



Information Minister Tariqul Islam speaking at a roundtable on 'Evaluation of past activities for flourishing democracy and free flow of information and future course of action' at the Press Institute of Bangladesh auditorium in the city yesterday.

Allow more private radio, TV channels, DU seminar on UN Day

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for more private radio and terrestrial television channels instead of providing autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV).

The Ministry of Information organised the roundtable on "Evaluation of past activities for flourishing democracy and free flow of information and future course of action" at PIB (Press Institute of Bangladesh) auditorium marking one year of the government in office.

The speakers said experiences of the autonomous organisations in the country are not very encouraging and it is not wise to expect that programmes of Betar and BTV would be improved overnight if the state-run electronic media are given autonomy.

They said in the name of free flow of information we have opened our sky for foreign media but our entry to their sky remains closed.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam attended the roundtable as chief guest.

The discussants included Editor of the Weekly Holiday AZM Frydattul Khan, noted academic Prof Mahabubullah, Editor of the News Today Rezauddin Ahmed, publisher of the Inqilab Anwar Hossain Manjo, Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah Kabir, Editor of the Aker Kagoj Kazi Shabed Ahmed, Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of the Financial Express Moazzem Hossain, columnist Sadeq Khan, Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Jasim Uddin, Dr Jafrullah, Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Managing Editor of BSS M. Fakhrul Alam, Managing Director of Film Development Corporation (FDC) Wasimul Bari Razib and acting information secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqui.

Four keynote papers outlining the present activities and future plans and projects of Bangladesh Betar, BTV and Mass Communications Department were presented by Director General of Betar Shaiful Amin Ferdousi, DG of BTV Mostafizur Rahman, DG of Mass Communications Department Iftekhar Hossain and DG of PIB Dr Rezwana Hossain Siddiqui.

Underscoring the need for improvement of different programmes and dissemination of news by the state-run media, they said newspapers in the country were enjoying full freedom of expression. So, they asked, why people of the country would be deprived of getting adequate and

UNB, Dhaka

Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of Dhaka University organised a seminar at the conference room of Business Studies Faculty yesterday to mark the United Nations Day.

Chaired by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, the seminar was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reza Rahman as chief guest while Dean of Social

Science Faculty Prof Mohammed Asaduzzaman as special guest. Prof Ataur Rahman of Political Science Department presented the keynote paper on Conflict Resolution and Peace Building: The Role of the United Nations in the seminar.

Chairman of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department Prof Dalim Chandra Barman delivered the welcome address in the seminar.

Nat'l Primary Edn Week begins today

BSS, Dhaka

The National Primary Education Week-2002 begins today with the theme, "Let quality education be ensured for all children."

Primary and Mass Education Department has drawn up elaborate programmes including rallies, cultural functions, literary competition, tree plantation, workshop and symposium to observe the week in a befitting manner.

The main attraction of the week-long programme will be the closing ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on November 2 where Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to be present as chief guest.

Meanwhile, in a message on the eve of the week, President Iajuddin Ahmed said the primary education is the first step towards development of the faculties of children.

of all to carry forward the social movement for expansion of primary education to make the country free from illiteracy.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called upon all to turn the education programmes into a social movement to establish the right of every child to have access to education.

She said her government is determined to expand primary education at all levels, making it befitting to the need of the hour and society.

"We want to make primary education the foundation of development of human resources," she said.

The prime minister called upon all concerned to work with devotion, dedication and sincerity to translate into reality all government programmes and policies for development of primary education.

The week's programme will begin with tree plantation in all educational institutions. On the first day, the school authorities would arrange children's rally, procession and other functions at their respective schools across the country.

In the capital, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondkar Mosharruf Hossain will inaugurate the week by planting tree at a colourful and impressive function at Mirpur National Government Primary School premises.

A colourful children's rally would be held at the Central Shaheed Minar followed by a procession to Osmani Memorial Auditorium on October 30.

On the concluding day, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will distribute medals, certificates and cash awards among the best teachers, students, best managing committees for their significant contribution to their respective fields.

Train timing rescheduled

BSS, Chittagong

Bangladesh Railway yesterday rescheduled the timing of some expresses and commuter trains running on different routes for rake servicing and repairing of railway tracks.

According to the revised reschedule, the 739-Upaban Express plying between Dhaka-Sylhet section will not ply on Tuesday from November 5 while Roystonka

Express in Sylhet-Dhaka section will not run on Wednesday from November 6, a railway press release said.

Besides, the 738-Eguro Sindur-Probhati Express will now depart from Kishoreganj at 8 am and reach Dhaka at 12 noon while the commuter train Titas will leave Dhaka at 10.35 am instead of 10.10 am from November 1, the release added.

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