

Raise own funds for development

PM urges public univs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon public universities to raise their own funds through alumni associations for development and welfare programmes.

“Every university has an alumni association, and through this they can raise their own funds for the development of universities and the implementation of projects for the welfare of students,” she said.

The premier said this when members of the standing committee of Bangladesh University Parishad (Bangladesh University Council), alongside vice chancellors of various public universities, called on her at Gono Bhaban.

After the meeting, prime minister’s deputy press secretary KM Sakhawat Moon briefed the reporters.

“Students of Bangladesh are very talented. If they are given a little chance, they can bring a higher degree from abroad after completing their university studies,” the PM said.

To this end, she called upon university teachers to be more responsible and attentive to make students capable.

Hasina said university students should be involved in sports, and cultural and creative activities in addition to studies, so that they stay away from militancy.

For this purpose, she urged everyone to initiate inter-university sports competitions again.



A mother and son viewing the sculptures at Swadhinata Sangram Bhaskarja Chattar in Dhaka University yesterday. Due to a lack of maintenance, the busts had been in a dilapidated condition for a long time and were rarely visited, inset. But after the authorities renovated the spot recently, it became one of the frequently-visited places in the area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Metro rail to run till 5pm on Sunday for Ijtema

2nd phase of Ijtema begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail will run from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday to facilitate the movement of commuters for Akheri Munajat in the second phase of Biswa Ijtema.

Mohammad Abdur Rouf, company secretary of Dhaka Mass Transit Company, confirmed it to The Daily Star.

The metro rail currently runs for four hours daily from 8:00am.

The sale of MRT pass will be suspended from 3:00pm to 9:00pm on the day.

Currently, the metro train runs from Diabari to Agargaon, with a stop in Pallabi.

On December 28, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated MRT Line 6, which opened to the public the following day.

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Fake visa syndicate in town

Six members of racket held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A syndicate has been trapping people and embezzling huge sums of money with a false assurance of providing fake US visas from Bangladesh.

They first make a deal with the applicant of Tk 10 lakh to Tk 15 lakh for visa processing.

The syndicate then put some fake visit visas on the applicant’s passport, as well as the immigration seals as proof of visiting the country. Later, they schedule an appointment between the applicant and the US embassy to get a real US visa.

The cyber and special crime (north) division of the police’s Detective Branch claimed to have found the details following the arrest of six people from different areas of the capital on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Palash Chandra Das, 39; Mahabubur Rahman Khan, 36; two applicants Wahid Uddin, 38, owner of Travelers Diary agency and his associate Shahiul Islam Sumon, 37; Arifur Rahman, 36, owner of Happy Holiday agency, and his associate Abu Jafar, 25.

Detectives conducted the drive and arrested the six after one Michael Lee of the US embassy filed a case with Gulshan Police Station on the day.

According to the FIR, applicant Palash went to the embassy for a visa interview on November 13 last year. He confessed to the visa officials that the stamps on page 13

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SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

From hope to horror

Man who got out of new militant outfit recalls ordeal in confession

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Kazi Ziaul Haque Tuhin had lost all hope. Amid family troubles, his business was facing losses, and brokers who promised to send him abroad ultimately cheated him.

Out of frustration, he left his home in Cumilla’s Langolcoat in November 2021. After that, the first man Ziaul met was Habibullah, the imam of Quba Mosque near his home, who was little known to the former.

Ziaul, 32, gradually got close to Habibullah, who then inspired him to go to Bandarban, saying that the imam and others have a madrasa there, and some of them have bought land in the hills.

Habibullah told Ziaul that in the hills, the troubled man can earn a livelihood by farming and concentrate fully in worship amid a peaceful environment.

Motivated, Ziaul closed his business and took out Tk 4 lakh.

Habibullah assigned an associate, Tamal, to send Ziaul to Bandarban, and finally on December 19 or 20, 2021, he and Nahid, another youth from Cumilla, went to Bandarban.

Eventually, they ended up at the camp of the newly-surfaced militant outfit Jama’atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya in the deep forest of Bandarban.

Ziaul had to undergo military training with many others at the facility of an armed group in the hills

– known as Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF).

After two failed attempts, he eventually managed to escape the camp and surrendered before a Dhaka court.

He gave a confessional statement before the court recently as a victim. In the statement, he narrated how he was misguided to go to the hills and cheated by the militants, how difficult the journey was, the terrible days at the camp, and the outfit’s training activities at KNF facilities.

While the young man kept insisting to leave, at one point the militants tied Ziaul’s hands and feet and kept him blindfolded. He was untied after two days, after they were assured that he would not flee. They, however, had their eyes on him.

He also narrated how he was tortured after trying to escape.

According to Rapid Action Battalion, around 55 youths left their homes for so-called “hijrat” and were trained in explosives and firearms at the KNF facilities. Around 12 of them have so far been arrested, and two others have died, said Rab Director (Legal and Media) Khandaker Al Moin.

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Publish gazette asking Tarique, wife to appear on February 6

Court directs govt

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the government to publish a gazette asking BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman to appear before it on February 6 in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court passed the order after getting reports from Cantonment Police Station on execution of property attachment issued against the couple.

If the couple fails to comply with the court order, the trial against them will continue in their absence, said Dhaka Additional Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

The same court on January 5 ordered the officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station to confiscate moveable (bank accounts) and immovable (land-related) properties of Tarique and his wife Zubaida in the case.

The court also directed the OC to submit a

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We vow to ‘restore democracy’

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP has vowed to make the ongoing anti-government movement for “restoring democracy” a success, marking the 87th birth anniversary of its founder Ziaur Rahman.

BNP leaders and activists took the oath after placing wreaths at the grave of former president and the party founder at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Talking to reporters, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the people of the country have woken up to thwart the plot of Awami League to reestablish one-party rule.

“We hope that we’ll be able to organise people with a new pledge and win the movement of restoring democracy, protecting the multi-party democracy, protecting Bangladesh and saving independence and sovereignty of the country,” he said.

No need for BNP to ‘save democracy’

Says Obaidul Quader

UNB, Dhaka



Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP should be banned for lying and conspiracy.

He said this during an exchange of views with reporters after a meeting at Setu Bhaban in the capital. Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said BNP does not need to “save democracy”, as democracy was freed long ago under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said Awami League does not call counter-programmes, as his party has no desire to clash with BNP.

Before the view exchange, the board meeting of Bangladesh Bridge Authority was held at Setu Bhaban. In the meeting, it was decided that toll will only be exempted for the president on all bridges including Padma Bridge.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

HC summons DG over non-compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the director general of Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME) to appear before it over non-compliance of its order for producing some documents regarding admission of a medical student.

The DG has been ordered to appear along with the original record of admission of Md Shariful Islam, a student of Chattogram BGC Trust Medical College, before the HC bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed and Justice Md Bashir Ullah on January 24.

The bench issued the summon order during the hearing of a writ petition filed by Shariful, a third-year medical student, challenging a decision of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council that refused to register him as a student.

Shariful’s lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star that the HC on November 24 last year first directed the office of DG to submit the record of his client’s admission as medical student to this court.

16 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 16 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new figure, a total of 454 dengue cases and five dengue deaths have been recorded so far this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Some 75 dengue patients are currently under treatment, 40 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 374 dengue patients were released from hospitals.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Seeing that there’s traffic up ahead, a rickshaw-puller gets on the footpath, hampering the safety of pedestrians. Often times, bikers do the same due to a lack of monitoring by the authorities concerned. This photo was taken on Dhanmondi-2 yesterday.

PRAYER TIMING		JANUARY 20	
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:30	4:15	5:40 7:00
JAMAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:44 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			