

### Book on water resources management launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Water Resources Management in Bangladesh' by engineer M Inamul Haque was held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

Launching the book, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said that although it is a research-based book, any reader can find it interesting. The book contains various charts, photography and lists on water resources.

The book is informative and would be very useful for researchers, said other speakers at the programme.

They also said that the people should come forward to resolve the water resources management issues facing the country.

The water issues should also be resolved through regional cooperation, they said, adding that technical and political initiatives are needed to this end.

Dr Zakir Hossain, additional director general of Health Service, Dr Moyeen Uddin, engineer Amir Khashru, engineer Ali Akbar Khan and author M Inamul Haque spoke at the book launching ceremony.



(From right) Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, engineer M Inamul Haque and Charu Ferdousi Naima hold copies of a book titled 'Water Resources Management in Bangladesh' at its publication ceremony at Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum in the city yesterday.

### Pry edn unsatisfactory, rural-urban students' gap has widened

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a discussion on 'Education scenario in Bangladesh' yesterday highlighted the problems of primary, secondary, college and tertiary level education in the country and placed some recommendations.

The general view is that the quality of education at the primary level is not satisfactory and the gap between the rural and urban students and English and Bangla medium has been widening, they added.

The experts stressed the need for academically well-qualified and dedicated teachers to achieve excellence in primary, secondary and tertiary level education.

At Dr Rashid Memorial Lecture-2008 at the Council Bhaban of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), they further said that National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has the monopoly

for producing the textbooks for primary and secondary level education which are very unattractive, adding that NCTB does not cost much to produce good quality attractive textbooks.

While presenting the keynote paper, former vice chancellor (VC) of Buet Dr Nooruddin Ahmed said quality of education at the primary level is not satisfactory due to unattractive and poor-quality textbooks, lack of accountability among teachers, inadequate number of teachers in many schools, inadequate facilities for games and sports, infrastructural facilities and poor monitoring system.

In most towns and cities, there are English medium schools over which the government has almost no control except registration, he added.

It is also seen that teaching has been shifted from classrooms to the teachers' coaching centres, he said suggesting that all the schools, colleges and madrasas should have well-stocked open shelf libraries with competent staff and the educational institutions must be provided with adequate funds for maintaining modern, well-

equipped, functional laboratories for science and engineering subjects.

His recommendations also include compulsory IT education at least at the college level with computers and teachers, administration of educational institutions must not be politicised on party lines, rating system for both public and private universities should be introduced by University Grants Commission (UGC).

He also criticised the UGC for not establishing Accreditation Council for colleges and universities yet.

At the university level, large amount of money must be made available to upgrade the ancient laboratories and for setting up new ones for science, agriculture and engineering subjects.

"Significant research funds should be made available to the universities and if we provide appropriate funding in this sector, in next 10 to 15 years we will see changes in our higher education system," said Dr Nooruddin Ahmed.

Speaking as the chief guest, UGC Chairman Dr Nazrul Islam said division between Bangla and English medium has been increasing day by day and we are creating another elite class through the division.

"Most of the students studying in English medium schools go abroad and so we lose them. But they could have contributed a lot more, if they would stay in the country," he added.

World Bank for the first time has come up with a proposal to support university level research work, he said, adding that "But it is a loan and we must be sure of its cent percent proper utilisation. UGC is thinking about it and discussing with different bodies."

Buet VC Dr AMM Safiullah and engineer SR Osman also spoke at the discussion.

### Permanent release of Hasina demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL), yesterday staged a demonstration on the Dhaka University (DU) campus, demanding permanent release of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

They also demanded an immediate release of detained BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan.

To press home their demands, several hundreds of BCL leaders and activists brought out a protest procession from Madhu's canteen at around 11:00am that paraded different streets on the campus. They also held a protest rally at the main gate of arts building.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon, acting General Secretary Syed Abul Kalam, DU unit President Sohel Rana Tipu, General Secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha spoke at the rally.

The leaders also demanded immediate lifting of the state of emergency and declaration of a specific date for the national election.

### Judges should have higher mediation skills

Observe two former CJs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justices Mustafa Kamal and KM Hasan have stressed the need for enhancing mediation skill and technique of judges and lawyers to resolve cases, especially family disputes, out of the courts.

Continuous efforts should be made in a bid to involve judges and lawyers in mediation programmes for enhancing their skill in solving disputes, they said.

### Installation of Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka held

METRO DESK

Speakers at the 22nd installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka have expressed their commitment to render services with ethics in all professional activities and strengthen international understanding for establishing peace, progress and tranquility.

The installation ceremony was organised at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on Thursday in a festive manner with making new pledges to implement dream real accepting all challenges prevailing in the society.

Presided over by President of the club Prof M Alimullah Miyan, the function was addressed by the Club Secretary Rotarian Edward Probrir Mondol.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof H Eric Frank, formerly with University of Bath, England and also visiting professor of IUBAT, called on the members to continue relentless efforts in order to enhance the image of the club to achieve greater objective and goal.

Prof M Alimullah Miyan made a clarion call to members for marching ahead with dedication to galvanise their energy and potential necessary to ameliorate hunger, poverty and disease, adding that this is necessary to build up a dream society of millions for which Rotarians have been endeavouring sincerely decades after decades.

### SCF demands cancellation of fuel price hike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday staged demonstration on Dhaka University (DU) campus demanding cancellation of fuel price hike.

SCF leaders and activists took out a procession that marched different roads on the campus and held a rally in front of the central library.

Speakers at the rally alleged that reducing allocation in productive sectors, the government has expanded it in different unproductive sectors like home and defence.

They also demanded increased allocation and subsidy for energy sector to reduce the sufferings of people.

SCF Publicity and Publication Secretary Mehedi Hasan Tamal, DU unit President Hossain Ahmed and General Secretary Moloy Sarkar also addressed the rally.



Former ambassador SM Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury gives away certificate to a participant of a training course on TV news presentation at the BIEM conference room in the city on Friday.

### Training for news presenters emphasised

METRO DESK

Former ambassador SM Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury at the certificate awarding ceremony of a training course on 'TV news presentation' on Friday said news presentation is now a subject of art and creativity, says a press release.

Planned training, continuous practice and correct pronunciation can make an individual an expert news presenter, he added.

The month-long training programme was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIEM) at its conference room in the city.

The former envoy was present at the programme as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

Presided over by BIEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader, the function was attended by fashion designer Nilufar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ntv news presenter Roksana Parvin and businessman Md Imam Hossain were present at the special guests.

A total of 35 participants, including 30 female students of different universities and colleges, participated in the course.

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# Credit Rating Report

## Credit Rating Report

Status	Long Term	Short Term
Entity of Rating	A <sub>1</sub> (High Safety)	ST <sub>2</sub> (High Grade)
Validity of Rating	1 year	
Based on Financials	December 31, 2007	

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB) has assigned 'A1' (Pronounced Single A One) rating in the Long Term and 'ST2' in the Short Term to Dhaka Bank Limited (DBL).

The present ratings of DBL are based on the audited financial statements of 31 December 2007. Commercial Banks rated A1 in the Long Term are adjudged to be strong banks, characterized by good financials, healthy and sustainable franchises, and a first-rate operating environment. This level of rating indicates strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, with low likelihood of being adversely affected by foreseeable events.

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