

'Promote young leadership'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) held a course for mid-level political leaders in the city yesterday, calling for promoting the young leadership.

"The old leadership will not work, new ones should be promoted to lead the political parties to serve the people," said Dr M Ataur Rahman, chairman of the Centre for Governance Studies and a resource person at the course.

The political parties only want to go to power and cling to it, but the leaders should change such attitude for the sake of democracy and people, he said at a press conference after the daylong course.

Forty mid-level leaders of BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Ershad) took part in the course titled 'Leadership Development Course'.

Areas covered in the course

included democracy and leadership, local electoral analysis and local message development, ways to win elections and mechanism of democracy.

Political leaders should promote tolerance and stop blaming their rivals in and out of parliament, said Dr Ataur.

He also called on the old leadership to refrain from blocking ways for the young leaders.

Replying to a question, NDI Country Director Owen P Lippert said, "Jamaat is quite a democratically organised party."

Deborah Healy, NDI senior programme manager, Hamish Marshall, former electoral analyst of Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Canada, and Lincoln Mitchell, a New York-based political consultant, conducted the course.

NDI has been working in Bangladesh for the last 10 years to strengthen democracy.

Youth killed in gas explosion, boy dies in wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old boy died in a wall collapse while a youth was killed in a gas explosion in the city yesterday.

Tutul, a class four student of Wari Primary School, was playing near his house at Rabi Daspara in Banogram at around 11:00am when a part of the boundary wall fell on him.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

And at Khilgaon, an abandoned container, filled with gas, exploded when Sohel, 30, tried to cut it open with a drill machine at 7:30am.

Fatally injured Sohel died on his way to the DMCH.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveils the plaque of Shaheed Jihad Square at Dainik Bangla crossing yesterday.

DU to shorten winter vacation

UNB, Dhaka

The academic council of Dhaka University has decided to shorten the ensuing winter vacation to make up the losses caused to students by the strike.

It also called for exempting examinations from all political programmes.

Reviewing the situation the meeting found the university had to postpone 676 examinations since September 11 last when BCL enforced indefinite strike. All the examinations were scheduled to be completed by September.

The university teachers also went on strike on September 11 and continued for more than a week.

Students' politics and disturbances on the campus have caused session jam for nearly two years affecting around 30,000 students of the university.

BSS adds, The academic council also decided that the ongoing examinations of the second and the third year students of BA/BSS/B. Pharm honours and MA/MSS/MS and M. Pharm will begin on October 13.

Presided over by DU Vice

Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz the meeting also decided that the examinations of the first year BSC honours will begin October 14 and will be ended by October 29.

Students concerned were asked to collect the routine of the examinations.

The earlier scheduled examinations of the second year BSC honours students will begin November 4.

Indian teams to present cultural evening tomorrow

The High Commission of India will present a cultural evening by troupes from Rajasthan and Tripura at the Indian Cultural Centre auditorium in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

The programme will begin at 6.30pm.

Complimentary passes are available at the Information & Culture Wing, High Commission of India, House # 2, Road # 142, Gulshan-1, and the Indian Cultural Centre, Road # 96, House # 25, Gulshan-2.