

Train every student as a scout: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked authorities concerned to impart scout training to students in the country's educational institutions to develop them as capable citizens for building "Smart Bangladesh".

The premier made the remarks while inaugurating the 32nd Asia-Pacific and 11th National Scout Jamboree at National Scout Training Centre in Gazipur's Mouchak.

Bangladesh Scouts is hosting the 9-day regional and national scout jamboree from January 19-27.

At the event, the PM unveiled a commemorative postage stamp marking the regional and national jamboree.

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Sterilisation of dogs begins in DSCC areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has started sterilising stray dogs to control their population. A total of 10 dogs were brought under the sterilisation programme yesterday, the first day of the programme.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurated the "Dog Sterilisation Programme" in Wari's Fakir Chan Community Centre.

"According to the information we have, there are more than 50,000 stray dogs in the areas under DSCC's jurisdiction. So, we need a permanent solution to control the breeding of stray dogs. That's why, like the rest of the world, we are starting sterilisation," he said.

According to DSCC, 10 dogs will be sterilised every day. To identify the sterilised dogs, their ears will be pierced and a permanent blue colour will be sprayed on their necks.

15 to get Bangla Academy award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen authors and writers were announced as the winners of the Bangla Academy Sahitya Puroskar-2022 yesterday.

They are Farook Mahmud and Tarik Sujat (poetry), Tapash Majumder and Parvez Hossain (novel), Masud Uzzaman (essay/research), Alam Khorshed (translation), Milon Kanti Dey and Farid Ahmed Dulal (drama), Dhruba Esh (children's literature), Mohammad Shamsul Haq (Liberation War research), Suvas Singho Roy (research on Bangabandhu), Mokaram Hossain (science/science fiction/environmental science), Ikhtiar Chowdhury (biography/travelogue), and Abdul Khalek and Muhammad Abdul Jalil (folklore).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the awards at Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 26					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15	
JAMAT 6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

KAYETTULI SHAP MANDIR

Century-old temple crumbling away

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The century-old Manasa temple of Old Dhaka, popularly known as "Kayettuli Shap Mandir", is on the verge of extinction due to neglect and lack of maintenance by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and the archaeology department.

For a newcomer, it would be a struggle to find the historic temple even if they receive the right directions, as the establishment -- situated on BK Ganguly Road -- is flanked by high-rise buildings and other structures from all sides.

Around 300 Hindu devotees from Old Dhaka's Kayettuli neighbourhood come to Manasa temple to worship. Despite its fading beauty, the establishment attracts hundreds of visitors every day from the surrounding districts of Dhaka.

According to the temple's broken down nameplate, after the death of businessman Sashanka Mohon Basu in 1937, his four sons -- Moti Lal Basu, Hira Lal Basu, Ranjit Lal Basu and Ram Lal Basu -- built the establishment in honour of their father.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that the structure stands with the help of seven pillars.



The temple is one of the very few establishments that feature the exclusive "chinitikri mosaic", as the establishment had been decorated with imported china clay tiles. The structure requires urgent repairs to preserve it for future generations.

Sufi Mostafizur Rahman
Professor of archaeology at Jahangirnagar University



Half of a 15 foot tall pillar had collapsed. Almost 50 percent of the tiles on the ground have been damaged. There are numerous cracks around the foundation, which is almost 20 feet tall. There is no empty space around the structure and the nameplate has also collapsed.

Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, professor of archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, said the temple is one of the very few establishments that feature the exclusive "chinitikri mosaic", as the temple had been decorated with imported china clay tiles. "The structure requires urgent repairs to preserve it for future generations."

Rina Nandy, president of the temple committee, said miscreants looted and vandalised the temple during the political turmoil of 1990. "The establishment has not been repaired since then."

"We are trying to manage the establishment as it's our family tradition, but financially it's not possible for us to repair it," she added.

Shawon Nandy, vice president of the temple committee, said he had talked to the former DSCC mayor about repair, but no progress was made.

"This is the only temple of the goddess Manasa in Bangshal thana. There's no other



structure with such a design in Dhaka," he said. "If the temple isn't repaired within the next seven to eight months, it will collapse."

Local resident Shilpi Datta said, "Not only is this establishment a unique shrine, it also preserves records of Old Dhaka's ancient richness."

Architect Taimur Islam, chief executive of Urban Study Group, an organisation working for the conservation of architectural and urban heritage of Old Dhaka, said, "Manasha temple is one of two such temples that we have in Dhaka."

The actual history of the establishment is not known, but it is quite obvious that the patron was an elite from the late 19th century or early 20th century, he said.

"The structure is now in a dilapidated state due to lack of proper maintenance. The government should immediately take steps to repair it," he added.

Awal Hossain, councillor of DSCC's ward-33, said, "The establishment preserves the history of Old Dhaka. Steps will be taken to repair it."

Contacted, Halima Afroj, assistant director of the Archaeology Department, said, "We don't know about this temple. We are looking for information in this regard."

Eleven teachers honoured for their impact

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eleven teachers were accorded a reception for their outstanding contributions to education and morals.

Ethics Club Bangladesh honoured them while celebrating its 12th anniversary at a programme held at the auditorium of the capital's National Museum.

Education Minister Dipu Moni was present as chief guest at the programme.

MA Chowdhury Shamim, president of Ethics Club Bangladesh, chaired the programme.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam handed over the awards to the teachers.

The honoured teachers are Emeritus Professor Arun Kumar Basak of Rajshahi University; Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Dhaka College; Pratibha Mutsuddi, former principal of Bharateswari Homes; Prof Hayat Mamud of Jahangirnagar University; Emeritus Prof Ainun Nishat of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet); Prof Fakrul Alam of Dhaka University; Nurul Alam, former head teacher of Khulna Zila School; Sabera Khanam, principal of Sonakanda Government Primary School; Milton Mankhin, teacher of Mymensingh Dhalaupara Primary School; Minti Rani, principal of Narayanganj Kalsindur Government Primary School; and Pai Nu Marma, principal of Bandarban Buddhist Orphanage Government Primary School.

The club's chief executive Dilara Afroz Khan Rupa read out the announcement.

Among others, Professor Sadeka Halim, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Dhaka University spoke at the programme.

At least 109 DU students to be punished

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 109 students of Dhaka University (DU) and its affiliated institutions are set to be punished by being expelled or suspended for using unfair means in examination and indiscipline.

The recommendation came from a disciplinary board (DB) meeting yesterday at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. The meeting was presided over by DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman.

The decision will be placed before the university syndicate committee -- the highest decision-making body -- for approval.

Of the 109 students, one is set to be expelled permanently. Two students are to be suspended for two years and one for a year for violating the university's discipline.

Jim Nazmul, a resident student of Masterda Surja Sen Hall of the university, was permanently expelled for his inappropriate behaviour with a female student of a private university.

To fight the blight of poverty

JS passes zakat bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Zakat Fund Management Bill 2023 was passed in parliament yesterday, aiming to make zakat (obligatory charity in Islam) an important tool to eradicate poverty in the country.

The proposed bill also aims to enable zakat receivers to adopt any profession and make them self-reliant.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Faridul Haque Khan placed the bill which was passed by voice vote.

The proposed "Zakat Fund Management Act, 2023" will replace the Zakat Fund Ordinance, 1982.

The bill said there will be a "Zakat Board" of 13 members. The religious affairs minister or the state minister will be the chairman of the board.

Secretary of the religious affairs ministry, an

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BNP's Milon, Kokhon walk out of Keraniganj jail

STAR REPORT

BNP leaders Fazlur Huq Milon and Khairul Kabir Khokon got released on bail from Keraniganj jail yesterday.

The High Court granted them bail on Monday, said HC sources.

Milon, former organising secretary of the party, and Khokon, BNP's joint secretary general, walked out of jail around 2:30pm, said Sayrul Kabir Khan, an official of BNP's media cell.

On December 7 last year, a Swetchchasebak Dal leader was killed and around 50 others were injured in a clash between police and BNP activists in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office.

The clash took place ahead of the party's December 10 rally.

Following the incident, police arrested 470 activists and leaders of the party in connection with the clash.

The arrested BNP leaders and activists were sued in two cases filed with Paltan and Motijheel police stations. Khokon and Milon were arrested the same day.

Australian mission lauds women athletes

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Australian High Commission in Dhaka has celebrated the accomplishments of women in sports, who can serve as role models for millions of girls across the country.

"We celebrate their achievements as they are champions of women's empowerment, and can inspire women and girls across Bangladesh," said Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer at the Australia Day event in the Australian High Commission Recreation Centre on Tuesday evening.

Champion players

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Metro rail will now stop at Pallabi station

UNB, Dhaka

Nearly one month after the inauguration of the metro rail service in Dhaka, Mirpur's Pallabi Station was opened to commuters yesterday.

Now, commuters can travel from Uttara North station to Pallabi, Pallabi to Uttara, and Agargaon to Pallabi, said Managing Director (MD) of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) MAN Siddique.

A new timing has been set for metro rail. It will run from 8:30am to 12:30pm instead of 8:00am to 12:00pm, considering the demand of the passengers.

The government has fixed Tk 30 as fare for Uttara North Station to Pallabi, Pallabi to Uttara and Agargaon to Pallabi, said Siddique.

When the government started the operation of the metro rail service on December 28 last year on a limited scale, there was no stoppage from Uttara North station to Agargaon station. But now, the metro rail will also stop at Pallabi station.

According to Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), the rail operation to Motijheel may start by the end of 2024, and Kamalapur by 2025.



Near the capital's Shahbagh police station, a seized human haulier gathers rust, blocking a portion of the road. For some years now, this space has been turned into an unofficial impound, contributing to gridlock on the busy road. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BANK EXAM QUESTION LEAK IO explains why Buet professor was relieved of charges

STAR REPORT

The investigation officer (IO) for the case filed over the question paper leak of recruitment exams for bankers appeared before a Dhaka court on Tuesday and explained why he excluded Buet Prof Nikhil Ranjan Dhar from the charges.

IO Md Shamim Ahmed, a sub-inspector of the police's Detective Branch (DB), placed his submission as the court recently asked him to show causes why and how he relieved Prof Nikhil from the charges of the case filed with Badda Police Station in November 2021.

After his submission, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam directed detectives to submit a supplementary charge sheet by February 5.

The IO told the court Prof Nikhil did not receive any copies of the printed question papers from accused Delwar Hossain, who implicated the professor in his

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'False, baseless allegations'

NRCC protests reports of deleting encroachers' name from database

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) has protested the reports of four national dailies that mentioned that the organisation has deleted names of river encroachers from its database and decided not to reveal the names to public.

The commission has termed these reports baseless.

NRCC protested the reports published in Banik Barta, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Protindiner Bangladesh in a press conference held at

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