



Adolescents hold lighted candles at the inaugural session of the 2nd National Adolescent Convention at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

2ND NAT'L ADOLESCENT CONVENTION

Call for comprehensive policy for adolescents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country still lacks a comprehensive policy or guideline for the development of adolescents who account for about 2.8 crore of the total population, speakers at the 2nd National Adolescent Convention said yesterday.

Adolescence is a vulnerable period of development and personal adjustment for any individual, they said, adding that talents of the adolescents can flourish if parents, teachers and society guide them properly. But if they do not receive any guidance, there is a high chance of them being spoiled

and engaged in anti-social activities.

Disadvantaged Adolescents Working NGOs (DAWN) Forum organised the two-day convention at the Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday with the slogan 'Safe adolescence enlightened future'.

The objectives of the convention are to create a scope for the adolescents to share their views and build a common platform to realise their demands for safe adolescence.

Speaking as the chief guest, Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), said the children

should be especially taken care of during this period.

They are future leaders of the nation and should be provided with correct information about the nation's history, she added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the future of the country depends on the adolescents. "But if we fail to create a child- and adolescent-friendly environment, we cannot expect them to build a better Bangladesh."

The speakers said frustration has now gripped the adolescents as they do not find any role model to follow and that the

politics of the country and policymakers are responsible for it.

They also stressed the need to formulate a national policy for the adolescents.

Joint secretary of education ministry Nazrul Islam Khan, ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, Gulshan Ara Chowdhury of DAWN Forum and Shaheen Akhter Dolly also spoke at the inaugural session.

More than 750 adolescents and representatives from the government and non-government organisations are taking part in the convention.

JU BCL leader beaten up by JCD cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was beaten up by the cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus of Jahangirnagar University (JU) on Monday night.

BCL Joint Secretary Zahid Parvez Khan Pulok was injured when a group of JCD cadres swooped on him at around 10:00pm near Meer Musharraf Hossain (MMH) Hall.

The JCD cadres led by Shuvo and Zakir, residents of MMH hall, attacked Pulok with iron rod and lethal weapons when he was returning from Dhaka in a university bus.

Pulok is undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College and Hospital (EMCH) with his legs and left-wrist fractured.

Earlier, BCL President Sohel Parvez and General Secretary Mahmud Naser Jony were injured by JCD attacks and are undergoing treatment at EMCH.

Although a large number of police have been deployed, law and order situation continues to deteriorate since the clash between JCD and BCL cadres ensued on last Wednesday night over establishing supremacy on the campus.

'Link research to national problems'

A two-day symposium on 'advanced materials' organised by Bangladesh Physical Society in collaboration with Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden began at Buet yesterday, says a press release.

Prof Dr AMM Safiullah, vice-chancellor of Buet inaugurated the symposium at seminar room of the Buet central auditorium.

Prof Safiullah in his inaugural speech said, "Scientist look for the truth in their research work and engineers use this findings in the technology for better living of human. He urges collaboration between scientists and engineers in research work."

Agriculture and Water Resources Adviser Dr CS Karim in the symposium said, "The research on advanced materials should be related to the national problems. It also should be focused on the present need of the society for better living."

Dr Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, Prof Dr M Abu Hashan Bhuiyan, Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed and Prof Dr Sten Erikson, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden also spoke in the first day of the symposium.

36 papers will be presented in the symposium in different technical sessions.

Newspaper holiday on Sunday

UNB, Dhaka

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee, members of the Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) will observe holiday on Sunday on the occasion of the holy Ashura.

Therefore, newspapers will not be published on Monday, said a press release yesterday.

Help brighten image of judiciary

CJ asks judges, magistrates

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin yesterday asked the judges and magistrates to help brighten the image of the judiciary and boost the people's confidence in the justice system through their performance.

He made the call as the chief guest while unveiling the plaque marking the naming of Dhaka Judges' Conference Room "Jagannath-Sohel Memorial Auditorium".

Judges Jagannath Pandey and Sohel Ahmed were killed in a suicide bomb attack by the Jama'atul Mujaheddin Bangladesh (JMB) in Jhalakathi on December 14, 2005.

The chief justice said he had already asked the authorities concerned to ensure security of the judges and magistrates.

Speaking as a special guest, Law adviser AF Hassan Arif called on the judges to dispose of cases without delay.

He also said that he would try to address the problems facing the

judges and magistrates.

Supreme Court Registrar Iftekar Ahmed suggested increasing the salaries of judges and magistrates who have to face many difficulties while performing their duties. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them to remain honest, he added.

Judge AKM Ishtiaque Hussain, president of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BISA), presided over the ceremony. Additional law secretary Syed Mohammad Harun Osmani was also present as a special guest.



A panic-stricken schoolgirl and her mother hurry along Mirpur-14 Road yesterday to return home during clashes between the police and garments workers in the area.



Customs and intelligence officials seized foreign currencies worth Tk 2.6 crore from three outgoing passengers at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city on Monday night.

Tk 2.6 cr foreign currencies seized, three air passengers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs and intelligence officials seized foreign currencies worth Tk 2.6 crore from three outgoing passengers at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city on Monday night.

The three -- Md Selim, Yunus Ali and Md Rajan -- were also arrested as they were carrying 14,81,000 Saudi rials, 23,500 UAE dirhams and 500 Qatar rials. They were scheduled to fly to Singapore.

Customs officials filed three cases with the Airport Police Station and handed them over to the police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of customs and intelligence officials and task force members kept a sharp eye on passengers of a Singapore-bound flight scheduled to take off at 10:00pm.

But even the scanning machine failed to detect the currencies kept in the luggage of three arrestees.

"As we had specific information, we searched their luggage and found foreign currencies kept in jars of chutney, talcum powder and tooth power," Humayun Kabir, additional commissioner of Customs, ZIA, told The Daily Star.

The three, however, claimed that they did not know about the existence of the currencies. Somebody might have kept them in their bags, they added.

Customs officials said the three are engaged in smuggling of foreign currencies and money laundering, xx

MIST launches executive MBA programme

BSS, Dhaka

The Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) has launched the evening executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme under its Management Studies Department.

Commandant of the MIST Maj Gen Abdul Wadud inaugurated the course as the chief guest at MIST campus at Mirpur in the city recently, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

A total of 50 students got admitted to the course of the executive MBA that was open for both defence and civil students. The course consists of five semesters and will be completed by 20 months, said the release.

Hearing on Bijoy TV scam case begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hearing on Bijoy TV scam case involving Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury started here yesterday.

On the first day, two main witnesses Abu Mohammad Arif Siddique, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Chittagong, and Hanifal Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, gave their depositions before the court.

Divisional Special Judge SM Solaiman recorded the depositions.

At one stage of the hearing, the anti-graft official, in the face of cross-examination by defence lawyer, could neither give an answer on the filing of a general diary (GD) against Mohiuddin nor he was able to produce a copy of the said GD.

Advocate Rezaul Karim, the defence lawyer, told the court that there was in fact no copy of the GD, on which the investigation of the Bijoy TV Case was conducted, in the case records.

He said a copy of the GD, which was actually filed with Panchlala Police Station on March 8 of last

year after the arrest of mayor on March 7, has been attached with the case-diary.

In reply, Arif Siddique said, "We had allegations of irregularities against the mayor and we started investigation on the issue after telephonic instruction from the then ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain."

Earlier in his deposition, Arif Siddique told the court that the accused persons started the process of launching a private TV Channel (Bijoy TV) at the end of 2006 without prior permission from the authorities concerned and without bothering for any budget allocation from the government in this respect.

"Former superintendent engineer of CCC Shahid Ullah, who died in police custody in hospital few months ago, drew Tk 62.20 lakh from CCC fund in first phase and transferred the amount to his personal salary account," said Arif, adding that the money was not adjusted in CCC accounts department when the voucher was submitted showing the mentioned amount spent on different purposes.

CCC Chief Engineer Mokhter Alam also illegally recommended

to accounts department to release the money, Arif added.

The ACC official said in the second phase Tk 85 lakh was drawn from the CCC fund and transferred to a current account no 2368 which was opened at Jubilee Road Branch of Rupali Bank and operated by Mayor Mohiuddin.

He said the mayor gave four cheques to Engineer Shahidullah to draw Tk 60,48,960 and gave four more cheques to Ahmed Iqbal Haider, director of the Theatre Institute of Chittagong to draw Tk 18 lakh.

The accused in two phases drew Tk 1.47 crore from the CCC fund and spent Tk 1,40,68,960 in the name of launching the private channel, Arif said.

"Mayor Mohiuddin misappropriated the whole amount through unfair means," he added.

All the accused were present in the court during the hearing.

The next hearing of the case will be held today.

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