

Simplify process to make slum dwellers voters

Speakers urge EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for launching awareness campaign through media to make slum dwellers interested in becoming voters so that they can exercise their rights to franchise.

They also called upon the Election Commission (EC) to simplify the process of preparing the voter list making it less time consuming for the convenience of the slum dwellers.

The workshop titled 'Fixing up future action plan to ensure the voting rights of the slum dwellers' was organised by Dhaka Development Forum (DDF) in association with Steps Towards Development (Steps) at Chhayanaut Bhawan in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper at the workshop, Priya Saha of DDF said it is the constitutional rights of every citizen irrespective of religion,

caste, gender and socio-economic condition to become a voter and participate in the election.

But history shows that the slum dwellers, especially the women could not include their names in the voter list due to many reasons, she added.

"Inclusion of slum dwellers in the voter list for the upcoming election is very significant as a voter will be entitled to get 22 various facilities," Priya pointed out.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranjit Das of Dustha Shashtha Kendra apprehended that the 'three-step' process of enlisting names in the voter list may discourage the slum dwellers to become voters.

He called for massive campaign through media to create awareness among them about the utility of national identity (ID) cards.

Nilufa Begum of Shakti

Foundation said skilled manpower should be engaged in preparing correct voter list within short time.

She suggested introducing ration system as an incentive to make slum dwellers interested in national ID.

The speakers underscored the need for forming an umbrella network of NGOs in cooperation with the representatives of Bastibashi Odhikar Unnayan Committee to raise awareness among the slum dwellers since the government has no budget allocation regarding awareness campaign.

Moderated by DDF President Dr Mahmudur Rahman, the workshop was attended by representatives from 45 NGOs including Brac, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust, Action Aid, Care and Bangladesh Women Health Coalition.

A novel way to check corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police staffs at the Assistant Commissioner's (prosecution) Office at Chittagong court building have been asked not to carry over Tk 100 during their duty hours.

AC (prosecution) Md Farid gave a verbal order to all the staffs of his office in this regard on Sunday and also warned them of stern action if they do not comply.

The AC has also advised the office staffs to declare and keep the excess amount of money in a safe at the office before joining the duty to take them back before leaving the office, said sources in the AC (prosecution) Office.

When contacted, AC Farid said, "We have started this practice to keep the police staffs away from corruption and various irregularities."

It would also help the policemen prove their honesty and earn people's trust to a great extent, he hoped.

300 bullets found abandoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three hundred bullets were found abandoned in a drain at Mahakhali in the city yesterday.

Receiving information, the police found a white bag containing the bullets in a drain at Road No. 11 at DOHS at around 5:00pm.

The bullets were wrapped in two packets.

Sub-Inspector Habibur Rahman of Kafrul police station said that somebody might have dumped the bullets into the drain in fear of ongoing raids by the joint forces.

Moderate tremor jolts country

UNB, Dhaka

A minor earthquake, measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale, jolted the country yesterday morning.

The epicentre of the tremor that was felt at about 5 hours 00 minutes 18.77 seconds (BST) was about 1,310 kms from Dhaka Seismic Observatory.



Akbar Ali Khan made G4S adviser

Former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan has joined G4S Security Services Bangladesh as an adviser, says a press release.

He was a member of now defunct Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) and a valiant freedom fighter. He was also a cabinet secretary.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan replaces Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhúd Chowdhury who is now acting as the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Release of Hasina demanded

Bangladesh Non-government Vocational Teachers' Association in a statement yesterday demanded unconditional release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, says a press release.

Reiterating the government's



Visitors at a solo art exhibition titled 'Mystic metaphor' by Rakeeb Hassan that began at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The exhibition will remain open until July 29.

Ctg shop owner strangled by miscreants

CU CORRESPONDENT

A shop owner was strangled by miscreants in the port city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Imam Hossain, 18, son of one Abdul Alim of Momin Colony under Panchlaish Police Station.

Imam was the owner of a Public Call Centre at Mohammad Pur.

He left for a bridal party on Sunday night and didn't return home, sources said.

His family members found the body beside the gate of their house in the morning.

Imam's father filed a murder case with Panchlaish Police Station accusing five people Sobhan Sheikh, Idris Munshi, Iqbal, Babul and Badal.

Sub-Inspector Nur Mohammad, investigation officer (IO) of the case, said a piece of rope was tied around his neck.

"The body didn't bear any other marks," he added.

SEVEN-DAY FISH FAIR BEGINS 'Save local varieties of fish from extinction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a seven-day fish fair began in the city yesterday, Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam urged private sector entrepreneurs to come up with large investments to save local varieties of fish.

He also urged local fisheries scientists and experts to provide the government with wetland management plans for the development of fish resources in the country.

This year's fish fair began with the slogan 'Movement to save local varieties of fish from extinction' on the Shilpakala Academy premises at Segunbagicha.

Fisheries and livestock ministry is organising the fair, where local farmers are showcasing different types of fish.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Dr CS Karim also spoke at the inaugural function.

Reiterating the government's

views to save the wetland, Karim called for adopting innovative approach for its restoration.

He also urged the finance ministry to provide financial assistance for the development of fisheries.

The contribution of fisheries and livestock is around eight percent of national income, and 32 percent of total agricultural income, he added.

Later, the finance adviser released fish fry at Ramna lake in the capital.



A seven-day Fish Fair began at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.



The road in Naya Paltan culvert area in the city has become dilapidated, causing suffering to passengers as well as pedestrians.

PHOTO: STAR

Indiscriminate use of antibiotics could be fatal to health

Experts caution at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indiscriminate use of antibiotics could lead to short and long term side effects which might be fatal to health, cautioned the experts at a seminar yesterday.

They said the physicians should be cautious in prescribing antibiotics to their patients while the patients too should not take antibiotics inappropriately.

The seminar titled 'Use of antibiotics in infectious diseases: What we do and what should be done' was organised by Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd at a city hotel.

Speaking at the programme Vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Tahir said most of the times patients and their relatives get impatient and insist their doctors on early healing.

In those cases, some doctors give in and prescribe antibiotics and vitamins, he added.

Dr Tahir called upon the physicians to persuade the patients that every medicine takes a definite time to cure the disease and they should wait until that time expires.

Hailing Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies in taking life-saving drugs to people at affordable cost, he called upon the companies not to sacrifice quality under any circumstance.

Five Ctg firms pilfer Wasa water

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court in its drive against water pilferage and tax evasion found numerous irregularities at five business establishments at Nasirabad and Bayezid areas yesterday and asked the Chittagong Wasa to take necessary actions against the firms in this regard.

The court in a drive in Nasirabad Industrial Area found that Yakub Oil Refinery is only paying Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Tk 1100 to Tk 6000 per month against the several lakhs of litres of Wasa water it uses in two separate units, by showing the meter out of order.

Ruby Food Products of the same area was found showing the meter out of order and paying only Tk 318 per month for the huge quantity of water it used.

The court in another drive in Bayezid area found two garment factories and a washing plant using huge quantity of Wasa water for industrial purposes but paying an average monthly bill of Tk 200 to Tk 300 since 2001.

The mobile court asked Chittagong Wasa to take necessary actions to realise the dues after assessing the amount of tax the firms evaded by means of fraudulence.

The court also detected several illegal hydrants (water-supply lines) that different hotels, restaurants and commercial firms used for collecting Wasa water depriving the authorities of a huge of revenue.

It disconnected the hydrants, seized GI pipes and directed Wasa for taking stern actions against the officials and employees responsible.

Our Correspondent in Chittagong adds: The same mobile court in a drive on Sunday fined two commercial establishments Tk 4.25 lakh and directed Chittagong Wasa to take necessary actions against four others for pilfering Wasa water and evading tax by setting up deep tube-wells and tampering meters at Jalalabad.

The court in a drive at Kulgaon-Jalalabad area beside Chittagong-Hathazari road fined Super Refinery and a commercial firm owned by Haji Shafi Sawdagar, that provided space for raising commercial buildings, Tk 4.25 lakh.

Wasa was asked to take actions against N Fashion Limited, Arabi Industries Limited, Mi Denis Limited and Apparel Promoters Limited.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, who is also serving as the Wasa magistrate as an addition duty, led the drives.

Int'l confce on human resource management begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Seventh International Conference on Human Resource Management & Development - 2007 begins at Sheraton Hotel in the city today.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the six-day conference as the chief guest, organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited. Dr Saadat Husain, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), will be present as special guest.

The theme of the conference is 'Best human resource management practices for good governance'.

Three top speakers of the world on human resource management will conduct seminars and workshops in the conference. Experts from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will also present 50 research-based papers, says a press release.

The concluding and certificate award ceremony of the conference will be held on July 29 with former adviser to the caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan as the chief guest.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), will be present as the chief guest at the banquet session of the conference on July 29.



Col Mojibul Hoque, sector commander, BDR, speaks at a press conference on 'Operation Daal Bhaat -2007' at the BDR Headquarters in the city yesterday. On his right is Col Halim.

PHOTO: STAR