

Take step to build skilled human resources

President tells int'l confce

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all concerned to take appropriate measures for building skilled human resources so that the country can efficiently face the challenges of the 21st century.

"With the advancement of technology and the process of globalisation, we've to take appropriate measures, including state-of-the-art curricula at the higher level of education, special study on specialised subjects, professional training and orientation both at home and abroad for building skilled resources," he said.

The president was addressing the inaugural session of the 7th international conference on Human Resource Management and Development-2007 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Chairman of Bangladesh Public

Service Commission Sa'adat Husain attended the programme as special guest with Industries Secretary Dr M Nurul Amin in the chair.

The president said the management of an organisation explores the innate potentials of each employee, which helps a lot both for the organisation as well as the nation. "Hence, there is absolutely no scope for any one to be self-complacent in the distinctive area of human resource management and development."

Iajuddin said, "It's time, therefore, that we deploy all our honest efforts at re-discovering ourselves."

He said today management in the world faces new technologies, new marketing conditions and a new professional workforce, and the technological and marketing changes have been with us since the industrial revolution.

"I believe the practice of good

human resource management can help open up a window of opportunities for the managers in ensuring wellbeing of their organisations as well as their own," the president said, adding, "It also helps identify the weakness of the organisations and facilitate its efforts to improve those areas."

The president said even more proactively human resource can provide leadership and knowledge in easing efforts to materialise the plan and prospect of an organisation.

Iajuddin said: "This conference is a splendid manifestation of our concern on human resource management and development against the rapid process of globalisation."

He hoped that the conference would be able to usher in fresh ideas and policies on human resources management and development.

Mutual Trust Bank-Daily Star Debate begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2007' began in the port city yesterday with a call for students to develop their logic and reasoning skills to grow as thoughtful and sensible citizens.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, inaugurated the five-day competition as the chief guest by lighting earthen lamps at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium.

Drishty, Chittagong, a cultural organisation, arranged the debate contest.

Resident Editor of the daily Prothom Alo poet Abul Momen, Executive Vice-President of Mutual Trust Bank Limited Khorshed Alam and Centre for Good Governance Chairman Syed Ahsanul Alam Parvez attended the inaugural ceremony presided over by Drishty Debate Club Chairman Safia Ghazi Rahman.

Speaking at the inaugural session, poet Abul Momen called on the students to use logic while making any decisions in their lives.

He also told them to mould themselves into sensible and thoughtful personalities in order to steer the country towards development through the right track.

Mahfuz Anam said students should develop human qualities to become great human beings the country needs so badly today.

Syed Ahsanul Alam Parvez said it is impossible for any nation to survive fierce global competition without vision and mission.

"We should achieve global standard to compete in this era of information technology" he said, adding that debate competition would help the students acquire knowledge required in this respect.

Drishty President Masud Bakul gave the address of welcome at the ceremony moderated by Adnan Mannan.

A total of 16 schools, 8 colleges and 8 universities in Chittagong are taking part in the competition.

The first round of the 15th inter-school debate competition was held yesterday. The participants are Bangladesh Women Association Girls High School, St. Placid's High School, Chittagong Collegiate School, Chittagong Govt Girls High School, Dr Khasfagir Govt Girls High School, Silver Bells Girls High School, Ispahani Public School and College, Govt Muslim High School, Kapasgola City Corporation Girls High School, Nasirabad Govt Boys High School, Nou Bahini School and College, Imaratunnesa City Corporation Girls High School, Krishnakumary City Corporation Girls High School, State Quest School and College, Central Public School and College and Aunkur Society School.

The Seventh college level debate will be held today.

Radio Today, a private radio FM channel, is the radio partner of the competition.



Hindu devotees join Rath Jatra (chariot procession) in the city as the seven-day religious festival ended yesterday. The procession started from Dhakeshwari Temple and ended at ISKCON Temple at Swamibagh.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Drishty Chittagong perform a dance number at the inaugural ceremony of 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2007' at Theatre Institute auditorium in Chittagong yesterday.

Stop sand lifting from Meghna

Villagers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to stop sand lifting from two river-islands of Meghna.

They said due to rampant sand lifting, five villages of Pirojpur union under Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj district are facing severe river erosion.

The speakers alleged that a strong syndicate backed by some influential political leaders took lease of the two islands Char Lawdiya and Char Ramzan and started rampant sand lifting ignor-

ing the government's rules.

They demanded immediate cancellation of the lease for the sake of the lives of several thousand people in the area.

The press conference was organised by the people of Pirojpur union at the National Press Club in the city.

In a written statement Babul Mahmud of Pirojpur said the residents of five villages Vati Bander, Zia Nagar, Vurvuria, Jhauchar and Kandar Gao are living at high risk due to rampant sand lifting by the syndicate from two river islands.

"Houses and cultivable lands

of the villages are being devoured by the river Meghna and several thousand people are about to become homeless if the rampant sand lifting goes on," he added.

Babul said although the joint forces recently seized two trawlers and arrested 11 workers of the syndicate and filed a case against 28 people who were illegally lifting sand near the Vurvuria village, this syndicate is still lifting sand from the two river islands.

On the other hand, syndicate members assaulted two villagers as they barred them from sand lifting illegally, he said, adding that the villagers who protested the move are suffering from a sense of insecurity due to repeated threats by the syndicate.

"We also submitted memorandums to the chief adviser of the caretaker government, Dhaka divisional commissioner and Narayanganj deputy commissioner regarding sand lifting and cancellation of lease, but no action has been taken so far," he added.

Babul demanded construction of protection wall along the bank of Meghna to save the villages from erosion.

Mohammad Samad, member of Pirojpur union, Jahanara Begum, former member of Bangladesh Manobadikar Samunney Parishad and other residents of the union also spoke.

Arrest of Hasina condemned

Teachers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University yesterday condemned the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, says a press release.

In a statement, the teachers expressed grave concern over the arrest of Hasina and demanded immediate release of the former prime minister.

They alleged Hasina's arrest would disrupt the stability of the country and would put a question mark on the government's anti-corruption drive.



PHOTO: STAR

East Manipur area at Mirpur in the city remains waterlogged due to heavy rain for the last several days.