

## 'Govt-NGO coordination a must to implement ECD programmes'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday called for provision of components of early childhood development (ECD) programme in each ministry so that the nation can have a better generation.

They also called for coordination between the government and non-government organisations (NGOs) at all levels to implement the ECD programme across the country.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the national workshop at the Meghna hall of BIAM Foundation in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper, Mahmuda Akter of Brac University said the ECD is a right of all children irrespective of social class and status. ECD refers to a comprehensive approach to policies and programmes to protect the child's rights to develop his or her full potential, she said.

Children should be provided with physical and mental health care so

that they become socially competent and feel emotionally while communicating with others, she added.

Mahmuda also discussed the pattern of ECD emerging in the country and the initiatives taken by the government, private and development organisations for its implementation.

A total of 7,91,523 children aged up to six years are included in the ECD programmes being implemented by around 200 organisations through parenting education, wider range of interventions related to health and nutrition and early child care, she maintained.

Mahmuda also underscored the need for spiritual development of children to ensure their overall development. Addressing as the chief guest, Kamaluddin, secretary to the ministry of women and children affairs, suggested specifying the age limit for children in the ECD programmes.

The global age limit is eight years for ECD programme and some countries follow this and operate ECD by integrating it with the primary education, he said.

In Bangladesh, the ECD is being operated as a separate stage before primary education by the Shishu Academy under the ministry of women and children affairs at 64 districts in cooperation with the Unicef and other organisations.

Kamaluddin also called for utilising whatever resources the government possesses and working for the welfare of underprivileged children.

Speaking as a special guest, Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre Des Homes (TDH) - Netherlands, suggested that the ministry of primary education should incorporate the ECD programme.

BSAF Director AYM Mosharrar Hossain presided over the workshop.

TENDER ISSUE

### Framing of charges against 11 JCD men now Sept 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court could not frame charges against 11 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists yesterday, as three of them, now in custody, were not produced before the court.

They were arrested on July 30 for preventing bidders from taking part in a tender for work worth around Tk 400 crore at the Construction Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) of the health ministry.

After scrutinising the case docket, Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the Speedy Trial Court-6 fixed September 11 for the next hearing of the case.

Two of the chargesheeted accused - Asaduzzaman Asad and AKM Azad Swadhin - are still at large and the court had earlier directed the authorities to publish an advertisement in a national daily asking them to appear before the court.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a total of 13 JCD leaders and activists at the CMMU on charge of preventing bidders from buying tender schedule and submitting those.

Rab submitted the charge sheet against 11 accused to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on August 10.

Later, the investigation officer (IO) dropped the names of four accused, including a fugitive, from the charge sheet, as their names and addresses, given by four other accused in their confessional statements, were not correct.

They told a metropolitan magistrate on August 20 that Saikat and Asad, two JCD leaders of Fazul Haq Muslim Hall, Dhaka University, engaged them to obstruct the bidders.

The last date for buying the schedules for the three projects under the development budget was August 1, while the next day was the deadline for dropping the tender schedules, which were being sold at 36 places across the country, sources said.



British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury addresses a seminar on 'English Language Teaching (ELT) in Bangladesh: Policy, Practice and Strategy' at the Brac Centre in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Ferdous Azim and BU-IED Director Dr Manzoor Ahmed.

## 'Launch awareness campaign to improve English language skills'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for a massive awareness campaign to improve English language skills among younger generation in the context of globalisation, knowledge-based society and the age of information technology.

They also expressed concern that the standards of teaching and learning English in the country have fallen so abysmally that the majority of younger generation could not adapt to a fast-changing and competitive world due to the lack of proficiency in English.

They identified the lack of integrated policy and initiatives, incompetent teachers, inappropriate syllabus and the lack of awareness and opportunities as major reasons behind poor English language skills among the students in the country.

They also suggested adopting a bilingual approach, with both Bangla and English recognised as important educational, business and public affairs languages.

The Brac University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED) organised the seminar on 'English Language Teaching (ELT) in Bangladesh: Policy, Practice and Strategy' at the Brac Centre in the city.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, British Council Acting Director Richard Sunderland and BU-IED Director Dr Manzoor Ahmed addressed the seminar.

Consultant of English Language Teaching of BU-IED Prof M Shamsul Hoque, Jaddon Park of BU-IED, Goutam Roy and Md Zulfikar Haider of BU-IED and Tripti Kana Dey and Md Nazrul Islam of National Academy for Primary Education presented four keynote papers on the issue. They depicted present state of

English language teaching in the country, existing policy and problems and placed some suggestions to address the issue.

Addressing the seminar, Anwar Choudhury said English is now something more than a language; it is now an economy and 'global Google of knowledge'.

He assured that the UK and the British Council Bangladesh will continue to provide all necessary cooperation for the government and non-government organisations to help sustain the process of learning and teaching English in the country.

Mahfuz Anam said that geography has become irrelevant in this

world of information and communication technology and English has become very important as an international language.

But it is very shocking that the quality of students has gone down and the teaching quality of teachers is also alarming, he added.

Anam said it is high time to launch an all-out initiative to raise awareness about the need to learn English at all levels.

Massive mass awareness programme should be launched immediately involving the media with series of seminars and workshops on the issue, he added.



Physiotherapy Students' Union stages a sit-in on the Mirpur road in front of Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday to press its demands, creating traffic jam.

## 4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people, including a garment worker, were killed in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Patuakhali yesterday.

Our staff correspondent adds: A passenger was crushed under the wheels of a bus after the helper pushed him over in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sanju Mia, 50, a day labourer of Rayerbazar, Mohammadpur.

Witnesses said Sanju Mia was getting off the bus around 7:45am but the helper pushed him over. As a result, he went under the wheels and received fatal injuries.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

The passengers of the bus and local people beat up the helper, Shukker Alam, 22, and handed him over to the police.

A case was filed at Mirpur Police station in this connection.

Our JU correspondent reports: A garment worker was killed in a road accident at Savar yesterday.

The deceased Dolly, 25, was a worker of Maxcom garments at Hemayetpur.

As the death news of fellow worker spread, around 1000 workers from Maxcom and other nearby factories took to the street and barricaded Dhaka-Aricha highway.

The agitated workers also vandalised at least 10 buses leading to a halt of vehicular movement for around one and a half hours on the highway.

Witnesses and police said the accident occurred when an Archa-bound bus hit Dolly who was heading to her workplace at around 8:30am.

A case has been filed with Savar Police Station in this connection.

The killer bus could not be captured as of 6:30pm.

Production at the factory was stopped following the accident.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Barisal reports: Two people, including a child, were killed in separate road accidents at Baufal upazila in Patuakhali district yesterday.

Police and victims family sources said Russel, 8, son of Ali Ahmed of Lohalia of Patuakhali Sadar upazila, was crushed under the wheels of a tempo at about 12:10 pm. Russel died on the spot.

Meanwhile, seven passengers were injured when a tempo fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost his control over the steering at about 12:20pm near Showla under Baufal upazila.

Of the injured, Jebunnessa, 55, succumbed to her injuries on the way to hospital and Mojibor, 37, Anawr, 35, Rubel, 8, were admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital in critical condition.

## Full ratification of CEDAW demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) fully and withdraw its reservation on some provisions.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the seminar titled 'CEDAW: Observation on Bangladesh Situation' at Cirdap auditorium marking the CEDAW Day.

The speakers said the government is not implementing the provisions that are already ratified and has brought sudden amendment to the National Women Development Policy, which is against the spirit of the main principles of CEDAW.

Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam said progress in implementing CEDAW is quite sluggish and backward looking.

"The government could not hold direct election to the seats reserved for women in parliament due to lack of political will. Besides, the government is indifferent to the issues of women rights and equality," she said.

She said a quarter has been trying to create confusion about women's rights and their work and that should be resisted.

Dr Nusrat Ameen in her keynote paper said provisions of equal part-

nership, equal rights and equal dignity of women have been dropped from the policy, which is a hindrance to implementing the CEDAW.

She mentioned the objectives of CEDAW, initiatives taken by different ministries, obstacles to implementation, state of family violence, social violence and legal aid access to women.

She stressed the need for coordination among different ministries and the non-government organisations for policy implementation. Besides, it needs monitoring and evaluation for implementing different programmes, she added.

Khaleda Mahbub, vice-president of the Parishad, presided.

Khaleda said the National Women Development Policy was prepared under the light of CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action.

Nasimun Ara Huq Minu, president of Nari Sangbadik Kendra, moderated the seminar.

Rights activists from different organisations were present at the seminar.



### Dr Ibrahim's 17th anniversary of death tomorrow

Bangladesh Diabetic Samity is going to observe the 17th death anniversary of national professor and founder of the organisation Dr Mohammed Ibrahim tomorrow, says a press release.

Dr Ibrahim died on September 6 in 1989. Different wings of Diabetic Samity are going to observe the day by arranging free treatment camp and discussion meeting.

Bangladesh Diabetic Samity would pay their homage putting floral wreath at the grave of the late professor. Besides, they have arranged free diabetic test in different areas of the city from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Anybody can get a blood test at that time free of cost.

Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute would arrange a free 'Heart Camp' on the occasion from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Besides, Diabetic Samity and Birdem hospital will jointly organise a discussion on the life and works of Dr Ibrahim.

Chy Muslima Allahma

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Chowdhury Muslima Allahma, wife of late Subedar Major Allahma Ataur Rahman Chowdhury and ex-chairman of Mustafa Allahma Goldcup Foundation, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at her Dhaka residence and office and Deulgram Allahmanagar in Beanbazar and Shilghat in Sylhet.

M Nasim Khan

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj M Nasim Khan, founder and chief patron of Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC), says a press release.

On the occasion, SPGRC will hold Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, discussion and arrange feeding to the destitute at 8:00am today at its head office, Geneva camp, Mohammadpur in the city for salvation of the departed soul.



Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at a dialogue on 'Election manifesto and MDGs: Commitment and its implementation' by the politicians and parliamentarians' organised by All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on MDGs, PRSP, WTO and Bangladesh Development Forum at LGED auditorium in the city yesterday. The Daily Star, ntv, Channel 1 and the daily Somokal were media partners of the dialogue.

## President, PM condole death of Salahuddin

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday condole the death of photojournalist M Salahuddin.

In a condolence message, he expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

UNB adds: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also expressed deep shock at the death of Salahuddin.

In a separate condolence message, she conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Suranjit, Khasru lock horns over reform proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta and ruling BNP lawmaker Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday locked horns over the reforms in caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) at a dialogue in the city.

The dialogue on 'Election manifesto and MDGs: Commitment and its implementation by the politicians and parliamentarians' was held at LGED auditorium.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on MDGs, PRSP, WTO and Bangladesh Development Forum organised the dialogue in cooperation with People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and United Nations Millennium Campaign.

Referring to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's recent remarks that the next elections will be held according to the constitution, Suranjit said reforms in the two key institutions are a must to hold free and fair elections.

He said as per the constitution, the EC must be an independent body which is not applicable to the existing one, while the would-be chief of the next caretaker government is a person who was actively involved with BNP politics.

In response, Amir Khasru said, "The AL thinks that nothing but its demands are right. Similarly, we also can think that what we are saying is also right."

It is not fair if anyone rigidly thinks that there will be no elections without the reforms, he said.

"We should view things more objectively without doing too much politics for the sake of the country," he added.

## Robbery in city house: Valuables worth Tk12.37 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 12.37 Lakh from the house of a retired joint secretary at the city's Uttara area in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said the robbers, around 7-8 in number, entered the house of Abdur Rashid cutting the window grills at around 2:30am.

Holding the inmates at gunpoint, the robbers at first tied them with ropes and forced them to hand over the keys. The robbers then looted Tk one lakh in cash, 80 Tolas of gold ornaments, two mobile sets and a camera before fleeing away safely, police added.

## Six peacekeepers

FROM PAGE 1  
Ahmed (20 Field Regiment Artillery), Lance Corporal M Abdus Sattar (6 Field Regiment Artillery), soldier Abdul Halim (27 Field Regiment Artillery), soldier Mohammad Kamruzzaman Khan (36 Air Defence Regiment Artillery), soldier M Mizanur Rahman (24 Field Regiment Artillery) and soldier Shahid Mia (32 Field Regiment Artillery).

The six peacekeepers were killed and 12 others injured in the road accident at Tiasali on way to Abidjan from Yamoussoukro in Ivory Coast.

The bodies have been kept at the CMH mortuary. Namaj-e-janaza of the peacekeepers will be held at Banani Army Stadium at 8:00am today. After janaza, the bodies of the peacekeepers will be sent to their village homes for burial.

Hasina Begum, wife of soldier Kamaruzzama, was sobbing with her two-year-old baby who is suffering from heart ailment. Talking to the reporters, she said her husband wanted to treat her baby with the money he would earn from the peacekeeping assignment.

"I don't know where I will go, how do I live, what will happen to my kid," said Hasina.

Hasna Hena, wife of soldier Abdul Halim, was wailing thinking about the uncertain future after losing her husband. She has two sons - four-month-old Sakib and three-year-old Hasib. Hasna, who passed the HSC examination, wants a job to earn her livelihood and maintain her two children.

The foreign minister assured them that the government would do whatever is possible to mitigate their distress.

UN COMPENSATION  
The family of each of the six peacekeepers will receive \$50,000 in compensation from the United Nations (UN).

Talking to the reporters at the airport, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said apart from the compensation from the UN, the families of the deceased will get all financial benefits from the army as per rules.

"The entire nation is shocked at the tragic death of six Bangladeshi heroes," Morshed said.

"The UN offers its deepest condolence to Bangladesh and the families of those killed in the accident in Ivory Coast," the UNDP country representative told reporters at the airport.

More than 11,000 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are serving in 51 peacekeeping missions in 12 countries across the globe. In Ivory Coast, around 3,500 Bangladeshi troops are engaged in peacekeeping.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met

Office said. Country's highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur, Jessore and Comilla and lowest 22.8 degree Celsius at Rangamat.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:42am 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	32.4	25.6	63	63
Chittagong	33.0	24.5	86	79
Rajshahi	32.8	24.8	80	82
Khulna	32.5	25.6	77	83
Barisal	31.6	26.0	80	80
Sylhet	33.0	26.5	65	66
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.8	73	85



Discussion

Pacificare will hold a discussion commemorating the 9th death anniversary of Mother Teresa. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Dialogue

Voice for Interactive Choice and Empowerment organises a dialogue titled 'Conditions for foreign aid: Challenging the conditions'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

Calendar launching

Society for Participatory Education and Development (Sped) will organise a discussion and calendar launching programme on 'Investment in adult literacy'. Venue: LGED, RDEC Bhaban. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organises a roundtable on power sector. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) will hold a discussion on 'Preserving mineral resources of the country and the role of politicians in commercialisation'. Venue: BCI boardroom. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary Sonargaon Dhaka

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.