



Blue for Peace: Members of slain former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members line up in front of the Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday demanding fair trial of Kibria murder case.

PHOTO: STAR

CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya speaks at a seminar in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



## Hasina goes to Tungipara July 23

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will go to Tungipara in Gopalganj on July 23.

During the three-day visit, she will offer feteha at the grave of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana, daughter Saima Wazed Putul and son-in-law Khandaker Mashrur Hossain will accompany the AL chief.

She will return to the capital on July 25.

## 'Reforms of political parties a must for true democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reforms of the political parties, the biggest informal sector of the country, are needed to establish true democracy, said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), yesterday.

Even the NGOs and businesses require registration, but the political parties do not have registration, he said at a seminar on 'Proactive civic engagement: A road towards a resilient democracy' organised by the Development Studies Group of Independent University, Bangladesh on its premises in the city.

Stressing the need for reforms of the political parties, he said they should have registration, hold annual general meetings and disclose the sources of funds.

The political parties have been demanding reforms of the caretaker government system and the election commission, but they are silent about their reforms, he said.

Debapriya also said that if all the black money is withdrawn from the country, it will be possible to find honest and competent candidates for the general election.

Election has become the most expensive contest and there is no legal framework to control the expenses, he observed.

He also said that the democratic institutions have weakened since the establishment of democracy in 1990. So, the civil society groups have to play an important role in resisting dictatorship, he added.

The independent civil society groups, which have political values but are free from partisan politics and ideologies, should expose corruption in public and

private life, promote political participation and democratic values and provide training ground for future political leaders, he pointed out.

Even anti-corruption bodies cannot function effectively without the active support and participation of the civil society, he added.

Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of IUB, Prof Mufakharul Islam, director of School of Liberal Arts and Science of IUB, and Dr Shoab Ahmed also spoke at the seminar.

## 2 restaurants fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined two well-known restaurants Tk 1.2 lakh at city's Agrabad Commercial Area for producing, preserving and serving unhygienic foods.

During the drive, the court fined 'Hotel Zaman and Biriani House' Tk 80000 while 'Ayojan Restaurant' was fined Tk 40000.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the anti-adulteration drive with the help of

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Sources said, the court also found an unhygienic toilet in the kitchen of Hotel Zaman, used by the workers.

Cooked fish, meat and vegetables were kept uncovered on the dirty floor of the kitchen of the hotel, they said.

The court also seized stale edible oil, ghee without label and date expired rose water from its storeroom.

## Resource package on pre-schooling launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), an integrated pre-school learning approach, is more effective than the traditional one in the total education process of young learners, experts said at a launching ceremony of a resource package on pre-school programme.

They said the country is lagging behind in this sector because of a lack of trained teachers and effective curriculum planning.

The resource package containing three books – 'Amar Ekal-Sekal' 'Majar Pre-school' and 'Amra Sabai Khel' – was launched at the Biam auditorium in the city. The package is the outcome of the joint efforts of Unesco Bangladesh and Inner Force.

"These books are meant for those who are directly involved with pre-primary schooling, mainly teachers, and also for parents," said Farida Akhter, executive director of Inner Force.

Farida Akhter, also one of the authors, said these books would help teachers in classroom and parents at home deal with very young children's learning process.

Ichiro Miyazawa, programme specialist of Unesco Bangladesh, said that Unesco recognises ECCE as a component of basic education and is actively working for its promotion.

Unesco Representative Wolfgang Vollman argued that for a child who is suddenly put into a classroom, sitting for hours, listening to teachers and maintaining classroom discipline can be very gruelling. The ECCE does this job of initial orientation of a child to schooling very well, he added.

Appreciating the joint efforts of Unesco and Inner Force, Deputy Secretary to the Ministry of Children and Women Affairs Abdul Jalil Mian said with concerted efforts of all, Bangladesh will soon be able to ensure quality education for all.

Selina Ahmed of Save the Children, Sweden and Denmark, psychologist Sufia Akhter and Shakila, a pre-school teacher, also spoke on the occasion.

## 1,866 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,866 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized three firearms, 13 other weapons and one bullet, said an official handout.



PHOTO: STAR

The police take a group of people arrested during a block raid to Chittagong court yesterday while worried family members and relatives crowd the court premises in search of their near and dear ones.

## 325 arrested during block raid in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday detained 325 people on various charges from different parts of the city in only two hours' time during a block raid.

All the 12 police stations in the city launched the raid at around 12:00 noon, sources said.

Of the detainees, 249 were held under Metropolitan Act, 22 under regular case and three under Section 54 while the remaining 51 are accused of various crimes.

Although the exact number of 'political' detainees couldn't be known as of 4:30pm, sources in the police hinted that the figure would stand at about 100.

Worried family members, relatives and friends of the arrestees packed the Chittagong court premises at around 3:00pm when the police vans carrying the detainees started arriving there.

Of the arrestees, 62 were held by Bayezid Bostami police, 39 by Kotwali police, 28 by Panchlaish police, 25 by Doublemooring police, 23 by Khulshi police, 20 by Bakalia police, 15 by Chandgaon police, 10 by Bandar police, 10 by Halishahar police, 8 by Pahartali police, 6 by Karmaphuli police and 3 by Patenga police, sources said.

The raid was conducted as per instruction of the police commissioner, said duty officers of different police stations.

A CMP official, however, claimed that the raid was part of their regular vigil against terrorist or criminal activists in the city, aimed at maintaining law and order.

"The arrestees are being produced before the court and if found innocent, they will be released," he said.

On May 11, the CMP had carried out a similar raid to nab criminals in order to curb crimes. At that time, they picked up at least 80 people, mostly leaders and activists of opposition parties.

## Three stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were stabbed by the miscreants in the city yesterday and on Wednesday night.

Md Sohel, 20 and Md Rubel, 18, two brothers, were waylaid by a gang of snatchers at Shahjadpur in Gulshan area yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In a separate incident, a gang of extortionists stabbed a night guard in his hands at Badda in the city around 11:00pm on Wednesday.

The victim identified as Md Bashir, 20, was taken to DMCH.