

Anti-corruption debate contest begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday inaugurated Inter-YES-Anti-Corruption Debate Competition at Proshika Human Resource Centre at Kojita under Satoria upazila in Manikganj.

Chief Moderator of Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam inaugurated the programme with an aim to strengthen the anti-corruption drive. The two-day competition begins here today.

A total of 36 members from Sacheton Nagorik Committee (Sanak) and 108 members from Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group in the 36 regions across the country are participating in the competition.

Speaking as the chief guest, Syed Manzoorul Islam said youths are the main inspiration of the countrywide anti-corruption drive, adding that they can build a new Bangladesh by stumping out corruption.

TIB officials Saif Uddin Ahmed, Sazzad Hussein and Shamim Iftekhhar, Sanak Jessorer Convener Dr Mustafizur Rahman, YES Pirojpur Convener Mohsena Tun Nesa Masum and YES representatives Manzuda Akter Pinni and Ibne Ajam Sabbir addressed the inaugural session.

The speakers called on the young generation to play more effective role in the anti-corruption movement. The dynamic role of the young generation encourages us to move forward and we will always be active against corruption, they added.

After the inaugural session, DUDS Chief Moderator Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Sharminda Nirlomi Dalia of Economic Department at Jahangirnagar University and former debater Shamim Al Amin briefed on different parts of the debate.

New campus project of EWU inaugurated

METRO DESK

The East West University (EWU) inaugurated a new campus construction project at Aftab Nagar in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, Board of Directors of EWU, formally inaugurated the construction work at the construction site.

Earlier, the university signed an agreement with Navana Constructions Limited on the construction of its new campus.

The EWU authorities also arranged a milad and doa mahfil on the occasion. Shafiqul Islam, chairman of Navana Constructions Limited, was present.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, Dr Rafiqul Huda Chaudhury, Dr Saïdur Rahman Laskar and others also took part in a tree plantation programme in the construction site.

It is expected that the construction work of the permanent campus will be completed by June 2011.



Workshop owners leave an iron structure on roadside at Badda in the city, hampering smooth traffic movement. The picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Encroachers filling Rampura canal

BSS, Dhaka

Encroachers have been dumping earth on the Rampura canal, the only channel for carrying rain waters and industrial wastes out of the city's mid-eastern part, at night.

More than 40 water pumps are permanently installed at Rampura Bridge point of the canal to drain out rain waters from Rampura, Tejaon, Banani and Gulshan areas during the rainy season.

The encroachers have already filled up a large stretch of the canal along its north bank namely Aftab Nagar, to expand their housing

areas by dumping earths at night.

The Aftab Nagar section of the canal has turned into a narrow stream, which is creating obstacle to normal flow of water from Tejaon Industrial Area and Hatirjil.

Apart from spreading bad smell in the area, the stagnation of thick, black and polluted water has made the canal a huge breeding centre of mosquitoes.

Despite losing navigability due to unabated encroachment, engine boats still use the canal in the rainy season to bring fish, vegetables, seasonal fruits and construction materials from

distant places for the city dwellers.

But, it would become impossible for the boats and trawlers in the dry season as the canal has lost its depth and width.

The residential areas, including Banosree, along the canal go under water in the rainy season, as the ever-squeezing canal cannot take load of extra water. Frequent waterlogging cause untold sufferings to the people of the areas.

Locals have been urging the authorities concerned to free the canal from the encroachers and dredging it to ensure normal flow of water.

US expands sanctions against Zimbabwe

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday expanded sanctions against the "illegitimate" government of Zimbabwe due to ongoing political violence, President George W. Bush said in a statement.

"Today I have signed a new Executive Order that expands our sanctions against the illegitimate Government of Zimbabwe," Bush said.

The sanctions target entities and individuals connected to President Robert Mugabe's government, he said.

"This action is a direct result of the Mugabe regime's continued politically-motivated violence, disregarding calls from the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, and the United Nations to halt the attacks."



Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, Board of Directors of East West University, inaugurates the construction work of its new campus at Aftab Nagar in the city yesterday.

MOVE TO END POLITICAL CRISIS
Nepali Maoists offer compromise

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoists yesterday offered to reverse a decision to boycott forming a government in a compromise that could steer the newly republican country out of a new political crisis.

The former rebels, who won the most seats in recent elections to a constitutional assembly but not a majority, had said they will not form a government because their choice of president was rejected by rival lawmakers.

The presidency is a largely ceremonial position but the Maoists -- who ended a decade of civil war to enter mainstream politics -- say having a rival in that position would paralyse their government and ambitious reform agenda.

But Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara offered a compromise to the impasse, which has left Nepal without a government.

"Our party has put forward three conditions to lead the government," Mahara told AFP.

UN food agency calls for research on tropical root crop

AFP, Rome

The UN food agency yesterday called for more research into the tropical root crop cassava as a way of helping poor countries threatened by soaring food and oil prices.

Cassava "has enormous potential," the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a statement that cited the conclusions of a meeting of experts in the Belgian city of Ghent.

"At present average cassava yields are barely 20 percent of those obtained under optimum conditions."

The scientists called for increased funding for research and development to boost farmers' yields and explore other uses such as the production of biofuels.

Cassava, a staple for nearly one billion people in 105 countries where it provides up to a third of daily calories, is widely grown in tropical Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It is also the cheapest source of starch and used in more than 300 industrial products.

"One promising application is fermentation of the starch to produce ethanol used in biofuel," it said.

FAO warned, however, that policies that encourage a shift to biofuel production should "carefully consider its effects on food production and food security."

Initially hailed as a weapon in the fight against global warming, the tide of public opinion and policy has recently begun to turn against biofuels.

They are now cited by the UN agencies, the World Bank and non-government organisations as contributing to higher food prices as farmers rush to cultivate the more profitable crops used for biofuels rather than food.

Comprehensive Holdings
Always Aesthetical and Functional

Locations	Sizes
Dhanmondi R/A	1790 Sft
Lalmatia	1075-1350 Sft
Niketon	1150-2300 Sft
Siddeshwari	1175 Sft
Uttara Sector D7	1545 Sft
Green Road	1070-1285 Sft
Mitali Road, Zigatola	1064-1121 Sft
Moghbar	910-1255 Sft
Abul Hasnat Road, Old Dhaka	1250 Sft
Pallabi, Mirpur	1150 Sft
West Dhanmondi	1080-1200 Sft

Note: 1 Sft=0.929 sq. meter and all the sizes are approximate.

Comprehensive Holdings Limited
Office: House 39, Road 27 (old) 16 (new), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209
Phone: 9128498, 9133478, 9125269, 8119239, Mobile: 01713367177, 01713 367188, 01713 367189, 01713 367190, 01713 367191, 01713 367192, 01713 367193, 01713 367194
Fax: 028124811, e-mail: comprehensive@accesstel.net

BRAC UNIVERSITY

Authorized CISCO Networking Academy

Invites applications for the following programs

- 1) CCNA Exploration
- 2) Fundamentals of Wireless LANs

Minimum Entry Requirement:
• BSC or equivalent

For Admission Form & Information
Please Contact:
Admission Office (Ground Floor)
BRAC University Building
66 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212
Tel: 8824051 Ext: 4003, 4098, 4092 (after 2pm)

Application Deadline: August 14th, 2008

CISCO Networking Academy

Nato airstrike kills 40 Taliban militants

AFP, Ghazni/Kabul

Forty Taliban were killed in airstrikes to take back a district of Afghanistan captured by Islamist rebels while a British soldier was killed in a separate clash, officials said yesterday.

Afghan and Nato-led ground forces supported by international military air support launched an offensive on Wednesday to retake Ajristan, 200km southwest of Kabul, after rebels stormed in Monday.

"Over 40 Taliban fighters were killed and 30 were wounded in an overnight coalition airstrike in Ajristan district," Ghazni province spokesman Ismail Jahangir told AFP as the operation continued Friday for a third day.

The district governor, who fled after the Taliban captured the district, confirmed the airstrike casualties and said two civilians also died.

"On top of 40 Taliban killed and 30 wounded, we have information that two civilians were also killed in the bombing," Rad Mohammad Waziri told AFP.

International forces could not immediately confirm the airstrike. Fifteen militants were killed on the first day of the operation by joint Afghan and international forces, Jahangir said earlier.

Ajristan was also captured by Taliban insurgents in October last year and was retaken the following day, when about 300 security forces moved into the small district centre.

Taliban have captured several mainly remote districts in the past but have not been able to hold most of them for long, although

there are a handful in southern Helmand province that security forces admit are in rebel control.

Earlier in the western province of Farah, a roadside bomb apparently intended to hit Afghan or Nato troops blew up a civilian vehicle and killed three people, said Akramudin Yawar, police commander for western Afghanistan.

He blamed the attack on the Taliban.

A British army dog handler and his explosives sniffer dog were killed Thursday in Helmand when they came under fire while on patrol, the Ministry of Defence in London said.

Six other soldiers were also injured, although not seriously.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Taliban insurgents use a sophisticated media strategy to portray themselves as stronger than they are and undermine confidence in the government, a leading think-tank says.

The administration and its backers must become better at countering this propaganda if they are to defeat an insurgency "that is driving a dangerous wedge between them and the Afghan people," the International Crisis Group says in a new report.

The Taliban strangled the media during their 1996-2001 grip on power, banning television. But now they publicise their messages, warnings and claims of battle successes through a website, magazines, DVDs and audiocassettes.

They also use pamphlets, nationalist songs and poems and mobile telephones, says the report, Taliban Propaganda: Winning the War of Words?, released this week.

www.thecitybank.com

I'm going shopping, hand me the gun...

Gun Money was coinage issued by James II of England in the late 17th century, made from obsolete field cannons. Short on funds after losing his throne to the Dutch, James decided to mint his own coins while in hiding - using melted metals from cannons as well as from cooking pots and pans - to be redeemable in sterling, if and when he regained his throne. He never did, poor guy.

Money. Appreciate it for all that it is.

With 25 years of experience, having 83 branches across the country serving almost 100,000 customers daily, we can take toknow a thing or two about money. That's the what you'd expect from us. And that's what we do.

city bank
making sense of money