

Poor salary puts bright students off teaching profession: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most meritorious students are keeping away from a career in teaching mainly because of poor salaries, resulting in a decline in the quality of education from primary to university level, experts said yesterday.

It would not be possible to ensure quality education without the pool of talent coming into the teaching profession, they said.

The experts expressed their views at an open discussion and a seminar organised separately in the city to mark the World Teachers' Day.

They also urged the government to increase the salary and other benefits for teachers in order to attract meritorious students to the teaching profession.

"Students with outstanding academic results do not opt for a career in teaching and most meritorious students who started teaching as a career considering it a noble profession do not continue in the profession for long because of poor salary," said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, at the open discussion at the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Academy, jointly organised Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU), education ministry and UNESCO Dhaka office.

He also said that teachers who perform well should be rewarded while those whose performance is poor should be given punishment.



UNESCO Dhaka Office Director Malama Meleisea speaks at a seminar titled 'Planning for an effective teaching force: Quality teachers for quality education' at LGED Bhaban in the yesterday.

"To improve the quality of education, teachers have to devise effective ways to enhance the students' understanding of any subjects. Only meritorious and talented people can do that well," said Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

Additional Secretary Abdul Awal Majumder, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director General Prof Nazim Uddin, UNESCO Dhaka Office Director Malama Meleisea and Joint Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan also spoke.

The Campaign for Popular

Education (CAMPE) organised the seminar titled 'Planning for an effective teaching force: Quality teachers for quality education' at LGED Bhaban in Agargaon where the speakers called for an increase in the facilities for teachers.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the government has taken several measures, including recruitment of a huge number of teachers and setting up of 51 teacher training institutes, to enhance the quality of teachers.

"I agree that salary and other

facilities of the teachers should be increased, but we do not have sufficient funds," he said.

Former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Nazmul Haque and Rasheda K Choudhury, director of CAMPE, also spoke.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) and Bangladesh Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad - two platforms of non-government teachers and employees - also organised discussions at their offices in the city to mark the day.

70 passports, Tk 70 lakh looted from 2 travel agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants looted 70 passports and cash worth about Tk 1.26 crore after breaking into the offices of two travel agencies at Sabir Tower at Motijheel in the city in the early hours of Thursday.

Quoting the officials of the travel agencies, Motijheel police said they found the locks of the main entrance and both the agencies - Al-Faisal Enterprise and Gazipur Travel Agency - broken and the security guards lying unconscious inside the tower when they reached the office at 9:00am on Thursday.

They also found that the locks of the drawers at the agencies were broken.

Police held the security guards Hazrat Ali and Mohammad Sabuj for quizzing.

SM Kamal Hossain, proprietor of Al-Faisal enterprise, filed a case with Motijheel Police Station in this connection.

In his case, he mentioned that the muggers looted Tk 49.26 lakh in cash along with 70 passports from his agency.

He added that Tk 20.15 lakh in cash was looted from Gazipur Travel Agency.

Kamal also said he closed his agency at 5:30pm on Wednesday.

10 robbers held in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested ten robbers in a nightlong raid in different areas of Bankshahi upazila yesterday.

Sources said a special team from Bankshahi Police Station in the raid that started at around 10:30pm on Thursday night arrested four members of a gang of robbers from Gandamara area.

The arrestees were identified as Sohag, 25, Sarwar, 24, Rashid, 22 and Fazal Karim.

Acting on their statement, police raided Jaldi village and arrested gang leader Ilias, 23, at around 11:30pm.

Police continued the drive till the morning yesterday and arrested another five robbers identified as Md Hossain, 29, Md Harun, 40, Md Yunus, 24, Abdullah, 35 and Jaker Ahmed, 26, from Chandalbaria.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bankshahi PS Harun Ur Rashid said the robbers were held in connection with a robbery at a house that took place at Gandamara on September 23.

'Release FF Nim Chandra, other teachers and students'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Foundation, an organisation of freedom fighters, at a meeting on Thursday demanded immediate release of freedom fighter Professor Dr Nim Chandra Bhoumik of Dhaka University and other teachers and students who were arrested in connection with recent agitation at educational institutions.

The meeting was presided over by its chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah Bir Uttam.

The speakers said that the chief adviser in his speech to the nation said that the movement was taken with due forgiveness. But the speech of the chief adviser seems contradictory as teachers and students are still behind the bar.

Leaders of the foundation urged the government to withdraw the cases against the arrested teachers and students prior to the Eid.

Vice-Chairman of the foundation Colonel (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Mahub Uddin Ahmed Birbikram, Shahjahan Kabir Birpratib, Abir Abad, Mohammad Salahuddin and Abdus Samad Pintu spoke among others in the meeting.

New train on Khulna-Dhaka route tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A new train will be introduced on Khulna-Dhaka route from tomorrow. The train, imported from Indonesia, was brought to Khulna rail station on Thursday.

Khulna railway station master Md Eskander Ali informed that the new train named 'Sundarban Pravati' having 706 seats in ten bogies will halt at 15 stoppages during its 530 km journey.

The train will leave Khulna at 8:20am everyday.

The General Manager (West) of Bangladesh Railway Mushfiqur Rahman will attend the launching ceremony as chief guest.



Hundreds of rickshaws and cars get stuck in a gridlock in front of Dhaka College on Mirpur Road in the city yesterday, causing suffering to the pedestrians as well as the passengers.

Cop arrested on charges of extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector (SI) of Motijheel Police Station in the city was arrested on charges of extortion after an insurance company official filed a case against him on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Uttara Police Station was suspended on Thursday night following the arrest of two policemen of the police station over bribery.

Police sources said Kamal Pasha, an administrative officer of Prime Insurance Company Ltd, filed the extortion case against Sub-Inspector Ali Hossain.

In the first information report, the complainant alleged that the sub-inspector demanded Tk 50,000 from him in toll.

The Motijheel police arrested Ali Hossain when he returned to the police station from his duty at midnight.

Ali Hossain was sent to jail after he was produced before a court.

Sources said Ali Hossain was the investigation officer of two cases filed by the insurance company earlier over missing of several vehicles of the company.

He also took Tk 10,000 from the complainant earlier for conducting investigations, they added.

In the other incident, Syed Nazrul Islam, OC of Uttara Police Station, was suspended as an SI and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the police station were caught red-handed while taking Tk 5,000 in bribes on Tuesday.

The OC was suspended on charges of failure to control officers serving under him.

Detective police caught SI Azharul Islam Sarker, who is also second officer of the police station, and ASI Alauddin red-handed while they were receiving bribes from Dr Sukanta Karim who filed a case with the police station.

Azhar was the investigation officer of the case.

'Stop grabbing of land of hills people in CHT'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous students studying in different institutions in Dhaka have demanded that the caretaker government take immediate steps to put an end to the grabbing of land of hills people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

In a statement on Thursday, the students said the grabbing of lands began in 1979 to rehabilitate people from the plain land and the process is still going on.

Recently, a vested quarter has become active again and is trying to grab lands of the hills people, causing concern among the indigenous community, they added.

The students also said the present caretaker government has recovered illegally occupied lands across the country, but no steps have been taken to recover the occupied lands in CHT.

The indigenous students recently conducted a month-long signature campaign in Dhaka in support of their demand and collected 417 signatures.



Participants of a debate titled "Poverty is the root of dowry" pose for photograph with the guests at Shishu Academy in the city yesterday. TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, sitting third from right, is also seen. Women and Children Affairs Ministry, Jatiya Kanya Shishu Advocacy Forum and Debate for Democracy in cooperation with Plan Bangladesh organised the debate.

Hindus demand security during Durga Puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Uddjan Parishad yesterday urged the caretaker government to provide sufficient security for celebrating the upcoming five-day Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindus, beginning October 17.

At a meeting with Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta in the chair at Dhakeshwari National Temple, they also called upon the authorities concerned to provide uninterrupted water and electricity supplies to every puja mandap.

Parishad leaders demanded the government to release the Vice-President of the parishad Professor Dr Nimchandra Bhoumik, who is now behind bar for his alleged involvement in recent student unrest at Dhaka University.

This year, around 20,000 puja mandaps have been set up throughout the country, including around 153 mandaps in the capital.

The main puja mandap in the capital will be at Dhakeshwari National Temple. Large puja mandaps have also been set up at Jagannath Hall, Ramkrishna Mission, Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar, Bangla Bazar, Mohakhali and Farm Gate areas.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th edition of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 1:45pm today.

Former speaker and Awami League leader Advocate Abdul Hamid, former whip and expelled BNP Joint Secretary General Ashraf Hossain, Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Anisul Islam Mahmud and Prof Sadeqa Halim will feature in today's Sanglap.

Kamal Ahmed of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the programme produced by Walur Rahman Miraz.

The programme, jointly organised by BBC, World Service Trust and BBC Bangla Service, will be aired on Bangladesh Radio at 8:00pm on Sunday and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm on Monday.

About 4,000 workers to go to S Korea at year-end

UNB, Dhaka

The first batch of about 3,000 to 4,000 Bangladeshi workers is likely to leave for South Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS) at the year-end.

Bangladesh and South Korea signed a MoU on the EPS during Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury's visit to Seoul in June last. The MoU is aimed at protecting the welfare of the workers.

"We hope, thousands of Bangladeshi workers will benefit from the scheme... it will also resolve the problems linked with recruiting agencies being criticised here and there," South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Suk-Bum Park told UNB yesterday.

He said a delegation from Korea came to Dhaka in August as part of implementation of the details of MoU.

The envoy said thousands of young Bangladeshi workforce are now learning Korean language in different institutes as they will have to appear for Korean language test before going to Korea.

Replying to a question, he said there is no concept of quota unlike previous recruitment. "The new system is based on merit. The more people qualify, more people will go."

He, however, indicated that around 10,000 Bangladeshi workers might go to Korea annually if they know the Korean language.

"These temporary workers can stay for three years and do decent

jobs if they know the language," he said.

Presently, some 12,000 to 13,000 Bangladeshi workers are employed in Korea, many of them overstaying.

The Ambassador said the government related organisations in Dhaka and Seoul would recruit the workers to minimise the recruitment cost.

South Korea needs foreign workers in construction, small and medium enterprises, service sectors, agriculture and fisheries.

He said there are roughly 3,00,000 foreign workers in Korea, mostly from China. He said annually they will require about 1,00,000 foreign workers if replacement goes well.



Mutual Trust Bank arranges a drawing competition titled "The Bangladesh we dream of" for the students of class six to eight at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday.

The Daily Star

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents.

Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students.

Star Campus helps link young minds together.

