

'Visually impaired need better edn facilities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life is struggle and challenge for visually impaired Shahinur Akhter, who was admitted to Eden Girls' College in the city last year through a competitive admission test with tremendous courage and inspiration from her mother.

The girl, studying at the department of Islamic studies, has to buy books and write her lessons with other's help using the Braille system to memorise.

"Even in the examination hall, I have to take the help of a writer who writes as I speak. I don't consider it as an impairment, rather I take it as a challenge," said Shahinur who came to the city from Barisal for higher education.

She was speaking at a scholarship giving ceremony organised by

Rainbow Bridge Foundation (RBF) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

RBF has been supporting a total of 52 visually impaired students like Shahinur to help continue their studies.

"Women are neglected in the country. The physically challenged women are more neglected and victim of discrimination. So RBF has come forward to provide support to the women and children studying in different educational institutions," said Monju Samadder, executive director of RBF.

While reading a written speech, Shahinur said the number of visually impaired children in the country is 40 thousand.

Half of the visually impaired children are girl child and the

condition of their education is very disappointing, she added.

RBF has created bridge between the people who can see the light and who cannot enjoy it, said Mohammad Alimushshan, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, as chief guest.

RBF has so far provided scholarship to 52 students of 14 different schools, colleges and universities across the country.

RBF President Dipok Khandaker, Vice-president Dr Tejosh S Das and Director of NGO Affairs Bureau Mohammad Alauddin were present on the occasion.

RBF was established in January 29, 2006 to develop the physically challenged people by providing education, treatment and rehabilitation.

DU reopens tomorrow

Release of detained teachers, students demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The academic activities of Dhaka University are going to resume tomorrow after over two months of deadlock after the university was closed following violent clashes on and around the campus on August 22.

Ending all speculations on what the teachers will do for the release of detained teachers and students of the university, who were arrested on charges of instigating the violence, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) said teachers would attend classes for the sake of the future of the students and to continue the educational activities.

However, they reiterated their demand for release of their four detained colleagues and some students, as "their release is essential for the upcoming first year honours admission test, ongoing drive against admission forgery and other academic activities."

Duta yesterday took the decision at an executive committee meeting with acting president Prof Tazmeri SA Islam in the chair.

Duta hoped that the government would take necessary steps to release the teachers and students.

"The teachers will attend the classes with painful mind as their colleagues are in the jail," the acting Duta president told reporters in a briefing after the meeting at the Teachers' Club.

The procedures of the first year honours admission are going on, and the detention of three deans, who discharge the most important duty in the admission, will seriously hamper the process, she said. "It is more important to maintain a peaceful congenial academic atmosphere than only to open the university. And the release of the detained teachers is the most essential part for a congenial academic atmosphere."

Among the 15 executive members of Duta, only nine, including acting general secretary Mamun Ahmed, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Prof Muhammad Akhtaruzzaman, were present.

One killed, 15 injured in Narsingdi clash

UNB, Narsingdi

A cable TV operator was killed and 15 people were injured in a clash between rival groups at Ramnagar village in Raipura upazila following a brawl over a cable TV connection yesterday.

The dead was identified as Akram Hossain, 22, son of Nazimuddin of Ramnagar village.

Sources said Akram was locked into an altercation with Riazuddin, a tea stall worker, in the morning over the cable TV connection at the stall.

Following the altercation, the rival groups, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked each other at about 11:00am. Akram was killed and 15 people were injured in the attack.

The body was sent to Narsingdi hospital for autopsy.

The injured were taken to Bhairab Upazila Health Complex and other local clinics. The condition of two people was stated to be critical.



Eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq hands over Fazlul Haq Memorial Award to noted film director Subhas Dutt at a city hotel yesterday. Fazlul Haq Memorial Committee has been awarding a film director and a cine journalist every year since 2004 in memory of Fazlul Haq.

MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION

Test held amid allegation of irregularities

STAR REPORT

The admission test of 14 medical colleges was held yesterday amid allegations of irregularities despite government move to stop them.

Some O and A level-passed candidates alleged that they did not get their English version question papers while some others said they got English version after 10 to 20 minutes.

Many candidates alleged that there had been partial similarities between the original question paper and the alleged leaked one. Around 20 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) out of the total 100 MCQ were similar, they added.

There was another allegation that a good number of fake candidates who are already the first or second year student of medical colleges, sat for the test changing

the photographs of admit cards.

Denying the allegations, Khandaker Shafayet Ullah, director of medical education, health, manpower and development of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said admission test was held peacefully.

"We supplied sufficient number of English version question papers in every exam centres. Moreover, it is not possible to reach the English version question paper later," he told The Daily Star while replying about the allegation.

About the allegation of question leakage he said, "20 MCQ questions may be similar to those of a suggestion. But you should not call it question leak," he told this correspondent.

Some candidates alleged that two groups led by Shibir leaders were responsible for partial leakage of question papers with the help of some dishonest officials of DGHS.

The two groups brought around 50 candidates to Jahangirnagar University on Thursday night and gave them partially leaked question papers in exchange for Tk 2 lakh to Tk 8 lakh.

There are 2060 seats for MBBS course at 14 medical colleges. Of them, 40 are reserved for freedom fighters' children, 20 for indigenous students, and 80 for foreign

students including 50 for those from Saarc countries.

The government has also offered seven seats to students from Pakistan in the MBBS course in public medical colleges on self-finance for the academic session 2008.

Dhaka Medical College took the test at Dhaka University, Khaleda Zia Medical College and Titumir College, while Salimullah Medical College at Eden Women's College.

The rest of the public medical colleges held the tests on their own campuses simultaneously from 10:00am to 11:00am.

Three vigilance teams comprising members of law enforcement agencies and medical college teachers were on duty.

All activities of the coaching centres for admission to medical colleges in the country were suspended for three days from Wednesday to prevent any possibility of question paper leakage. Intelligence agencies had been keeping vigil on the coaching centres since October 11.

The successful candidates will be selected on the basis of marks they will secure in the test as well as on the grade point average they have obtained at the secondary and higher secondary certificate examinations.

Govt's decision to separate judiciary hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations have hailed the government's decision to implement separation of the judiciary from the executive on November 1.

In a press release on Thursday, Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) said separation of the judiciary could not be implemented in last 35 years due to bureaucratic tangle and lack of political willingness despite being directives in the constitution about the separation.

Welcoming the governments' decision, Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims said despite giving assurances the successive governments could not keep their promise to implement the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

They said people will get justice, and transparency and accountability of the judiciary will be ensured if it is separated.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj has said the government's initiative to give some judicial powers to the administrative cadre is not logical since it does not comply with the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

In a press release, they said this step of the government is not acceptable and they demanded that the Supreme Court should be separated from the law ministry.



A number of visually impaired students pose for photograph with the guests at a scholarship distribution ceremony at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. Rainbow Bridge Foundation (RBF) has been supporting a total of 52 visually impaired students to help them continue their studies.

FIRST ROUND OF 16TH NIDS TODAY

22m under-five children to be administered polio vaccine

The first round of 16th National Immunisation Days (NIDs) will be observed across the country today, says a press release.

In the first round, more than 22 million children up to 5 years of age will be administered polio vaccines and Vitamin A capsules.

In the second round, to be held on December 8, children between the ages of 2 and 5 will also be given deworming tablets.

Thirty million doses of oral polio vaccines, 20 million doses of high-potency Vitamin A capsules and 13 million doses of Albendazole tablets have been procured for the purpose.

The NIDs will be implemented through more than 60,000 health workers and volunteers in 140,000 vaccination centres including mobile centres and outreach sites across Bangladesh. Besides, a four-day house-to-house search will follow each round in order to make sure that no child misses the immunisation.

The government with the support from UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, Atlanta) mounted a model response to immunise all under-five children across the country when the first case of polio was

detected in March 2006 after an absence of 5 years.

Eighteen polio cases have so far been detected in 12 districts with the last one being reported on November 22, 2006.

"The NIDs will not only help root out polio, but through combining Vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets, it will reduce chances of other diseases in children, particularly in the post-flood reality," said UNICEF Country Representative Louis-Georges Arsenault.

The rate of Vitamin A supplementation has reached 93 per cent in Bangladesh and night blindness in children aged 1-5 has reduced to 0.04 per cent, which is no longer a public health threat, he said.

Meanwhile, deworming tablets will help improve the nutritional status of children making way for their proper growth through ensuring increased immunity and better IQ, he added.

"The timely response to poliovirus importation in 2006 and 8 rounds of NIDs conducted in 2006-2007 up to today is the key to success in keeping Bangladesh polio free again. In addition, special effort was given to improve the quality of NID as well as routine EPI activities particularly in hard to

reach areas in order to reach all of the children who missed out.

Combining NIDs activities with Vitamin A for prevention of night blindness and Albendazole for deworming give additional advantages for the improvement of health and survival of children," said World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative to Bangladesh Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol.

As the NIDs re-started, the government also decided to integrate National Vitamin A Plus Campaign (NVAP) with NIDs with support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Micronutrient Initiative, UNICEF and WHO.

The high-potency Vitamin A capsules provide a cost-effective way to protect children against serious health and growth hazards as its deficiency poses survival threats to children and mothers. It also increases risk of child mortality from diseases such as measles and diarrhoea.

These infections contribute to over 25 per cent of deaths among children aged 1-5 years in Bangladesh. The vitamin A supplementation is particularly useful for children in overcoming the impact of the recent floods.



Expelled BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan talks to reporters after a meeting with former BNP lawmakers and Jubo Dal leaders at his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday.

Photography exhibition

A photography exhibition titled 'Rajasthan Express' will begin in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

North South University (NSU) Photography Club organises the exhibition based on recent visit of the club members to various places at Rajasthan in India.

A total of 60 photographs selected from the works of these photographers will be exhibited, which will depict the beauty and splendour of Rajasthan through portraits, lifestyle, landscapes and architectural photography.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition will be held at 11:30am at GMQ Ground Floor, Monami Tower, Banani in the city. It will continue till November 1.

Chairperson of North South University foundation Rehana Rahman will be present as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Farzana Shakil's Makeover Salon Ltd. - one of the leading beauty service providers in the country is seeking quality executives for its growing operations in Dhaka.

1. Customer Care Executives (Female): Should have pleasant personality and good interpersonal skills. Computer knowledge and previous experience in similar position preferred. Minimum Educational Qualification: HSC, Age - below 26 years
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প্রকাশিত খবরের প্রতিবাদ

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ইনসেপ্টা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিঃ বাংলাদেশের একটি শীর্ষস্থানীয় ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। প্রতিষ্ঠানগুণ থেকেই ইনসেপ্টা অত্যন্ত সুনির্ভর সাথে জীবন রক্ষাকারী অনেক ঔষধ বাংলাদেশে উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাত করে আসছে যা সমানিত চিকিৎসকদের ব্যাপক আস্থা অর্জন করেছে। গত ২৪শে অক্টোবর ২০০৭ তারিখে দৈনিক পত্রিকা এবং একটি টিভি চ্যানেলে ১৭টি ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে উৎপাদিত "সেফট্রায়াক্সন ইনজেকশন" সম্পর্কে যে খবর প্রকাশিত/প্রচারিত হয়েছে তা খুবই আপত্তিকর ও অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত। এই খবরের প্রতিবাদে ইনসেপ্টা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিঃ দৃঢ়তার সাথে বলতে চায় যে, ইনসেপ্টা কর্তৃক ব্যবহৃত সেফট্রায়াক্সন কাঁচামাল অত্যন্ত নিষ্ঠুরবোধ্য ও আন্তর্জাতিক মানসম্পন্ন এবং এই কাঁচামাল USFDA অনুমোদিত বিশ্বব্যাপী কোম্পানী Ribbon, Italy এবং Daewoong, Korea থেকে ঔষধ প্রশাসন পরিদপ্তরের অনুমতিক্রমে আমদানী করা হয়। এই সেফট্রায়াক্সন ইনজেকশন একটি সম্পূর্ণ আলাদা সেফট্রায়াক্সন ইনজেকশন থেকে প্রস্তুত করা হয় এবং উৎপাদনের প্রথম থেকে শেষ পর্যন্ত অত্যধিক স্বয়ংক্রিয় প্রযুক্তি ও পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করা হয়, যা WHO, USFDA, UK MHRA, SA MCC ইত্যাদি বিশ্ব ঔষধ মাননিয়ন্ত্রন সংস্থার সুনির্দিষ্ট নীতিমালার সঙ্গে সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ। বাজারজাতকরণের পূর্বে প্রতিটি পর্যায়ে প্রতিটি ইনজেকশনের মান কঠোরভাবে নিয়ন্ত্রন করা হয়।

অতএব, পত্রিকা এবং টিভি চ্যানেলে প্রকাশিত/প্রচারিত খবরটিতে ইনসেপ্টার নাম জড়ানো উদ্দেশ্যপ্রসূত এবং বিভ্রান্তিকর। ইনসেপ্টা এই খবরের তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছে, একই সাথে বাংলাদেশের সকল চিকিৎসক এবং রোগীদের এই মর্মে আশ্বস্ত করতে চায় যে ইনসেপ্টা তার ঔষধের মান নিয়ন্ত্রণের ব্যাপারে কখনই আপোষ করে না এবং উক্ত খবরে বিভ্রান্ত না হওয়ার জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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