

# Students should not serve interest of political parties

## Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students should be allowed to do politics to achieve their own rights and solve their own problems, but not to serve the interest of political parties, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Similarly, the teachers also should not engage themselves in partisan politics, but they may have independent political views, they added.

The roundtable titled 'Quality of education and impact of student politics: Reflections of students, teachers and guardians' was organised by Bangladesh Heritage Foundation at the Bilia auditorium in the city.

The speakers stressed the need for holding meetings among the students, teachers, guardians and political leaders to reach a consensus that the students would not be used further to achieve political gains.

Speaking as chief guest,

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said students should be given the right to do politics, but they must not abide by any political party.

"There should be one union like Ducus for the students, but it is a matter of regret that during the past 15 years of democracy the Ducus election could not be held," he added.

Prof Nazrul said teachers should have their own political views but they too should not get involved in partisan politics.

He said around eight lakh students are studying in 30 public universities and 1.3 lakh students in 51 private universities, but with the exception of a few the quality of education in private universities is not up to the mark.

"There are some private universities where students do not have to attend the classes, rather the certificates are sold there," he added.

Prof Nazrul said the UGC has submitted to the cabinet a draft of

the Private University Ordinance 2008 which may ensure quality education in private universities.

But the draft is not still approved by the advisory council which was supposed to approve it by March last, he said.

"The proposed ordinance could ensure quality education in private universities but their owners are opposing the ordinance for their business interests," he alleged.

The UGC chairman called for necessary support for students and educational institutions to ensure quality education.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said the students should not be blamed for low quality of education as they are the victims of bad practices of student politics.

"Like other countries there are ideological differences in our society too, but in Bangladesh we tend to be intolerant to other's views," he added.

Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan,

father of Sony who died in crossfire on Buet campus a few years ago, said, "We must ensure that no other Sony dies for politics."

"The students of our country are meritorious but we could not provide them with proper academic environment. If they get this environment they themselves would enhance the quality of education," he added.

Bhuiyan said the students should be allowed to exercise their political rights only to deal with the issues concerning them.

"Time has come when the students, teachers and guardians should be united and sit with the political leaders to sensitise them for not using the students for their political purposes," he added.

Prof Akhteruzzaman of Islamic history and culture said quality of education has deteriorated due to distortion of history and unhealthy student politics.

He called for reforms in student politics and national consensus on some vital issues.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof Sadrul Amin said the students are frequently used by political parties for their interests.

He said lack of proper planning and curriculum is mainly responsible for the deterioration of education.

Vice-chancellor of South East University Prof M Shamsur Ali, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University and students from different universities also spoke at the meeting.



Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson visits Grameen Bank head office at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

## POLICE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY AGM HELD

# Special Rab drives in city ahead of Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have launched separate drives in the city as part of its special security plan ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

"The law enforcement agencies have already started their special drives ahead of Ramadan," Rab Director General (DG) Hassan Mahmood Khandkar told reporters yesterday after the annual general

meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Police Cooperative Society (Polwel) for the fiscal year 2006-07 at Rajarbagh Police Line.

He further said a security plan has been chalked out to take tough measures at places to make the city dwellers' life comfortable throughout the holy month.

The Rab DG said the patrolling of the elite force will be intensified around the shopping malls and kitchen markets in the city, adding that Rab men will patrol the roads during and after sehri to control law and order and ensure security of devotees who will be willing to go out for prayers.

"Necessary steps will be taken for the passengers so that they

don't face any trouble on their way home before the Eid," he added.

IGP Nur Mohammad, also chairman of the association, presided over the AGM where 40 per cent dividend was declared for the shareholders.

Addressing the function, the IGP said different steps have been taken for the welfare of police, adding that they are doing many good jobs which are praised by the people nowadays.

The board of directors of the police welfare association proposed construction of a 20-storey shopping centre-cum-official complex at Naya Paltan, demolishing the Polwel Supermarket and Jonaki Cinema Hall.

## 'Multi-modal cancer treatment possible'

METRO DESK

Experts at a seminar yesterday said multi-modal cancer treatment consisting of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy is now possible for cancer patients.

However, early detection is also important for successful treatment of this disease, they added.

The seminar titled 'Advances in treatment of cancer' was organised jointly by Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital and Parkway Cancer Centre of Singapore at Sheraton Hotel in the city, says a press release.

Presided over by Ujjal Bikash Dutta, joint secretary to health ministry, the seminar was attended by Barrister Rafique-ul Huq as chief guest. Zahid Khan, Director of Dhaka Liaison Office of Parkway Cancer Centre, delivered the welcome address.

Dr Foo Kian Fong, consultant medical oncologist of Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore presented the keynote paper titled 'Advances in the treatment of cancer' at the seminar.

Prof Dr Harunur Rashid, consultant surgery and oncologist of Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital, Mirpur, Dr Li Kim Shang, consultant and radiation oncologist of Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore and Prof Dr Fazle Elahi, consultant oncologist of Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital, Mirpur also spoke on 'Management of breast cancer by surgery', 'Tomotherapy in cancer treatment' and 'Present status of cancer treatment in Bangladesh' respectively.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq requested Parkway Cancer Centre to come forward with their valuable experience to provide technical support and training for the development of human resources at Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

M Fazlur Rahman, managing director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, James Tan, manager of Parkway Cancer Centre, Singapore, Brig Gen (ret) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim, joint-director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital, Mirpur and Dr Md Lutfar Rahman, project director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, also addressed the seminar.



Children draw pictures in a drawing competition organised by Glorious Creative Centre, School of Fine Arts, at Wonderland in Gulshan in the city yesterday.

## PLEAS OF CORRUPT PEOPLE

# Tac hearing begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) gets down to hearing pleas of the corrupt persons seeking clemency in return for their ill-gotten wealth tomorrow.

On the opening day, the three-member commission, headed by Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, will hear seven applications for clemency in what happens to be the first of this kind of quasi-judicial dispute resolution.

About the duration of hearing of a case, a well-placed Tac source told the UNB that the hearing might conclude in a day if the commission is convinced that the person concerned furnished accurate information and his/her statements match with the documents sent by referring agencies like the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) or the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crime and corruption.

If the Tac decides to grant clemency to a person, he or she would be

asked to deposit his ill-gotten wealth with Bangladesh Bank, the source said. Then the corrupt would be able to collect the 'certificate of clemency'.

About the hearings of other cases received by the commission, the source said that arrangements are being made for hearing all other cases.

The Tac, since its inception about a month ago amid the ongoing anti-corruption purge, has so far received 182 cases involving 184 individuals. Among them, 170 are government servicemen, 10 are wives of some of them and two businessmen.

Significantly, not a single politician has applied so far to the commission for clemency. Many of them, however, have been booked on graft charges under the crackdown following the 1/11 changeover.

Given the overall poor responses, the deadline for clemency applications has been extended to September 30 instead of September 1.

# Create awareness to check TB menace

## Speakers urge media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said media should play more active role to create awareness about diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis that involves physical, social and economic factors.

Treatment of TB, a highly contagious disease, is a challenge in Bangladesh that has the sixth largest number of TB patients in the world, speakers said at the workshop styled 'Tuberculosis control: Present perspective and future plan' held at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

National TB Control Programme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Brac and Health Reporters Forum jointly organised the workshop.

Left without treatment, 50 per cent of TB patients die, 25 per cent get cured naturally while remaining 25 per cent continue to spread the disease among others, speakers said.

Mass awareness is needed to rein in spread of the contagious disease as patients diagnosed with TB at the early stage can get cured easily through proper treatment, they said.

However, as patients are mostly from poor and uneducated classes of the society, they often give up taking medicine before completion of the course that continues for months.

Those patients become vulnerable to MDR (multi-drug resistant) TB that requires more complicated and longer treatment.

National TB control programme is being conducted in all the

upazilas and metropolitan and pourasava areas throughout the country with coordinated efforts of government and non-government organisations.

Dr Mahfuza Rifat of Brac Health Programme and Dr Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, associate professor of respiratory medicine at NIDC&H presented the keynote papers.

Dr Abdul Awal Matin, programme manager of National TB Control Programme, was the main discussant at the workshop moderated by Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

National page in-charges of different dailies attended the workshop where Moniruzzaman Ujjal, president of Health Reporters Forum, presided.

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