

# Journalism democracy's best friend

## Speakers tell award giving ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

Journalism is democracy's best friend and independent journalism is the crying need of the time to usher in a meaningful change and establishing genuine human rights in the country.

Speakers said this at an award giving ceremony in the city yesterday.

The High Commission of Canada and Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) jointly organised the function for distribution of 'Canadian Awards for Excellence in Bangladesh Journalism 2008'.

The awards recognised the outstanding work of the journalists to support democracy building and good governance in Bangladesh.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif was the chief guest at the function held at the IGED Bhaban in the morning. Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Barbara Richardson and BCDJC President Nayeemul Islam Khan attended the function as special guests.

Hassan Arif said newspapers are considered as the truly repre-

sentative parliament of the country. "They portray the real picture of the society to the people."

Lauding the organisers for arranging such a ceremony, he said it will encourage the "continued quest for excellence" within the journalism profession in the country.

He said the parliamentary election in the country will be held by December as per the roadmap declared by the Election Commission. "There is no reason for any confusion in the matter," he added.

Dr Kamal in his speech admired the grassroots journalists who continued their professional work despite the risk of incurring the wrath of godfathers across the country. "Such brave journalists deserve to have the 'Bir Shreshtha Awards'," he said.

Mentioning the name of slain journalists Shamsur Rahman, Manik Saha and Humayun Kabir Balu, he said they sacrificed their lives in performing their professional duties.

Dr Kamal proposed allocating an entire page in every newspaper for publishing the names of "paid godfathers and terrorists" as iden-

tified by the journalists, especially at the grassroots level.

"Such godfathers and criminals resort to torch buses and trucks in the name of movement," he said.

Emphasising quality journalism, Barbara Richardson spoke on the role of journalism and the challenges faced by the journalists in the country.

She mentioned the courage and commitment of journalists in Bangladesh and their contribution to the future of the country.

"Quality journalism has made major contributions to countries around the world and particularly to the growth of democracy and the freedom. It supports the simple idea that people can govern themselves," she said.

Eminent journalists, diplomats and distinguished members of civil society were present at the function.

The four award-winning journalists are Ifrat Zarin of Sangbad, Haider Akbar Khan Rono of Amar Desh, Jharna Roy of Shaptahik (Weekly) 2000 and Anwar Parvez Halim of PROBE newsmagazine.

Each award recipient was given citation, crest and gift packet for their outstanding works in the print media.

# CPB on hunger strike for rationing system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday demanded introducing rationing system and effective steps against hoarders and syndicates responsible for price hike of essentials, says a press release.

CPB Dhaka Committee observed a five-hour token hunger strike at the party's central office at Paltan in the city protesting police intervention in the human chain programme on April 17.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "Like the previous governments, the present caretaker government did not stock food items. Taking this opportunity business syndicates are virtually pushing the country to a famine-like situation by increasing prices."

The party placed a 15-point demand to the government including rationing system, direct purchasing of rice from farmers, punitive steps against syndicate and import ban on luxury items.

Leaders of different left-leaning parties expressed solidarity with the CPB to observe the token hunger strike.

# Unesco Global Action Week begins today

Unesco Education For All (EFA) Global Action Week (April 21-27) 2008 begins worldwide today highlighting the issues of quality and inclusion in education and reminding the governments of their promise to achieve EFA by 2015.

The organisation has already taken a series of activities to mark the week across the world, says a press release.

Unesco Dhaka will organise a roundtable on 'Ending Exclusion in Education' at the National Press Club in the city at 3:00pm on April 24.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury will be present on the occasion as the chief guest. The Global Monitoring Report 2008 will also be launched at the same venue.



Communist Party of Bangladesh observes a token hunger strike at Mukti Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding measures to check price hike of essentials.

# Huge fake certificates of madrasa board seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police seized a huge number of fake academic certificates of Madrasa Education Board and documents of different madrasas from Fatka area at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

Six persons, including a principal and two teachers, were arrested for their involvement in the practice of forgery, said the sources.

The arrestees were identified as Lokman, 52, principal of Mirzapur Alia Madrasa, Ibrahim, 45, Arabic teacher of Gohira Alia Madrasa, Ziaul Haque, 34, teacher of a Nurani Madrasa under the upazila, Nesar, 38, a library owner, and two fake students -- Humayun Kabir, 22, and Khali Ullah, 24.

The seized documents and items included certificates, mark sheets, testimonials, admit cards, registration cards, application forms, writing pads and seals of madrasa board and different madrasas of the port city.

Sources said acting on a tip-off, a squad of police from concerned Hathazari Police Station led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Alamgir during a raid arrested one Nesar from Fatka area at the upazila at around 12.00am.

Following Nesar's confession, police conducted separate raids at different places including Hathazari College Gate area and arrested

Lokman, Ibrahim and Ziaul.

They recovered a huge number of fake documents and materials required for forging under the possession of arrestees.

Later, police also arrested two examinees -- Humyuni and Khali Ullah -- from a madrasa of the port city's Bayezid area yesterday.

OC Alamgir said the arrested principal and teachers are members of a syndicate which is involved in the ill-practice for long.

# DEATH UNDER POLICE CUSTODY Three SIs closed at Siddhirganj PS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three sub-inspectors (SI) of Siddhirganj Police Station were closed last night in connection with the death of Fakir Chan under police custody.

District Police Super (SP) Chhibgat Ullah said SI Babul Akhter, also the investigation officer of the mugging case in which Fakir Chan was arrested, and district detective branch SIs Saiful Islam and Mamunur Rashid were closed.

He said a three-member committee formed to investigate into the incident led by Additional SP Masud Karim would submit its report within 48 hours.

Fakir Chan was arrested on April 18 but was shown arrested on April 18 and he died on Friday night under police custody after being severely tortured.

Police are allegedly trying to hide the incident of death of Fakir Chan at Siddhirganj upazila.

The deceased's family members alleged that Chan was tortured to

death under the police custody. Siddhirganj Police Station Officer-in-charge (OC) Shakhawat Hossain and Sub-Inspector Ahsan along with some local people went to the deceased's house and asked his family members not to go to the court for filing a case.

The deceased's elder brother Alam Chan said the OC told them that if they compromise the matter, they might get some money. Otherwise, they would get neither justice nor compensation money.

Sources said patrol police were deployed so that Chan's family members could not go to the court for filing any case.

Meanwhile, local lawyers differed on the filing of an unnatural death case lodged by police after the death of Chan.

Fakir Chan was arrested on April 12 on charge of his alleged involvement in mugging but he was shown arrested on April 18 and died on Friday night.

Police said he died after he had sustained injuries while fleeing on way to the police station.

# AMCH receives Tk 18 lakh in donations

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) received Tk 17.9 lakh in donations last month, says a press release.

Those who have donated for the 500-bed cancer hospital are Rowshan Ara Khan -- Tk 10 lakh; Nayeemul Huq and Anwarul Huq -- Tk 5 lakh; Seva Vanita, Dhaka, a Sri Lankan women's association -- Tk 1 lakh; Syeda Jobeda Chowdhury -- Tk 55,000; Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury -- Tk 50,000; Syed Oyesur Reza -- Tk 40,000; MA Ahmed -- Tk 25,000 and Dr Amena Sudderuddin -- Tk 20,000.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed awarding certificates to a participant of Field Training Exercise of Shanti Doot-2 at the closing ceremony at Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT) yesterday.

# Apollo Hospitals' healthcare programme

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka recently organised a healthcare awareness programme for the Cemex Factory staff at Cemex Cement Bangladesh Limited in the city, says a press release.

Dr Md Sadiqul Islam, consultant, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, and Dr Mohammed Mohiuddin Araf, head of Physical Medicine of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, conducted the programme.

# Int'l course on good governance begins

A two-week international course on good governance in rural development began at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 16 senior and mid level officials from government, autonomous bodies, research and training institutions of Asian countries -- Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Brunei Darussalam and host Bangladesh are attending the training course. BARD organised the course with

the sponsorship of Governance and Institutional Development Division (GIDD) of Commonwealth Secretariat, UK.

The prime objective of the course is to share the basic concepts and issues of rural development, good governance and Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies.

Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Secretary ATM Fazlul Karim inaugurated the training course as the chief guest.

# A dangerous livelihood

FROM PAGE 1

to save our legs from the melting iron. Anytime melting iron may drop on our feet."

Many people had died earlier in blasts of boilers, he said. "It comes out in the newspapers only when we die. But the number of wounded workers in accidents is much higher than what you know," he adds.

As the alarm announces lunch-break, Suruj and his colleagues come out of the factory. They all make the same complaint -- the factory owners care too little to provide them with safety tools, even gloves and gumboots.

Like Suruj Mia, thousands of workers across the country have to be in unsafe working condition at re-rolling and rice mills where the owners install unfit furnace chimneys and boilers.

But the successive governments seem reluctant to take any necessary measures against the violators.

As many as 1,768 workers were reported killed and over 2,000 injured last year in workplace accidents, says a newspaper survey.

In the wake of a large number of casualties every year, the government just does its duty by enforcing laws, but it never monitors whether the laws are implemented or violated.

Over 20 were reported killed and 150 injured, including the four deaths in recent Syed Steel Mill explosion in Kanchpur, in boiler and chimney blasts at re-rolling and rice mills and garment factories in the last five years.

According to Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (Oshe) Foundation, 40 blasts occurred only in rice mills last year.

Yet, no government agencies are inspecting those unsafe furnace boilers of the re-rolling or rice mills and garment factories.

According to existing laws, the government's 'boiler inspection office' inspects boilers of sugar mills, textile and washing plants, cement factories, hotels and hospitals.

"Furnace chimneys of re-rolling steel mills don't have any steam pressure boiler. So we don't inspect those," said an official from the boiler inspection office asking not to be named.

"The rice mill boilers should have come under our watch. But they don't take clearance certificates from us as their investment is so small," he said.

In reality, rice mills do not take clearance certificates from anybody, he added. He said they also do not keep records of the re-rolling and rice mills explosions.

The official went on to say that the department has only four inspectors to inspect 6,000 registered boilers in the country. Besides four boiler inspectors, the office has only 13 general factory inspectors in three categories -- general, safety (engineering) and medical -- for more than 14,000 factories, including about 5,000 garment factories in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

## বিশ্ব শিক্ষা অভিযান

'মানসম্মত শিক্ষা থেকে বাদ যাবে না কেউ'

### গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ (২১-২৭ এপ্রিল) ২০০৮

বিশ্বের অধিকাংশ দেশে আজ সোমবার ২১ এপ্রিল ২০০৮ থেকে শুরু হচ্ছে গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ। বিশ্ব শিক্ষা অভিযান (জিসিই) আয়োজিত বিশ্বব্যাপী এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহের এ বছরের প্রতিপাদ্য হচ্ছে 'মানসম্মত শিক্ষা থেকে বাদ যাবে না কেউ'। এ উপলক্ষে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অভিযান দুই শতাধিক সংস্থার সহযোগিতায় সারা দেশে ব্যাপক কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করেছে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে ২১ এপ্রিল সকাল ১০টায় এলজিইডি মিলনায়তনে এশিয়া ও দক্ষিণ প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের এডুকেশন ওয়াচ রিপোর্টের প্রকাশনা উৎসব, ২৩ এপ্রিল সকাল ১০টায় বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের মতো বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্র একই সময়ে 'পৃথিবীর সর্ববৃহৎ পাঠন' অনুষ্ঠান। সপ্তাহের অন্যান্য কর্মসূচির মধ্যে রয়েছে বিবর্তনিক কর্মশালা, আলোচনা সভা, সেমিনার, গোলটেবিল বৈঠক, সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান, পোস্টার, স্টিকার, প্রচারপত্র প্রকাশ ও বিতরণ, বাংলা বর্ষপঞ্জি ১৪১৫ প্রকাশ ইত্যাদি। প্রসঙ্গত উল্লেখ্য, শিক্ষা সেক্টর নিরসনে বিশ্বের ১২০টি দেশের জাতীয় শিক্ষা কোয়ালিশন, নেটওয়ার্ক, ইউনিয়ন, ফেডারেশন, আন্তর্জাতিক এনজিও ও সাহায্য সংস্থাসহ বিভিন্ন সোসাইটি গ্রুপ ও সংস্থা নিয়ে গঠিত জিসিই-র উদ্যোগে প্রতি বছর এপ্রিল মাসে সারা বিশ্বে একযোগে গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন উদযাপন করা হয়।

এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত সকল অনুষ্ঠানে সর্বস্তরের জনগণকে অংশ নেয়ার জন্য আমরা আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি। আসুন, আমরা সকলে একত্রেই হবে সবার জন্য মানসম্পন্ন শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে আওয়াজ তুলি:

মানসম্মত শিক্ষা থেকে বাদ যাবে না কেউ

সবার জন্য মানসম্মত শিক্ষা নিশ্চিতকরণে আমাদের দাবি

- সর্বস্তরের নাগরিকের অংশগ্রহণে একটি সমন্বিত জাতীয় শিক্ষানীতি প্রণয়ন এবং এর সফল বাস্তবায়ন
- আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার পাশাপাশি উপানুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার ওপর সমান গুরুত্ব আরোপ এবং এজন্য বেসরকারি উন্নয়ন সংস্থাগুলোর অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্র তৈরি
- স্বল্পে পড়া-কিশোর-কিশোরীদের জন্য বিকল্প শিক্ষার সুযোগ সৃষ্টি ও দুর্যোগ-কবলিত এলাকায় প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী নমনীয় স্কুল-ক্যালেন্ডারের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ
- মানসম্মত শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে মানসম্মত শিক্ষক নিয়োগ এবং আধুনিক ও কার্যকর শিক্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ প্রক্রিয়ার উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকরণ
- কর্মজীবী শিশু-কিশোর, পথশিশু, পরিচর্যহীন শিশু এবং চর ও হাওর এলাকা, দুর্গম ও বিচ্ছিন্ন এলাকা (যেমন, ছিটমহল), পতিতালয়, জেলে সম্প্রদায়, অনাথ ও ভবঘুরে আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রের শিশুদের জন্য মানসম্মত আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার সুযোগ সৃষ্টি
- উন্নয়নের মূল স্রোতধারায় অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে দেশের ১ কোটি ২০ লক্ষ প্রতিবন্ধীসহ ছেলেমেয়ে, নারী-পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিকভাবে বঞ্চিত সকল মানবসম্পদকে শিক্ষার অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে 'একীভূত শিক্ষা'র (Inclusive Education) ধারণা প্রয়োগ নিশ্চিতকরণ
- প্রতিবন্ধীদের শিক্ষার দায়িত্ব সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পরিবর্তে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে ন্যস্ত করে বঞ্চিত জনগোষ্ঠীর শিক্ষার জন্য যথাযোগ্য বিশেষ সুবিধার আয়োজন
- বয়স্ক নিরক্ষর, বিশেষ করে ১৮-৪৫ বছর বয়সী নারী-পুরুষের জন্য চাহিদাভিত্তিক মৌলিক শিক্ষা ও দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি
- আদিবাসী শিশুদের জন্য বাংলা ভাষার পাশাপাশি মাতৃভাষায় প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা গ্রহণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি এবং আদিবাসী অধ্যুষিত এলাকার প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়গুলোতে একই ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতির আদিবাসী শিক্ষক নিয়োগ
- শিক্ষায়তনে শিশুদের শারীরিক ও মানসিক স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিরোধে কার্যকর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ।

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