

'Develop proper edn system to improve quality'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of developing a proper education system, the country has been pursuing an education system inherited from colonial period, leading to a decline in the quality of education, eminent educationist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said yesterday.

"It is regrettable that we could not develop a education system suitable for us. Rather, we are trying to adopt an education system inherited from previous times, forming wrong conception of the role of education," he said while presiding

over the first session of a daylong meeting on Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP). The meeting titled 'An experts and practitioners' meeting to review the (in)coherence between macro-plan and micro realities: PEDP-II' was held at LGED Bhaban at Agargaon in the city.

Advancing Public Interest Trust (APIT), Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE), Bottala Foundation, Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST), Esho Desh Gari (EDG), Noakhali Rural Development Society

(NRDS), Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS), Solidarity, Uttarban, Wave Foundation and Zabarang Kalyan Samity (ZKS) jointly organised the meeting.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the students now do not study some important subjects such as history, philosophy and economics. Introduction of less important subjects in the higher education is responsible for the decline in the quality of education, he added.

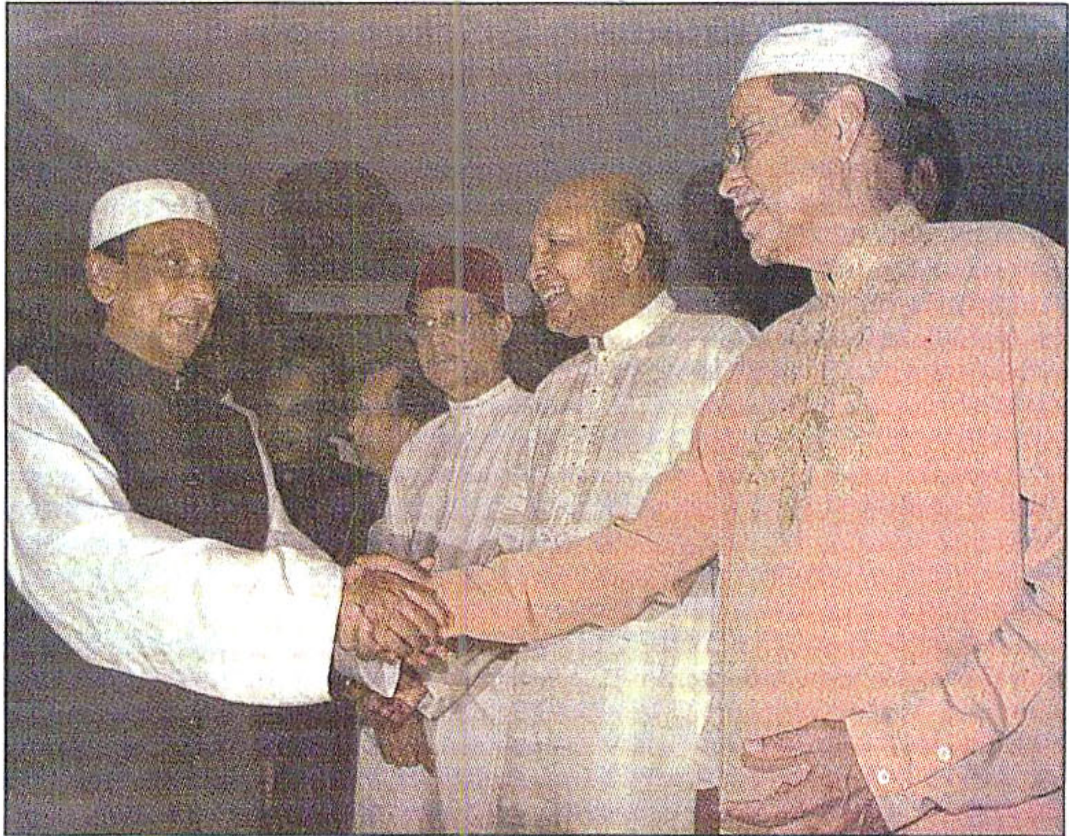
Teachers in the past were self-educated, but now the trend has changed, he said, adding that today's teachers have lost interest in

learning, resulting in a serious crisis in education sector.

Prof Muzaffer said that a teacher can change the life of students by inculcating perseverance, dedication and knowledge in them. "Students can obtain the concept of beautiful life and find the right way from the company of teachers."

Former lawmaker GM Kader said many projects could not be successful due to lack of proper evaluation. "Even we cannot assess what sector and what project should receive funds."

The representatives of the NGOs presented five keynote papers at the meeting.



President of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury greets Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman when he arrives at an Iftar party at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

Three listed criminals remanded for seven days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the three listed criminals sent back from India on a seven-day remand.

The Indian police handed over the three -- Habibur Rahman Taj, 29, Ibrahim, 31 and Selim alias Lambu Selim, 35, -- to Bangladesh on Sunday. Sources said all the three were close aides to notorious criminal Kala Jahangir.

CID Inspector Azizul Haque prayed for a 10-day remand for them, but the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court granted a seven-day remand.

In his remand prayer, the inspector said the three criminals are involved in killing, extortion, robbery and other crimes committed in the city.

The law-enforcing agencies tried to arrest them several times, but they managed to flee to India, Inspector Azizul Haque said.

He also filed a general diary with Paltan Police Station.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police also started grilling the listed criminals yesterday about how they went to India and carried out their activities from the hideouts there.

Interrogators said they will also try to extract information from them about their accomplices in Bangladesh who collected tolls and sent the money to them.

Taj and Selim were arrested in Kolkata in March while Ibrahim in August on charges of illegal entry into India and were sent to jail. The Kolkata police planned to deport them to Bangladesh after their jail terms, as there is no extradition treaty between the two nations. They were handed over to Bangladesh following a request from the Bangladeshi authorities.

Recognise rural women's right to agriculture

Speakers tell press conf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national dialogue will be held in Manikganj on October 30 with a call to ensure rural women's right to food and agriculture, said the speakers at a press conference yesterday.

They said the dialogue would be arranged to mark the World Rural Women's Day on October 15.

The press conference was organised by Nari Sangbadik Kendro (Centre for women journalists), Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) and Steps Towards Development at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

The speakers said rural women had played an important role in food management but laws or policies did not recognise their contribution.

"Women's right have to be ensured and their contribution to agriculture management should be admitted," they added.

Ferdousi Akter of BARCIK presented a written speech at the press conference while Nasimun Ara Haque Minu and Parveen Sultana, president and general secretary of Nari Sangbadik Kendro, Rekha Saha, director of Steps Towards Development and Pavel Partho, programme officer of BARCIK spoke on the occasion.

NU second year final exam begins Nov 11

Second year honours final examination-2006 under National University (NU) will commence on November 11, says a press release.

The examination will begin at 9:00am everyday. Details schedule and other examination related information would be available at the National University website-www.nu.edu.bd.



Many areas of Chittagong go under water due to torrential rain yesterday. The picture was taken at Kapasgola in the port city.

Elections within EC timeframe

Says president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has said the next parliamentary elections will be held in a free, fair and credible manner within the timeframe set by the Election Commission (EC).

"The Election Commission has already announced election roadmap and working in this regard," he told the newly appointed Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh Nguyen Van when he presented his credentials to the president at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The president also invited international observers to observe the parliamentary election.

He stressed the need for enhancing bilateral trade and commerce for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The president told the envoy that the government of Vietnam might import high-class pharmaceuticals, melamine, garments and textiles, jute and leather products from Bangladesh at competitive prices.

He stated that Bangladesh and Vietnam share similar views on many major regional and international issues and work closely in various forms, including the UN.

The president mentioned that Bangladesh has already extended its support to Vietnam for non-

permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

He thanked the Vietnamese government for its strong support to Bangladesh's bid for membership of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF).

He noted that Bangladesh achieved 6.5 percent GDP growth over the years. The president remarked that Bangladesh has attained noticeable women empowerment through micro-credit.

In this connection, the president lauded the role of Prof Muhammad Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, for his outstanding contributions to micro-credit operations.

The ambassador of Vietnam said the relations between Vietnam and Bangladesh are excellent and the ties will be further strengthened in the days to come.

He sought cooperation from the president in discharging his duties in Bangladesh.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangabhaban, the envoy was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Md Aminul Karim, Secretary Md Sirajul Islam, Acting Foreign Secretary MAK Mahmud, Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader and officials concerned from both the countries

\$122m WB support to improve water resources management

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank will provide \$102.26 million through its soft-lending window International Development Association (IDA) to support Bangladesh's efforts towards improving national water resources management.

An agreement on the credit was signed between the government and the IDA in this regard yesterday.

The credit from the World Bank's concessionary arm has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period; and it carries a service charge of 0.75 percent.

In addition to the IDA financing, the Government of the Netherlands is co-financing US\$ 20 million as grant, which will be

administered by the World Bank. The Netherlands has been strongly engaged in the water sector in Bangladesh since 1975.

The government's support, including the beneficiary contribution, is about \$14.44 million.

Secretary of Economic Relations Division M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu signed the deal on behalf of the Bangladesh government and the World Bank respectively at the Economic Relations Division at Agargaon.

An estimated 2 million households will benefit from the seven-year 'Water Management Improvement Project', designed to improve water management

involving local communities in planning, design, operations and management.

"Crop losses are expected to be reduced during the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods and improved drainage and flood control and expansion of irrigation are likely to increase agricultural production," says a statement on the agreement.

In addition to rehabilitating and improving 102 existing flood control, drainage, and irrigation schemes through Water Management Organisations (WMOs), the project will also support measures to improve performance of another 98 existing schemes that do not require major rehabilitation.



Nasimun Ara Haque speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday on the World Rural Women's Day. On her left is Rekha Saha and on her right are Ferdousi Akter and Parveen Sultana.

Land official held for taking birbe in Munshiganj

BSS, Munshiganj

The joint forces arrested assistant tehsildar of Japur union under Sirajdikhan upazila in Munshiganj on Sunday while he was taking bribe.

The arrestee was identified as Dewan Mohammad Taleb.

Police said Taleb demanded Tk 2,500 to one Mofiz Talukder for mutation of his land. He was caught red handed by the joint forces while taking bribe from Mofiz.

Joint forces also seized Tk 5,000 from Taleb.

A case was filed in this connection with Sirajdikhan police station.

Start distributing relief in munga-hit districts

BKS urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity (BKS) (association of farm labourers) have urged the government to start distributing relief in the munga-hit districts in north-western part of the country as they claimed that munga (near-famine situation) has already started in that region.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, BKS President Shamsuzzaman Selim placed an eleven-point demand to the government that included distributing relief to munga-hit people till the harvest of Amon

paddy, subsidising the price of daily essentials, and generating employment opportunities by taking programmes like 'Food for Work' and 'Money for Work'.

He also demanded that payment of interest for micro-credits in the munga-hit region should be stopped until the harvest of Amon rice.

BKS General Secretary Advocate Sobel Ahmed, Vice-presidents Advocate Anwar Hossain Reza, Syed Ahmed and Joyal Khan, and Assistant General Secretary Aslam Uddin were present at the press conference.

UN CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Orientation for jurnos to raise public awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) yesterday organised an orientation on the United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC) for the journalists.

BSAF organised the orientation in cooperation with Terre Des Hommes Netherlands as part of its advocacy programme to raise public awareness through media campaign.

Borna Alam Chowdhury, manager of Learning Promotion of Communica, conducted the orientation at the National Press Club.

Speaking about UNCRC, Borna said although a universal convention on human rights was adopted in 1948, a separate convention on child rights was required due to their different needs and vulnerability in the society.

UNCRC was adopted in 1989 and Bangladesh signed the convention in the following year as one of the first signatory countries, she added.

Borna said the 54-article convention has five underlying principles including non-discrimination, child survival and development, participation and accountability.

The government has taken different initiatives in the light of the UNCRC including National Child Policy 1994, Action Plan for Children in 2003 and fixing targets in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) ensuring security, healthcare, water, sanitation and rehabilitation of the abused children, she elaborated.

Abdus Shaid Mahmood, project coordinator of BSAF, also spoke at the orientation attended by around 30 journalists.

FARHAD'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY TODAY

Call to eliminate black money from politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comrade Farhad was the epitome of ideological politics who struggled against the politics of black money and muscle power for establishing democracy in the country, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also said that Farhad was one of the architects of the country's liberation war, independence and democracy and he had immense contribution to organising student, labour and women's movements to realise their rights apart from flourishing the party.

The discussion was organised by the CPB at its office in the city to mark the 20th death anniversary of Mohammad Farhad, which will be observed today.

While presiding over the discussion, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said widespread corruption, price hike of essentials and power outage have made people's life miserable.

He said free and fair election in the country will not be possible without eliminating black money and muscle power from the politics especially

election period.

To mark Farhad's death anniversary, Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust have chalked out different programmes, including placing of wreaths at his Banani grave at 7:00am today.

A doa mahfil will be held at the residence of his wife Rasheda Khanam at 94/E Azampur Colony after Asr prayers.

Colleagues, political leaders, admirers and relatives have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim, in a joint statement said the nation will remember him with due respect for his contribution to the liberation war and building a exploitation-free society apart from flourishing the party.

In another statement, Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Shamsul Alam Sajjan and General Secretary Asaduzzaman Masum urged all to expedite the movement to make the society free from exploitation and communalism.

Workers Party to observe Shaheed Russel Day on Oct 28

Call to eliminate black money from politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) will observe Shaheed Russel Day on October 28.

On this day in 2006, Russel Ahmad Khan, member of Khilgaon unit of WPB, was killed by armed cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami while he was taking part in a mass resistance programme called by 14 Party Alliance at Paltan intersection in the city.

WPB will organise a memorial meeting at Shaheed Asad auditorium in the city, and place wreath at his grave at Baghar Para in Jessore.

In a statement yesterday, WPB President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas urged all units of the party to observe the Day in a befitting manner.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Committee of WPB has condemned the assault on Anwar Haque, a senior reporter of Radio Today, at Kamalapur Railway Station.

In a statement, Committee Secretary Kamrul Hasan demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers and remove irregularities in selling tickets at railway stations.

He said when homebound people are desperately trying to meet their near and dear ones, a group of black marketers in connivance with the corrupt rail employees are harassing them.

Their tyranny has reached to such an extent that they could dare to assault the on-duty journalist in front of the members of the law enforcement agencies, he added.



CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan speaks at a discussion marking the 20th death anniversary of Comrade Mohammad Farhad at the party office in the city yesterday. On his right is Muzahidul Islam Selim and on his left is Ahsan Habib Lablu.