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Govt launches edn portal for curriculum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government launched a new educational portal yesterday, featuring materials for students, teachers, and guardians nationwide, aligned with the newly implemented curriculum.

Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury inaugurated the website themed “Curriculum Portal, a One-Stop Solution”, at the International Mother Language Institute.

Regarding the curriculum’s controversies and evaluation process, he stressed the importance of mindset and parental involvement for success.

“We will consider increasing teachers’ salaries by adjusting the operational and development budgets,” he said.

Director General of the Directorate of Secondary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays tributes at the Monument to the People's Heroes at the Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, China yesterday.

DHAKA-PADMA BRIDGE-JASHORE
Wait for direct rail line gets longer



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

People's wait for direct rail connectivity between Dhaka and Jashore via Padma Bridge is getting longer as the project authority could not complete work within the last month.

Now, the railway authorities are planning to open the line in November, as it would take four more months to complete all physical works, said project officials.

Project authority yesterday placed the new plan before Railways Minister Zillul Hakim, who had announced in May that the line would be opened within two months, they said.

Bangladesh Railway is constructing a 169km broad-gauge single-line from Dhaka to Jashore via Padma Bridge at a cost of Tk 39,247 crore.

This is the biggest project for BR in terms of cost, and over half of the cost is being provided by China as a loan.

The original deadline for the project was June 2022 and the latest deadline was June this year.

The Dhaka-Bhanga section of the line was opened in October last year and five trains are being operated

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Cargo village to be cleared finally

CAAB confiscates 12 abandoned aircraft, plans auction

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh finally confiscated 12 airplanes that had occupied a large part of the cargo village for around 10 years, disrupting the loading and unloading of goods.

The aircraft include four MD-83s, one A310, two ATR 72s, and one Dash-4 owned by United Airways, two Dash-4s aircraft owned by Regent Airways, one MD-82 aircraft owned by GMG Airlines, and one AN-12 aircraft owned by Angel Airways, CAAB said.

The cargo village area has practically been turned into an aircraft graveyard as those airlines have not been in operation for one to 10 years, CAAB officials said.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Malidur Rahman said they will float a tender soon for selling those aircraft through auction.

According to CAAB notification, despite repeated requests to the authorities concerned to remove the planes, no action has been taken so far to remove them. That's why those aircraft were confiscated.

The 12 planes have been lying abandoned, occupying around 1,92,100 square feet of ground support equipment parking area, export cargo area.

The CAAB chairman said he now has the jurisdiction to float the auction of those aircraft as per the rules.

Around 12 bay parking will be prepared if those abandoned aircraft can be removed, he added.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of HSIA, said the de-registration of those aircraft has already been completed.

He also said the respective airlines have failed to repay the dues to CAAB and have failed to renew their licences.

CAAB said they will get around Tk 1,200 crore from the three airlines -- United Air, Regent Air, and GMG Air -- which will be obtained by auctioning off the planes.

United owes Tk 388.97 crore, Regent Air owes Tk 408, and Tk GMG owes Tk 396.45 crore to CAAB.

In February 2016, United Airways ceased suspended flight operations without any announcement.

Afterwards, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission took the initiative to revive its operation and reorganised the board of directors of United Airways, with Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert, as its chairman.

Contacted, ATM Nazrul Islam, an independent director of United Airways, said they tried their best to revive the planes, but couldn't succeed as they didn't get cooperation from any government organisations except for BSEC.

“We even found an investor willing to contribute around Tk 500 crore. However, they gave a condition that CAAB would have to waive the dues,” he said, adding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

COURT CORNER
Why no paternity leave: High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to formulate a paternity leave policy for employees at all institutions. The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque issued the rule following a writ petition.

On July 3, Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan submitted the petition, in which her six-month-old child's name has been included as a petitioner too, saying that the absence of paternity leave made it difficult for new fathers to take care of their wives and newborns.

NID, passport details of Matiur, his family sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has requested Election Commission and Department of Immigration and Passports for the details of the national identity cards and passports of former NBR member Matiur Rahman, his two wives, and two children.

ACC sent the letters yesterday, confirmed an official of the anti-graft body.

“The request is part of an investigation into allegations of illegal wealth accumulation and money laundering against them,” he said.

Yunus’ petition hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed today for holding hearing on a petition filed by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and six others of Grameen Telecom, challenging a Dhaka court's order that framed charges against them.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain set the date. Barrister Abdullah-Al-Mamun appeared for Prof Yunus, while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan and DAG AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the ACC.

HC orders to evict 850 structures from Bangshi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to evict 850 illegal structures from the banks of Bangshi river at Savar in the next two months.

According to a survey report submitted by the National River Conservation Commission to the HC on June 30, there are 850 illegal structures on the banks of the river.

Removing ‘Sharifa’s Tale’ not a solution
Says NHRC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission chairperson Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday said the commission disagrees with the government decision to remove “Sharifa's Tale” from textbooks.

He said this at a meeting at the NHRC headquarters in the capital.

“This step [to remove the story “Sharifa's Tale” from textbooks] cannot be perceived as a solution. While this action is repressing the issue, it will arise again in the future for natural reasons,” he added.

“Therefore, the NHRC finds it logical to disagree with this decision,” said Dr Kamal.

Sharifa's story is about a woman ostracised by her family and society. The story highlights the hardships of the “third gender” community, as referred to in the textbook, and the formation of supportive bonds within it.

“We need to change our discriminatory attitudes towards them. Including these topics in our textbooks will help create positive awareness about these communities,” Dr Kamal also said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the NHRC chief said, “We

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



This dystopian sight sits right opposite the Adabor Police Station in Mohammadpur. Vehicles, some broken down, sits in this make-shift “impound” on the footpath after being confiscated by cops. As a result, pedestrians are left with no space to walk as vehicles continue to pile up in this space over the years. The photo was taken yesterday.

Lalmatia field set for a facelift

HELEMUL ALAM

The National Housing Authority has started renovating the 2.25-acre playground near Aarong in Lalmatia, evicting encroachers from the site.

The field, previously used for a kitchen market, is now surrounded by corrugated iron sheets as part of the renovation effort.

An NHA official confirmed that the renovation plan includes the creation of walkways, a playground, a skating zone, a temporary shed, a kids zone, two entrances, a toilet, a parking area, and a Shaheed Minar.

The project, funded by the NHA at a cost of Tk 7.2 crore, began on May 22 and is expected to be completed by December.

However, Adil Mohammad Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, criticised the design. He argued that the inclusion of a shed in the middle of the park and the establishment of a skating zone would reduce green spaces and increase concrete areas.

This would also increase the project cost and reduce groundwater recharging ability, he added. He also criticised the lack of consultation with locals and professionals before finalising the design.

In response, the NHA official told this correspondent that 3,500 trees, including Kanchan, Ashok, Neem, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4