

Vow to build better Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong programme was held at the Birsreshtha Sipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium at Kamalapur in the city yesterday to mark the ongoing road show titled 'Esho Bangladesh Gori' (Let us build a Bangladesh).

Hundreds of people from cross-section of life, mostly students attended the daylong programme that included a daylong fair, colourful cultural programme,

movie show and discussion.

The road show reached the city on Sunday on the 43rd day of its journey that started on June 1 at Panchagarh.

Inaugurating the programme, Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury urged all to elect honest and competent candidates in the next election who will be able to build a prosperous Bangladesh.

Hundreds of students at the programme vowed to build a better

Bangladesh and expressed their support against all kinds of drugs and terrorist activities.

The ministries of agriculture, home, post and telecommunications, Election Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission are jointly organising the road show to motivate people towards nation-building activities and make Bangladesh free from the clutch of corruption and terrorism.

Divisional Commissioner Kamal Uddin and Anwar Faruk, director

general, (seed), ministry of agriculture, spoke at the inaugural session.

Different food items and agriculture products were put on display at the stalls while Grameenphone, Citycell, Bangladesh Tourism Corporation, Anti-Corruption Commission, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Election Commission opened their respective offices at the fair.

Besides, winners of an essay contest were also awarded on the occasion.

US team lauds Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-member delegation from USA called on Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandkar at Rab head office in the city yesterday.

Rab officials said during the meeting, the US delegates expressed satisfaction at the Rab's various activities against crimes and criminals.

The delegates include Jessica Mazzone of Department of State, South and Central Asia; Kate Berglund of Department of State, Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; Sam Pineda of Department of State, Counter Terrorism; Luis Sanchez of Department of Defence; Andy Joulal of Department of Defence and Robert Barlow of Department of Justice.

President, CA greet Sultan of Brunei

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday greeted Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei on his 62nd birthday.

In a message of felicitation to the Sultan, Iajuddin has expressed his hope that the close relations and friendship existing between the two brotherly countries would enable to achieve greater advantage for the two peoples.



Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury inaugurates a daylong programme releasing balloons at the Birsreshtha Sipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium at Kamalapur in the city yesterday marking the ongoing road show 'Esho Bangladesh Gori'.

Saudi King to inaugurate int'l conference on religion tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud will inaugurate a three-day international conference for dialogue among the followers of divine religions in Madrid tomorrow.

Briefing reporters at the Saudi Embassy, Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Nasir Albasir said the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques aims at making human relations between the prophets of different religions, cultures and faiths for spreading peace, love and harmony among them.

He said the dialogue is also aimed at establishing peace, security, stability and human development globally.

Responding to call of the Saudi King for the dialogue, the Muslim World League, non-governmental international organisation, will organise the conference.

Scholars from various faiths are invited to the dialogue to discuss matters relating to life of human society, international cooperation, human rights, peace, security and coexistence in the world.

On recognition of Kosovo's independence, he said the matter would be decided at the OIC level.

In reply to a question on migrant workers, he said recruiting agencies here recruit Bangladeshi workers with low pay and the Saudi companies have nothing to do with it. It is better to take up the matter with local recruiting agencies.



Winners of Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Award pose with the guests at the award giving ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Foundation gave the awards.

Calculate economic values of household activities by women

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Household activities by women should be recognised and its economic values should be calculated to acknowledge their contribution to the national economy, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion was organised by Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust at its office in the city to share the findings of a study conducted on 740 people in 10 districts of the country.

The study titled 'Women's contribution to national economy' revealed that 81 percent women are directly involved in household activities and only 60 percent men assist them in doing their works.

The study also revealed that a housewife spends 16 to 20 hours a day for household works on an average by engaging herself in 45 types of work.

"If the professionals would have done the works, its monthly economic values could be Tk 10,000 and if we consider the household activities as a whole, it would stand at \$ 91 billion a year," said Naznin Kabir, project officer of WBB Trust.

"They have no holiday and even no leisure time. Rather they take care of both the children and elderly people of the family whenever they get time to take little rest,"

she said while presenting the findings of the research.

The village women have to do more works than the women living in urban areas, she said, adding that the women in rural areas are involved in agricultural activities, cattle and poultry farming, handicrafts, cooking, water fetching, cleaning the house, taking care of family members and many more.

But their work is not acknowledged by other members of the family and this sometimes leads to violence against them as the male members still think that the women in the house do not work like them and they are burden, the speakers said.

"Whenever we asked the women about their activities during information collection, they said 'nothing actually', but it was found that they were doing all the household works," said Shakila Ruma, research coordinator, adding, it is due to social set up that these women are not aware of their contribution to the national economy.

The speakers stressed the need to increase awareness among the people and the policy makers through highlighting the contribution of household works done by the women to national economy. They also recommended for

incorporating the women's household activities into gross domestic product (GDP) considering the budget allocation for women as investment, and taking initiative to increase participation of men in domestic works.

Debra Efrogmson, regional director of Health Bridge and adviser of WBB Trust, and Syed Mahbubul Alam, project manager, were also present at the discussion.

Mugger injured in mob beating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected mugger sustained serious injuries in a mob beating in the city yesterday.

Police said locals caught the mugger Alamgir Hossain, 20, when he hurled a homemade bomb at a wayside grocery shop at Swamibagh in Sutrapur at 2:45pm.

Alamgir, now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, however claimed his innocence and said locals caught and beat him mercilessly when he was passing the area.

Claiming himself as a rickshaw-puller Alamgir told The Daily Star that he was returning home on foot.

Body to probe assault on DMCH Intern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) authorities yesterday formed a five-member committee to investigate the issue of assault on an intern doctor by an assistant registrar of neurosurgery ward.

The assistant registrar attacked the on-duty intern on Sunday night as he had declined to prescribe an antibiotic of a substandard company from which the assistant registrar was getting commission for long. Instead the intern prescribed the antibiotic of a renowned company for the patient.

"At this the doctor became furious and abused my colleague and at one stage slapped and forced him to get out of the ward in front of the patients and other staff," said another intern who was present during the incident.

The interns submitted a memorandum to the DMCH Director Brig Gen Dr Abdus Shaheed Khan in this regard yesterday.

In the memorandum the interns demanded removal of the assistant registrar and steps to ensure congenial atmosphere in the hospital.

They called off their strike following assurance of meeting their demands by the hospital authorities until next week.

Dr Shaheed said a five-member committee has been formed and it will submit its report on the incident as soon as possible. The decision will be taken on the matter after receiving the committee report, he added.

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Winners of Rai Foundation Scholarship pose for photograph with Bra Chairperson Fazole Hasan Abed in the city yesterday. An agreement was signed between Bra, Bra University and Rai Foundation India, giving full scholarship to 15 underprivileged, talented female students from Bra Medha Bikash Scheme to do their under-graduation at the Rai College, India.

Ties with Benin to grow further in days to come

President tells new ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

Sedozan Jean-Claude Apithy, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Benin to Bangladesh, presented his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Welcoming the envoy, the president said Bangladesh attaches importance to her relations with Benin and the two countries have been working together at various international platforms.

Iajuddin also saw huge potential of developing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Benin and expressed the hope that bilateral relations will grow further in the days to come.

Citing Bangladesh's industrial capacity in producing different

quality products for international market including sea going vessels, readymade garments, medicine, jute goods and melamine, he said the people of Benin could benefit by importing many of those products.

He requested the envoy to put in his efforts towards increasing cooperation between Bangladesh and Benin and thus boost the existing volume of both-way trade.

He also underscored the need for frequent exchanges of business and official delegations and holding trade fairs to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Sedozan Jean-Claude Apithy, who is stationed in Beijing, China, also praised Bangladesh's role in the UN peacekeeping missions and at different international platforms.

Independent University, Bangladesh Celebrating 15th Year Undergraduate Admission Autumn 2008

Admission Eligibility:

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