

Nation needs more enlightened people

Speakers tell Biswa Sahitya Kendra's prize giving ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today badly needs more enlightened people to show lights amid darkness all around, said the speakers at a prize giving ceremony in the city yesterday.

They said reading books can help build such enlightened people.

The prize giving ceremony was organised by Biswa Sahitya Kendra (World Literature Centre) at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

Speaking at the inaugural session Biswa Sahitya Kendra Founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, "Man needs dream to be a great man and we want to evoke the dreams through the books written by great people."

"When you read books, environment around you also becomes better. It also makes your life full of joys," he said, adding that reading extra-curricular books beside textbooks make people broad-minded.

"When you will become good and honest men, the whole nation will be enlightened," Prof Sayeed, known as the 'maker of the enlightened people', told the students on the first day of the two-day ceremony.

Popular science fiction writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said reading textbooks can enable a man to earn, but the greater identity of a

man is found in his greatness.

"In the context of present reality today, we badly need great men," he said.

Pointing to hundreds of students, former governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfar Rahman Sarker said, "It appears that we are walking in a garden and we have innumerable lights in our midst. We must always uphold the lights and multiply those in hundreds."

Singer Bangladesh Limited Managing Director Mahbub Jamil said the nation needs more enlightened people to show lights to the countrymen and lead the country in future.

"What should be the goal of education- earning money or becoming great men?" questioned Real Estate Housing Association of Bangladesh President Engineer Abdul Awal, and then he himself replied, "We should be great men."

Architect Mobashwer Hossain said the students of Bangladesh had achieved many awards, but the award winner students could not work for the country when they became adult.

"The injustice and corruption we are facing today are created by the educated people of the country," he added.

"I believe that the prize winning students will not be the part of those people who contribute to corrup-

tion," he said at the ceremony organised in cooperation with the daily Prothom Alo and sponsored by Dejice of Grameen Phone.

The awards- books- were given to around 4000 students of 61 schools who performed better in the evaluation of Biswa Sahitya Kendra that conducted the book reading programme for 140000 students last year.

The Kendra has been running the programme for the last 23 years.

Another 1800 students will receive prizes today at 3:00pm.

Delta Life Insurance Limited has provided the books being awarded to the students.

Former advisers to caretaker government Mujibul Haque, Hafizuddin Khan, novelist and Prothom Alo Deputy Editor Anisul Haque were among others to give away the prizes.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra Trustee Mohammad Fariduddin, drama personality Khairul Alam Sabu, Grameenphone acting director (Marketing) Ghulib Ahmed Ansari and Delta Life Insurance Company Limited Deputy Managing Director ABM Saiful Masud also spoke at the inaugural function.

Fake certificates, cheques recovered in Ctg, two held

UNB, Chittagong

Rab personnel recovered 11 fake certificates, six bank cheques, two testimonials, 76 trade licences and printing materials from Shahjada Market in the city's Chakbazar area yesterday.

Tipped off, the Rab members raided General Computer Academy at about 9:00am and recovered the fake certificates and other materials.

Two people Anwar Hossain, owner of the Academy, and his employee Abdul Hannan Chowdhury were arrested during the raid.

The arrested confessed to the law enforcers that they had long been involved in making fake certificates, cheques, testimonials of SSC and HSC examinations of different education boards, trade licences and selling them at high prices.

The arrestees were handed over to Kotwali police.

162 mobile sets stolen from city shop

UNB, Dhaka

Miscreants took away 162 mobile sets worth about Tk 12 lakh from a mobile shop at AH Tower in the city's Uttara early yesterday.

Police said a group of thieves stormed into the shop 'A to Z' at the ground floor of the tower and took away the mobile sets at about 3:00am.

None was arrested as of 8:00pm yesterday.

A case was filed with Uttara Police Station in this connection.

Rickshaw owners asked to put up reflective sticker

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has asked the owners of rickshaw, rickshaw van and pushcarts to put up 'reflective stickers' on the back of the vehicles by February 22 in order to avert accidents at night.

The size of the sticker should be 6-inch by 3-inch and it should be placed at the middle point of the back of the vehicles, the DMP said in a press release yesterday.

"Legal action will be taken against those not complying with the rule," it added.

Science fair begins at Vigarunnisa School

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th science fair organised by Vigarunnisa Noon Science Club began at its bailey road centre in the city yesterday.

The students from all the four branches of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College are participating at the four-day fair where 285 projects were put on display.

Vice Chancellor of Southeast University Dr M Shamsher Ali formally inaugurated the fair yesterday.

The students from class V to XII stormed their brains to invent ways to make best use of science, solve various problems of life and make life easier using science. The projects conceptualised by the young scientists represent their innovative minds and interest to science.

They have displayed arsenic water purification plant, some tried to solve problem of global warming while some have sorted out ways to make Dhaka free from traffic jam and many more.

A project by a group of students of class VII- Mridula, Irina, Promi and Roshni focuses on the safety issue of passenger launches using their invented device.

The device would measure the level of the lower portion of a launch dipping under water and will give alarm when the level goes down crossing safety mark.

"With loading of extra passengers or weight more than capacity the lower level of the launch will go under water crossing safety level and the device will show red light in that case," described Mridula, one of the members of the group.

The organisers arranged a sky observation session yesterday evening with technical support from Bangladesh Astronomical Society.

The fair will remain open for the visitors everyday from 9:00am to 5:00pm till February 19.



PHOTO: STAR



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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a pleasant spring morning of yesterday, school-going boys and girls of the capital thronged into Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex and took oath amidst great enthusiasm to fulfil the dreams of war heroes.

"With due honour we will remember the heroic and supreme sacrifices of our valiant freedom fighters, ... uphold the spirit of the liberation war... work to preserve the correct history ... and strive from our respective positions to attain their unaccomplished tasks,"

pledged the youth standing on their feet and stretching their hands

forward.

The oath-taking ceremony was conducted by Deputy Commander in Chief of the Liberation War Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khondokar at the Mukti Utsab (Celebration of Freedom) where Sector Commander CR Dutta and Trustee of Liberation War Museum Mafidul Huq were also present.

The Utsab started with national anthem followed by oath-taking ceremony and daylong cultural programmes performed by the students themselves.

Celebrities like Bappa Majumdar, Mita Huq and Khairul Anam Shakil could hardly out-

shine the young performers.

At the Utsab, there were two galleries displaying photographs of liberation war and war heroes, genocide, diaries of slain freedom fighters and newspaper clippings of 1971 to remind the youth that the freedom that they are enjoying now was not easily gained.

While visiting a gallery, one of the participants Swapan, 15, a student of class ten of Ucep School, said, "I have a feeling that all the things happened before my eyes."

Solaiman Hossain, who accompanied his daughter at the programme, said the galleries

spoke everything and there was no need to explain anything to her.

With a view to inculcate the spirit of the liberation war into young minds, Liberation War Museum had been organising such programme every year since 1997, said Trustee of the Museum Dr Sarwar Ali.

This year around twelve thousand students from 45 schools of the city participated in the Utsab, which is an outreach programme of the Museum.

The Museum has a plan to extend the Utsab as its outreach programme outside the capital, said Ali.