

Int'l youth meet begins today

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day international youth summit begins in the city today, with young people of South Asia engaging in a joint search of issues of identity, diversity and active citizenship.

The British Council, in collaboration with the DemocracyWatch, has organised the summit.

The summit styled as 'Beyond Borders' is being held under the youth leadership programme of the British Council.



Winners of 'Ekushey Padak-2005' pose with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the award giving ceremony at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PID

People's body formed to probe grenade attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A National People's Inquiry Commission was formed yesterday to probe all the grenade and bomb attacks across the country.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury was made chairperson of the 21-member commission while Justice KM Sobhan will act as the co-chairperson and journalist and writer Shahriar Kabir as member secretary.

The commission will investigate all the bomb attacks and political killings that took place since March 1999 when a bomb exploded in the Udichi conference in Jessore.

It will publish a probe report with recommendations on August 21 this year.

Other members are Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandakar,

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, poet Shamsur Rahman, Kalim Sharafi, Hena Das, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) CR Dutta, Pramod Mankin MP, Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Zahangir, Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, Prof Abdul Khalek, Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Ajay Roy, litterateur Hasan Azizul Haq, columnist Mohiuddin Ahmed and journalists Bazlur Rahman, Kamal Lohani and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

The commission will also form a 41-member secretariat to conduct the investigation.

Persons intending to provide any information regarding the attacks are requested to contact the commission's office at Ga-16 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 or send e-mail at ganatadanta_bangladesh05@yahoo.com.

Country to be brought under early disaster warning system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be brought under an early disaster warning system in the wake of the recent tsunami that devastated South and South East Asia, said Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf at a workshop in the city yesterday.

He said the warning network is presently at a discussion level among the regional countries.

The workshop on 'People's rights and media's role at the time of disaster' was organised by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) and the Disaster Forum at the National Press Club.

The minister said the role of the community and non-government organisations is very crucial in reducing the damage in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

The government, under its risk reduction programme, plans to construct more flood and cyclone centres in addition to the existing three thousand in the coastal region,

he added.

"Relief is a right of every citizen, it should not be considered a favour," said Hasan Shahriar, the CJA global president and executive editor of the daily Ittefaq.

Gawher Nayeem Wahra of Disaster Forum and columnist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke at the workshop, chaired by CJA Bangladesh chapter President Farid Hossain.

Nine houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nine houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Salimpur Pirbari in Faujdarhat yesterday.

An oven sparked off the fire at around 1.20pm, causing an estimated loss of Tk 10 lakh, sources said.

Firefighters from Agrabad Fire Brigade headquarters extinguished the blaze after a struggle for over one and a half hours.