

Uniform policy a must for quality education

Lawmakers tell orientation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers and educationists at an orientation programme for the parliamentarians yesterday stressed the need for ensuring quality besides increasing allocation in the education sector.

"Highest allocation of resource to the education sector is not enough, rather we should give more emphasis on the quality education," said former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP while addressing the programme.

He laid emphasis on a uniform education policy to ensure quality of education.

Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Education in cooperation with the People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) organised the orientation programme on 'Constitutional Mandate: Education, MDGs and EFA' at the BIPS seminar hall of the Jatiya Sangsad.

"The country will remain backward forever if we cannot advance in science and technology," said Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Stressing the need for introducing uni-track education system at secondary level, he said taking final decision in choosing arts, commerce or science is difficult for a school student.

Moniruzzaman Mia, however, said the proposed uni-track education system is not consistent with the report of the National Education Commission-2003.

Compulsory education up to class eight, which is often demanded from different quarters, is not possible due to lack of infrastructure and other facilities, he added.

"The matter of inculcating humane values in students' mind is absent in our education system which is why a university teacher kills another teacher despite secur-

ing higher degree from universities," said Whip Ashraf Hossain MP. Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury MP urged the lawmakers to be more vigilant about the schools and colleges in their respective constituencies.

The parliamentary caucus in its five-point recommendation laid emphasis on formulating a uniform education policy and increasing the allocation to four percent of GDP from present 2.2 percent.

Secretary General of Parliamentary Caucus on Education Dr Alauddin Ahmed MP, Vice-chairman Abu Yousuf Md Khalilur Rahman MP and MA Mannan MP also spoke at the programme.

Brac senior research fellow Sammer Ranjan Nath, Convenor of People's Forum on MDGs Rasheda K Chowdhury and Planning Commission Member Dr Quazi Masbahuddin Ahmed presented papers on the present condition of education in the context of MDGs.

BSF yet to return 8 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has not returned the eight Bangladeshi nationals, who were picked up from the hilly borders of Rema in Habiganj days ago. However, four others were returned to the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Sunday afternoon.

The BSF picked up six Bangladeshis from near the border pillar 1958 at Rema border on 10 February as they went there to collect firewood. On the next day, the BSF, after a flag meeting with the BDR, returned Ram Bishon Koiree, 17, Ram Munda, 12, Rajmohan Munda, 11, and Sankar, 18. But, Amir Ali, 32 and Monnaf Miah, 40, who were taken away on the same day, are yet to be returned.

On the other hand, the BSF did not return any of the six people they picked up on January 27 from the same area when they were guarding the forestlands. The BSF had reportedly sent them to the Tripura Jail hajat.

Tasmima files criminal case against Arshad

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Tasmima Hossain, a director of the daily Ittefaq, yesterday filed a criminal case against Arshad Hossain, chief executive-cum-consultant of Ittefaq Group of Publications and managing editor of The New Nation, on charge of publishing a false and defamatory news about her on the web site of The New Nation in August last year.

Tasmima, wife of Ittefaq Editor Anwar Hossain Monju and also the editor of the fortnightly Anannya, appeared before the court of chief metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka, and filed the case against Arshad, son of Barrister Mainul Hossain.

After a hearing, Magistrate AJM Abdullah Baqui recorded the statement of the complainant, took the case into cognisance and issued summons upon Arshad to appear before the court on April 18.

In her complainant, Tasmima mentioned that Arshad filed a general diary (GD) with the Sutrapur Police Station on July 27 last year saying she (Tasmima), an ex-lawmaker, is of unsound mind and suffering from mental illness. In the GD, Arshad alleged that Tasmima is the godfather of terrorists and she has serious grudge against him as she has no son and that the musclemen had threatened him with death.

Arshad also alleged that the musclemen had told him that they would kill Monju and put the blame on him and his father Mainul Hossain, who is the chairman of the board of editors of the Ittefaq.

Tasmima in her complaint said Arshad published a distorted version of the GD on the web site of The New Nation on August 10 last year, which is totally different from the news on the GD published in printed form in the daily.

The accused had published the fictitious, false and vexatious news with an intention to cause harm to her that had cast aspersions on her character, Tasmima said, adding that the news had also tarnished her image in society, particularly to friends, colleagues, relatives and well-wishers.

Moreover, the charges brought against her were proved to be false, fabricated and concocted during an investigation by the Sutrapur police, the complainant said.

Advocate Shah Monjurul Haque moved the case on behalf of the complainant.

Boy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurannabi alias Gani, a 12-year-old boy from village Haiderganj in Raipur, Laxmipur, has been missing since February 1.

Gani, son of Abdul Aziz, went out of his house on the day without telling anything to the member of his family. The next day, his parents came to know from his friends that he boarded a launch bound for Dhaka.

The family members immediately came to Sadarghat in Dhaka but could not trace him. Gani, a student of class four at Al Falah Kindergarten, is 4' 6" in height and wearing a shirt and black trousers.

A general diary has been filed with Raipur Police Station in this regard on February 5.

Anybody knowing his whereabouts has been requested to contact Liton, Room No. # 504, Zia Hall, Dhaka University, or call at 011092427, 01711030582 or 0189135259.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury talks to Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui during a meeting between the two parties at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Eliminate gender inequality for development of women

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called for addressing the issues that negatively impact health, nutritional, psychological as well as financial well-being of the women and the children.

He said such issues must be addressed through eliminating the gender inequality and redefining the traditional role of women.

"Women must have education and whatever position in a society they can gain, they should accept the challenges of the jobs within their capacity," he said.

The President was addressing an international conference on "The Impact of Global Issues on Women and Children" as chief guest at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

The conference was jointly organised by State University of Bangladesh (SUB) and McMaster University of Canada.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Hoque and High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Barbara Richardson were the special guests.

The President said, "We are facing serious competition in different fields including trade and commerce, education, culture and heritage, food habit and also the socio-economic condition. It impacts directly or indirectly on our development process."

Iajuddin mentioned that annual population growth rate, which is 1.43 percent, is still very high in comparison to the economic growth rate and corresponding inputs for poverty reduction.

"Women and children are the major victims of mortality and morbidity in our society. So it is our prime duty to address those negative factors boldly to achieve our desired goals," he added.

He said, "It is imperative for the

women to strive for economic emancipation for their growth-physical, social or psychological."

Addressing the human dimensions of sustainable development is increasingly recognised to be fundamental to achieve its goals, he pointed out.

Iajuddin said sustainable developments cannot be achieved if there is a high prevalence of debilitating illness and poverty.

He said the government has achieved commendable success in all the arena of national development especially in the fields of education, health, family planning, food security, environment, women empowerment and communications.

He also expressed the hope that the conference would act as an eye-opener for all the participating countries.

Feuding SQ Chy family wanders

FROM PAGE 12

In 2005, Salaudinn wanted to involve his son Fazul Quader Chowdhury Faiyyaz with the QC Container Line after his (the son's) return from abroad where he had been studying. But Salaudinn's three brothers objected to the idea creating the first rift among them.

Following the incident Salaudinn's brothers tried to take loans from different banks and failed, as the banks pointed out that Salman F Rahman and Sohel F Rahman, two directors of the company, were loan defaulters. Being repeatedly refused loans by the banks the three brothers then requested Salaudinn to get the Rahman brothers out of the company, which he readily rejected.

A source close to Salaudinn's three brothers said Salaudinn told his brothers that Salman was very close to him and he would rather relinquish his own directorship in the company than to ask them to leave.

After learning about the three brothers' reservation about their being in the company, Salman and Sohel withdrew themselves from QC and demanded their dues. While Salaudinn was ready to comply his three brothers were not. Failing to convince them Salaudinn resigned from the post of the managing director in October 2005, and dissociated himself from all sorts of activities related to the company.

There was another trouble brewing as far as the relationships among the siblings are concerned. It has been quite some time that Salaudinn's three brothers and two sisters have been pressing for their father's wealth and property to be divided among them.

Salaudinn has been kind of leading the joint family single-handedly, taking all the decisions all by himself without consulting his brothers, their wives or his sisters. While the younger brothers and sisters have lived with the arrangement for a long time and have not been protesting, apparently they have been growing discontented.

In 2001, Gias Quader Chowdhury the second among the six siblings lost the last election in Chittagong-6 constituency. A source close to him said Gias strongly believes that Salaudinn's objectionable remarks against the BNP leadership cost him the seat.

Gias is now lobbying for getting nominations to compete in Chittagong-7 constituency from where his elder brother Salaudinn won the last election. This is also exacerbating the bitterness among the brothers. Meanwhile, Salaudinn visited Chittagong-4 constituency quite a few times and has been taking stock of the development work in the area. It is being

said that he may fight the next elections in this constituency. The incumbent is Rafiqul Anwar MP of Awami League who is also known as Sona Rafiq.

A source in the income tax department said 75 percent share of the company which had been earlier divided among the four brothers equally, was re-divided on late last year, giving Salaudinn less than one-third of each of his three brothers' share.

QC CONTAINER LINE

Salaudinn and his brothers came to shipping business following their father's footsteps. They inherited the shipping company called QC Shipping Ltd, which had been operating since the Pakistan period. The company with its present name QC Container Line Ltd was established in 1995.

Initially it had six directors -- Salaudinn Quader Chowdhury MP, Gias Quader Chowdhury, a former MP, Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury, Jamaluddin Quader Chowdhury, the present managing director of the company, and their cousins Sohel F Rahman, chairman of Beximco Holdings, and Salman F Rahman, vice-chairman of Beximco Holdings.

Among them the first four directors are brothers who had 75 percent share while Salman and Sohel owned 25 percent of the company.

In 2004 after Salman and Sohel were declared loan defaulters by several banks, they relinquished their posts in the company.

BEXIMCO FILES A LAWSUIT Beximco Holdings Chairman Sohel F Rahman, and Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman filed a case with the High Court on December 14 accusing QC Container Ltd of misappropriating money and smuggling it out of the country.

The lawsuit alleged that QC Container Ltd had embezzled Tk 95.5 crore by charging excessive fares on four ships and smuggled the money out of the country. The sum was embezzled in three years, the lawsuit said. It also alleged that the company had evaded a huge sum of tax and violated the Foreign Currency Law 1947 by smuggling money out of the country.

The three brothers of Salaudinn said Salman and Sohel provided wrong information in the lawsuit. They said Sohel F Rahman was the chairman of the company and Salaudinn Quader Chowdhury was the MD when the said irregularities supposedly took place.

Besides, they pointed out that, NJ Abedin and Company, which audited the company has also been auditing Beximco Holdings. The audit was approved in an

annual general meeting of the board of directors, they claimed.

CONTROVERSY OVER RAFIQUE-UL HUQ

Following Beximco's lawsuit against the directors of QC Container Line Ltd, Giasuddin Chowdhury, one of the defendants, wrote a letter to Rafique-ul Huq, the Beximco appointed lawyer, on December 26 requesting him to withdraw himself from the case.

The letter pointed out that Rafique-ul Huq had been hired by QC Container Line Ltd on many occasions and therefore is privy to important confidential information about the company.

Besides, Rafique-ul Huq's son Faeheemul Huq of Huq and Company had been QC's lawyer till his resignation on September 1, 2005.

The letter also mentioned that by litigating against QC, Rafique-ul Huq has been guilty of violating the Canons of Professional Conduct and Etiquette for Advocates as published by the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Under the circumstances, Rafique-ul Huq should withdraw himself from the case, the letter said.

Rafique-ul Huq and Faeheemul Huq are representing Beximco in the lawsuit, and Dr Kamal Hossain, Justice TH Khan, Dr M Zahir and Azmamul Hossain are separately representing the three directors of QC Container Line Ltd.

On the occasion, Bogra Society will organise a meeting at the National Press Club in the city at 10:00am and Bangladesh Television will broadcast a discussion at 6:35pm.

Besides, discussions will be held at Motijheel Colony Night School in the evening, Bogra Reporters Forum Office at noon, Shibganj and Sirajganj Press Club in the evening.

Sherpur Reporters Unit and Shirajganj Press Club will also organise a discussion on the occasion.

A doa mahfil will be held at his residence at Bonosree at Rampura after Asr prayers today while a milad mahfil will take place at Manik Monjil Jame mosque adjacent his family graveyard and on the Sayed Ismail Hossain Siraji shrine premises.

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'Bangabhabaner Shatabarsha' to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Bangabhabaner Shatabarsha', a book on the history of Bangabhaban, official residence of the president, will be launched today, marking one hundred years of Bangabhaban.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will unveil the cover of the book at Darbar Hall at 10:30am.

Prof KM Mohsin, chairman of the editorial board for the book, will preside over the function.

A panel of eminent historians, researchers, scientists and architects have contributed to the book during their two years' research on it. The book was published in both Bangla and English.

Bangabhaban started its journey as the Governor House in 1906. It was renamed as Bangabhaban in 1972.

'Preserve documentaries, newsreels in nat'l archive to protect history'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Documentaries and newsreels of colonial era do not properly reflect the authentic history of the time, said David Hanan, a noted Australian scholar, yesterday at a seminar in the city.

Rather these films frequently reflect the attitude of the makers and also of the popular opinion of the time, he said.

"Documentaries and newsreels should be preserved in the national archive to protect the real history," said Hanan, founder head of Film and Television Studies at Monash University, Australia, while analysing some important British, Australian and Indonesian documentaries and newsreels.

Department of Media and Communication of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised the seminar titled "Representing Asia in Colonial and Postcolonial Cinema" on the IUB Barishara campus in the city.

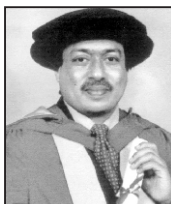
Noted Film Maker Tareque Masud said we don't preserve our important documentaries and newsreels due to indifference of political parties and lack of proper environment in the national archive.

Addressing a chief guest, Prof Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of IUB, said cinema is an extremely powerful medium that has potential to serve as a positive catalyst in the struggle for freedom.

Media and Communication Department Professor Ahaduzzaman MAI urged the young students of Media and Communication at IUB to rethink and reinvent historical facts of our land.

Ahaduzzaman presided over the seminar while Prof Omar Rahman and Dr Zakir Hossain Raju addressed.

Congratulations



Prof M Wahiduzzaman has obtained Ph.D. degree from the University of Nottingham, UK, recently, says a press release.

The title of his thesis is "The role of mass media in non-formal education and development in Bangladesh with special regard to radio and television".

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN Modify Saarc convention Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Modification of the Saarc convention on trafficking is needed to strictly enforce laws in the Saarc countries in order to effectively combat trafficking in women and children, speakers at a meeting said yesterday.

They also recommended inclusion of training components in the convention for judges and law enforcers to sensitise them to this issue.

They suggested establishing an anti-trafficking cell at the Saarc secretariat and signing bilateral agreements and extradition treaty to bring the culprits to justice.

The Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) organised the meeting at its office in the city to formulate a plan of action for effective enforcement of the Saarc convention.

"The Saarc Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution needs some modification as trafficking does not take place only for prostitution. There are various reasons behind trafficking," said CWCS President Prof Ishaq Shamim in her keynote paper.

She also presented a brief outline on the present situation of trafficking in South Asian region and highlighted preventive efforts taken by the government.

Speaking as the chief guest, Additional Inspector General of

Police Chowdhury Qamrul Ahsan stressed the need for collaboration between the government and non-government organisations to stop trafficking.

He also called for sensitising the community people to the trafficking issue.

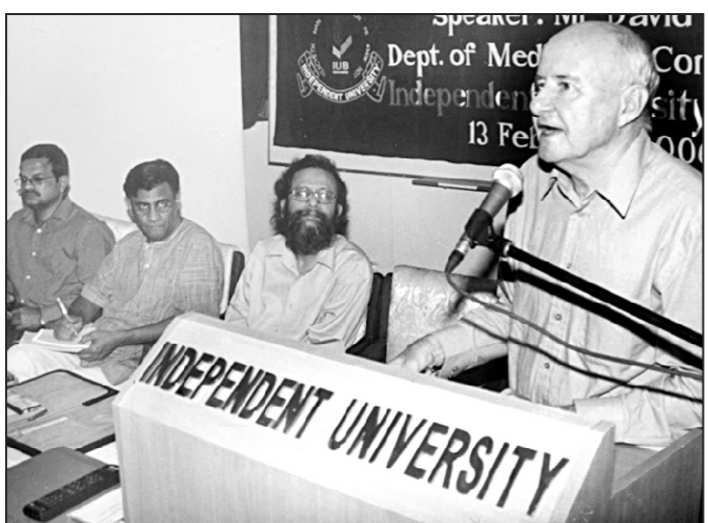
Deputy Police Commissioners Shahidul Islam and Mazharul Islam, Special Police Commissioner of CID Allah Bakhta, legal expert of Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE) AHM Mohiuddin Ahmed and representatives of different NGOs also took part in the meeting.

HC order not to harass Comilla AL leader

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A High Court (HC) division bench of the Supreme Court (SC) comprising justices Md Awlad Ali and Zinat Ara issued an order on the government not to harass Comilla district Awami League General Secretary Jahangir Alam Sarker.

The order of the HC came following a writ petition by Jahangir Alam. The court in its order said the petitioner should not be arrested or harassed without any lawful authority.



David Hanan, founder-head of Film and Television Studies at Monash University, Australia speaks at a seminar on 'Representing Asia in colonial and post-colonial cinema' at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in the city yesterday. The seminar was organised by the IUB Media and Communication Department. Sitting from right are Prof Ahaduzzaman Mohammad Ali, Tareq Masud and Zakir Hossain Raju.

Weather Today section featuring a weather icon, the text 'Light fog likely', and a table with weather data for various cities including Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Sylhet.

Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in the capital, Munshiganj, Jessore and Habiganj yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: A sand-laden truck skidded off the road in front of Rampura TV Centre in the city killing its driver in the early hour of yesterday.

Police said the accident took place when the truck crashed a median and slid sideways. The driver, Shafikul Islam, 32, fell on the road being seriously injured. The locals rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead.

However, Jahanara Begum, elder sister of the truck driver told The Daily Star that another truck hit his brother's truck from back causing the accident. The killer driver fled away immediately, she claimed.

BDNEWS from Munshiganj reports: A mother and her child were killed and 12 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Bausiha Pakhi point in Gazaria Upazila under Munshiganj district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mariam Begum, 30, and her three months old child Mainuddin. Mariam's another child Mohiuddin, 3, and mother-in-law Mafia Khatun, 60, were among the 12 injured passengers who were rushed to different hospitals after the accident.

Mariam was on her way back to Jotpur in Daudkandi upazila after her son Mohiuddin had taken a treatment from the Shishu Hospital.

Sources said the accident occurred when a goods-laden truck rammed a Comilla-bound bus while overtaking.

Meanwhile, one fruit vendor and an army man were killed in separate road accidents in Jessore yesterday.

The accident occurred when a bus hit Abdus Salam, 55, a fruit trader, near the Daratana Bridge in the town yesterday. Salam, resident of Noapara Road in Jessore town, died on his way to the hospital.

Rickshaw-van Workers' Union and Tempo Owners' and Auto Workers' Union held a rally in the town protesting the death of Salam.

In another incident, Salaudinn Mollah, 35, an army man, died after being hit by a train on Sunday afternoon at the Murl Rail Crossing in the town. He hailed from Kakordaha village under Bakerganj upazila of Barisal.

Another report from Habiganj adds: One person was killed and another severely injured when a goods-laden truck turned upside down near Gopur Bazar at Nabinaganj on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ashrob Miah, 32, while the injured Rejaul Karim, 30.

Local sources said the accident occurred when the Dhaka bound speedy truck lost control over its steering.

Both the victims were from Surenampur village in Kotchandpur thana under Jhenidah district.

Obituary



Haliema Mostafa, wife of Prof Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the National Institute of

Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in the city yesterday at the age of 66, says a press release.

She left behind her three daughters and two sons to mourn her death.

She will be buried at the Azimpur New Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Dhaka University Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

DHAKA TODAY View exchange Dhaka Language Club organises a view exchange meeting on 'Why foreigners love Bangla' with foreigners who know Bangla. Prof Abdullah Sayeed of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will be chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 4:30pm. Inauguration The inaugural ceremony of Confucius Institute, a Chinese language institute, will be held. The institute was established jointly by North South University (NSU) and Yunnan University of China at NSU. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:45am. Discussion Bangladesh-Bharat Friendship Society organises a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm. Rotary meet The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.