

# Promote ethical education to build corruption-free society

### Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over moral degradation in the present-day world, leading economists and educationists yesterday said it is high time to promote ethical education to build a corruption-free and just society.

They said only good governance or prosecution system is not enough to curb corruption when corporate companies are busy maximising profits undermining the consumers' interest and the public organisations are crippled by corruption.

Despite advancement of science and technology, the world is facing increased violence, intolerance, tension and agitation due to lack of moral education, they said at a seminar on 'Corruption, ethics and sustainable development' in the context of Bangladesh organised by North South University at its auditorium in the city.

"Knowledge seems to be divorced from values. People are trying to gain great power without insight. Our existence is in jeopardy, for many of our inherited values

concerning the nature and rights of man, the structure of human society have increasingly become confused," said Dr Golam Dastagir, a professor of philosophy at Jahangirnagar University.

One of the tragic features of today's education system is the emphasis on the highly specific knowledge and skills sidelining traditional values, religious morals and ethical principles, he said, adding that proper understanding of the values of different religions can help the modern businesses to implement their goals in responsible manners.

"As a pathway of curbing corruption, business leaders must avail themselves of great ethical traditions found within the world's religions and cultures," Prof Dastagir said in his keynote paper.

Eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said corruption is generated from the consumerist attitude of human nature, which cannot be eliminated merely through good governance. An inclusive policy is needed to bring all the people under a platform in order

to ensure social and economic security, he added.

The corporate companies must fulfil their social responsibility by protecting consumers' interest, he said.

Sustainable development means integration of economic, social and political development, but unfortunately neither the civil society nor the policymakers take it into account, said Prof Muzaffer, also a trustee of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

The finance ministers in the country have always been vocal in pronouncing GDP growth rate, but other aspects of sustainable development have been cornered, he said, adding that even the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) also does not emphasise the issue.

"This has not been possible in the country due to lack of political will," he noted.

Former comptroller and auditor general Hafizuddin Khan said unwillingness of the state machinery to punish corrupt officials leads to increased corruption in society.

He said the people practise

religion but do not apply its values in their lives. "Corruption in the Madrasa Education Board is even more," Hafizuddin said, adding that even madrasa students appear to resort to copying in examinations.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Abdur Rouf said corruption was imported into the country by multinational companies and finance institutions as the successive governments have followed their prescriptions to take up programme.

He called on the government to implement its own plans in association with the civil society and promote ethical values to curb corruption, rather than accepting the prescriptions of the lending agencies.

Prof Aminul Islam, Dr Paresh Chandra Mandal, Dr Sukomal Barua, NSU VC Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Pro-VC SAM Khairul Bashar, Prof Harunur Rashid, Dr AFM Ataur Rahman and Principal of Notre Dame College Father Benjamin Costa also spoke at the seminar chaired by Prof Rafiqul Islam Molla.

## EDUCTION FROM HOSTEL Eden students continue protest

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Eden College authorities remained indifferent till yesterday to the 24-hour ultimatum of the students issued on Wednesday to accommodate the ousted legal occupants of Khodeza Khatun Hall (old hostel) to their rooms.

General students of the college continued demonstration yesterday in protest against eviction of its legal students from the hall and demanded that the seats be returned to the original occupants.

Students alleged that the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, has been dealing with the hall's seats and giving those to new students in exchange of money.

The demonstrators have staged a sit-in in front of the principal's office for two hours from 10:00am to 12:00noon but the principal did not come to the college.

"We submitted an application and issued an ultimatum yesterday (Wednesday) to the authorities to meet our demand but the principal did not come to college today (Thursday) and even did not contact us," said a demonstrator to The Daily Star.

The principal Prof Firoza Begum, also wife of State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, earlier denied all the allegations saying that there were no irregularities in allotment of dormitory seats.

Meanwhile, some demonstrators alleged that JCD girls were threatening them to stop their movement.

We will form a human chain in front of the college on Saturday to press our demands, demonstrators said.

Left wing student fronts of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) yesterday condemned the Eden College principal's comment on demonstrating students as 'girls from street' and demanded immediate end to illegal dealings of JCD leaders with dormitory seats and punishment to the people responsible for these illegal businesses.



Former Jatiya Party secretary general Khaledur Rahman Titu, left, joins Awami League at a ceremony at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

## FORMER JP SECRETARY GENERAL TITU JOINS AL Arrest JMB-linked ministers: Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those ministers, MPs and financiers who harboured top militant leaders Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

The AL general secretary categorically accused Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Post and Tele Communications Minister Aminul Haque, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir, Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, and BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa of patronising the two militant kingpins.

"They must be tried on the basis of a neutral investigation and expelled from the ruling alliance," said Jalil, also coordinator of the 14-party opposition combine, while addressing a function organised to welcome former secretary general of the Jatiya Party (JP) Khaledur Rahman Titu to AL at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Titu, also a former state minister, joined the Awami League along with about 100 leaders and activists, mostly from the BNP of Jessore district.

Jalil also demanded that the government bring seditious charge against Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, as they declared war against the nation and its sovereignty.

He reiterated that the government had staged drama on the arrest of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai only to divert people's attention from the ongoing anti-government movement, crises of power, fuel and fertiliser and price spiral of essentials.

The AL general secretary said the Islamist outfits are still active in the country under different banners and their connections at the national and international levels remain undisturbed.

He said the alliance government had created the militants and patronised them. "But at the very beginning when we were demanding action against the militants, the government told the people that it was created by the media and was part of opposition's planned propaganda to tarnish the image of the country," Jalil said, adding, "Finally, the government had to admit the existence of Islamist militants in the country."

AL senior leaders Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Motia Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Obaidul Quader, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Habibur Rahman Siraj, Shubed Ali Bhuiyan and Hazi Mohammad Selim were present.

## Body of trader found 8 days after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Kusthia police yesterday recovered the body of an abducted businessman at a graveyard eight days after he was taken hostage.

The victim Abul Kalam, 35, owner of a bicycle shop in the town, hailed from Harishankarpur.

Police said a gang kidnapped Kalam as he was returning home after closing his shop around 11:00pm on February 27.

The gang latter demanded ransom from Kalam's family, sources said. A case was filed with the Kusthia Police Station but police failed to trace him.

Police on Wednesday night arrested Tariqul Islam the driver of the microbus used in the abduction.

On Tariqul's information police, along with a first class magistrate, went to Joybnad graveyard in Kumarkhali upazila and dug out Kalam's body.

Police said they are interrogating the driver to get information about the killers.

At least twelve people including six businessmen were abducted during the last two months in the district. The kidnappers killed two of the hostages and two are still missing.

The rest were released after the kidnappers were given the ransom. Police said organised gangs and outlawed parties are involved in the abductions.

## China to provide flood-related information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China has agreed to provide flood-related information from April 15, which will enable Bangladesh to alert its people four to five days ahead of flood, Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

The Chinese government will disseminate information regarding floods in the Brahmaputra river, which originated in China, he said at a press conference on his recent visit to China.

During his visit as the leader of a five-member delegation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries in this regard on February 27. Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmad and his Chinese counterpart Wang Su Chang signed the MoU.

At present, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh can provide flood forecast only three to four hours earlier, said the minister.

"With China providing the information such as rise in water level, we will be able to take precautionary measures to reduce flood-related risks and damage in the Brahmaputra basin," he said.

Hafizuddin said the Chinese water resource minister also agreed to provide various facilities for better planning and management of water resources, development of irrigation system, prevention of river erosion and control of floods.

Secretary of water resource ministry Syed Mohammad Zobayer and Director General of Water Development Board Sharif Rafiqul Islam were also present at the press briefing.

## Effective border control needed to stop irregular migration

### Says Australian minister

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Australian Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Amanda Vanstone at a function here yesterday said it is important for all countries to control their borders as no country can take the eyes off when it comes to national security.

"All the countries in the world are facing the problem of irregular migration. Effective border control is not a one-day match...it's a long-term game," she said while talking about the terrorists who take advantage of irregular migration.

Her remarks came from a launching ceremony of the extended phase of a project, "Enhancing Capacity of Immigration Officials to Combat Irregular Migration in Bangladesh". Amanda Vanstone and State

Minister for Home Affairs Luffozzaman Babar jointly launched the project, aiming to ensure effective border management and immigration system.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the governments of Bangladesh and Australia organised the launching ceremony at a local hotel in the city.

Inspector General of Police Abdul Quayyum, Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Douglas Foskett and IOM Regional Representative Shahidul Haque also addressed the gathering of 100 representatives from the government, civil society, development partners and United Nations agencies.

About the project, the Australian minister said it has strengthened the capacity of the immigration officials of Bangladesh.

Citing the cooperation between Australia and Bangladesh in cricket, she said with mutual cooperation in irregular migration both countries could achieve shared victory.

Babar said like many developing countries of the world migration management is a challenge to Bangladesh too and pledged government support in the combined struggle to address irregular migration.

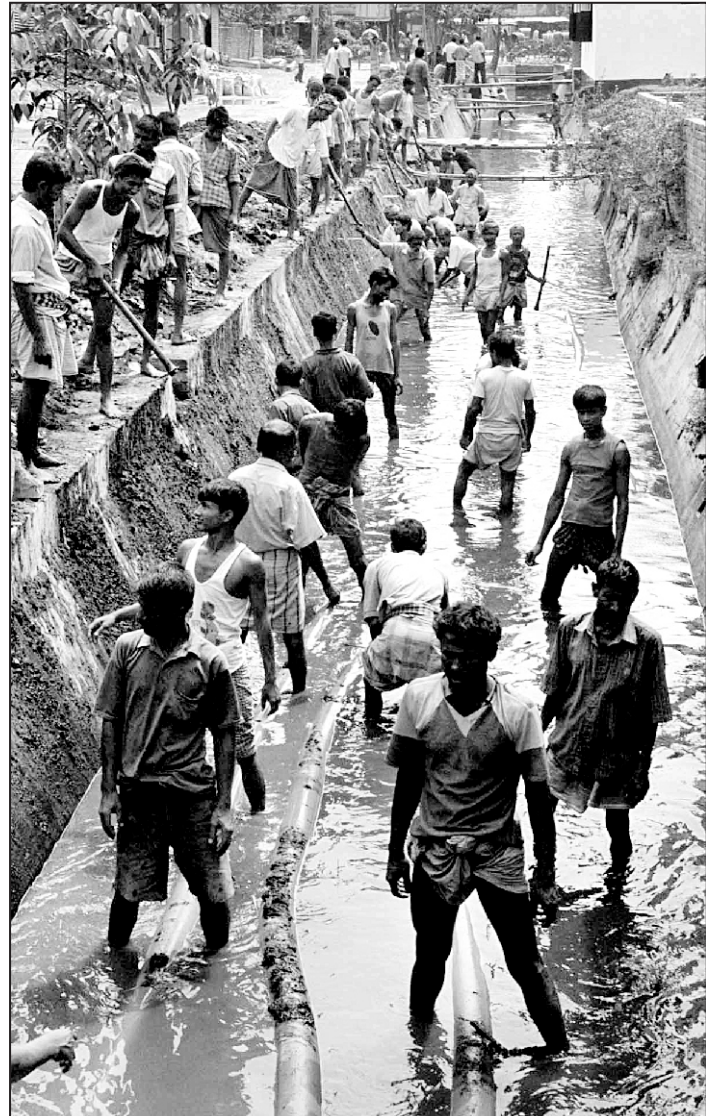


PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation workers clear a storm sewer at Mirpur in the city yesterday. The DCC takes up a plan to clear all such sewers ahead of the monsoon to ensure free flow of rainwater.

**WEATHER TODAY**

## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 37.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Srimangal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:12am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	23.5	51	42
Chittagong	37.6	22.6	44	49
Rajshahi	34.2	21.8	62	46
Khulna	35.0	21.5	62	57
Barisal	34.5	21.5	75	71
Sylhet	34.5	21.0	61	64
Cox's Bazar	37.0	22.0	--	42

## 50 expelled on first day of SSC exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 examinees were expelled for cheating on the first day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations yesterday, education ministry sources said.

The examinees appeared in English First Paper examination on the first day amid tight security.

A total of 12 examinees were expelled under Dhaka Board. Of them, three each were expelled in Jamalpur and Tangail, two in Manikganj and one each in Madanipur, Sherpur, Rajbari and Faridpur.

In Rajshahi Board, a total of 20 examinees were expelled from different centres.

As many as seven examinees were expelled from different centres under Comilla Board.

Six examinees were expelled in Bhola and three in Patuakhali under Barisal Board while two examinees were expelled in Khulna and Jhenidah under Jessore Board.

However, no case of expulsion was reported in any centres under Chittagong and Sylhet Board. There was also no report of disturbance in any centres across the country on the first day of the examination.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farku visited the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Girls' High School and Dhanmondi Govt Boys' High School centres and expressed satisfaction over holding of the examination in a peaceful atmosphere.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Harun-ur-Rashid and Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka District Abdul Bari Miah were also present during the visit.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon paid visits to Kapasia Pilot High School, Horimanjan Girls' High School, Salna Nasiruddin Memorial High School and Rautkona Fazil Madrasa in Gazipur without any pre-notice.

He, however, did not find any unusual incidents in the centres.

## Robbery at RMC female dorm triggers agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Angry female resident students of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) demonstrated and confined the principal at his office after the robbers fled unhindered following an armed robbery at their dormitory, as there was no security guard there at that time.

Sources said a group of masked robbers looted two mobile phone sets and other valuables and assaulted a female student on dagger-point at Palin Hall in the early hours of yesterday.

After committing the robbery, they robbers left the place unhindered, as there was no guard at that time, alleged the students.

Being irate at the incident, all resident female students went out of dorms and demonstrated on the campus. At one stage they put the principal Fazlur Rahman under lock and key and have kept him confined for two hours at his office.

They placed a seven-point demand concerning security of five female dormitories. Their demands include construction of boundary walls and deployment of security men.

They said out of the five female dorms, three have no boundary walls while authorities do not deploy any security men at nights.

They set the principal free from confinement at 12:00pm when he assured them of meeting their demands.

## Jamil, Bazlul BPRA president, secretary

PHOTO: STAR

Mustafa-E-Jamil and ASM Bazlul Haque were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA), says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice-presidents: Tarekul Kader Mirza, Rowshan A Rahman and Ferdousi Sultana, Joint General Secretaries: M o h a m m a d N a s i m and Moniruzzaman Khan Majlish, Treasurer: Faisal Mokammel Haque, Organising Secretary: Sheikh Sadeq Ahmed, Office Secretary: SM Mahfuzur Rahman, International Secretary: Azam Khan, Cultural and Sports Secretary: Sarmina Nargis and Education and Research Secretary: Lina Ferdous Kakoli.

Members are: Kazi Gofran Ahmed, Hashima Gulruk, Ataur Rahman, Farooque Ahmed, Dewan Rashidul Hasan, Mohammad Abu Sayeed, Monoranjan Mondal, Badrul Haider Chowdhury, Dilip Kumar Ghosh, Sheikh Khairuzzaman, Sheikh Billal Hossain, Sarwar Alam and Maniruzzaman Tipu.

## Old man killed in Savar road accident

Mob damages 3 buses

UNB, Savar

Angry people set fire to two buses and damaged another in Dairy Gate area in Savar yesterday following a road accident that killed an old man.

They also put up barricade on the busy Dhaka-Aricha highway near the gate, disrupting traffic for two hours.

Police said Abdul Jalil, 65, of Islampur was run over by a bus on the highway in the area at about 11:00am while he was returning home in a rickshaw.

Outraged by the accident, locals set fire to the buses and damaged another.

## White panel wins Ruta polls

UNB, Rajshahi

The ruling coalition-backed White panel swept the Rajshahi University Teachers Association (Ruta) polls yesterday.

The white panel bagged all the posts.

The White panel backed by ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat and main opposition Awami League and left-leaning parties supported yellow panel contested the polls.

## Ghorasal Bridge named after Moez Uddin

UNB, Dhaka

The Ghorasal Bridge over the river Shitalakhya has been named 'Shaheed Moez Uddin Setu' by presidential order.

An official announcement said yesterday that the government took the decision to name the bridge after Shaheed Moez Uddin, "one of the organisers of War of Liberation, a freedom fighter and politician, to pay respect to his memory".

There were earlier reports about naming the bridge after a Muslim holyman.

## CHAND SULTANA AWARD Nominations invited

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Ahsania Mission invites nominations for Chand Sultana Literacy Award-2005 from individuals, organisations and institutions, says a press release.

Since 2001, the award is given on a yearly basis to an individual or organisation in recognition of the contribution in research or implementation of non-formal education programmes, raising awareness about prevention of HIV/Aids and cancer or developing innovative materials for child/adolescent/adult or continuing education.

Interested persons or organisations are requested to send particulars and details of the contributions to Director, HR, Dhaka Ahsania Mission at House No 19, Road No 12 (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 (Phone: 8119521-22, 9123402) by 25 March, 2006.

Senior Material Developer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Chand Sultana, died of cancer in 1999. She had developed more than 50 education materials for the neo-literates. DAM introduced the award after her name in 2001. ANS Habibur Rahman won the award in 2001 followed by Abul Kashem Swandip in 2002, Codek in 2003 and BACE in 2004.

## Death anniversary

Today is the fourth death anniversary of M A Khaleque Sheikh, an organiser of the War of Liberation and father of artist Ashraf Alam Paplu, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Gohala.

A doa mahfil will also be held at his village home residence after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.