founding Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said they have prepared three separate models on regularising sub-agents and placed those before the government, namely registration by Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) to sub-agents nominated by recruiting agencies, registration by BMET to sub-agents processed by District Manpower and Employment Office,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4