

'Community participation a must for quality pry edn'

BDNEWS, DHAKA

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday said that effective community participation could ensure quality primary education.

The dialogue titled 'The Involvement of Local Community in the Qualitative Development of Primary Education' was organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at its auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city.

DAM director Prof Ahmadullah Miah moderated the dialogue with its president and chief executive Rafiqul Alam in the chair.

The dialogue started with a multimedia presentation by project coordinator Jahangir Alam on CLSP project being implemented by DAM with assistance from Plan Bangla-desh.

Former Jahangirnagar University (JU) Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kazi Saleh Ahmed, CAMPE director Rasheda K Chowdhury, JU Prof Shafi Ahmed, Nurul Islam Khan, M Ehsanur Rahman and Azizul Huq also spoke at the dialogue.

Speakers said such dialogues can help in finding the ways and means for ensuring quality in the primary education.

1,321 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,321 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours as of 6:00am yesterday.

DoE, CDA blamed for failure to check hill cutting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a rally yesterday expressed grave concern at the rampant hill cutting in Chittagong, saying that such activities have been causing serious damage to the ecological balance.

They also strongly criticised the Department of Environment (DoE) and the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) for their failure to check the menace.

A number of criminal syndicates backed by well-connected vested quarters have been plundering the hills openly, but the authorities have turned a blind eye to such acts, they said.

The Janaudyog and the Save Chittagong, two forums of environmentalists, organised the rally at Zakir Hossain Road in front of the divisional office of DoE.

Hundreds of environmentalists, students, teachers and journalists joined the rally. Later, they formed a human chain with banners, festoons and placards in their hands.

The speakers at the rally regretted that even the DoE has demolished hills to build its new office building in Chittagong, thereby encouraging the hill cutting.

They pointed out that Khulshi, Nasirabad, Burma Colony, Oxygen, Cantonment, Fateyabad, Hathazari, Sitakunda and Satkania are among the areas where hill cutting is going on unabated.

The speakers said brick kiln

owners are directly involved in the hill cutting but the authorities appear to be reluctant to take action against them.

They also alleged that such acts are being carried out in connivance with a section of officials and employees of the CDA, DoE and law enforcement agency.

Prof Shafiq Haider Chowdhury, a leader of Forum for Planned

Chittagong, Abu Taher Masud, general secretary of Hill Cutting Resistance Committee, Hasan Ferdous, chief coordinator of the Save Chittagong, Prof Shahidul Islam of Chittagong University and Prof Md Idrish Ali spoke at the rally, presided over by Sharif Chauhan, coordinator of Janaudyog.

Make madrasa edn modern, competitive: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday suggested making madrasa education modern and competitive in line with demand of the time.

He made the suggestion when a nine-member delegation of Jatiya Sirat committee led by its president Maulana Muhiuddin Khan called on him at Bangabhaban.

Iajuddin also called upon them to go on preaching the great tradition and tenets of Islam among the people.

Maulana Muhiuddin told the

president that they make Islamic education easy, modern and acceptable to the people. Islamic education has no relation with "so-called fundamentalism," he added.

The delegation members requested the president to inaugurate an International Qirat Competition for children. The President assured them of all cooperation.

The delegation members were Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Junayed Al Habib, Advocate Shahinur Pasha Chowdhury, Abdul Latif Nezami and Mortuza Basir Uddin Khan.

