

Khulna Dev body calls hartal on August 9, 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (KDACC) at its convention at the Zia hall in the city on Wednesday announced a month-long programme, including 48-hour hartal on August 9 and 10, to press its demand for development of Khulna.

Other programmes include rail, road and waterway blockade on August 2 and coffin procession on July 26.

The convention also declared Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman unwanted for 'opposing allocation of fund for implementation of different development projects in Khulna'.

Former Awami League lawmaker Advocate Enayet Ali, BNP leader Gazi Shahidullah, Dainik Purbanchal Editor Alhaj Liaquat Ali, Khulna District Bar Association President Advocate Mujibar Rahman, Khulna Citizens' Forum Chairman Sheikh Abdul Quayum, city CPB President Advocate Feroze Ahmed and Khulna district Workers Party General Secretary Hafizur Rahman spoke at the convention with GKDACC Vice President Haider Gazi Salahuddin Runu in the chair.

Speakers at the convention pledged not to stop agitation until their 18-point demand is met.

President assents to 2 bills

UNB, Dhaka

The President has assented to two bills adopted by Jatiya Sangsad in its current budget session.

These are the Public Procurement Bill 2006 and the Bangladesh Sramik Kalyan Foundation Bill 2006.

Invest to ensure quality edn

Speakers urge businessmen at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without active participation of the private sector, it is not possible for the government alone to ensure quality education, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

There is a severe lack of skilled professionals in all sectors of the country, they said and called on the businesspeople to invest in the education sector in order to develop human resources.

Ensuring quality education will also help the business sector as quality education is closely linked to the quality of labour forces, they pointed out.

Advancing Public Interest Trust (APIT), MRC-Mode Limited and the Shaptahik 2000, a weekly magazine, organised the roundtable on 'Corporate engagement and government facilitation: Corporate social responsibility and education' at a city hotel.

Educationists, politicians, entrepreneurs, business leaders and NGO activists took part in the roundtable moderated by eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed attended the discussion as a resource speaker.

"It is not possible for any government in the world to provide all the funds for education. So, corporate financing can play a key role in improving the quality of education," said former education minister ASHK Sadique.

He also said some people are running educational institutions only to make money, but there is no law to stop such practices.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said education should be used as a tool of capacity building, but the educa-



PHOTO: STAR

Eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on 'Corporate engagement and government facilitation: Corporate social responsibility and education' at a city hotel yesterday. On his right are ASHK Sadique and Golam Mortoza and on his left are Shoeb Ahmed and Sabbir Bin Shams.

tion system is becoming a certificate-oriented one.

Education should be the foundation of social development, he said and called for an end to the politicisation of the education sector.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the quality of education is deteriorating as there is no accountability in the educational institutions in rural areas.

He said corporate organisations

should come forward to develop educational institutions, but a coordination committee and a code of conduct for them are a must to ensure quality education.

Former President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Sayeeful Islam said that while the rate of unemployment in the country is very high, there are many top level positions that are either vacant or

occupied by foreigners as there is a lack of skilled manpower in the country.

DCCI President MA Momen, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association President M A Awal, former BGMEA President Anisul Haque, APIT Executive Director Sabbir Bin Shams and Acting Editor of Shaptahik 2000 Golam Mortoza also spoke at the roundtable.

Proshika signs MoU with SEDF

Proshika signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) yesterday for promotion of power-operated maize shellers and threshers in some selected areas of the country, says a press release.

Proshika's Principal Programme Coordinator (organic agriculture) Dipak Kumer Gosh, and SEDF's sector development coordinator Mrinal Sarker signed the MoU at a simple ceremony at Proshika Bhaban on behalf of their respective organisation.

Proshika's Senior Vice-President Mahabubul Karim and Deputy Director Nargis Jahan Banu were present at the signing ceremony.

Under the project, to be implemented in one year, the farmers will be provided maize-shellers and threshers with a view to developing and enhancing farm machinery as an effective entrepreneurship. Besides, it would reduce drudgery labour and save time using agriculture machinery of the farmers.

The project would be implemented initially in five selected localities namely Shibganj, Nilphamari, Bogra, Dhamrai, Kaliakoir and Madaripur.

Recruitment of 23116 pry teachers soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government will soon recruit 23116 assistant teachers in the government primary schools under the 2nd primary education development programme.

"We want to improve the primary education capacity and for this purpose we will soon recruit 23116 fresh assistant teachers under the 2nd primary education development

programme," said State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon before the parliament yesterday.

He also informed that education ministry has already published an advertisement to recruit 6291 assistant teachers in the primary schools.

Mobile court fines 19 car owners

A mobile court in a raid yesterday filed cases against 19 car owners and fined a total of Tk 55,000 for violating Environment Preservation Act 1997 and Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, says a press release.

A team of metropolitan police led by Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah conducted the raid in the city's Manik Mia Avenue and examined emission of 22 cars.

Cases have been filed against the owners of 19 air-polluting cars. Among them, 16 were fined under the Environment Preservation Act 1997 and 3 under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983.

Int'l confce on road safety from Aug 22

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will organise a three-day international conference titled 'Road Safety in Developing Countries' in the city from August 22-24.

The Accident Research Centre, Buet will organise the conference with around 300 specialists, researchers and representatives from Bangladesh, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, India,

Singapore and Thailand likely to join.

A total of 22 essays on related issues will be presented and discussed in the conference.

A 17-member organising committee has been formed to make the conference a success.

Interested organisations and persons who want to participate in the conference are requested to contact Director, Accident Research Centre, Buet, Dhaka - 1000. Emails can be sent to rsc06@arc.buet.ac.bd and dirarc@arc.buet.ac.bd.