

'Ensure access to IT'

South Asian nations to start youth exchange programme soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for ensuring commoners' access to information technology and proper dissemination of global knowledge among the people to ensure their development.

They were speaking at the inaugural session of 'GKP (Global Knowledge Partnership) South Asia Meeting: Consolidating the Partnership Towards Global Knowledge' jointly organised by D.Net, Bangladesh NGO's Network for Radio and Communications (BNNRC) and Sri Lankan organisation Sarvodaya Fusion at the city's Brac Inn.

Speaking as the chief guest, Vice Chancellor of Brac University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury stressed disseminating knowledge

in languages that people understand.

"Few people in South Asia have access to printed materials and there lies the necessity for some intermediary that would translate those to them," he said, adding "cellphone technology has made significant progress in this context".

Director of Saarc and BIMSTEC Wing at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Riaz Hamidullah said that youth organisations of South Asia have the potentiality to bring in positive changes.

"South Asian nations would start youth exchange programme soon," he added.

He also stressed close relations between public and private sector and the civil society in generating new knowledge and in ensuring their uses for a better tomorrow.

The two-day meet at Dhaka

aims to frame a common agenda for South Asian nations so that they can have a common voice in the third Global Knowledge Partnership that is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, said the organisers.

In the first day of the programme, 33 people from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India participated where they assessed the works of the South Asian countries in disseminating information and communication technology to common people.

Director, Programme of D.Net Mahmudul Hasan conducted the inaugural session while its Executive Director Dr Anannya Raihan, Managing Director of Sarvodaya Fusion Dr Harsha Liyanage and Coordinator of GKP Secretariat Justine Chew were also present.

Urea worth Tk 8.6 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Coastguard members seized 179 metric tonnes of urea worth Tk 8.6 lakh from a cargo vessel at skid ghat in Khulna and detained 13 people yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Coastguard members raided MV Al Jaber Laden and seized the urea.

Sources said the fertiliser belonged to Haji Ebadullah, treasurer of Khulna Unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Dealers' Association.

Commander of Coastguard West Zone Sultan Ahmed said 13 people were picked up from the cargo vessel as they could not produce any relevant documents. The cargo vessel was also seized.

Model police station opens in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *N'ganj*

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad has said criminals would not be able to escape justice anymore as none is available now to protect them.

He was speaking as chief guest at a gathering after inaugurating a

model police station at Fatulla yesterday.

"Reform in police administration is necessary to restore its image," said Nur Mohammad.

He said a proposal for building industrial police has already been sent to the government.

Deputy Inspector General of Dhaka Range Nazmul Haque, BKMEA President Fazlul Haque and Lt Col Abdul Majid were present at the function while Police Super Sibgat Ullah presided over the function.