

PATUAKHALI GOVT WOMEN'S COLLEGE

Teacher shortage hampers education

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Government Women's College, the only government institution providing higher education for women in Patuakhali, is suffering from an acute shortage of teachers.

Of the 41 teaching positions at the college, 14 posts are vacant at present, including no teachers at three departments, leading to severe disruption to its academic activities.

The college was established in Patuakhali town in 1966 and was nationalised on May 7, 1979.

Since its inception, the college has been playing a leading role in the educational development of women in Patuakhali. At present, the college offers honours' courses in Bangla, English, History, Islamic History and Culture, Philosophy, Political Science and Economics. Process to offer honours' courses in Mathematics and Botany is underway, said college authorities.

They said 27 teachers, including principal and vice-principal, are working

at the college out of 41 posts. There are no teachers in the Chemistry, Zoology and ICT departments. Also, three posts are vacant in each of Bangla, English, and Political Science departments; two in each of Economics, Philosophy and History departments, one in each of Islamic History and Culture, Botany, Physics, and Mathematics departments. Besides, three of the four posts of demonstrators are currently vacant.

The post of physical education teacher has also been vacant for a long time.

"Due to shortage of teachers, we are facing problems with studies as there are no regular classes," said Shrabani Akhter, an honours' second year student of the college.

Prof Modasser Billah, principal of the college, said, "We have informed the higher authorities in this regard several times. Teachers are more interested in working in the divisional towns or in the capital rather than in district towns. As a result, there is always a shortage of teachers at colleges at the district level."



Shrubs start sprouting on and around rusty cars left abandoned at Chattogram port area. The vehicles have been gathering dust for months as importers have failed to submit documents for customs clearance. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Indian couple killed as truck hits car in Satkhira

STAR REPORT

An Indian couple was killed and a driver injured in a collision between a truck and a private car in Satkhira Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Based on their passport information, the deceased were identified as Asim Kumar Biswas, 60, and Chhobi Biswas, 49, of Siliguri in India's West Bengal.

The injured driver of the private car was identified as Md Rafiqul Islam, 30, a resident of Digholia in Khulna.

Confirming the incident, In-charge of Satkhira Katia Police Outpost Inspector Utam Mitra said Asim Kumar was an engineer of the Khulna-Mongla railway project. They had been living in Khulna for a long time, he said.

According to eyewitnesses, the Khulna-bound truck hit their private car in front of BGB headquarters around 8:00am. The accident took place when the couple were going to India through Bhowra Land Port in Satkhira, police said.

Injured driver Rafiqul was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital, where the bodies of the couple have been kept, Inspector Uttam said.

Both the vehicles have been taken into custody, he said.

An accident that shattered dreams

4 of a family among 5 killed in Rajshahi



Five people including four of a family died after a truck hit a CNG-run autorickshaw on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in Belpukur area around 3:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Sharmin, a 17-year-old from Natore's Gurudaspur, was eagerly waiting to embrace her new life in college.

The eleventh grader at Shah Makhdom College in Rajshahi bid farewell to her parents and siblings at home yesterday noon and joined her aunt Parvin Begum, 35, uncle Labu, 33, and ailing grandfather Insab Ali, 75, on their way to Rajshahi, where she was supposed to settle into her new room at a private dormitory.

Insab, a cancer patient, had to regularly visit a private facility in Rajshahi for chemotherapy sessions. That's why he was also accompanying them.

Sharmin's journey towards a new life, however, turned into a tragedy as

the CNG-run autorickshaw carrying them collided head on with a TCB goods-laden truck on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in Belpukur area around 3:00pm.

The accident left all four family members dead on the spot, said Jamirul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

"She was about to start a new life and had just left home with her parents' blessings. Who knew this was going to be her final goodbye," said Jahangir Alam, Sharmin's cousin.

Abu Sayed, Sharmin's father, was in a state of shock. He just kept saying, "We lost everything within moments."

The incident also claimed the life of the auto-driver Moklesur Rahman, 45, who left behind his daughter, a college fresher, and his son, an eighth grader.

3 killed as prime mover ploughs through crowd

5 more die in Feni, M'singh, Gazipur

STAR REPORT

Three workers were killed and another was injured as a prime mover ploughed through them on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Mirsarai upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Alamgir Hossain alias Alam, 45 and Shafiqul Islam, 42, from Pabna; and Masud Mia, 35, from Brahmanbaria, said police.

The identity of the injured individual could not be known immediately.

The three, along with 15 other workers, were assigned for the installation of a new gas pipeline beside the highway, said Sohel Sarkar, officer in charge of Joraganj Highway Police Station.

The Chattogram-bound prime mover



PHOTO: COLLECTED

from Dhaka ploughed through the workers while they were working beside the highway at Talbaria BSCIC Rastar Matha area around 7:45am, said the OC.

Locals took the four injured workers to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared the three dead, said the OC. The injured worker was shifted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Police seized the prime mover but the

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2-day conference on climate change begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

The South Asian Conference on Climate Change began yesterday at Dhaka University, aiming to instill and develop research capacity among the youth.

The two-day event began with a programme titled, "Unfolding emerging issue in the context of changing climate scenario", arranged by Center for People and Environ (CPE) at DU Social Science Faculty building.

More than 100 participants from India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka joined the conference, both in person and online.

Dr M Monirul Qader Mirza, adjunct professor and graduate faculty member, department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto Scarborough, was the conference speaker.

The event was chaired by Dr M Shahidul Islam, Chairman, Department of Geography and Environment of Dhaka University.

OXFAM programme director Mahmuda Sultana also spoke at the event.

Swechchhasebak Dal leader expelled for buying nomination form

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Anwar Hossain Manju, joint convener of Juri Upazila Swechchhasebak Dal in Moulvibazar, has been expelled from the party for buying nomination forms of Trinamool BNP to participate in the 12th parliamentary election.

M Idris Ali, information and publicity secretary of Moulvibazar District BNP, confirmed this.

According to a press release on Friday, Anwar was expelled from the organisation due to disobeying the instructions of the party and in view of specific complaints.

Juri Upazila Swechchhasebak Dal Member Secretary Saifur Rahman said Anwar bought the nomination form from Trinamool BNP head office in Dhaka to participate in the election in Moulvibazar-1 (Barlekha and Juri upazila).

Meanwhile, Anwar Hossain said he was involved with the politics of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal for a long time. He resigned from Swechchhasebak Dal due to personal issues.

No dialogue with arsonists Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said they will not hold any dialogues with arsonists.

Dialogue can be held with political parties, not with those who instigate violence, he said.

Hasan Mahmud, also joint general secretary of Awami League, said BNP-Jamaat wants to destroy the country through arson attacks. Their alliance is the enemy of the nation, society, and people, he said.

The minister was addressing the opening ceremony of a mural and documentary titled "Bangabandhu Manei Bangladesh" at Jamal Khan intersection in Chattogram city.

He was present at the programme as chief guest. On June 14, some people vandalised the mural at Jamal Khan intersection while they were going to join a BNP rally.

Five new Covid cases reported

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reported five new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new numbers, the country's total Covid-19 caseload rose to 2,046,056, according to the DGHS.

The official death toll from the disease remained unchanged at 29,477 as no new fatalities were reported during this period.

The daily case test positivity rate declined to 0.76 percent.



Meraz, a farmer in Jhalakathi's Poshonda village, sows vegetable seedlings on mud patches in low-lying arable lands. He intercropped bottle gourds, green chilies, cauliflowers, and turnips, among other varieties, during winter and spring, most of which he sells at local markets. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 26

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:10	12:30	3:45	5:19	7:00

JAMAAT 5:45 1:15 4:00 5:22 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION