

ALL ASIAN INTER-VARSITY DEBATE Quarterfinals today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth day of the 15th All Asian Inter-Varsity Debate Championship 2008 experienced some enthusiastic and lively debates yesterday.

Hosted by North South University (NSU), the event was inaugurated by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on May 7.

About 450 debaters, judges, observers and trainers from 12 Asian countries are participating in the championship.

The fourth day began with two rounds of debates, held on St Joseph Higher Secondary School and College campus where the debaters argued on various topics, including general relations and women's legislation.

After the debates were held, Sarajit Baral, the chief adjudicator of the tournament, announced the top 16 teams and the breaking adjudicators.

The quarterfinals will be held at the United International University at 4:00pm today.

Apart from the several rounds of debates, NSU Debating Club organised many colourful programmes. Youth Development Night was one of them. The event sponsored by BRAC Bank Ltd was based on youth empowerment and small and medium enterprises.

With an aim to promoting Bangladeshi culture among the debaters from different Asian countries, MOJO of Akij Food and Beverage organised MOJO Fun Night at Wonderlands Park in the city on Saturday. The event featured puppet shows, bioscope, shaap khela (snake dance), baul songs, scrumptious pithas (cake) and other local delicacies.

Prime Bank Ltd, Southeast Bank Ltd, NCC Bank Ltd, BRAC Bank Ltd, Citi Bank NA, MOJO, Rahimafrooz, ACI Ltd, Berger Bangladesh Ltd, International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Nescafe, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, ATN Bangla, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, Radio Foorti, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, St Joseph Higher Secondary School, United International University, Computer Source Ltd, Masthead PR and Farzana Shakil Makeover Salon Ltd are the sponsors of the event.

Stand against corruption

ACC boss urges youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury at a rally here yesterday urged the young generation to come forward and stand against corruption in the country.

"It will be easier to fight corruption if the students from school, college and university levels start hating the evil practice from the very beginning," he said.

The ACC chairman was addressing the anti-corruption youth rally yesterday afternoon on the Patiya Government College premises as the chief guest.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman was present at the rally as the special guest.

Local unit of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (Sanak), Patiya Upazila Corruption Prevention Committee, TIB and ACC jointly organised the rally as part of a two-day anti-corruption campaign that began here on Saturday.

The ACC chairman called on all to start campaign against corruption from the grass-roots level to build a corruption-free country in near future.

He also sought participation of people of all ages in the ongoing anti-corruption movement.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the young generation of Patiya created a new history through successful completion of the anti-graft campaign.

Patiya Upazila Chairman Nurul Islam, Sanak Patiya Convener Oviqit Barua, member Shekhor Nath Pintu,

Patiya Upazila Corruption Prevention Committee Member Secretary Dr Sangha Prio Thero and member Shankar Sen Gupta spoke at the ceremony.

Later, a cultural programme was also held where popular band LRB and Close Up-1 star Nishita Barua rendered some melodious numbers.

Earlier in the morning, an anti-graft procession was brought out from the Patiya Government College premise.

Hundreds of students from different schools, college and local people participated in the procession amid much enthusiasm carrying placards, banners, festoons inscribed with different anti-graft slogans.

The ACC chairman led the procession that paraded different streets of the area.



Election Commission holds a meeting with the leaders of Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) at the commission secretariat in the city yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Outsiders intensify clashes at polytechnic instt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participation of the neighbouring slum dwellers intensified the two-day clashes between the students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute and law enforcers over a student's death in road accident on Friday night.

The institute authorities yesterday submitted a report to the education adviser through the DSHE director general, mentioning that the violence went beyond their control and the law enforcers had to struggle due to the participation of the outsiders.

Meanwhile, police yesterday filed a case under the emergency power rules (EPR) accusing 400 to 500 people of attacking on law enforcers, creating restriction on public movement and damaging the government properties.

Sources said following directives from the education adviser's office, the institute authorities submitted the preliminary report yesterday afternoon explaining the cause of the violence and its result that led to

the closure of the institute for an indefinite period.

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA) President Shamsur Rahman told The Daily Star, "It is true that a number of outsiders took part in the violence intensifying it severely."

"The slum dwellers from Begunbari slum took part in the violence as they are angry over activities of the ongoing Hatir Jheel project", the BPTA president said.

Meanwhile, teachers are considering resumption of the dormitories and thinking over how to avoid further accident in the campus area and collection of the compensation to the student killed in the accident.

BPTA president said, "The academic council is going to hold a meeting within a day or two for taking decision over resumption of the dormitories."

He said whenever traffic jam occurs, most of the vehicles ply on the roads inside the campus intensifying the risk of accident in the campus area.

"We will request the Dhaka City Corporation as well as the government to take step in this regard", he said adding that "Speed bumps should be installed on the Tongi Diversion Road which would decline the risk of accident."

In a reply, he said, "We have been trying to realise the compensation money from the owner of the killer bus."

At least 50 people were injured during the clashes between students and police over the incident on Friday night.

Rakhaing women condemn Myanmar's referendum

Rakhaing Women's Union (RWH) strongly condemned holding referendum by the Myanmar's military junta for approving the draft constitution and opposed illegitimate result of May 10, says a press release.

In a statement, RWH said while 100,000 people died and millions are subjected to living in abject poverty, the Burmese junta, instead of helping the people, still insists on continuing with its sham referendum for approving the draft constitution written by its hand-picked people.

The military junta is further trying to enshrine its role in ruling the country and to deny the people's aspirations for democratic rights.

This also seems the unwillingness of the military junta to care for its people only to stay in power, the statement added.

The RWH also demanded resignation of the military junta.

It also demanded that the UN Security Council should pass a resolution invoking its responsibility to ensure that the Nargis victims get aids quickly.

The RWH called on the international community to offer its deepest sympathy to cyclone survivors and also strongly advise the military regime to allow humanitarian assistance to reach quickly those so desperately in need.

Humayun made non-resident envoy to Brazil

UNB, Dhaka

M Humayun Kabir, currently serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to USA, has been appointed non-resident Ambassador to Brazil.

Humayun, earlier, served as the High Commissioner in Australia and Ambassador in Nepal.

He also served as DG (Saarc), DG (South Asia) and DG (UN) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 2001-2003.

'Set up army camps at risky spots in CHT'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday urged the caretaker government to re-set up army camp at all risky spots in CHT areas for establishing equal rights both for Bangalees and hilly people.

They were speaking at a seminar organised by Sama Adhikar Andolon, an organisation of anti-Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) peace treaty, at the National Press Club.

They also blamed United

People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and Jana Sanghati Samiti (JSS) for involving the cadres and workers in different heinous activities in CHT areas.

Maj Gen (Retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman, convener of Nirdoloi Jana Andolon, said the government should immediately re-set up army camps at all the sensitive spots for establishing peace in CHT and safeguarding the lives of common people. Journalist Sadek Khan also spoke.

CPB RALLY BLAST Huji leader Sumon on 5-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday took Harkatul Jihad (Huji) leader Arif Hasan Sumon to its custody from jail three days after a Dhaka court placed him on a five-day remand in connection with the bomb blast on a CBP rally on July 20 in 2001.

Earlier, CID inspector Delwar Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, has shown Suman arrested in the case on May 6 and prayed for a 10-day remand before a Dhaka court on May 8. The court granted him a five days' remand.

Delwar said, "We just have started quizzing him in the case."

CID sources said Suman was involved in the blast at the CBP rally, killing seven people and injuring several others.

Huji leader Suman has already given judicial statement to a magistrate in grenade attacks on an Awami League rally on August 21 in 2004 and bomb attacks on Pahela Baishakh celebration on April 14, 2001 at Ramna Batamul.

Earlier, Huji boss Mufti Hannan, his brother Mohibullah alias Mafizur Rahman, Huji leader Sharif Shahidul Alam alias Bipul and several other Huji leaders were also shown arrested in the CBP rally blast case.

Earlier, CID submitted the final report in the case on December 17, 2003. But reinvestigation found the Huji involvement.



Shenyijie, a debater from Waiyanshe of China, makes her point at the fourth day of the 15th All Asian Inter-Varsity Debate Championship 2008 at St Joseph Higher Secondary School and College in the city yesterday.

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