

Implement short-term recommendations for quality education

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a discussion yesterday called for implementing short term recommendations of the Education Commission Report 2003 to achieve the quality education.

They said recommendations that require policy change and involve significant amount of fund should be left for mid term and long term implementation.

The Dhaka Divisional Focal Group Discussion (FGD) of the cell on implementation of the commission's recommendations was organised by the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka at the Biam auditorium in the city.

"To achieve the objective of desired goals in the field of education, we have to bring about dynamism in educational administration and uphold the dignity of teachers," said Dhaka District Education Officer Mazharul Islam presenting the suggestions of his group on secondary and higher secondary education.

Assistant Director of Primary Education Directorate Tahmina Khatun on behalf of her group underscored the need for teaching English at primary level.

While presenting the suggestions on higher education, Principal of Govt Rajendra College Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman said his group has agreed on the implementation of 161 recommendations on short term basis.

The group has also suggested amendment of the University

Ordinance-1973 to address the present problems, he added.

Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof Mohammad Ali Mortuza said his group has suggested short term implementation of eight recommendations in Information and Communication Technology sector.

Director of Al-Raji Hospital Dr Md Mofizur Rahman said it is not possible to bring down the present doctor-patient ratio of 1:4,600 to 1:3,000 even by the year 2020 with the existing number of government and private medical institutions.

Additional 40 thousand doctors would be needed to bring the doctor-patient ratio at the desired level, he said.

Principal Jainul Abedin of Taminul Millat Kamil Madrasa presented his group's suggestions on madrasa education.

The entire education sector was divided into primary and non-formal, secondary and higher secondary, madrasa, engineering and IT, agricultural and medical, and distant and women education to facilitate the discussion.

Seven groups comprising senior academics and officials were formed to prioritise the commission's recommendations for implementation.

Additional Education Secretary M Asahabur Rahman was present at the discussion presided over by Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Prof Shaheda Obaed.

Woman kidnapper gets 14 years' RI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced a woman to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping a five-year-old girl for trafficking.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Arefin of the Fifth Special Tribunal for Prevention on Women and Children Repression gave the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom.

Accused Shanta Islam was convicted for kidnapping the victim Mou for trafficking.

After cross-examination of 7 prosecution witnesses, the tribunal gave the verdict.

In the case filed with Sabujbagh Police Station, victim's father Abdur Rahim of 135 North Mugdapara at Sabujbagh in the city alleged that Shanta kidnapped his daughter Mou from in front of the Mugda Community Centre. Later, Shanta along with Mou was caught red-handed by the passers-by at the Dhaka National Stadium area at about 3:00pm on December 9, 2002.

Later, an abduction case was filed against Shanta under the

Women and Children Repression Prevention Act the same day. The Investigation officer pressed charges against Shanta on February 3, 2003.

The tribunal framed charges against Shanta on September 10, 2003 and its trial began on June 10 last year.

Special Public prosecutor Rezaul Karim appeared for the state while Advocate Ashraf-Ul-Alam defended the accused.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Alhaj Mamtaj Uddin Ahmed, father of Barrister Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, a member of BNP National Executive Committee, died of a brain haemorrhage at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 88.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Begumganj in Noakhali.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Law Minister Moudud Ahmed expressed their deep shock at the death of Mamtaj.



PHOTO: STAR

The Purana Paltan area in the city remained gridlocked for a long time yesterday as life returned to normal after a 36-hour hartal, called by the opposition parties, ended on Sunday.

'Construct new library bldg at Bangla Academy to preserve rare books'

Ekushey Book Fair continues amid tight security

DU CORRESPONDENT

Participants at a discussion yesterday emphasised the need for constructing a new separate building for Bangla Academy library to preserve its rare books and periodicals properly.

They also expressed concern over the lack of space and furniture at the library which might cause damage to its valuable collections.

The traditional discussion on 'Fifty years of Bangla Academy: The role of its library' was organised on the seventh day of the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the academy premises.

Presenting a keynote paper, Shahida Khatun said although Bangla Academy library is one of the foremost research centre for Bangla language and literature,

there is no modern facilities in the library.

Journalist Hasan Hafiz, Mohammad Sadat Ali and Asad Chowdhury took part in the discussion followed by a cultural function. Mohammad Abdul Kaium presided.

Meanwhile, 34 new books were shelved at different publishing houses of the fair yesterday.

The cover of the book titled 'Amar Nutun Janma' by late Prof Humayun Azad was unveiled in the fair by his wife Latifa Kahinor, daughters Mauli Azad and Smita Azad, son Anannya Azad and publisher of Agamee Prakashani Osman Gani.

Prof Azad wrote the book after he was chopped brutally on way to his university quarter from the fair last year.

Publishers said the sale of books was not up to expectations as less number of bookworms came to the fair.

On the other hand, the security at the fair was very tight. Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were seen at two entrances of the academy checking all the visitors.

Civil society members support Asma Kibria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of South Asian Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism, and Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee' yesterday met Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, at her residence in the city.

They said the killing of Kibria was the part of a conspiracy of the four-party alliance government.

The civil society members assured Asma Kibria of their participation in her all programmes.

They also suggested formation of a 'Peoples' Inquiry Commission' to investigate the killing.

Asma Kibria told them that she would consider their proposal, a source present in the meeting said.

Led by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the leaders of the two organisations included Justice KM Sobhan, Barrister Shoukat Ali Khan, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Ajay Roy, Architect Rabiul Hossain, Journalist Priyahri Kabir, Sculptor Ferdousi Priyabhashini, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Abul Bark Alvi, Advocate Abdul Mannan, and Qazi Mukul

HC quashes graft cases against Ctg mayor

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday quashed the graft cases pending with the lower court against Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and his chief engineer.

After hearing both sides, a division bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastgir Hossain and Justice Mamun Rahman passed separate orders quashing the cases.

The now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption had filed the cases accusing them of corruption in constructing a market with car parking facilities and an inter-city bus terminal without seeking approval for the designs by the City Development Authority.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam and advocate AKM Faiz appeared for the petitioners.

They were also patrolling inside the academy premises.

Talking to this correspondent, one of the Rab members preferring not to be named said they had been just following the orders of the high-ups.

A traditional discussion on 'Fifty years of Bangla Academy: The role of Bangla Academy in the field of research on Bangla language and literature' will be held on the academy premises today.

CU admission tests begin today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for first year honours courses under 2004-2005 academic session of Chittagong University (CU) begins today amid tight security.

The test for BBA faculty under 'Ga' Unit and law faculty under 'Uma' Unit will be held at 10:30am and 2:30pm respectively on the first day.

As many as 40 students are vying for each seat in the BBA faculty while 66 for each seat in the law faculty.

The CU authorities have taken up special security measures to hold the admission test peacefully.

A total of 63,514 applicants will sit for the admission tests under five faculties and two institutes of the university.

SSJ programme begins toady

DU CORRESPONDENT

A 12-day programme of the Samilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) will begin at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city today, marking the February 21 and the International Mother Language Day.

Poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the event while SSJ President Nasiruddin Yousuf will preside. Language movement veteran poet Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury will also attend the inaugural ceremony, says a press release.

UITS orientation tomorrow

The orientation of the first batch of Master of Science in Telecommunications (Engineering) of the University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) will be held at its auditorium at PBL Tower (fourth floor) at 17 North Gulshan C/A, Gulshan 2 in the city at 10:30am tomorrow, says a press release.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Syed Marghub Murshed will attend the orientation as the chief guest. Former IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. M Anwar Hossain and Square Group Chairman Samson H Chowdhury will be present as special guests. PHP Foundation Chairman Al-Haj Sufi Mohamed Mizanur Rahman will deliver the address of welcome.

Managing directors of Cell Phone and Public Service Telephone Network (PSTN), operators, members of Internet Service Provider Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB), eminent educationists, industrialists, teachers and students will attend the programme.

Police, BNP cadres blamed for killing Jubo League leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League, the youth front of Awami League, yesterday alleged that the police and BNP cadres tortured and killed Jubo League leader Billal Bepari and dumped his body into a water body at Maghbazar in the city.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance government has resorted to politics of killing, but no government in the past could cling to power by resorting to repression, said Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok at a press conference.

He also demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Billal.

The Jubo League chairman announced a series of anti-government agitation programmes in protest against the killing of Billal, death threat against Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina by ruling BNP men and police repression of opposition leaders and activists.

The programmes include protest rallies in all districts on February 10, in the city wards on February 12 and in upazilas on February 14, protest

procession in the capital on February 20, protest rallies in divisional headquarters on February 26 and a youth rally in Dhaka on March 1.

While nobody is brought to book in connection with the grisly August 21 grenade attack, 26 leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations were punished by a Speedy Trial Tribunal after a Jamaat leader of Madarganj upazila in Jamalpur filed a 'false case' accusing them of damaging his NGO office during hartal on February 16 last year, Nanok said.

AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader, AL presidium member Omar Farruk Chowdhury and Jubo League Secretary Mirza Azam MP were present at the press conference held at the AL office.

Billal Bepari, a Jubo League leader at the city ward No. 55, had been missing since the police and BNP activists chased him in Ramna area a week ago. His body was found floating in the water body on Sunday.

He had a tea stall near his house at Wireless Gate slum in Maghbazar.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Ekushey programme
The inaugural ceremony of Ekushey Programme, organised by Sammito Sangskritik Jote, will be held with Poet Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4:00pm.

Premiere show
The premiere show of three children's films, made by Bangladesh Shishu Academy will be held with Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haq as chief guest. Venue: Ziaur Rahman Auditorium of the academy. Time: 11:00am.

Film show
Television Reporters Association of Bangladesh will screen a film titled 'Joto Prem Tolo Jala' directed by Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu. Venue: Zahir Raihan Colour Lab Auditorium, FDC. Time: 3:00pm.

Press preview
A press preview of the solo exhibition of paintings by Ali Imam titled 'Anadi Ananta' will be held. Venue: Bengal Shipalay, House-275/A, Road-27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 3:30pm.

Thumri evening
Samina Dey will present a selection of Thumri in an exclusive soiree in memory of Shobha Gurtu. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi.

Poetry council meeting
A meeting of the executive committee of National Poetry Council will be held. Venue: Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 6:00pm.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Bijoyee Hoe Firbo Noiley Firbo Na' authored by Major Kamrul Islam Bhuiyan will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4:00pm.

AL meeting
A meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee will be held with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Venue: House-51/A, Road-3/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Certificate giving ceremony
The certificate giving ceremony hosted by Military Institute of Science and Technology will be held with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Officers Mess of the institute, Mirpur Cantonment. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka meeting
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

Rotary Sonargaon meeting
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.

**DHAKA
T O M O R R O W**

Presentation ceremony
The presentation ceremony of DW internet-portal for South Asia will be held. Venue: Goethe Institut, House-10, Road-9 Dhanmondi. Time: 7:00pm.

Orientation
The orientation of the first batch students of Master of Science in Telecommunications of the University of Information Technology and Sciences will be held. Venue: University auditorium, 17 North Gulshan. Time: 10:30am.

Reception
Darul Ihsan University organises a reception for Ph.D. and M. Phil degree holders. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3:30pm.

**WEATHER
T O D A Y**

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said adding that night temperature may rise slightly during the period.

Highest temperature 31.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 10.3 degree Celsius at Srimgangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:35am 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	29.6	15.8	79	61
Chittagong	30.8	15.3	68	45
Rajshahi	27.4	13.0	88	60
Khulna	30.3	16.2	84	70
Barisal	30.5	13.8	83	71
Sylhet	29.2	16.0	61	51
Cox's Bazar	31.2	16.5	65	57

