

Ensure Bangla as medium of education at all levels

Says Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury in memorial lecture at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emphasising the need for lessons in the mother tongue, Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury said Dhaka University should play a pioneering role to spread Bangla as a medium of education at all levels.

He made the remarks while delivering Professor Ahmed Kabir First Memorial Lecture-2022, centred around the topic “Centennial of Dhaka University: An Assessment Based on Two Factors”.

Professor Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq presided over the programme, organised by Samaj Rupantar Oddhayan Kendra at the university’s Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium.

Ahmed Kabir, a retired professor of Bangla at DU, passed away on June 3, 2021.

Mentioning that the nationalist movement took place to establish Bangla as a state language as well as make it the medium of education at all levels, he said, “None of these goals have been achieved. The issue of education in the mother tongue is not only about self-esteem but also about ensuring proper education.”

Though it is the responsibility of the state, Dhaka University must make the state aware of this responsibility, he

said.”It is also necessary to pay attention to translation. Through translation, we will be able to grasp global knowledge. A collective effort is needed in this regard by the university,” he added.

Prof Serajul also pointed out the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution.



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“Artificial intelligence is at the core of the fourth industrial revolution. Now the question is: who will be at the helm of artificial intelligence? Will artificial intelligence dominate humanity?” he asked.

He suggested that the university should

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RIDERS IN THE CITY... There was a time when travelling by horse-drawn carriages was the norm. But as the decades passed, people transitioned to modern forms of transportation. So, seeing these people on horseback on an empty street on Friday takes one back to a bygone era. To earn a quick buck, these three roam the roads in search of people who would like to ride the animals. This photo was taken in Banglamotor yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Five arrested for stabbing SSC examinee in Pallabi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab arrested five members of a teen gang on charge of stabbing an SSC examinee in Dhaka's Pallabi area on September 23.

Three of the arrestees have been identified as Ramzan Ali (20), Al Amin (20) and Ismail Hossain (18) and the two others are under 18, Rab said.

A team of Rab arrested them from Dhaka and two other districts on Thursday, Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4, told a press briefing yesterday.

The victim Rakib (16) is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab wounds on his back.

The Rab official said there are two groups -- senior group and junior group -- operating in the area who are involved in different types of crimes including drug abuse and mugging.

Rakib was a part of the senior group while the accused are from the junior group.

The two groups were constantly involved in rivalry over establishing dominance in the area. Some members of senior group rebuked members of the junior groups including Ramzan for smoking in front of them, which led to the attack on Rakib.

Dengeu claims another life

Death toll now 64

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one dengue patient died and 240 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With the new dengue cases, the total number of case rose to 19,523, according to Dhaka Directorate General of Health Services. The total number of dengue deaths now stands at 64. Among the death cases, 32 are in Dhaka, 20 in Cox's Bazar, six in Chattogram, five in Barishal and one in Narayanganj.

A total of 2,282 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment while 17,177 have been released from hospitals.

PRAYER
TIMING

OCTOBER 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:45	12:45	4:15	5:53	7:30

JAMAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:56 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



More women going abroad for work

Concerns remain over safety, work environment, wage benefits



SAFETY CONCERNS

- Many not provided with written job contract before migration
- Irregular payment, physical and sexual torture top reasons for early return
- Challenges faced by female migrant workers often ignored
- Government support service not satisfactory

MIGRATION IN NUMBERS

- This year, 76,579 women have gone overseas for jobs till Aug
- Between 1991 and August, 2022, 10.8 lakh women migrated for work
- In 2021, 80,143 women went abroad; 21,934 in 2020
- Saudi Arabia remains the work destination, with 48,727 women hired
- Migrations this year likely to reach pre-pandemic stage
- Oman hired 13,232 women, Jordan 10,229, and UAE 1,248

JAMIL MAHMUD

Hoping to ensure her family's bread and butter, Lucky Akhter (32) decided to migrate to the United Arab Emirates to work as a cleaner.

A mother of three, Lucky said working at a company in Dubai will fetch her 800 dirhams a month for two years. This will be great for her four-member family in Narayanganj.

"I want to raise my children properly and ensure a good future for them," she told this newspaper over the phone recently.

She has a 17-year-old married daughter and two sons, who are 15 and four years old, respectively.

She said the necessary procedures for her migration were completed through a recruiting agency in Dhaka, and a

flight was expected in October 22.

After a downturn amid the pandemic, Bangladesh is seeing an encouraging picture of women migrating for work this year, as thousands have already migrated.

However, ensuring their safety and well-being in host countries remains a concern. Studies suggest female migrants often face various pre- and post-migration challenges.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), this year, 76,579 women have gone overseas for jobs till August, with an average of 9,572 migrations per month.

At this rate, the number of female-worker migrations this year is likely to surpass last year's and the pre-pandemic stage of 2019, when 1.04 lakh women went abroad.

Last year, 80,143 women went abroad for jobs, while the number in 2020, amid the pandemic, was only 21,934, BMET data show.

Between 1991 and August this year, about 10.8 lakh female workers migrated to different countries, according to BMET.

While this year's numbers are encouraging, there are reasons to be worried about their safety abroad, said Sumaiya Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra.

Sumaiya said this year, many women from rural areas of Khulna and Manikganj migrated abroad because their families face debt, which they incurred during the pandemic.

Also, undocumented returnee male migrants, who returned home empty-handed amid the pandemic, could not re-migrate.

As a result, many women from such families intend to go abroad to make ends meet, she added.

Sumaiya said they receive phone calls from women workers from abroad and their families. They complain about the lack of safety measures.

She stressed providing proper training for these workers and their orderly migration, to avoid exploitation abroad.

This year, Saudi Arabia remains the top work destination, with 48,727 women hired. Besides, Oman hired 13,232 women, Jordan 10,229, and UAE 1,248, BMET data show.

In a field-level study, Oviyashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup) found that of 156 Saudi-returnee women, 80 returned home before completion of the two-

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PM pays homage to Bangabandhu at Tungipara



PHOTO: PID

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid rich tributes and offered prayers at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara.

Accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, the premier also offered Fateha and joined a munajat (prayer) seeking eternal peace of departed souls of Father of the Nation and other martyrs of August 15, 1975.

Prayers were also offered seeking divine blessings for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country, said PM's Assistant Press Secretary MM Emrul Kayas, who accompanied the PM.

Earlier, the prime minister paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at his mausoleum.

After laying the wreath, she stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of the architect of the independence.

Family members of the prime minister were present at that time.

Earlier, the prime minister reached Tungipara in Gopalganj at 10:10am by road after crossing the Padma Bridge.

No scope to reduce fuel prices

Says Nasrul Hamid

STAR REPORT

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday rejected the possibility of reducing fuel prices.

"Due to the global situation, there is no scope of reducing fuel prices in the local market," he said, in reply to a question from reporters at a briefing at his residence.

He said there is little opportunity to be hopeful about the energy scenario.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) demanded the diesel price be reduced, as the cost of doing business has increased substantially due to the hike and continued load-shedding.

A litre of diesel was sold at Tk 80 in the domestic market last year. But this year, the government hiked the price to Tk 109. So, various industries have been struggling to remain productive while managing soaring operational costs, wrote BGMEA to the prime minister.

On August 5, the government hiked fuel prices by up to 51.7 percent, and later, reduced them by up to 4.39 percent.

About Tuesday's grid failure, Hamid said the matter will be made clear after the probe body's

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‘Slam Poetry Night’ returns with gusto

DS BOOKS DESK

SHOUT and Daily Star Books organised the second instalment of their monthly event “Slam Poetry Nights” in the capital's The Daily Star Centre on Thursday.

Nineteen performers recited poems in Bangla and English, their topics ranging from nostalgia, personal growth and daydreams to mental health, death, and trauma. The age group of the performers ranged from school to university graduates.

With active engagement and exchanges between the performers and the diverse audience, which consisted of individuals as young as 14 and



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

even the parents of many of the performers, the Slam Poetry Night became a lively event teeming with energy.

A wonderful ambience was created as people from different walks of life, from engineering students to people working in

the corporate world, interacted with each other and shared their love for and experiences with poetry and literature.

"Performing in front of people who felt so passionately about poetry was terrifying. But I can say the anxiety was entirely worth it. I would love to try this again next month," said Adrita Zaima Islam, who performed for the first time.

Atkia Sadia Rahman, a guest at the event, said, "I wasn't expecting the event to have such a beautiful ambience. The first thing which caught my eye was the minimalist decor which put the focus on the performance."

When asked about how he felt as a returning performer,

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