

# Political influence hampers education

## Minister tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday said political influence often adversely affects the progress of education.

He was speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled "School Management: Learning from Successful Schools in Bangladesh" at Brac Centre in the city.

The seminar was organised by National Academy for Education Management (Naem) and Brac, two member institutions of the Asian Network of Training and Research Institutions in Education Planning.

The minister said the success stories of good schools could be replicated to raise standard of other schools.

He also advised to conduct study on bad schools to determine their problems and to get rid of them.

Ichiw Miyazawa, programme specialist of Unesco, underscored the need for raising standard of education through efficient management of human and financial resources.

At the seminar, Samir R Nath, senior research fellow of Brac, presented a paper on primary schools while Roohi Zakia Dewan, director of planning and development of Naem, presented a paper on secondary schools.

Brac and Naem conducted the two separate researches on good schools at primary and secondary schools in quest of the secret of success in those educational institutions.

The studies revealed that standard of a school largely depends on the leadership quality and devotion of a good headmaster.

Besides, active community participation and dynamic managing committee can play a pivotal role in establishing quality educational institutions.

Good schools under the leadership of a good head teacher also substantially lower the dropout rate

and achieve better results in competitive examinations, the study added.

Dr Saleh Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Dr Siddiqur Rahman and Mirza Shahidul Islam took part in open discussion moderated by Dr Manzoor Ahmed of Brac.

Dr Imran Matin, research director of Brac, earlier made an introductory remark while Prof Md Khalilur Rahman, director general of Naem, presided over the seminar.

# Cirdap body meet begins in Colombo tomorrow

The 20th meeting of the Technical Committee (TC-20) of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) will begin in Colombo tomorrow, says a press release.

Rural development experts and practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region will meet in the Sri Lankan capital to discuss the regional strategies and programmes for rural development and poverty alleviation.

The Technical Committee is an advisory body of Cirdap.

Heads of the apex rural development institutions in 14 countries -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam-- are members of the Technical Committee.

Besides, one IRD expert from Japan and representatives of donor and partner organisations are also members of the Technical Committee. Some observers from different international organisations are likely to attend the meeting at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), link institution of Cirdap in Sri Lanka.sia-Pacific region.



PHOTO: STAR

Supreme Court Bar Association exchanges opinion with the representatives of six youth organisations at the Supreme Court Bar auditorium in the city yesterday. Bar President Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud was present.

# Dhaka to continue support for fight against terrorism

## Minister says at BISS seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday hailed Bangladesh's support for the United Nations system to maintain a fair and multipolar world order in the 30 years of its membership.

They also hoped that Bangladesh would continue to work to reform the world body for further democratisation in its decision-making process.

The seminar on 'Bangladesh and the UN: Thirty years revisited' was organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium in the city.

"We, in Bangladesh, have reposed our full trust and total confidence in UN's capacity to address matters of international and global concern including peace and security, international terrorism and disarmament," said Information

Minister M Shamsul Islam at the inaugural session.

Speaking as chief guest, Islam noted that Bangladesh has chosen the UN platform to establish universal values and reiterated Dhaka's support for the multilateral UN because, "No nation can prosper alone."

"Bangladesh is not only supportive in words, but also an active member of the UN peace-keeping operations across the world," Islam added, noting that Bangladesh is currently the largest troop-contributor in UN peace-keeping missions participating in 12 out of 16 ongoing missions.

The information minister also outlined Bangladesh's continuing support for UN programmes as it has signed most of the international treaties concerning disarmament, terrorism and poverty alleviation.

Reaz Rahman, advisor to the government on foreign affairs, said Bangladesh should perceive its UN membership within global political

realities and not veer towards an 'optimistic Pollyanna outlook.'

"It is suicidal to deny the power factor," said Rahman, explaining that one of the ways to make the UN more relevant is to constrain the powerful nations such as the United States by making them more accountable for their actions through strengthening international laws and UN reforms.

Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury said the challenge for Bangladesh foreign policy is how to strengthen the UN to work with other countries to establish a fair world order.

UN Country Coordinator Jorgen Lissner, former foreign secretaries Tabarak Husain and AKH Morshed, chairman of the Board of Governors of BISS Ambassador Mufleh R Osmany and Director General Major General Muhammad Abdul Matin also spoke.

# Mutual co-operation among Muslim states stressed

## Saudi health minister meets President, PM

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Manea, Health Minister of Saudi Arabia, called on President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the prime minister's office yesterday.

Welcoming the Saudi health minister and his delegation in Bangladesh, Iajuddin said the relation between the two countries was cordial and brotherly.

He thanked the Saudi government for sending medicine for the flood victims.

Iajuddin recalled the age-old brotherly relation with Saudi Arabia and hoped that the relation would be strengthened in future.

Manea thanked the president for receiving him and the members of his delegation.

He also stressed the need for close cooperation among the Muslim countries for mutual benefit.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf

Hossain and Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah M Al-Obaid Al-Namla, were present.

Earlier, Saudi Health Minister Manea called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the prime minister's office.

Khaleda said Muslim countries should contribute to one another from their respective advantageous position for overall development of the Muslim world.

The countries which have the capability and opportunity of investment can cooperate through investing in Bangladesh availing of the investment-friendly environment and incentives in the country, she told the Saudi delegation.

And Bangladesh "would help other countries of Muslim Ummah with its skilled manpower", she said.

He termed Bangladesh as his own country as second home though it was his maiden visit here.

# Army sergeant dies from hilltop fall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

An army sergeant died on Saturday midnight after falling down from a hilltop at Roangchhari under Bandarban when he was leading a patrol team to rescue two abducted retired army personnel.

The body of Anwar Hossain, 35, has been sent to his village home at Pansha upazila of Rajbari by helicopter.

The special army patrol team went to Talukdarpara hill to rescue Subedar Siddiqur Rahman and Abdul Khaleq who were abducted from Saiengga on Saturday morning allegedly by indigenous goons.

The abductors also kidnapped another person named Saidul, but set him free later.

Local administration and the law enforcing agencies have taken the matter very seriously, sources said.

Four army teams have been deployed to rescue the abducted people.

Meanwhile, two organisations Samadhikar Andolon and Parbatya Pahar Chhatra Parishad threatened to announce tough programmes if the kidnapped people were not released within two days.

They at a rally yesterday demanded re-establishment of army camps in remote areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts to stop such incidents.



# No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over six divisions in the country till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and Srimongol and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 5:47am 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	32.0	25.5	75	69
Chittagong	31.8	25.2	74	80
Rajshahi	31.4	26.0	88	83
Khulna	32.5	26.4	78	83
Barisal	31.5	25.8	87	92
Sylhet	32.9	24.1	81	73
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	75	86

# 1,740 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,740 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 48 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered twelve firearms, five other weapons and 23 bullets and filed six cases against 20 people under the Arms Act, says an official release.

# Obituary



Mushtari Begum, wife of Husain Ahmed, former inspector general of police, died of cardiac arrest on September 18 at Labaid Cardiac Hospital, says a

press release.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and two daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Asr prayers on September 22 at Tip Top Mosque at Circuit House Road.

Friends and relatives have been requested to attend janaza.

# French language course begins October 1

The new session of French language course begins at Alliance Francaise in the city on October 1.

Admission for the course is now going on, says a press release.