

## Training for teachers British Council's training programme ends



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The graduation ceremony of the fifth group of primary teachers under the "Training of Master Trainers in English" (TMTE) project was held recently in around 12 Primary Teachers Training Institutes (PTIs) across the country.

The Directorate of Primary Education, in collaboration with the British Council, held this project to improve English language proficiency and teaching practice across multiple cohorts of training, said a press release by the British Council yesterday.

Through this 14-week programme, around 544 primary teachers were provided exclusive guidance on communicative teaching practice and methodology to make English language learning more interesting and effective for primary school students.

In its graduation ceremony in Dhaka PTI, Dilip Kumar Banik, additional director general (PEDP4), Directorate of Primary Education, and Dr Uttam Kumar Das, director of Directorate of Primary Education's (DPE) Training Division, were present.

## Itihas Parishad gets new committee

STAR REPORT

Prof Mohammad Ibrahim has been elected president and Prof Abdul Bachir, dean of the Faculty of Arts at Dhaka University, general secretary of Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, said a press release.

Prof AKM Khademul Haque and Prof Suraiya Akhter have been elected joint secretaries, and Prof Md Abdur Rahim treasurer of the new committee.

The 33-member working committee of the council has been formed for 2023 and 2024 during its 13th biennial conference held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University recently.

## What good is a public

FROM PAGE 3

Contacted, DSCC Chief State Officer Russell Sabrin also pointed to the leasing issue. "It will take 15 days to finalise the lease."

Adil Mohammed Khan, professor at Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jahangirnagar

University, emphasised the need to quickly open the toilet for use.

He suggested that the city corporation open the toilet under its own management, as there is a huge crisis of toilets in the city.

## PM is working to turn

FROM PAGE 6

Quader welcomed all registered parties and hoped that they would join the upcoming elections.

Regarding the metro rail, the minister said the government is taking the country to the level of a developed country.

"Those who say the fare of metro rail is high are not considering the reality. You have to pay Tk 20 to ride a rickshaw in Dhaka," he said.

## The daily grind

FROM PAGE 6

They later sell the collected stones to local traders, Jannu said, adding that he has learned techniques to collect the material from his father.

"Our life depends on stone collection, as this is the only work we have to earn our livelihood," said Salam Mia of Burimari village.

Saju Ahmed, a stone

trader at Kawamari, said around 30,000 to 35,000 cubic feet of stones are collected from the river every day.

They buy the stones from the collectors and sell them to traders from different parts of the country. The livelihood of nearly 200 families of different villages depends on this business, he said.

## 3 of a family hurt in Dhaka fire

UNB, Dhaka

Three members of a family sustained burn injuries in a fire that broke out apparently from gas leakage at a house in the city's Uttarkhan area on Friday night.

The injured were identified as Dalia Rahman, 35, Dalia's mother Aleya Begum, 59, and Anjana Rahman, 30, niece of Dalia.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital police camp, said the fire broke out on the second floor of the building when Dalia along with her mother and niece went to the kitchen and turned on the stove for making tea around 8:00pm, leaving them injured.

Later they were taken to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Of the injured, Aleya suffered 60 percent burn injuries while Anjana 30 percent.

Dalia, who was slightly injured in the fire incident, has been given first aid.

On information, a firefighting unit rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. Primarily it is suspected that the fire might have originated from a leaked pipeline.

## Abdus Sattar, BNP chief's adviser, quits

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submitted their resignation letters to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury the next day. Sattar has been elected MP from Brahmanbaria-2 and Cumilla-1 constituencies.

He was also state minister for the law ministry, fisheries ministry, land ministry,

as a technocrat cabinet member during BNP's regime from 2001 to 2006.

BNP sources said Sattar was elected MP as an independent candidate from the then Cumilla-1 constituency in 1979, before Brahmanbaria district was declared.

Later, he was elected MP from Brahmanbaria-2

## Farida, Shyamal

FROM PAGE 3

and Rezwatul Haque Raza (583 votes) vice president.

The other office bearers of the 17-member executive committee are -- joint secretaries Ayub Bhuiyan (540 votes) and Ashraf Ali (491 votes), treasurer Shahed Chowdhury (576 votes).

The 10 other members

are Farid Hossain, Quazi Rownaq Hossain, Shahna Siddiqui Shoma, Kalyan Shaha, Shahnaz Begum Poly, Syed Abdal Ahmed, Julhas Alam, Bakhtiar Rana, Momin Hossain and Shimanto Khokon.

Voting in the Jatiya Press Club election was held from 9:00am to 5:00pm without any break.

## Measurement

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Vankatesan, executive engineer of Indian Central Water Commission, and Dipok Kumar, sub divisional engineer of the commission, will start monitoring water level at Harding bridge point, about 2,500 feet upstream of the Padma, said Jahidul Islam, executive engineer

of Hydrology, Pabna.

At the same time, a team from Bangladesh will measure water level at the downstream of the Farakkah point, he said.

Like every year, Bangladesh and India will record water level at different points of the Ganges and Padma from January 1 to May 31.

## AL parliamentary nomination board meeting today

BSS, Dhaka



A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Nomination Board will be held at 4:00pm today at the prime minister's official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting, said a press release yesterday.

The meeting will be held maintaining proper health rules, said AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.

## Work for country's development Liberation War affairs minister urges engineers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday urged the engineers to work with integrity and sincerity for accelerating the country's development.

The minister was speaking at a reception for valiant freedom fighters at the capital's the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), said a press release.

Some 42 freedom fighters, who are engineers by profession, were accorded with reception at the programme. IEB President Engr Md Nurul Huda chaired the event, where several IEB officials also spoke.

## Shine taken off a noble initiative

FROM PAGE 3

NCTB Chairman Farhadul Islam, said in a number of places, some students will not get a full set of books on the first day. "But each student who will show up at schools during the textbook festival will get new books."

The delay will not cause many problems, he said, as not all students show up on the first day of school to collect all their textbooks.

He said all primary and secondary textbooks will reach the upazilas by January 10.

In addition to the paper crisis, several companies that won the tender for printing primary textbooks

did not sign a contract with the NCTB, and this has contributed to the delay, said NCTB Member Prof Moshuazzaman.

"We have to follow the procedures for awarding the work to second bidders if these printers don't go ahead with the work," he said.

After much delay, the work for printing primary books began on December 1. In spite of that, companies could print so many primary books within a short period because they have way fewer pages than secondary books.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md

Zakir Hossen will attend a textbook festival for primary students at the central playground of Dhaka University.

Education Minister Dipu Moni will attend a similar programme for secondary students at Kapasia Pilot High School grounds in Gazipur.

Previously, the government used to distribute free textbooks only for primary students. And so, secondary students belonging to low-income groups or disadvantaged communities used to suffer.

Since 2010, the government has been distributing free textbooks

among both primary and secondary students.

Before this whole initiative, printers would often create an artificial crisis by not printing and distributing books on time. In some cases, books used to hit the stalls in the March-April period or even later.

So far, around 430 crore textbooks have been delivered for free, garnering praise from home and abroad.

The success has led to significant improvements in enrolment at the primary and secondary levels and a decrease in the dropout rate, NCTB officials said.

## Tk 95 lakh washing



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Due to this, hundreds of people living by the river banks are currently living in a vulnerable condition.

Contacted, Lutfar Rahman, contractor of the project, said, "No irregularity has been done. Geo bags were dropped in the

damaged area as per rules."

Arif Hossain, executive engineer of Pataukhali WDB, said, "This was never a permanent solution. This project was implemented as a short term solution.

Later, permanent steps will be taken by building an embankment."

## AL vigilance foiled

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In response to journalists' questions, he said on December 10, BNP realised that people are not with them. They only managed to gather around 60,000 people whereas they

declared earlier that they would gather around 10,00,000 people.

"Since then, BNP has been very disappointed. Their politics is entirely dependent on conspiracy," he said.

## Good initiative

FROM PAGE 3

During the conversation, Rajib Khan, who was planning to travel to Qatar on December 30, said, "I learned about the place from social media. I'm fully satisfied with their service."

"But most of us don't even know that this place exists in the first place. The authorities need to step up their publicity," he added.

Moinal Hossain, who was planning to travel to Saudi Arabia on December 30, echoed the same.

Atikur Rahman, assistant caretaker of the place, told The Daily Star

that about 500 expatriates have stayed at this centre in the last nine months.

He said many expatriates from the country and abroad are calling the designated phone number to stay at this centre.

"Hopefully, the number of guests will increase in the coming days," he said, adding that they will take steps to let people know about the facility.

Regarding the food facilities, he said, "If the number of service seekers increases, we will start our canteen."

## Bhasani memorabilia in disarray

FROM PAGE 6

cultural activists and political leaders from home and abroad took part.

But, the gates around Bhasani's grave at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University are now always kept locked, visitors alleged.

Mohammad Alauddin, a student of a local high school, said many admirers of Maulana Bhasani often go back after they found the gates locked.

Bhasani's grandson Azad Khan Bhasani, also member secretary of Bhasani Parishad, said after the university was established, he hoped the university campus would always be abuzz with people's footfall, but that

didn't happen.

He opined that if the university authorities, local administration and Bhasani's followers and admirers together make a combined effort, the historic Darbar Hall as well as Bhasani's grave, mosque and educational institutions on the university compound can be seperated from the campus.

In 2003, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) was made the custodian of both the Darbar Hall and the museum.

Contacted, the university Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Farhad Hossain said it is not

possible to keep the university gates open to the public for security reasons.

However, there is no hindrance in entering Bhasani's mausoleum, said the VC.

"A university should have at least 20 acres of land. As all the establishments are situated on 23 acres, it's not possible to separate the campus through a boundary wall," said Prof Farhad.

In this regard, Bhasani's close aide and veteran politician Bulbul Khan Mahub said MBSTU should not be compared with other universities of the country, as it filled with Bhasani's memory.

Once, all the leaders including Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman used to visit Santosh to meet Maulana Bhasani.

Earlier, on the pretext of widening road, all the old trees planted by Maulana Bhasani were cut down, while the playground was destroyed to construct multi-storied buildings without planning, he said.

## 23 fishers

FROM PAGE 6 programme officer of Jashore Justice and Care, said, "The returning fishermen will be handed over to their families."

Earlier, 67 fishermen were brought back to the country through travel permits, he said.

### TENDER NOTICE

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