

House of Commons praises NU for reforms

CITY DESK

The House of Commons on November 27 praised the National University of Bangladesh for reforms aimed at developing a skilled, globally competitive workforce, said a press release.

British MPs and international development partners highlighted the university's updated curriculum during a high-level roundtable in Westminster.

The event followed a memorandum of understanding signed on November 26 between the National University and the University of Salford covering collaboration in data science, machine learning, public health, and AI applications.

The roundtable was organised by Mayor Andy Burnham, MP Jim McMahon and Councillor Abdul Jabbar.

Keynote speaker Prof ASM Amanullah, vice-chancellor of the National University, stressed the importance of technical education and AI-driven learning.

MP Jim McMahon reiterated support for the reforms. Abdul Jabbar highlighted the value of digital education, while Salford's Professor Nick Beach and Dr Mo Sare affirmed support for advancing AI education. Speakers included Noorani Ropma, Mubin Khan, David Knox, Prof Vicki, Prof Paul, Jonathan and Lucie.



PHOTO: STAR

DEBPARA IN HABIGANJ Illegal bird trade thrives despite raids

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Debpara along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj has turned into a major hub for the illegal sale of wild birds. Hunters and traders meet buyers discreetly in the area, conducting their business with little fear of prosecution.

Despite existing laws and limited enforcement, hunting and trading of migratory birds continue across the region's haor areas, including Ghungajuri, Maka, Boro Haor and Hail Haor.

Abdur Rouf, a bird seller from Nabiganj, said traders deal in a variety of birds such as Cotton Pygmy Goose, wild ducks, pigeons and cormorants.

"A single hunter can sell up to 25 pairs of birds daily. Prices vary depending on the species, with a pair of Cotton Pygmy Goose selling for Tk 800, a duck or a dove for Tk 300, and a cormorant for Tk 500," he said.

When this correspondent visited

Debpara, several traders were seen quickly hiding their birds while others fled as soon as they noticed him taking photographs.

Balidhara Bazar, said trading in the open market has become risky due to increased vigilance.

"Tourists are particularly willing to pay high prices for the birds, with



some offering Tk 500 simply out of hobby. In winter, both the number of migratory birds and their market value will increase," he said.

Local resident Md Abdul Qadir described Debpara as the hotspot for illegal bird trading. He said only a few birds are seized during drives, while key traders manage to escape. Unless the main players are

apprehended, he added, the illegal trade will continue.

Tofail Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon in Habiganj, called for stringent measures to protect the region's biodiversity.

Md Mahmud Hossain, wildlife range officer in Habiganj, said 23 illegally hunted birds were seized and three hunters arrested during separate drives in Debpara in Nabiganj and Mirpur Bazar in Bahubal on October 29.

The arrestees — Joynal Mia, Sajjad Mia and Md Sumon Mia — were fined a total of Tk 10,000 by a mobile court. Two wild birds recovered from Mirpur Bazar were later released in the haor.

Earlier on October 21, one Faruk Mia, 40, of Alipur village in Nabiganj was fined Tk 2,000 for illegally hunting and selling birds.

A cormorant recovered from him was also released.

"We want to stop the hunting and sale of wild birds by imposing stricter mobile court drives," he said.

BHUAPUR UPAZILA IN TANGAIL

Grabbing and pollution choke Gobindasi canal

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The century-old Gobindasi canal in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila is on the brink of disappearance due to rampant encroachment and indiscriminate pollution.

The canal originates from the Jamuna river and flows through Gobindasi Bazar to Amula village in Aloya union.

Once a 50-metre-wide waterway that supported trade and transport, it has now shrunk to around 10 metres as local influential grabbed land along both banks and filled it to construct various structures.

Unregulated dumping of household and market waste has turned the canal's water dark and foul-smelling. Residents say the canal can no longer drain excess water during monsoon, causing waterlogging in croplands and adjoining areas, including Gobindasi Bazar. The reduced flow has also disrupted irrigation in nearby fields during the dry season.

"Back in the 1960s, hundreds of goods-laden and passenger boats used to ply

the canal. Now it has become a narrow garbage dump," said Jamal Hossain, 80, of Gobindasi Bazar.

"Even a drizzle now causes waterlogging in the market area as the canal cannot drain away rainwater. Goods transportation and daily commute, including for students, become extremely difficult," said Mohammad Lifton, a shopkeeper.

Contacted, Mohammad Razib Hossain, assistant commissioner (Land) in Bhuapur, said they have received instructions from the Tangail deputy commissioner to conduct a survey to demarcate the canal's land.

"Eviction drive will be conducted against illegal grabbing and pollution of the canal soon," he said.

Md Mahbub Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Bhuapur, said legal measures are underway to revive the canal's natural flow.

"However, sustainable change is only possible when each resident comes forward and realises their collective moral responsibility to keep the canal clean," he said.



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জমির শেয়ার বিক্রি

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ক্যাডেট ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিক্ষাবাবে - ২০২৬

