

EDUCATION WEEK 2023

Students outside Dhaka shine bright

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students and teachers from regions outside the capital secured most of the top positions in academic, co-curricular, and cultural competitions in Education Week 2023.

Participants from secondary schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical education institutions took part in the activities.

Education Minister Dipu Moni handed over certificates, crests and medals to some 225 recipients at a programme held at International Mother Language Institute yesterday.

BEST TEACHERS

Hosne Ara Begum, assistant teacher of Lalmohan Government Model Secondary School in Bhola, received the award at the school level, while Zulfikar Haider, teacher of Muminunnisa Government

Mohila College in Mymensingh, secured it at the college level.

Mizanur Rahman, lecturer of Satgara Baitul Mukarram Model Kamil Madrasah in Rangpur, received the award at the madrasa level and Nizamuddin, teacher of Afzal Khan Technical and Commerce College in Cumilla, was recognised as the Best Class Teacher at the technical level.

BEST STUDENTS

The top four students who received recognition are Sabah Binte Bayezid, grade-X student of Bindu Basini Government Girls' High School in Tangail, at school level; Afra Mehjabeen from Rajshahi College, at college level; Rahmatullah, student of Gopalgonj Salehia Kamil Madrasah, at madrasa level; and Ragib Yasir Rohan, student of Ideal Institute of Technology in Rangpur, at technical level.

Besides, Nusrat Jahan of Square High School and College

in Pabna secured the first position in the English Essay Writing Category in grade VI-VIII category, while Shamsunnahar Labonno of Jalalabad Cantonment Public School and College claimed the top position in grade IX-X category, according to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

The DSHE data shows Toki Yasar Ayman, student of Bangladesh International School and College in the capital, achieved the first position in the music category [Rabindra Sangeet] in grade VI-VIII category.

Most of the positions, as many as 51 out of 72 positions in six music categories, were bagged by students from districts.

Additionally, students from Rangpur, Mymensingh, Khulna, and Barishal secured eight out of 12 awards in the Instant Acting Competition, in four groups.



Demanding election under a neutral government, BNP held a youth rally in Bogura yesterday. The event was held at Bogura Central High School ground in the afternoon. Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addressed the programme as chief guest.

PHOTO: STAR

HILL CUTTING

CCC councillor faces contempt of court charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A High Court bench yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Chattogram City Corporation ward councillor Jahurul Alam Jasim for cutting hills in city's Akbar Shah area, violating the court's stay order.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik Al Jalil passed the rule after hearing a contempt of court petition filed by Bangladesh Environments Lawyers Association.

Jasim is the councillor of ward-9.

Bela filed the petition for cutting hills in Uttar Pahartali Mouza's 178-180 BS line.

A press release signed by Bela's lawyer M Hasanul Banna said Bela lodged a petition with the higher court seeking to stop indiscriminate hill cutting on nearly 10.51 acres of hilly land in Uttar Kattali earlier.

After initial hearing, the court issued an injunction against hill cutting on August 3 but the councillor continued to raze hills in that area.

The Department of Environment (DoE) sued the councillor in this regard. As he did not refrain from the act, Bela filed another petition.

PADMA BRIDGE LOAN

Tk 316.02cr paid as 3rd, 4th instalments

UNB, Dhaka

The Bridges Division yesterday paid Tk 316.02 crore as the third and fourth instalments of the loan taken for the construction of Padma Bridge.

Monjur Hossain, secretary of the Bridges Division, handed over a cheque of Tk 316,02,69,093 to the senior secretary of Finance Division around 10:00am in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said a press release of road transport and bridges ministry.

Road Transport and Bridge Minister Obaidul Quader, cabinet members, secretary, principal secretary to the prime minister were also present at that time.

The bridges division has now paid a total of Tk 632,93,66,142 to the government in installments.

On April 5, the bridges division began the repayment of the loan with Tk 316,90,97,049 from the revenue it earned as toll collection from the bridge.

The loan was taken from Bangladesh Bank at a low interest rate under an agreement signed between the Finance Division and the Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

Legal notice served on govt to stop illegal brick kilns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the government, asking it to take necessary steps in 72 hours to stop operations of illegal brick kilns in Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati.

Senior Advocate Manzill Murshid sent the legal notice to the deputy commissioners of these three districts, saying that the owners are operating brick kilns without licences in front of the administration though the SC has vacated the status quo order on shut down of the operations of illegal brick kilns there.

Besides, there are directives from the court to stop the illegal brick kilns, he said in the legal notice.

Murshid said if the steps are not taken in 72 hours, legal action will be taken under the Public Service Act, 2018.

Indian Naval ship arrives in Ctg



PHOTO: COLLECTED

UNB, Dhaka

Indian naval ship INS Kiltan arrived at Chattogram yesterday on a three-day goodwill visit as part of the ongoing close cooperation between the navies of Bangladesh and India.

The ship was given a warm welcome by the Bangladesh Navy.

According to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, naval cooperation between Bangladesh and India is an important pillar of the bilateral defence cooperation. Regular exchange of ship visits has played an important role in strengthening mutual trust and understanding between the two navies.

INS Kiltan is the third ship of P-28 class Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) corvettes, indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

At 110m and displacing 3,000 tonnes, it is Indian Navy's largest corvette.

The ship is named after the island of Kiltan.

No soil extraction from farmland

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government employees will also be punished for their involvement in forgeries.

"The land-related offenses were defined and punitive provisions for these were kept in it so that the citizens can uninterruptedly enjoy the rights including possession on their own lands," he said.

He said the land-related forgeries were specified and steps were taken to prevent, curb the crimes related to public and private lands as well as to ensure remedy to these offenses.

"A scope was kept in it [the proposed law] for the disposal of land-related disputes through arbitration alongside the court," said the cabinet secretary.

Giving emphasis on the agro-processing and food-processing industries, the cabinet approved the draft of Agriculture and Food-processing Industry Development Policy 2023.

Mahbub said the prime minister directed the authorities to focus more on the OIC countries while exploring new markets for the agro-processing and food-processing goods of Bangladesh.

The meeting approved the National Library Policy 2023 with a new provision to allow IT use in libraries, gave final approval to the drafts of Laxmipur Science and Technology University Act, 2023 and Bangladesh Homeopathic Treatment Education Act, 2023.

It also approved the ratifications of the Security Cooperation Agreement between the government of Saudi Arabia and the government of Bangladesh; and Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol to the Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between Bangladesh and Bhutan.

Yesterday, the cabinet extended Eid-ul-Azha holidays by a day, with June 27 included as part of the holidays.

The earlier announcement said the Eid holidays would take place from June 28 to June 30. According to the new decision, the holiday will now begin from June 27.

The decision is taken to make the Eid journey hassle-free, said the cabinet secretary.

The Bridges Division handed over Tk 316.02 crore to the prime minister as the third and fourth instalments of the loan taken for the construction of the Padma Bridge.

Form committees We need

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city, Gazipur, Chittagong, and Mymensingh city units.

Of particular concern were five districts under Dhaka division, where the committees' three-year tenure had expired seven to 10 years ago.

The last councils in Shariatpur and Kishoreganj were held in 2016, while Madaripur and Narayanganj city unit councils were held in 2013, and Munshiganj's council took place in 2014.

During the meeting, a leader proposed to the AL general secretary that the leaders of the districts facing these issues should be summoned immediately to resolve the problems.

Quader replied positively in response and assured that he would discuss the matter with the party supremo Sheikh Hasina.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, acknowledged that the upcoming general elections pose a challenge for the ruling party.

"We want peaceful elections in the country, but a quarter led by the BNP wants to make the polls questionable. They want to use external power," he said.

Besides, the meeting also discussed the party's plans for a month long programme to celebrate its 74th founding anniversary, which is scheduled to take place on June 23.

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among all the nations that share the same river, aiming to achieve sustainable and equitable water use for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

Nazrul highlighted that during his research for his PhD degree, he encountered conflicting narratives from Bangladesh and Indian authors regarding the ownership of river waters.

He aimed to shed light on this issue from a legal perspective.

"It's important to recognise that international water is not something to be divided like a pizza. It is a vital resource that millions of people rely on. It supports biodiversity, aquatic life, and numerous species," Nazrul said.

Ainun Nishat, professor emeritus of Brac University, expressed his belief that Bangladesh possesses the technical capacity for negotiation but lacks the necessary political will to secure a fair share of transboundary rivers.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Sumaiya Khair, a professor of the Law Department at DU, and other speakers praised Nazrul's clear and analytical thoughts on the matter.

The book is published by University Press Limited and was launched in the presence of various dignitaries. Mahrukh Mohiuddin, the managing director of UPL, was also present at the launch, moderated by Sheikh Rokon, secretary-general of Riverine People.

Militants more active online

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without understanding the danger."

"The relationship between police and journalists is important. We both work for public safety and awareness," added Amin.

Md Moniruzzaman, deputy inspector general (operations) of ATU, said, "It is not possible for the

state alone to suppress militancy. There is a need for coordination, public participation, and continuous support of mass media.

Shabnam Azim, an associate professor of Dhaka University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism was the keynote presenter at the

workshop.

Mofiz Uddin, DIG (admin) of ATU, presided over the workshop, and AFM Masum Rabbani, rector of the police staff college, was a special guest.

Waheeda Parveen, assistant superintendent (media) of ATU, was the moderator of the workshop.

Over 100 families left homeless

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has lost three bighas of arable land.

"We were able to relocate my makeshift house on the road. However, the erosion continues to affect other households, especially the ones located by the banks," he said.

Abdul Gafur, chairman of the union parishad, said, "We have also lost a school, a mosque and a community clinic in Char Bhagabatipur area. I have already submitted a list of the affected families to the district administration but no initiatives had been

taken to rehabilitate them." Meanwhile, preparations are underway to help the affected families, said Abdul Hai, district relief and rehabilitation officer. "A list has already been prepared and government aid will reach the families soon," he added.

Migrant workers deserve better

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role, moving forward along with the NGOs.

He said amendment of the relevant law for migrant workers is underway. The issue is likely to be discussed in the next meeting of the standing

committee.

He also said human trafficking is a challenge for the country's labour migration.

He said the government should provide a fund equal to what a migrant worker contributes, to the

wage earners' welfare fund. With the contribution, it will be possible to ensure legal support for migrant workers, he added.

Anisul said it's a "failure" that migrant workers are still not treated well at the country's airports.

President seeks EC support

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manner during its regime.

Chief Election Commissioner Habibul Awal said they are taking all efforts to ensure the elections are free and fair since taking charge.

He said EVMs are being used successfully, with

the exception of some technical glitches, adding that they are also getting cooperation from the executive branch.

The demarcations have already been completed and the process of finalising the polling stations is

underway, he said.

Election Commissioners Brigadier General Md Ahsan Habib Khan (ret), Begum Rasheda Sultana, Md Alamgir and Secretary of EC Secretariat Jahangir Alam were present on the occasion.

Request for Proposal (RFP) (UNDP-BGD-00151)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is inviting Request for Proposal from interested firms/ organizations for **Conducting Defensive Driving Training to UN Drivers** on a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) Basis.

This procurement process will be conducted through online Quantum system of UNDP. Interested firms/organizations who wish to submit the RFP document must register in the system to access the bidding document (RFP). If you have not registered a profile for your company with Quantum, you can do so by following the link for [Supplier Registration](#) given in the advertisement. The complete user guide and bidding document (RFP) can be found at UNGM website in the link below:
https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=7335

Pre-proposal conference will be conducted online on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 11:00 AM (LOCAL BD TIME)**. Link to online conference is provided in the bidding document.

The **deadline** for submission of proposal is **Monday, July 03, 2023, 4:30 PM (LOCAL BD TIME)**.