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Eminent social scientist Prof Anupam Sen inaugurates the Chittagong International Education Fair at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong auditorium yesterday.

Ctg Int'l Education Fair begins

CU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Social Scientist Prof Anupam Sen yesterday said education is one of the main tools to build a country as a prosperous one.

"Our human resources is a great power for our country and we should go forward utilising it," said Prof Anupam, also the vice chancellor of Premier University.

He was addressing the inaugural function of the three-day education fair titled "Chittagong International Education Fair (CIEF-2008)" as the chief guest at Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong auditorium yesterday evening.

Extreme Exhibition and Event Management Limited (E3 Solutions) organised the fair.

Referring to the developed country Japan, Prof Anupam said Japan had no mineral or physical resources, but they reached the queue of the richest country by using its manpower.

"An inspiration has been prevailing among the minds of the brilliant students of our country and they are feeling that they have to stand for the society," he observed.

"Our students are doing better at home and abroad," he said hoping that the fair would accelerate their desire, as they would be able to choose an institution among huge options under one roof.

The E3 Solutions Managing

Director Fazlul Karim and Chairman AZM Fazle Rabbi also spoke on the occasion.

Over 35 colleges, universities, IT institutes, students counselling firms, immigration and language learning institutes from home and abroad are participating in the fair.

Representatives from renowned colleges and universities of Bangladesh, the UK, the US, Malaysia, Cyprus, Thailand, India, Australia, Ireland, Poland, Singapore and some other countries are also taking part in the fair.

The fair remains open for the visitors from 11:00am to 8:00pm everyday.

The Daily Star, Channel-i and local daily Azadi are the media partners of the fair, while Radio Today and bdjobs.com are radio and web partners.

'Holistic approach needed to root out militancy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Hasan Mahmud Khandaker yesterday said a holistic approach is needed for permanent solution to militancy which is yet to be rooted out from the country.

"Although the activities of Rab to combat religious fanaticism are satisfactory when compared to situations in neighbouring countries, we have no reason for complacent as the outfits could not be stamped out totally," said the Rab chief during his routine visit to Rab-5 headquarters in Rajshahi.

"For a permanent solution to the problem, a holistic approach is essential where all stakeholders religious leaders, people's representatives, civil society members, educationists and media will play a united role," he added.

Talking to newsmen Hasan, a former chief of the special branch of police, said Rab is building a three-dimensional capacity so that the crime busting forces can reach any areas immediately through land, water and air for quick operations.

Replying to a question, he said Rab is working under police.

"People are now getting back their confidence in police," he added.

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Micro-credit programmes face threats

Says FNB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday said micro-credit programmes are facing threats due to indiscriminate order by divisional and district administrations and local social service offices to stop all such programmes.

After the formation of Micro-credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) as per recommendation of the NGOs, over 4,000 NGOs applied until February 26, 2006 for certificates to run micro-credit programmes, says an FNB press release yesterday.

Of them, 211 received certificates, while 2,500 others were asked to raise their outstanding loans to Tk 40 lakh or raise the number of loan receivers to 1,000 by June 2009.

On April 23 last year, the MRA informed deputy commissioners that the NGOs' applications for certificates are under process and that they can continue their programmes until a decision comes in this regard, the press release said.

"In these circumstances, the indiscriminate order by the local administration to stop micro-credit activities goes against the MRA decision and is creating confusion about micro-credit programmes," the release said.

When contacted, the MRA said it will urgently contact the local administration to remove the confusion, the release added.

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