

## WALKWAY AT OSMANI UDYAN OPENS TO PUBLIC City parks to be freed from illegal occupation: Khoka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A walkway through Osmani Udyan has been opened for public yesterday.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka inaugurated the walkway.

Speaking on the occasion, the DCC mayor said Osmani Udyan and other parks in the city will be freed from illegal occupation.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Vice-president Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury were also present.

A 15-member committee headed by Prof Islam has been formed to protect and preserve the park from illegal occupation and to develop it for public recreation.

An artificial lake and the 1.6 km long walkway have been made already as the first step of the project that is supposed to be finished within this April.

DCC along with the committee and other environmental organisations will take care of the project.

The walkway as well as the park will remain open for public from

early morning to 8:00pm everyday. Meanwhile, Osmani Udyan Protection Committee President Tarik Hossain, Vice-president Khalilur Rahman Sikder and General Secretary Mohammad Ismail in a joint statement congratulated the government for taking proper initiative to preserve the park for public and opening the walkway.



Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka walks on the walkway through Osmani Udyan after inaugurating it yesterday. Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury were also present.

## 9 passport brokers held with fake documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine members of a gang of passport brokers along with seven fake passports and forms from the premises of the passport office at Agargaon in the city during a raid yesterday.

The arrestees are Akkas Mian, Abdul Hakim, Nazrul Islam alias Liton, Zahir Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Zakir Hossain, Mohammad Alam, Abdul Malek and Shahidul Islam. Rab claimed that Akkas Mian is the gang leader.

During an hour-long raid from 12 noon, the elite force also seized blank nationality certificate forms, fake character certificates and 384 passport application forms from them.

Rab officials said the arrestees admitted that they manage to get passports issued using fake documents as they have an unholy nexus with a section of employees, particularly peons, of the passport office.

Captain Sharif of Rab-4, who led the drive, said they earlier assigned a Rab official to get a passport with the help of brokers in order to find out who are engaged in such activities and how they manage to get passports issued, as a number of victims made complaints to them.



Participants and winners of the inter-class debate competition of Mastermind International School pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony on the school campus in Chittagong yesterday.

## STAR CAMPUS-DRISHTY DEBATE COMPETITION Practice of logic can help develop rational thinking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The final and prize giving ceremony of the inter-class debate competition of Mastermind International School titled 'Star Campus-Drishity Debate for Generation Next' was held on the school campus in the port city yesterday amid much enthusiasm.

The 16 participating teams, which were named after Greek mythological characters, were split into two groups at the competition that began on January 15.

The junior group consisted of the students of class VI and VII while the students of class VIII and IX were in the senior group.

The final round of both the groups were held yesterday.

In the senior group, 'Spartan' clinched the title defeating 'Cupid' in the final round. Their topic was 'Our present education system is not able to create an enlightened generation'.

However, Sayeda Nafisa, a student of class IX, of the losing team was adjudged the best debater.

'Venus' defeated 'Aphrodite' to win the junior group where the topic was 'The present citizen of Chittagong is happier than the past'.

Mubtasin Sabab, a student of class VII, of the winning team was the best debater in this group.

Poet Abul Momen, resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo, was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony with school Principal Prof Ghulam Abu Mohammad in the chair.

Drishity, a cultural organisation, organised the competition while The Daily Star sponsored it. Radio Foru was the radio partner of the competition.

Abul Momen said continued practice of logic in every sphere of life could help us learn the invaluable lesson of accepting others' concepts and become rational in thinking.

"Every individual has his own feeling, liking as well as opinion and we have to live with these differences and should learn to accumulate them," Abul Momen said adding, "To acquire the truth we can take the help

of logic and debate." He also urged the students not to be fundamentalist or dogmatic in their frame of opinions.

Prof Ghulam said such competitions would help the young students emerge as the future stars of the country.

Two teachers of the school Dolan Ghosh Dastider and Md Nishan Elahi

and Drishity Secretariat Member Afana Rahman Chowdhury were the judges while Prof Ghulam Abu Mohammad and Vice Principal Huma Zaman were the moderators at the final rounds.

School Chairman Ahsan Habib, former chairman Mohammad Akbar Hossain, directors Shamim Mahmud

Chowdhury, Enamul Hoque, Asadul Hoque and Md Rashiduzzaman, Bureau Chief of The Daily Star Shahidul Islam, Executive (Sales) of Radio Foru Abdul Qayyum, Drishity President Masud Bakul and General Secretary Saif Chowdhury were also present as special guests on the occasion.

## British Council launches 'Connecting Classrooms'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British Council yesterday launched a new project styled 'Connecting Classrooms' with a view to raising standards in teaching and learning by providing learning opportunities for young people.

Under the project, a cluster of five to six schools will work together and will be connected with the cluster of United Kingdom-based schools. These schools will work together to design and implement curriculum-based projects.

"We have limited exposure to outside world. This project will help create a link between schools at home and outside," Momtazul Islam, secretary to the ministry of education, said while speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony.

This programme will contribute immensely to quality education, he said, adding that the government has taken some projects to ensure quality education.

Dr Siddiqur Rahman, national education expert, said this project would help students learn from each other and that it is very important in this age of globalisation.

June Rollinson, director, British Council, said this project would enable young people to exchange their views and ideas with others in different countries.

Dr Morna Nance, regional director, British Council central and south Asia, and William Arnall-Culliford, head of press and public affairs, British High Commission, also spoke.

## Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation 76, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka Vacancy Announcement

General Manager (Business Support Service)

SME Foundation (SMEF), an independent body corporate, created by the Government of Bangladesh and dedicated to the promotion of small and medium enterprise in Bangladesh hereby announces a vacancy for the post of General Manager (Business Support Service) to fill on immediate basis. The SMEF is an equal-opportunity employer. Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. For details, please visit the SMEF Content Management System, available at <http://www.smfef.org.bd>. Please also visit <http://www.bdjobs.com>

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- Minimum 3 (Three) 1<sup>st</sup> Classes/Divisions, with no 3<sup>rd</sup> Class/Division in any examination.
- CGPA of 3.00+ and 3.25+ on a 4.00 scale would be treated as 2<sup>nd</sup> class & 1<sup>st</sup> class in graduation and Post-graduation degrees respectively.
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বিশ্বজুড়ে অর্থনৈতিক ন্যায়বিচার প্রতিষ্ঠায় এক হও!  
Unite for Global Economic Justice!

**Program**

29 January:

- 04:00pm: Inaugural ceremony of GEJF 2008, discussion, cultural event and theatre show

30 January:

- 10:00am to 12:00pm and 02:00pm to 04:00pm: Issue based discussion, seminar, symposium in 6 venues of the auditoriums of Chhayanan, BIM and WVA (Parallel sessions)
- 04:00pm onwards: Discussion, cultural event and theatre show at Rabindra Sarovar Manch

31 January:

- 10:00am to 12:00pm and 02:00pm to 04:00pm: Issue based discussion, seminar, symposium in 6 venues of the auditoriums of Chhayanan, BIM and WVA (Parallel sessions)
- 04:00pm onwards: Discussion, cultural event and theatre show at Rabindra Sarovar Manch
- Declaration of GEJF 2008 at Rabindra Sarovar Manch in the evening

**Broader themes of GEJF 2008**

- Human rights, rights of women-labor-indigenous people-children-disadvantaged community
- Governance, local government, political reform, regional cooperation
- Essential services, health, education
- Agriculture, water
- Climate justice, environment, natural resources
- International financial architecture, debt, trade, investment
- Employment, migration, remittance

Let's envision a world developed in all respects wherein hunger, poverty, prejudices, illiteracy will be part of a permanent history. All caste, creed, color, religion, tribe, nation, gender, profession will enjoy the fruits of civilization through equity, dignity and amity.

Monstrous forces of globalization based upon infamous neo-liberal discourses have been impeding the process of building the equitable future for all. People to people humane globalization will be the befitting answer to the dark forces.

Global Economic Justice Forum, GEJF 2008 will act as a unique step towards our cherished goal. GEJF, a Bangladesh based initiative, will surely usher in building a humane and democratic world order.

**How to participate in GEJF 2008**

- Events of Rabindra Sarovar Manch are open to all
- Any individual/organization can participate in any discussion session through online registration at [www.gejf.info](http://www.gejf.info)
- For registration you can also use SMS services of GP, AKTEL, Bangla Link, City Cell, and TeleTalk. Type [gejfreg-space-fullname-space-first three alphabets of your district and send to 2580](http://www.gejfreg-space-fullname-space-first three alphabets of your district and send to 2580). Registration Deadline: 5:00PM, January 27, 2008. Registration Fees: Tk.20/- to be paid at the venues.
- For downloading program schedule type: [gejfsch-space-29jan/30jan/31jan-space-morning/moon/evening](http://www.gejfsch-space-29jan/30jan/31jan-space-morning/moon/evening) and send to 2580.
- Participants of Youth Forum can register separately. Type: [gejfyouth-space-fullname-space-first three alphabets of your district and send to 2580](http://www.gejfyouth-space-fullname-space-first three alphabets of your district and send to 2580). Standard SMS charge is applicable for these services.

For any communication, contact at: Email: [gejfnews@gmail.com](mailto:gejfnews@gmail.com), website: [www.gejf.info](http://www.gejf.info)

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