

Bangladesh must adapt to avert perils of shifting global trends

Speakers tell BIPSS roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing shifts in global trends on different aspects including changing economies for fourth industrial revolution, rise of populism and pandemics like coronavirus have emerged as challenges, particularly for lesser-developed countries like Bangladesh, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

In this context, the country needs to reshape its plans in all sectors -- including education, economy and diplomacy -- to cope with it and harness the benefits from it, they said.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Speakers discussed global trends including security and risks, geo-economics and trade, strategic, and technological trends.

Termining global strategic trends very complex, Prof Muhammad Ruhul Amin of International Relations at Dhaka University



Participants at the roundtable in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

spoke of different pivotal factors -- including islamophobia, faith-based violence, hybrid war, and ineffectiveness of global organisations -- that are destabilising the world.

and the Arab Spring caused the important strategic changes before us," he said, adding that a majority

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A world of possibilities for new writers

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH

The month-long Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela has traditionally been a debut ground for young, budding writers, and an avenue of opportunity for them to put their literary works in front of thousands of book lovers.

Apart from releasing quality books of popular writers, publishers have also shown interest in young writers, in part to fulfill bookworms' demand for novelty.

"I have been having a great time here, as people are buying my debut book, criticising my writing and most importantly, inspiring me to continue such efforts," said Rezwan Habib Rafsan Jani, whose book "1/0" has been published from Bhumiprakashon (stall-722).

Talking to The Daily Star, Rafsan, a master's student at Institute of Education and Research (IER) at Dhaka University, said that his book, titled "one by zero" in mathematical terms generally means "undefined".

He named it so as he failed to conform to a particular genre, the writer said.

"My book features pieces on country,

society, politics, music, art, love, illusion; my experiences, analysis of various proverbs, statements, questions, stories and poems -- all in a single book," said Rafsan, who is a popular musician on the DU campus.

Many publishers said they have had good sales of books written by new authors.

"I have published at least 10 books of new writers -- including Al Sahariar Ziddne, whose poetry book titled 'Hatirpul Kacha Bazar' is a big hit," said Tanvir Gazi, owner of Boibhob publications.

Tanvir said, though the book is priced at Tk 210, students can avail the discounted price of Tk 180 by showing their identity card.

"Initially, I had to struggle to get my work published but now publishers are requesting me to start preparing for next year, as they saw booming sale of my books," said Ziddne, who was found at the publication house's stall-718.

The Daily Star talked to at least 20 new writers, who expressed their satisfaction over sales of their publications.

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GYANTAPAS LECTURE

Role of political cinema crucial for social change: Naadir Junaid

HASSAN MUNHAMMANA

Cinema can provoke its audience out of passivity and into critical thought, and rather than being partisan commentary or political propaganda, the art form can help people dispel propaganda, said Prof Naadir Junaid of Dhaka University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism yesterday.

He was speaking at a lecture series organised by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation at the Institute of Modern Languages of DU.

This was the seventh edition of the "Distinguished Unpublished PhD Dissertation Lecture" by the nonprofit.

With political films from both sides of Bengal in focus, yesterday's lecture was titled "Bangla Political Cinema: Protest and Social Transformation".

Prof Junaid said while commercial cinema keeps people's mind away from sociopolitical reality by engaging them in "light



Prof Junaid speaks at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

entertainment, political cinema does the opposite, sometimes making the audience uncomfortable through its sharp criticism of political issues, and raising political awareness.

He also acknowledged the significant role of political cinema in social movements, including the Liberation War.

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DRIVING SKILLS FOR ASPIRING MIGRANTS

70 training centres get cars, simulators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to develop driving skills among aspirant migrant workers, 61 technical training centres (TTCs) under the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) received as many training cars yesterday.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad handed over the car keys to TTC representatives during a ceremony at BMET's Kakrail office in Dhaka.

On the occasion, nine TTCs were also provided with as many driving simulators.

The cars and simulators were given for the "Motor Driving with Basic Maintenance Course" which is conducted in collaboration with the government's Skills for Employment Investment Programme.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister Imran Ahmad hoped that the vehicles would help the TTC ensure quality driving skills among aspirant migrant workers.

He stressed following efficient method during such training.

The minister said the government has taken initiative to establish 40 more TTCs across the country.

BMET Director General Shamsul Alam said they are now facilitating training in 55 different trades at 64 TTCs and six institutes of marine technology.

Secretary Salim Reza of the ministry urged TTC principals to provide quality training utilising the new facilities.

SEIP Executive Project Director Zahidul Haque also addressed the event.

Earlier this month, Salim Reza, following a recently-held Joint Technical Committee meeting between Bangladesh and Qatar in Doha, had said Qatar would hire about 1,500 skilled drivers from Bangladesh ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in the gulf country.

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