

## Ensure quality edn

President urges teachers

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the teachers to ensure the quality of education at the grassroots level and thus contribute to nation building activities.

The president said this when a delegation of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote led by its president Prof M Shariful Islam called on him at Bangabhaban.

The delegation members told the president that 95 per cent teachers and employees have been contributing to expansion of education at private level but they are facing many problems.

They handed over a memorandum to the president.

They hailed the government for its decision to give retirement benefits to teachers and employees of private educational institutions and stressed the need for its immediate implementation.

The members of the delegation include Prof Mazharul Hannan, Maulana Sabir Ahmed Momtaj and Shakhwat Hossain Mollik.

**HSC exams under BOU begins today**

UNB, Dhaka

HSC final examinations under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will begin today.

A total of 1,13,197 examinees of the first, second years and other batches will seat for the examinations this year.

All the examinations will be held on Fridays, a BOU press release says.

Meanwhile, the authorities have brought some changes in the examination schedule. The examination of the Economics- 1st Paper, code-HSC-1823, will be held on December 3 instead of November 26.



Winners of 'Nido-Shaptahik 2000 Story Writing Competition 2004' pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**Nurul Islam**, a madrasa student, has been gradually losing his eyesight because of defects in both eyes.

A student of Kanchanpur Elahia Senior Fazil Madrasa at Bashall in Tangail, he could not continue his studies because of poor eyesight.

"I want to pursue my studies. I have consulted many eye specialists but no-one could assure me of a permanent remedy," said the student, son of a poor family at Delduar Upazila.

Nurul's blood vessels in his eyes are gradually drying up, affecting the functioning of the cornea which plays a vital role in focussing images. If the problem is not corrected immediately, he would lose his eyesight forever.

Several operations are needed to correct the eyesight of Nurul Islam, said doctors at Sankara Nethralaya, a medical research foundation in Chennai, India, after examining his eyes.

"But such treatment involves Tk four to five lakh which my family cannot afford," said the boy and appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to restore his eyesight.

People willing to help the boy can contact him at 0171-514898.

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## 'Formulate population development policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for formulating a population development policy to turn the huge population into human resources.

The country has achieved more successes than many other countries in the last ten years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), but more challenges are still lying ahead such as reproductive health, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition and safe maternity, they said.

The Khan Foundation organised the workshop on 'ICPD+10: Bangladesh perspective' at a city hotel.

A 20-year plan of action was taken at the ICPD held in Cairo in 1994.

"Bangladesh would be able to carry through the challenges within the next 10 years," said Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest.

Advocate Rokhsana Khondoker,

executive director of Khan Foundation, presided over the workshop and Annemieke De Los Santos, deputy representative of UNFPA, was present as special guest.

Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, department of population Science, Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper.

Santos said the government and non-governmental organisations and the civil society were playing an important role in raising awareness about HIV/Aids, reproductive health and rights. Bangladesh is considered a model in Asia region for its achievement in the field of reproductive health and family planning.

Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Ataur Rahman Khan MP, GM Kader MP, and Fazlur Rahman, director general of Health and Family Welfare Directorate, also spoke.

## Retrieve canals to save capital from flooding

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canals in and around the city will have to be retrieved on an emergency basis to save the capital from flooding and waterlogging, said the speakers at a roundtable on Wednesday.

They said after being restored, the canals and water bodies will have to be demarcated and re-excavated to prevent future encroachment.

The roundtable on 'Urban Flooding: Case Dhaka City' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) and the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at the

IEB seminar room in the city.

In his keynote speech, Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhtar Hossain said in between 1990 and 2000, around 100 square kilometer of low-lying area around the capital was filled up.

Besides, out of 35 canals in Dhaka, nine have been completely vanished, he added.

Akhtar Hossain called for coordinated efforts by Water Development Board, Dhaka City Corporation, Wasa and Rajuk to tackle the urban flooding.

Moderated by BRAC University Vice-chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, the roundtable was also addressed by IEB President M Anwarul Azim, Rajuk Chairman Md Shahid Alam, Bela Director Syeda Rezwana Hasan and Rehab President Towfiq M Siraz.

roundtable, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas said waterlogging problem in the city began to deteriorate with the filling up of Dholakhal following pressure from the locals.

He said earth filling in low-lying areas around the capital by the developers is also responsible for waterlogging and flooding in Dhaka.

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