

Well-educated citizen a must for honest leadership, democracy

Chief adviser tells Literacy Day function

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said conscious and well-educated citizens are essential for the success of nation's effort to establish honest leadership and real democracy by uprooting corruption in the country.

It is also necessary to set up knowledge-based enlightened society through establishing good governance and ensuring justice and human rights, and to keep the wheels of economy moving, he said. "For this, today it is very urgent to enlighten all citizens with the light of education in the shortest possible time."

The chief adviser made the remarks while inaugurating the main programme marking the International Literacy Day 2007 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

This year's theme of the Literacy Day is 'Literacy: Key to health and well-being'.

Fakhruddin said ensuring quality education for all is one of the major national issues while eradicating illiteracy within shortest possible time is now the prime challenge.

He said combined effort by all is essential to face the challenges and implement the initiatives already taken.

"Specially setting up an effective connection between schools and



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at the inaugural function of International Literacy Day at Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

society is a demand of time."

Apart from the government, he said, it is also essential to build up firm institutional foundation comprising private organisations, representatives of civil society and elite in conducting the

strengthening supervision is necessary for ensuring quality education and for its expansion, he added.

The chief adviser called upon teachers, guardians, officers and

employees, governing committees of schools, NGOs and members of civil society to work together in this regard.

He said education has been recognised as the most effective weapon for attaining rapid and sustainable socio-economic development, and in poverty alleviation and empowering people.

A national working plan has been adopted to ensure quality education for all to fulfill the constitutional obligation and the country's pledge to the international community, he added.

"Keeping this in mind the present government has attached topmost priority to education, the most vital driving force to take the nation forward."

Referring to the current national budgetary allocation of about Tk 12,500 crore for education and technology sectors, Fakhruddin hoped that this would play a meaningful role in the sustainable economic growth of the country.

He said various measures, including implementation of compulsory primary education, are being carried out across the country to raise the literacy rate to 90 per cent by the year 2015.

He said emphasis has been laid on increasing the rate of enrolment of children in primary school, achievement of gender parity,

development of quality education at the primary level and ensuring equal rights for education as the tactical goal for "Education for all by the year 2015."

"Already the country's achievement in this field has been acclaimed worldwide, but we'll have to go a long way and have to reach the target by all means."

The chief adviser urged all to contribute in raising the "status of our dearest motherland having enormous potentials" through patriotism and productive and moral education.

He expressed the hope for successful completion of all efforts to establish a modern and prosperous Bangladesh and in making worthy citizens by ensuring quality education.

Education Adviser Ayub Quadri presided over the function organised by the Primary and Mass Education Ministry.

Secretary in-charge of the Primary and Mass Education Ministry M Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan also spoke at the function.

Advisers to the caretaker government, teachers of different schools, representative of development partners and high civil and military official were present.



PHOTO: STAR

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury speaks at an international education conference organised by University of Cambridge International Examinations at a city hotel yesterday. Sitting on his left is Scholastica Chairperson Yasmeen Murshed and on his right are CIE Chief Executive Ann Puntis, CIE Assistant Director Nick Sansome and CIE Regional Manager William Bickerdike.

INT'L EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Call to develop global standard of education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at an international education conference yesterday stressed the need to set global teaching standards, focusing on ethics and values as an essential part of school curricula.

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in association with the British Council hosted the daylong conference at a city hotel, attended by principals, senior teachers, academics and representatives from CIE and the British Council.

Inaugurating the conference, CIE Chief Executive Ann Puntis called for forging stronger links between global education providers, such as CIE, and their local partners in order to develop a global standard of education.

"The conference theme, 'Global Best Practice', reflects our ambition to develop successful students by equipping teachers with the tools to provide the best educational experience," she said.

CIE is the biggest provider of international examinations around the world.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury said that without English language skills, students in Bangladesh risk being 'blind and deaf' in the global knowledge base.

Although the cyber knowledge base would become increasingly multi-lingual, resources in Bangla or Chinese languages would never match that in English, he said.

Identifying access to and quality of education as the big 'issues', he said that when teachers do not provide quality education, they cheat students out of their lives.

Scholastica Chairperson

Yasmeen Murshed said Bangladeshi educators cannot be swayed by 'only' global trends but should stay attuned to, and engaged with, the social, moral and cultural values of Bangladesh.

She stressed the need for educators to inculcate students with the values necessary for a lifelong education by focusing on ethics of equity and inclusion, human security, environmental consciousness and poverty alleviation.

Yasmeen Murshed, also a former adviser to the caretaker government, said teachers in Bangladesh should inform and engage students with knowledge of the region's historical roots, uniqueness of the country, political dynamics across borders and economic history, especially about the conditions of

economic development here.

Speaking on the 'Educational challenges in the 21st century', Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said that ethics are an essential component of education.

"A person devoid of ethics is devoid of education," he said, adding that teachers should nurture intellect and vigour, not prejudice, to ensure that a student's overall education is framed and upheld by ethics.

He also said that it is the teachers' job to motivate and inspire students with enthusiasm for education to promote innovation and creativity.

Dr Monzoor Ahmed, director of Brac University's Institute of Educational Development, spoke on 'Professional development for teachers'.

Help rid country of bad name for graft

ACC boss urges GPA 5 achievers

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday called upon the students who scored GPA 5 in this year's HSC examinations, particularly those from Notre Dame College, to help rid the country of the bad name it earned due to widespread corruption.

"You have to promise this: We won't indulge in corruption, we won't accept corruption and we won't tolerate corruption. Everyone will have to come forward sincerely in this regard," he told a reception accorded to the GPA 5 achievers from Notre Dame College that did the best results in this year's HSC examination.

The ACC chairman, a former student of the college, reminded the students that they have an enormous responsibility to perform in the future and their duties are very important.

Hasan Mashhud recalled his student life and said Notre Dame College had prepared him for his professional life.

Presided over by principal of the college Benjamin Costa, the function was addressed by three GPA 5 achievers and four guardians.

AL leader dies in Jessore Jail

UNB, Jessore

Monirampur upazila Awami League (AL) leader died in custody yesterday.

Mukul Chandra Mondal, arrested by the joint forces on March 15 and detained in jail died soon after taken to Jessore General Hospital at about 12-30am yesterday.

Jail authorities said Mukul, suffering from blood pressure for long, fell from the staircase and suffered brain hemorrhage. He hailed from Haridaskati.

Obituary

Syeda Saida Khatun, mother of former president of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Kendria Sangsad Syed Hasan Imam, passed away at her residence at Boro Maghbazar in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Her Quikhawani will be held at her residence at 86 Boro Maghbazar in the city after Asr prayers on September 11.

President of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Kendria Sangsad Prof. Jatin Sarkar and General Secretary Mahmud Selim expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary

Today is the 35th death anniversary of AKM Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury, leader of the opposition in the then East Pakistan Assembly, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Gohira in Raozan, Chittagong. Food will also be distributed among the destitute.

Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury was also a president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Former lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury is his son.

Rustam Ali Proddhan

Today is the first death anniversary of M. H. M. Rustam Ali Proddhan, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his residence at Juranpur village under Daudkandi upazila.

Mild earthquake shakes country

UNB, Dhaka

A mild earthquake, measuring 4.9 in the Richter scale, jolted the country early yesterday.

There, however, was no report of casualty in the tremor that occurred at 02 hours 14 minutes 51 seconds, said a Met office press release.

The distance of the epicentre was about 243.9kms from Agargaon, Dhaka Seismic observatory and about 103 kms from Ambagan, Chittagong Seismic Observatory, the release added.

'Involve religious leaders to prepare correct voter list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for involving religious leaders in preparing correct voter list at the grassroots level.

They said the religious leaders can help remove superstitions regarding photographs and casting votes at polling centres.

The roundtable titled 'Electoral roll preparation and community participation: Role of the religious leaders' was organised by Masjid Council for Community Advancement (MACCA) at Biam auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Justice Abdur Rauf laid emphasis on a perfect voter list which is also essential for getting different government services.

He said religious leaders can play a significant role in this regard by creating awareness among people.

By utilising their influence in the society, religious leaders can easily motivate the voters, especially the women, to have their photograph taken and to cast their votes, said Rasheda Amin of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

Dr ANM Fazlul Haque Shaikat, secretary of Shikhhak Samity, suggested video clips highlighting the role of religious leaders in eliminating superstitions among the people at grassroots level.

Masud Majumder, senior assistant editor of the Noya Diganta, called on the Imams to speak about the importance of national identity cards during the Juma prayers in the mosque.

Maolana Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of MACCA, presided over the roundtable moderated by Alamgir Mohiuddin, editor of the Noya Diganta.

Religious leaders, who took part in the roundtable, pledged to help the Election Commission in preparing a correct voter list.

Two electrocuted in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Two young men were electrocuted at Laxmipura village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Yunus Ali Munshi, 38, imam of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute mosque and his brother Omar Ali, 36.

Locals said Omar Ali electrocuted when he came forward to save a cow near their house as it came into contact with a live wire lying on the ground at about 7:30am.

Hearing Omar's screams, his elder brother Yunus rushed in and got electrocuted as he tried to save Omar.

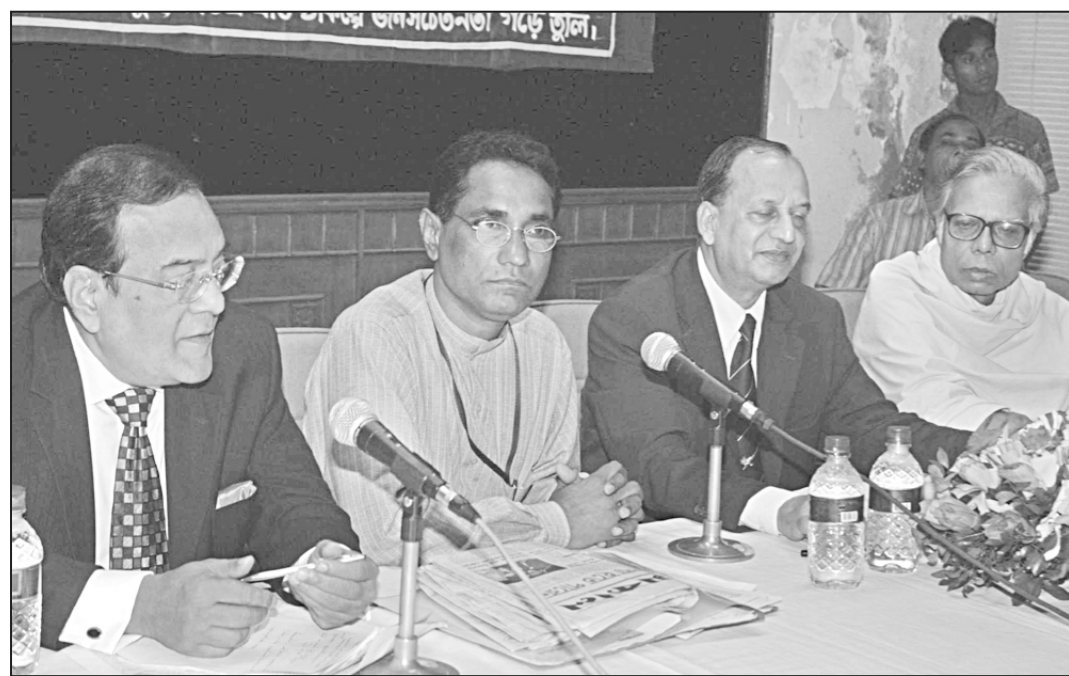


PHOTO: STAR

Tushar Rahman speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Group Captain (Retd) Muhammad Alfaz and journalist Syed Abul Maksud and on his right is MA Rouf Chowdhury.

'Take steps to control prices of essentials'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to control and bring down the prices of essentials so that they remain within the reach of common people.

They also placed a number of measures to check price spiral, such as ensuring adequate supply of essential items to the market, dismantling the price hike syndicate and establishing strong monitoring system in the market.

Citizens' Rights Movement organised the discussion titled 'Causes of price hike in agricultural and consumer products and possible remedies: Necessity of changing food habit' at the National Press Club in the city.

Senior journalist ABM Musa said common people are not much interested to know everything that causes the price hike. What they want is price stability and the government should ensure that the prices of essentials remain within the reach of common people, he

added. Economist Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman said the prices would remain stable if the market has an adequate supply of products. Sometimes, the market is dominated by unscrupulous business syndicate who are responsible for the price hike, he said, adding that the government should take necessary measures to dismantle such syndicates.

He also suggested generating productive employment in the country so that common people can benefit from it.

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Kader said the government should launch rationing system in remote areas, which would continue until the prices become stable.

Former secretary Abul Kalam

Azad said the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh should be given more autonomy so that it can play an effective role in controlling prices of essentials.

Former director general of BDR Maj Gen (retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman suggested strong monitoring of the markets by law enforcers to keep prices under control.

Secretary General of Citizens' Rights Movement Tushar Rahman read out a written statement at the programme presided over by adviser to the organisation Group Captain (retd) Muhammad Alfaz.

Journalist Syed Abul Maksud, former Jatiya Party lawmaker Sheikh Shahidul Islam and former director of Bangladesh Jute Board Sirajul Huq Khan also spoke.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:09pm today and rises at 5:43am 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	27.0	26.0	93	93
Chittagong	28.8	25.6	94	92
Rajshahi	29.8	25.5	--	100
Khulna	28.5	25.0	98	97
Barisal	27.5	25.8	98	98
Sylhet	27.0	25.3	97	99
Cox's Bazar	29.6	25.0	88	92



PHOTO: STAR

Md Mohoram Ali, a physically challenged staff of CRP, receives donations for poor patients after he arrives at Gulshan Park in the city yesterday by a wheelchair.

Wheelchair adventure in aid of poor patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Mohoram Ali, a physically challenged staff of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), embarked on a wheelchair adventure yesterday to raise funds for the treatment and rehabilitation of poor patients with disabilities.

During his adventure, Mohoram travelled about 35 km from Savar to Gulshan Park in the city in a wheelchair. He started his journey at 5:20am and reached his destination at around 3:00pm.

Maj Gen (Retd) Ohab, CRP trustee board member Mustaque Ahmed and patrons Kamrul Islam and Amin Haq received Mohoram at the Gulshan Park.

Mohoram was crippled by polio when he was only 18 months. He came to the CRP in April 2002 to attend a training course. Now he works at the CRP as a junior receptionist.

Mohoram drew his inspiration for such adventure from his friend Robert Paul Smith who travelled 400 km in three weeks in wheelchair, said a press release from the CRP.

He now dreams of travelling the Saarc countries in wheelchair.

DHAKA TODAY

Convocation

The fourth convocation of Asian University of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11.00am.

Workshop

The inaugural session of the 'Fourth Statistical Capacity Building Workshop-Using Education Statistics and Indicators for Planning' will be held. Venue: Banbeis Hall Room, Sonargaon Road. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh-China Peoples' Friendship Association organises a discussion on the occasion of the 58th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Venue: National Museum. Time: 5.30pm.

BACE Roundtable

Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers (BACE) will arrange a roundtable on 'Necessity and prospect of

Forensic Engineering in Bangladesh.' Venue: LGED Seminar Room, Agargaon. Time: 2.30pm.

Seminar
A seminar on 'Non-formal Education Policy: Strategy for Implementation' will be held. Venue: LGED Bhaban Auditorium. Agargaon. Time: 11.00am.

Fish Workshop
Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation organises a workshop on 'Significance of compliance with EU non-tariff trade rules for shrimp and fish export'. Venue: Conference Hall of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, Bijoy Nagar. Time: 10.00am.

Exhibition
Dhakabashi organises an exhibition of wedding materials. Venue: Azimpur Estate People's Welfare Association Auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.