

Social commitment needed to ensure education for all

Habibur Rahman receives Chand Sultana Literacy Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) yesterday awarded Chand Sultana Literacy Award 2006 to M Habibur Rahman, director of education of Save the Children USA, for his contribution to non-formal educa-

tion. DAM has been giving the award since 2001 in memory of Chand Sultana, one of the pioneers of non-formal education in the country. On receiving the award, Habibur said education should be imparted not in mechanical way but in organic

manner that requires empathy of the persons receiving the education. He said commercialisation of education hurts the spirit of the movement 'education for all' and called for social commitment to spread education to every nook and corner of the country.

Habibur said multinational companies operating in Bangladesh should spend part of their profits for promoting non-formal education in the country. Commenting on the scarcity of reading materials for the children he said Save the Children USA conducted recently a study on the content of the children's books available in the market, and found that out of hundreds of books only 29 were up to the mark.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme, eminent educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said as children's text books are not child-friendly, the tenderly students do not find any interest in reading them, they just cram for their examinations. On the quality of education he said, "If teachers are half-fed, we cannot expect quality education from them," adding, "There should be special incentives for teachers so that meritorious students come to this profession."

DAM Executive Director Kazi Rafiqul Alam said 58 percent of the country's population are still illiterate, and they can be imparted basic education through non-formal education. He said thousands of NGO workers are striving hard to impart basic education to lakhs of people nation-wide. To recognise their contribution to human development, DAM awards each year one person for his/her outstanding contribution in this field.



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, left, and Kazi Rafiqul Alam, right, give away Chand Sultana Literacy Award 2006 to M Habibur Rahman at a programme in the city yesterday.

150 houses damaged, 30 injured in storms in Lalmonirhat, Sherpur

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Violent storms lashed several villages in Lalmonirhat and Sherpur yesterday, damaging about 150 houses and injuring 30 people. BSS reports: about 100 houses were damaged and 10 people injured when a tornado lashed three villages in Barabari under Sadar Upazila in Lalmonirhat in the morning. The two-minute tornado swept through Airkhamar, Boliram and

Choitan Sitaram villages at about 10:30am amid bad weather and drizzles, official sources said. Hundreds of trees were also uprooted during the tornado, disrupting power supply and traffic movement on Rangpur-Kurigram Highway for one and a half hours, they added. UNB adds: At least 20 people were injured and 50 houses razed to the ground in a severe storm that lashed a remote village at Sribordi upazila in Sherpur district in the

afternoon. Eyewitnesses said the storm swept through Kuchnipara village at around 4:30pm, leaving a trail of destruction. About 50 houses were blown away or razed to the ground, trees uprooted and standing crops and vegetables were damaged. Of the injured people, Shahana, 15, and Siam, 7, were rushed to Sribordi health complex.

Two killed in comilla road accidents

UNB, Comilla

Two people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Chouddagram and Burichang upazilas yesterday morning. Police said a Chittagong-bound truck rammed a Dhaka-bound private car at Kalakochua in Burichang at about 7:00am, leaving four car passengers injured. One of the injured died at Comilla Combined Military Hospital. The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. The other injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital. In another incident, an unidentified man was killed and two others were injured at 7:10am when a covered van hit a private car at Dawsar in Chouddagram upazila. The injured were admitted to Feni Sadar hospital.

Chief Filipino peace negotiator resigns

AFP, Manila

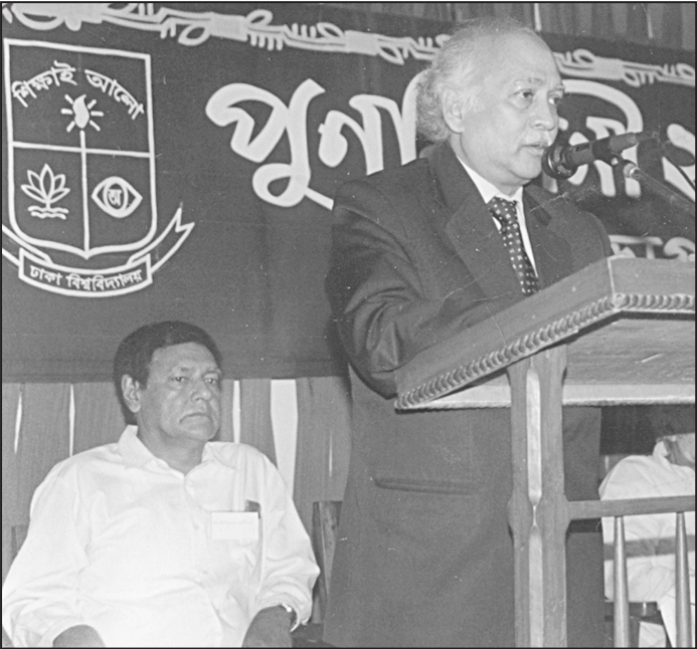
The head of a Philippines government panel negotiating with Muslim separatist rebels has resigned in a further blow to stalled peace talks, the presidential spokesman announced here yesterday. Silvestre Afafe "has resigned and discussed the matter with President Gloria Arroyo," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "There is now a search for his replacement. In the meantime, he will stay on as adviser to the peace talks," a position he will hold even after his replacement is named, Bunye said. The Philippines government has been in negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and talks were supposed to resume at the end of the May 14 midterm elections. The 12,000-strong MILF late last year said the talks were on the brink of collapse over its demands for economic control of ancestral lands in the southern island of Mindanao.

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said. It also predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.1 degree Celsius at Sandwip. The sun sets in the capital at 6.48pm today and rises at 5:11am 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	31.0	23.8	92	81
Chittagong	28.8	23.6	96	97
Rajshahi	33.0	25.0	91	90
Khulna	31.2	24.0	97	75
Barisal	29.4	24.0	100	97
Sylhet	27.7	24.5	98	92
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.5	96	90



Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz speaks as the chief guest at the reunion of the geology department on the university campus yesterday.

MONI SINGH-FARHAD TRUST Dedicated politicians to get financial support

BSS, Dhaka

Politicians who have dedicated themselves to the well being of the people and the nation would get financial help from Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust Board. The decision was made at a meeting of the Board held at Shaheed Munir Azad conference room at the Trustee Board office in the city yesterday with former parliamentarian Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair, according to a press release. The meeting observed one-minute silence to pay respect to the late leaders. It also congratulated the newly appointed Trustee Board members. Secretary of the Board Shekor Dutta placed the report before the meeting. Among others, Sangbad Editor Bazlur Rahman, Dr HM Saidur Rahman, Dr Maksuda Nargis Ratna and Advocate Kamrul Haque Siddiqi took part in the discussion on the report. The meeting formed two committees and asked them to submit their reports on July 20 on the financial help to be extended to the dedicated politicians and on publication and research for flourishing democratic and progressive thoughts.

Tutu's stolen Nobel Prize returned to wife: Police

AFP, Johannesburg

The Nobel Peace Prize stolen from the Soweto home of South Africa's leading anti-apartheid hero Desmond Tutu was returned to his wife yesterday, police said. The peace prize, together with other stolen goods, were identified by his wife Leah and handed over to her at the Orlando police station in Soweto, police spokeswoman Thembi Nkwashu told AFP. Apart from the Nobel gold medal, which the former archbishop of Cape Town won in 1984, electrical goods including two television sets and a DVD player, jewellery and other awards stolen from the house were returned to her, she said. Five men - aged 21 to 39 - were charged last Tuesday with theft and the illegal possession of stolen goods taken during the burglary of the cleric's home and are to appear before magistrates Wednesday in Johannesburg, she added. The items taken during the break-in last weekend in the Soweto township on the outskirts of Johannesburg were recovered on Monday. Affectionately known as "The Arch," the 75-year-old Tutu was out of the country when the burglary took place. Tutu had on Wednesday in Geneva made an impassioned plea for peace between Israel and the Palestinians after a UN fact-finding mission into the killing of 19 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.



Shamsul Islam, elder brother of slain college student Kamrul Islam Momin, speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Momin.

'Scale up school feeding to improve attendance'

BSS, Dhaka

The Secretary-in-Charge of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan has called for concerted efforts to scale up School Feeding (SF) programme to enhance the primary school attendance and improve the health status of poor children. "Bangladesh has made significant improvement in the social sector, particularly in education, but still many school-age children remain outside schools and suffer from malnutrition," Bhuiyan said. He was participating in a special TV programme with a local TV channel on Child Hunger on Friday. Around 20 million children will need to receive primary education to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he said.

Bhuiyan said, "The government is fully committed to the programme, but the ongoing SF programme is not enough to meet existing demands. We need donors' support to gear up the programme." M Emamul Haque, head of advocacy, WFP Bangladesh and Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, social director, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rural Service (RDRS), a northern region-based NGO, participated in the programme. "The school feeding programme which provides daily snacks to schoolchildren is indeed contributing to the implementation of government's policy of universal primary education by improving access to basic education, particularly in poverty-prone food-insecure areas," said Emamul Haque. Referring to other MDGs, Haque said "If we end child hunger by 2015,

we will have effectively achieved the first MDG that is halving the number of all hungry people by 2015." Sharing his field experience, Kayes said, "The project is a good example of a partnership approach where the government, UN, and NGOs are actively involved in it and community owns the programme." WFP's existing SF programme provides 600,000 poor schoolchildren in 4000 schools in poverty-prone areas of Bangladesh. To increase the coverage of the programme, WFP Bangladesh has been working closely with the government and development partners in designing a new School Feeding Plus programme to cover five million poor children by 2010.

Troponin-I machine introduced at NICVD

UNB, Dhaka

Medical service for treatment of heart diseases would be expanded in the country, Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen Doctor ASM Motiur Rahman (Rtd) said yesterday. He spoke about the plan while addressing the inaugural ceremony on the occasion of introducing the Troponin-I machine at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in the city. The Troponin-I machine will enable the institute to detect and diagnose any heart disease "authentically". The adviser said country's hospitals would have to be equipped with modern machinery and the existing machinery would have to be preserved properly. He further stressed the need for imparting short-term training to doctors

and nurses to expand health services on heart diseases "so that people can get primary treatment from any hospital across the country". The adviser noted that it is not possible to ensure medical service for all patients only by specialists. Presided over by Director of the Health Department Prof Khondaker Mohammad Shafayatullah, the function was also addressed, among others, by Director General of the Health Department Doctor M Shahjahan Biswas, Additional DG Prof Hosne Ara Tahmin and NICVD Director Prof AKM Mohibullah. Later the adviser distributed certificates among a group of junior doctors and nurses who attended a 14-day workshop on emergency service regarding blood circulation in heart. It was attended by 20 doctors and 20 nurses.

US pilot, soldier killed in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

A US pilot whose plane crashed a day ago north of Baghdad was confirmed killed yesterday and another soldier died in a roadside bomb attack in the Iraqi capital, the US Air Force and military said. "An investigation board is reviewing the evidence related to the crash to determine the cause of the accident," a statement from the air force said about the crash of the US F-16 early Friday, 56 kilometres (35 miles) north of Baghdad. The US military said a soldier was killed and three others wounded in a roadside bomb attack during security operations in southern Baghdad on Friday. The latest fatalities took the US losses in Iraq to 38 in this month alone and to 3,515 since the invasion, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.



Md Fazlul Haque speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh House Building Loan Borrowers Welfare Society organised the press conference.

Seminar

The Institute of Business Administration organises a seminar on 'Maximising the potential of Bangladesh's export to EU'. Venue: IBA auditorium. Time: 12:15pm.

Conference

Young Economists' Forum organises 'An International Conference for Young Economists 2007'. Venue: Hotel Sarina. Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop

United Nations Development Programme will hold a workshop on '7th Global Forum: Building Trust in Government'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Light Engineering Products Business Promotion Council and others will hold a seminar on 'Access to finance: roadmap for light engineering sector'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a view exchange meeting on 'National budget: Women perspective'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Community Development Library organises a seminar on 'Climate change: Bangladesh in deep crisis'. Venue: Library auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Violence breaks out in E Timor capital

AFP, Dili, East Timor

Fighting has broken out in the East Timorese capital Dili, the UN mission there told residents by text message yesterday. "Fighting is going on at the beach road opposite the American Embassy. Avoid the area. Fighting is going on in Santa Cruz in the vicinity of cemetery," a message received by an AFP correspondent said. It added that there was also violence in a third area. It was not immediately clear who was involved or whether there were any casualties. The correspondent saw one military helicopter hovering over the city.

MOMIN MURDER Family rejects charge sheet as OC Rafique's name dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of murdered Kamrul Islam Momin yesterday rejected the charge sheet as police dropped the names of prime suspect OC AKM Rafiqul Islam and 20 others who were accused in the first information report (FIR). Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed the charges against seven people in the murder case in a Dhaka court on May 13 after one year and eight months of investigation. Addressing a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association in the city, Momin's father Abdur Razzak urged the authorities concerned not to accept the charge sheet and demanded more investigation into the case by any agency other than CID. Momin, 18, was killed by a gang of criminals in front of his house at Kafrul when he was going to college on September 13, 2005. Following the incident, Razzak filed a murder case with Kafrul Police Station accusing OC Rafiq and 25 others. Rafiq was sent to jail on October 16, 2005 when he surrendered to a Dhaka court seeking ad interim bail in connection with the killing. Since then, he has been in jail custody. Family sources told The Daily Star that Rafiq's brother-in-law Shamol had threatened them recently saying, "When Rafiq will come out of the jail, we will throw you all out of your house."

Howard meets Dalai Lama to China's dismay

AFP, Sydney

Australian Prime Minister John Howard met the Dalai Lama on Friday triggering an angry reaction from China who accused the premier of turning a "deaf ear" to its concerns. Howard initially said he would not meet Tibet's spiritual leader during his 10-day visit to Australia, but changed his mind this week after accusations that he was kowtowing to Beijing's rulers. After days of saying he was consulting his diary for an opportune time to meet the 71-year-old, Howard finally hosted the Dalai Lama in his Sydney office for about 20 minutes late Friday in a low-key get-together.

Journo Kazi Zahid passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Kazi Zahid, a news editor (international affairs) of ATN Bangla, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his office yesterday at the age of 57. He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Kazi Zahid, who also worked with different dailies, including the Daily Khabar, Daily Rupali and the Daily Janata, was an active member of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ). Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed deep shock at his death. They recalled the contribution of Zahid to the field of journalism as well as trade union activities. The leaders conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Golam Mabud Chowdhury



Golam Mabud Chowdhury (Babu), a social worker and businessman, passed away due to cancer at his Panchlaish residence on June 14 at the age of 69, says a press release. Mabud Chowdhury, son of former judge of Chittagong late Golam Rahman Chowdhury, left behind his wife, two daughters and one son to mourn his death. He was buried in his family graveyard at Khandakia under Hathazari Police Station in Chittagong.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Mohammad Abdul Bari Talukder, a freedom fighter and former superintendent engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board. Relatives, friends, former colleagues and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.