

40 madrasa students receive English language scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's economic success is closely linked to education and English fluency of its citizens, said US Ambassador Harry K Thomas yesterday.

"With the expansion of the European Union and the 'shrinking globe' phenomenon, English has become the language of trade and commerce," he said while addressing a group of 40 madrasa students at a scholarship award ceremony in the city.

The students received English language scholarships from the US government.

Apart from economic benefits, the most important reason for learning English is to understand each other better, Thomas said.

"I'm sure you know that the real United States is very different from what you might read in the newspapers or see on television," he added.

Twenty students from Madinatul Ulum Women's Kamil Madrassa and 20 other students from Tanjimul Ummah Cadet Madrassa will learn English under the ACCESS English language project, a new programme of the US Department of State.

Administered by the American Centre of the US Embassy in Dhaka, the scholarship would cover costs for tuition, books, materials and transportation for these students.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a three-day national council of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad that began in the city yesterday.

Full ratification of Cedaw demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, a women's organisation, called for full ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw).

The demand was placed at the national council of the Parishad that began at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

The women's rights activists also demanded amendment to laws

relating to guardianship and inheritance.

"Equal rights of women in our country exist in papers only but in real life women are the most deprived section of the society," said Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of the Parishad.

The Parishad with its 59 branches across the country always makes effort to ensure women's rights in true sense, she said.

"We have to wage the toughest movement as democracy is passing through a critical situation," she added.

To prevent repression on women, they must have the right to raise their voice independently, said Hena Das, president of the Parishad.

Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim also spoke.

Tornado lashes Barisal city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A tornado lashed southern part of Barisal city and its adjoining areas, injuring eight people and damaging houses and shops yesterday.

The worst affected areas are Alekanda, Chanmari, Band Road, Sagordi, Rupatali and Dapdapia.

About 30 to 35 shops of Nutan bazar at Karmakati village were also destroyed.

Electricity and telecommunication were cut in different parts of the city.

Meanwhile, normal life has been disrupted due to continuous rain caused by the depression.

Rafola Meenabazar

The Retired Armed Forces Officers Ladies Association (Rafola) is going to arrange a Meenabazar on the WVA premises on October 11 and 12 in aid of an elementary school for slum children, founded by its members, says a press release.

For information about stall allotment, interested persons are requested to call at the following numbers -- 8113535, 8826644 and 8829644.

SYLHET-JAFFLONG ROUTE Transport workers force suspension of BRTC bus service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BRTC bus service on Sylhet-Jafflong route has remained suspended since Monday in the face of obstacles created by the Bus and Minibus Owners Association and Transport Workers Association.

The bus service has been stopped after a group of transport workers forced the passengers to get off BRTC buses at Tilagarh and other areas on Monday, sources said.

They also warned the drivers not to drive on the road.

Demanding resumption of bus services, residents of Jaintapur and Kanaighat held a rally at Battala in Jaintapur yesterday, with former chairman of the upazila Sirajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

UP chairmen from the two upazilas joined the rally.

The speakers also announced agitation programmes, including submitting a memorandum to the deputy commissioner on Saturday.

'Withdraw notices, orders violating municipal ordn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Municipal Association of Bangladesh (Mab) has made a 16-point recommendation to help strengthen local government.

The recommendations were placed at a daylong conference of Mab at Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Nearly one hundred municipal chairmen and ward commissioners from 16 districts of Rajshahi division took part in the conference.

The recommendations include withdrawal and cancellation of all notices, orders and circulars given in violation of Section 146 (2) of the municipal ordinance of 1977.

Mab leaders said the 'anti-ordinance' notices were creating obstacles to development work.

They also recommended an increase in budgetary allocation for

municipalities, handing over of fallow government lands and other properties to municipal authorities, renaming of municipal chairmen as mayors to familiarise them with current world, formation of municipal commission and involvement of Mab in national policy making.

Mab President and Tongi Municipal Chairman Advocate Ajmat Ullah Khan said Tk 130 crore was allocated in national budget for municipalities this year which is only 0.59 percent of the total allocation for development sector.

In New Zealand, municipalities get 50 percent and in the Philippines they get 45 percent of the total development allocation, he said.

Mab Secretary General and Shingra Municipal Chairman Shamim Al Razi spoke about various problems in discharging their responsibilities.

Addressing the conference as chief guest, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP expressed his solidarity with the recommendations and assured his cooperation to place them in parliament.

Mundumala Municipal Chairman and Rajshahi District BNP General Secretary Shish Mohammad presided over the conference.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Musleh Uddin, Deputy Inspector General of Police Noor Mohammad, Bogra Municipal Chairman Mahbubur Rahman, Bera Chairman Abdul Baten, Kushtia Chairman Anwar Ali, Laksam Chairman Mojir Ahmed and Hakimpur Chairman Sakhawat Hossain also spoke.

Theatre Instt opens in Ctg today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The newly constructed Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) will be inaugurated today.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury will formally inaugurate the institute at 3:00pm.

Noted artistes and writers including Kalim Sharafi, Syed Shamsul Haque, Aly Zaker, Ataur Rahman, Kazi Arif, Mamunur Rashid, Lucky Inam, Nasiruddin Yousuf and Rabiul Hossain will attend the inaugural function.

It will be followed by a seminar and cultural function.

Chittagong City Corporation has constructed the four-storied complex at a cost of TK 2 crore beside the Central Shaheed Minar.

The complex comprises a 250-seat hall room with modern sound and lighting system, seminal hall, exhibition hall and rehearsal room.

The centrally air-conditioned institute has training, research and publication section.



AKM Mostafizur Rahman and Salma Rahman perform at a programme of Bhawaiya song at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum in the city on Tuesday. Mostafiz Academy, Dhaka organised the event.

