

'Self-motivated teachers can help improve quality of edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Self-motivated teachers can help enhance the quality of primary education, a Japanese expert said yesterday.

"To improve the quality of primary education, the teachers have to think about various and effective ways of teaching for better understanding by students," Yoshinori Yoneyama, a member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), told The Daily Star during a field visit by a group of newsmen. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organised the tour.

Yoneyama, who has been serving as a mathematics teacher at an Upazila Resource Centre (URC) in Mymensingh, believe that every teacher has to think about the easier and effective method of teaching so that students can understand the lessons quickly.

"The future of Bangladesh will be bright if the quality of education is improved," he said.

The JOCV members have been serving as science and mathematics teachers in Mymensingh Primary Training Institute (PTI) and URC in Sadar upazila to train primary teachers.

They have been providing training for the teachers to improve their skills and to ensure quality education in the district.

The volunteers observed that although the country has achieved tremendous success in increasing enrolment in primary schools, the quality of education is not up to the mark.

In primary schools, teachers usually do not concentrate on the practical aspect of science, said Yuka Aso, a volunteer at the

Mymensingh PTI.

M Waliul Islam, superintendent of the PTI, said Yuka Aso has been teaching science for the last eight months, which is benefiting the teachers greatly.

JOCV started their activities in Bangladesh in 1973 with a total of 833 volunteers, according to JICA officials. At present, 52 members are working in 29 fields.

Indian envoy meets DU VC

UNB, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri paid a courtesy call on Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interests specially the possibilities of strengthening the existing exchange and collaborative programmes between Dhaka University and the universities of India.

The VC and Pro VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider apprised the Indian High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner of the academic activities and research programmes of Dhaka University.

Veena Sikri assured the VC of providing all possible cooperation to Dhaka University.

She said, "Her government wants to strengthen the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and India by extending cooperation to various sectors specially in education, science and technology fields".



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to press home its 11-point demand.

Launch Reflect approach to empower marginal people

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for launching Regenerated Freirean Literacy Through Empowering Community Techniques (Reflect) approach for creating social awareness and empowering the marginal people.

They said the Reflect approach enhances not only peoples' economic development but also make them aware of their duties and responsibilities to their neighbours and the nation.

The seminar on 'Marching Towards Millenium Development Goals: Endeavour through Reflect' was organised by Actionaid Bangladesh, an international development organisation, at the Spectra

Convention Centre in the city.

The Reflect, as a development and empowerment approach, was invented by Actionaid after conducting a research in Bangladesh, El Salvador and Uganda from 1993 to 95 by integrating the theory of Paolo Freire, a Brazilian educationist.

Under the system, people in a group discuss, analyse and prioritise their problems and then go for action.

Group members also learn functional literacy through a creative and effective process that enables them to do simple accounting for conducting micro-credit programmes by themselves.

Actionaid launched the Reflect approach in Bangladesh in 1995 with the financial support of the Department for International

Development (DFID).

The approach is now being practised by about one lakh people in 30 districts through 56 implementing agencies.

Rasheda K Chowdhury of Campaign for Popular Education, Bangladesh called for strengthening the Reflect approach as it is helping the people to enhance their analytical ability and resolving their problems by themselves.

Zahin Ahmed of Friends in Village Development, Bangladesh said the approach could create a social movement for positive changes in every aspect of life.

Prof Shahed Hassan, chairman of population sciences department of Dhaka University presented an interim study on the approach at the seminar.

Garment workers submit memo to prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council submitted a memorandum to the prime minister yesterday demanding effective steps to face challenges in the aftermath of phasing out of quota facilities.

In the memorandum, the council leaders said the garment sector is going to face a tough situation as the Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA) expires at the end of this year.

Thousands of garment workers would lose their jobs, but the government is yet to take any effective steps in this regard, they added.

Backward linkage industries and cooperation from the government are a must for the garment industries to survive in the competitive market, the leaders said.

They also urged the PM to fulfil its 11-point demand, including increased salary and other facilities for garment workers.

The garment workers took out a procession towards the Prime Minister's Office to submit the memorandum, but police intercepted them at Paltan intersection at around 11.30am.

Later, a team of council leaders went to the PM's office to submit it.

Before taking out the procession, the council held a rally at Muktangan where its leaders Salauddin Swapan, Sarder Khorshed, BMAbul Hossain and Zahanara Begum spoke.

Amirul Haque Amin, co-ordinator of the council, presided over the rally.

Loan defaulter held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday held a businessman for defaulting a loan with the local branch of IFIC Bank for nearly 18 years.

Boalia police arrested Rabiul Haque, son of late Solaiman Sheikh, from his house at Sopura in the morning.

First Court of Joint District Judge issued his arrest order on September 22 with three months of confinement at jail.

Rabiul took a loan of Tk one lakh from the bank in June 1986 which increased to Tk 1.43 lakh with interest in September 1995.

PARTICIPATORY AFFORESTATION Distribution of cheques begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministry of Environment and Forest will begin distribution of cheques among the beneficiaries of the participatory afforestation programme under Tangail Forest Range today.

Official sources said some 2300 local people had participated in woodlot afforestation in forest lands and strip plantation alongside the roads and embankments around six to seven years ago.

They will get Tk 10.26 crore as their profit share.

Minister for Environment and Forest Tariqul Islam will hand over the cheques to the beneficiaries at a simple ceremony at Bhashani Hall in Tangail at 11.00am today.

Officials said that the Department of Forest earned Tk 23.28 crore by selling timber, firewood and wooden pool in the current fiscal.

The forest department with the direct participation of people planted different types of trees on 1874 hectares of land namely woodlot at Madhupur, Ghatail,

Kalihati, Mirzapur and Shakhipur forest areas.

The beneficiaries who participated in woodlot gardening will get 45 per cent of shares from the profit while who planted trees alongside roads and embankments and took care of the trees will get 55 per cent share.

Both the groups also planted trees alongside roads and embankments around 43 kilometers in the same areas.

According to the participatory afforestation programme, the trees were sold after being matured in seven to eight years.

At the check distribution programme, Minister for Jute and Textiles Shajhan Siraj, State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, State Minister in-charge of NGO Affairs Lutfor Rahman Khan Azad and Deputy Minister for Industries Abdus Salam Pintu will be present as special guests at the function.

Sahityabisharad's death anniversary today

Today is the 51st death anniversary of Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad, says a press release.

On the occasion, Bangla Academy will organise a discussion at its seminar room at 11:00am. Justice Abdus Salam Mamun will present the keynote paper on 'Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad: His period and society'.

Prof. Shipra Rakshit Dastidar and Prof. Dulal Kanti Bhoumik will take part in the discussion on the paper with Bangla Academy President Prof. Wakil Ahmed in the chair.

The Centre for Studies in Social Transformation will organise the second lecture session at the auditorium of the Faculty of Business Studies at Dhaka University at 4:30pm.

Prof. Hasan Azizul Haque will deliver the lecture with Prof. Shirajul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.



Guests at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day exhibition admire paintings by schoolchildren at the Sculptor Novera Hall in the city recently. Brac Concord Lands Limited organised the two-day exhibition that ended on September 25.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderate heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said.

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

Highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:48pm today and rises at 5:50am 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 | 31.0 | 26.0 | 90 | 78 |
| Chittagong | 33.2 | 25.0 | 77 | 73 |
| Rajshahi | 32.2 | 25.4 | 87 | 94 |
| Khulna | 32.0 | 27.4 | 90 | 92 |
| Barisal | 31.0 | 25.2 | 98 | 87 |
| Sylhet | 29.7 | 24.6 | 80 | 87 |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.8 | 26.4 | 72 | 78 |

DHAKA TODAY

Musical evening

Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad organises an evening of folk song to mark the death anniversary of Kanai Lal Shil, Momtaj Ali Khan and Abdul Alim. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6.00pm.

roundtable on 'Mass casualty: what is to be done'. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Child Rights Week 2004 will be held with Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Award distribution ceremony

Grand Azad Hotel organises a function to distribute award among the mothers who have worthy children, with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Hotel auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

Discussion

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion to mark the 51st death anniversary of Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.

CPB rally

Communist Party of Bangladesh organises a rally to press for its six-point demand including the resignation of the government. Venue: In front of the party office, Purana Paltan. Time: 4.30pm.

Health conference

The opening session of an inter-ministerial conference on 'Risk reduction on HIV/AIDS' will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BIAM Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 10.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'A River Called Titas' (1973). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Roundtable

Doctors for Health and Environment organises a

Indian film show

The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Armaan'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre.

GP donates microbus to school

GrameenPhone Ltd. donated a microbus to the Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC) recently, says a press release.

Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, handed over the vehicle's keys to Siraji Munira, principal of SWAC, in a simple ceremony at the GP head office.

Anwar Hossain, country manager of Sony-Ericsson in Bangladesh, who is a patron of SWAC, praised the gesture of GP and hoped it would continue to extend a hand in the future.

GrameenPhone Chairman Khalid Shams, Board Member Thor Halvorsen, Deputy Managing Director Frank Fodstad, Finance Director NKA Mobin, Corporate Affairs Director Khalid Hasan and Human Resources Director Emad UAmeeen were also present.

The Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children has been running since 2000. It aims to provide training and education for autistic children so that they can learn to be independent and support themselves in the future.

2,034 more held

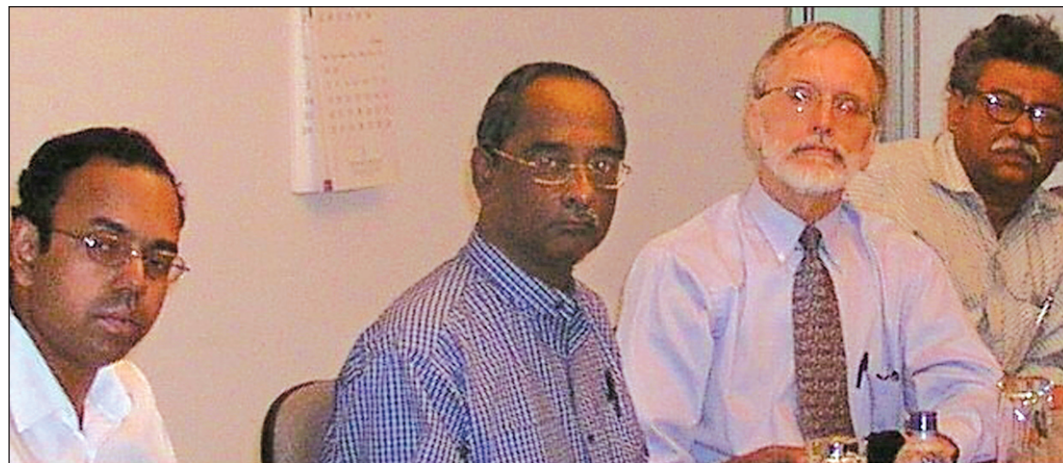
UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 2,034 people including two listed criminals on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered nine firearms, two other weapons and 80 bullets and filed seven cases against 16 people under the Arms Act, said an official release.



Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, hands over the keys of a microbus to Siraji Munira, principal of SWAC, at a simple ceremony in the city recently.



Len Scenscny (second from right), deputy director of Press and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of South Asian Affairs, Department of State, USA, visited the Presidency University in the city recently and held a discussion with Pro-Vice Chancellor and Acting Vice Chancellor Dr MA Baqui Khalily (second from left) and other faculty members.