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Don't deviate from ideals
President tells students

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday asked students not to deviate from principles and ideals at any cost.

He said this while exchanging views with 45 college students, who secured meritorious results in the SSC and equivalent examinations in 2022, at Bangabhaban.

"Study regularly and prepare yourselves as worthy citizens.... You must love this country. You have to love the arts and culture of this country. You must study the actual

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With broken windows, busted tail lights and battered body, it's a wonder how this bus, which will never pass a fitness check in this condition, is on the road. As authorities turn a blind eye and let this vehicle operate, it's the passengers who are at risk of facing an accident. This photo was taken in Mohakhali area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Metro now stopping at Kazipara, Mirpur-11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kazipara and Mirpur-11 stations of the country's first-ever metro rail were opened to public yesterday morning.

Metro rail has started picking up and dropping off passengers at the stations since morning, said officials.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, on March 9 told reporters that the two stations would be added to metro rail's Uttara North-Agargaon route from yesterday.

The metro rail will now on stop at -- Uttara North, Pallabi, Mirpur-11, Mirpur-10, Kazipara and Agargaon.

Currently, the metro trains are running between 8:30am and 12:30 p m every day except Tuesday.

Siddique said they would start to increase duration of train operation after March and go for full-fledged (morning to midnight) operation from July.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December 28 last year inaugurated the country's first-ever metro rail and it was opened to public on the following day.

At first, the trains were operated from Uttara to Agargaon without any stoppage.

Later, two more stations -- Pallabi and Uttara Centre -- were made operational in two phases.



A year since deal inked, Greece yet to hire Bangladeshis

JAMIL MAHMUD

A year has passed since a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh and Greece for the latter to recruit Bangladeshi migrant workers. However, Greece is yet to initiate the process.

As per the MoU, signed in February last year in Dhaka, Greece is supposed to hire 4,000 workers from Bangladesh each year.

According to the Bangladesh embassy in Athens, the recruitment could not be started because of difficulties in visa issuance, since Greece does not have an embassy in Bangladesh.

To resolve the problem, Bangladesh has suggested that Greece open a visa forwarding service (VFS) in Dhaka, said officials at the Bangladesh mission. Currently, Bangladeshis need to submit visa applications to the Greece embassy in India to enter the country.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Greece Ashud Ahmed recently said the mission has been in talks with Greece to find a way to start the recruitment process. Greece is considering Bangladesh's suggestion to open a VFS in Dhaka, the ambassador told this newspaper over phone.

The recruitment process could be started by the end of July, provided that the VFS is opened, he said, adding that the agreement aims to address the regular migration of Bangladeshis to Greece.

The MoU is also seen as an important step towards curbing irregular migration and trafficking of Bangladeshis to the European country. Greece is currently home to more than 28,000 Bangladeshis.

According to the Bangladesh embassy in Athens, the recruitment could not be started because of difficulties in visa issuance, since Greece does not have an embassy in Bangladesh.

European countries, especially EU member states such as Greece, are sought-after destinations for many Bangladeshi youths mainly because of their strong economic conditions.

Many Bangladeshis opt for risky irregular migration routes after paying hefty amounts to human traffickers.

During the MoU signing, Greece

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BNP launched attack to foil SCBA polls
Awami League a 'pathological liar and thief'

Quader alleges
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP launched attacks on Supreme Court premises to foil the Supreme Court Bar Association election.

He said they launched the attack "like militants". "One of their [BNP] leaders yesterday [Tuesday] tried to snatch ballots in the Supreme Court area. They thought that they would win the election by doing so. After failing to do that, they are now trying to foil the election by launching repetitive attacks."

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the remarks while talking to journalists before joining a meeting of AL and its associate bodies at the party's central office on the capital's

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Awami League a 'pathological liar and thief'
Claims Fakhrul
UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday accused Awami League of rigging votes in the Supreme Court Bar Association election and branded the ruling party as a "pathological liar and thief".

He said, "They [AL] rig votes in the national elections and even in union parishad polls. Now they rigged votes in the Supreme Court and Dhaka bars. In fact, they are pathological liars and thieves."

Speaking at a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, the BNP leader alleged that the ruling party destroyed the country's power sector by indulging in widespread stealing.

Regarding the SCBA polls, Fakhrul said there was a ruckus in

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PANCHAGARH VIOLENCE
PM gives Tk 1 crore to Ahmadiyyas

STAR REPORT

A total of 206 families of the Ahmadiyya community affected by the recent violence in Panchagarh and Boda upazilas were given humanitarian assistance from the prime minister's fund yesterday.

Based on the local administration's primary assessment following the arson attacks and looting, the authorities distributed cheques between Tk 4,803 and Tk 5,26,366 among the victim families, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

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Seven-year-old dies as truck hits her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old girl died after a truck ran her over in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area yesterday afternoon.

Jayeda Akter was the elder daughter of pick-up van driver Jakir Hossain.

The crash happened around 5:00pm near her house in Tin Rasta Bhanga Mosque area.

Jayeda, a student of a local madrasa, went out to play with her friends when the truck hit her, leaving her critically injured, Jakir said.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead around 6:15pm, he added.

Will build gym in every ward
Says Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they have taken initiative to build gyms in every DSCC ward to improve the quality of life for the new generation.

"There was a very fragile and small gym at ward-30 in Old Dhaka. We have taken a plan to develop it. We will construct a three-storey building where a gymnasium will be built," said Taposh during a views-exchange meeting with journalists.

"We have also made a seating arrangement where a visitor can have a cup of tea while enjoying the

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Want Tk 25,000 per month
Demand RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RMG workers' leaders at a press conference yesterday urged the government to declare a new wage board for garment workers within a month, considering the current situation.

They also demanded that the government set the monthly wage at Tk 25,000 per month for them.

The event was jointly organised by "Garment Workers Trade Union Centre" and "Garments Workers Rights Movement" in front of the wage board office on Tophkhana Road at Segunbagicha in the capital.

RMG workers said the prices of daily essentials have been skyrocketing, and it is getting too difficult for them to survive with the current wage.

However, they are yet to get a new wage board, increment and ration even during this unwarranted time of inflation.

From the Covid-19 pandemic to the present time, the RMG workers have not received any special incentives.

Meanwhile, they have been victims of lay-offs, retrenchments and torture, they said.

The Labor Act specifies that salaries must be fixed after five years.

However, in accordance with the law, the government may, if required, establish a wage board earlier than the five-year mark as it did in 2010 and 2013 after 2006.

Taslima Akhter, coordinator of the Garment Workers' Rights Movement and the head of the meeting of Bangladesh Garment Workers Solidarity, read the written statement at the press conference.



Spring came a little late for this group this year! However, there was no shortage of celebration among them. Students took part in a colourful celebration of the season's arrival yesterday at TSC, organised by Dhaka University Cultural Society.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PRAYER
TIMING

MARCH 16

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAT 5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

