

Involve youths in dev policy-making process

Workshop speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should involve the young generation in the process of formulating development policies in order to ensure overall development of the country, speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

They also urged the World Bank (WB) and other donor agencies to continue to extend their support for poverty alleviation and other development projects.

The Brac and the World Bank have jointly organised the national workshop on 'World Development Report (WDR), 2007 -- Voice of the Youth -- Findings from Consultation in Bangladesh' at the Brac Centre Inn at Mohakhali in the city.

Addressing the inaugural session as the chief guest, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal said the young generation of the country are contributing a lot to the development sector, but more training facilities are needed to improve their skills.

"We need more financial support from the WB and other development partners so that the government can provide extensive training for the young generation," he added.

Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, executive director of Brac, said the overall development of the country depends on the active participation of

the youth in the national economy.

The government should consult with the young generation while formulating the development policies, he added.

Presenting a research paper on 'Voice of the youth: Synthesis of youth consultations in Bangladesh', Tariq Omar Ali, senior research associate of Research and Evaluation Division of Brac, said the major policy demands articulated by youths are flexible schooling -- so that school work can be combined with income earning activities -- and part-time work for

university student -- so that they can support themselves in higher education.

Dr AK Mahbul Alam, secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, attended the concluding session as the chief guest while Arifur Rahman, chief executive of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Dr Jiban R Majumder, deputy chief of General Economics Division of Planning Commission, and SM Waliur Rahman, director general of Department of Youth Development, spoke at the sessions.

Mother, daughter killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman and her daughter were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Sanarpara yesterday.

Sufia Begum, 55, and her daughter Lovely, 35, were waiting for a bus at Sanarpara bus, but suddenly a speeding truck knocked down them and fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the steering.

Rubi, 18, another daughter of

Sufia, was accompanying them but she escaped unhurt.

Local people rushed the two women to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared them dead.

Abu Sayed, son-in-law of Sufia, said they went out of their home at West Sanarpara at noon to go to their village at Homna, Comilla.

Shiddhirganj police seized the truck.

Seat plan for DU admission test under GA unit

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for GA unit, business studies group of the first year honours under 2005-2006 session of Dhaka University (DU) will be held on Friday at 10:00am with around 28 students vying for each seat.

There are a total of 844 seats under the unit and around 24,500 admission seekers will take part in the admission test.

The seat plans are as follows: Roll number 100001 to 101363 at Home Economics College, 101364 to 104122 at BDR College (Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College), 104124 to 105839 at Rifle Public School & College, 105840 to 106922 at Dhaka City College, 106923 to 108685 at Ideal College, 108686 to 110092 at Sheikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College, 110093 to 110844, 111213 to 111916, 112411 to 112506, 112684 to 113631, 113835 to 114019 at Curzon Hall, 110845 to 111212, 111917 to 112410, 112508 to 112683, 113632 to 113834 at Mukarram Bhaban, 114020 to 115400 at Science Annex Building, 115401 to 115580 at Institute of Statistics Research and Training, 115581 to 115784 at Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, 115785 to 116027 at Institute of Modern Languages, 116028 to 119866 at IBA Building, 119867 to 120517 at Arts Building, 120518 to 121182 at IER Building, 121183 to 121819 at University Laboratory School and College, 121820 to 122242 at Institute of Social Welfare and Research, 122243 to 124490 and all A Level students at Faculty of Business Studies.

TWO GET BEGUM ROKEYA PADAK-2005

Launch social movement to end dowry system: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday pledged to carry forward a social movement for spreading education, halting repression and empowering women by putting an end to hated dowry system.

"I always try to push forward this movement, because half of our population is women. It's an absurd imagination to achieve national development and progress keeping them lagging behind," she said at a function marking the award giving ceremony of Begum Rokeya Padak-2005 at the Osmani Memorial Hall auditorium in the city.

The function was also addressed by Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Khurshid Jahan Haque. The recipients of the Padak are Rokeya Mannan (education) and Srimati Shaha (social service).

Khaleda said she will have deployed all her strength to build up a social movement for women emancipation and environment protection if she was not "compelled to join politics and new political movement" for establishment of democracy and people's rights.

In her free and candid speech charged with emotion, Khaleda said she had to enter politics to uphold the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, proclaimer of independence and architect of modern Bangladesh.

"I had to join a difficult struggle for democracy and people's rights," she said, adding that the struggle has not yet completed.

Khaleda said she had been fighting a ceaseless movement to bring about a change in the destiny of the common people who are afflicted with ignorance, deprivation, indiscriminate and exploitation over the centuries.

"I am to fight to ensure two square meals a day, clothes in the cold, a piece of shelter, medical treatment, education and employment for these hapless people."

Alongside the efforts to alleviate poverty, she said she had to struggle for development, peace and stability in the country. "I am to launch a new movement to



Rokeya Mannan receives Begum Rokeya Padak-2005 from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Osmani Memorial Hall auditorium in the city yesterday.

implement the aspiration of the people for which they had fought the war of independence by taking risk of their lives," she said.

Recalling Begum Rokeya's great struggle for and contribution to emancipation of women in this region, Khaleda said today women got the right to education, free movement, seek justice against repression and right to franchise.

"Today we are speaking of women empowerment. Women are now becoming judges and barristers, leading army, flying planes and moving forward in almost all professions keeping abreast with men by dint of their own competence and efficiency."

Moreover, Khaleda said the responsibilities of the Prime

Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are being carried out by women. "All these were the dreams of Begum Rokeya. She not only dreamt of this, but struggled uncompromisingly throughout her life to materialise her dreams. We're now enjoying the fruits of her struggle."

She said Begum Rokeya was a teacher, organiser, litterateur and social reformer. All her talents and virtues were employed to build a social movement for emancipation of the women.

The society today lacks such personalities of having so many qualities, Khaleda said and called for concerted efforts to finish the unfinished tasks of Begum Rokeya and to achieve the national goal of development and progress.

CU exam date shifted for hartal

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities rescheduled the date of admission tests for first year honours courses under Ka unit (Science faculty) and Cha unit (Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science) in the wake of a dawn to dusk hartal on January 22 called by 14-party opposition alliance.

The test of Ka unit will now be held at 2:30pm on January 24 and Cha unit at 2:30pm on January 26.

Other tests will be held in scheduled time.



A two-day Pitha Utsab (homemade cake festival) organised by the Narigrantha Prabantana began at the Prabantana Bhaban at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

Woman succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pregnant woman succumbed to her burn injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday.

The woman allegedly set herself on fire to take revenge against her husband after a quarrel over dowry, police said.

The woman identified as Mahmuda Akhter Mukta, 26 tried to commit suicide at her residence at Rajendrapur village under South Keraniganj thana on Tuesday night after a quarrel with her husband in the evening, police added.

After having a conjugal life of long nine years Mahmuda's husband Linkon demanded Tk 1.60 lakh as dowry. Mahmuda's

husband married another woman three months ago, as she could not meet the demand, sources said.

Mahmuda's parents took her to the DMCH at dawn and she breathed her last at noon.

The victim's father Matiur Rahman Shahjahan said Linkon, a fish trader, set fire to Mahmuda as she could not give the dowry and left the place.

Matiur told the Daily Star that he would file a case against his son-in-law and two others in this regard.

Matiur lodged a general diary (GD) six months ago with Keraniganj police station as Mahmuda's mother-in-law and brother-in-law created pressure on her to pay the dowry of Tk 1.60 lakh.