

Call for single-stream edn system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academicians, politicians and experts at a seminar yesterday called for a uniform standard of education in the country through introduction of a single-stream education system, which should be universal and non-discriminatory.

They also suggested that primary education should be extended up to class eight, making it a total of eight years instead of

five. Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) organised the seminar on 'an outline of an education system based on equality and life skill development' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Anisuzzaman said it will be better for the nation if a single-stream education system can be introduced through merging different types of education such as general,

English medium and madrasa. "Education can never be discriminatory. We have to take up a long-term plan to ensure quality education for all students. So, only one stream of education should be introduced to eliminate all kinds of discriminations from primary to higher education," he said.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the government is now trying to reduce the disparity

among three types of education -- national (general), international (O & A level) and madrasa. "The ratio of boys to girls at primary schools is now almost 1:1. Besides, women make up almost 50 percent of teachers in primary school," he said.

Prof Ajoy Roy suggested recruiting meritorious students as teachers to improve the quality of education at all level.

"Our curriculum and syllabus should also be revised and upgraded regularly in line with the rapid expansion of knowledge worldwide," he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu said five types of citizens are coming out from existing five types of education systems -- general, madrasa, technical, cadet and A & O level.

Awami League Leader Nurul Islam Nahid said different systems of education should be phased out gradually and the institutions should follow the mainstream education system.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said books at the primary level should be more child-friendly with relevant stories, life-oriented and interesting topics.

Leaders of teachers' associations, NGO representatives and civil society members also took part in the seminar.



Rokeya Kabir speaks at a seminar at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her left are Prof Anisuzzaman and Nurul Islam Nahid and her right is M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan.

Mohanganj declaration announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Environment Movement at a press conference yesterday announced the 'Mohanganj Declaration 2008' identifying different problems of haor (waterbody) areas.

The declaration came after the three-day national haor festival held on August 22, 23 and 24 at Mohanganj in Netrakona.

Various cultural and sports programmes which are now in dying condition, were parts of the festival.

Besides, several meetings on farming fishery, river, wetland and other economic activities were held where lots of problems of the people as well as haor areas were identified.

The speakers at the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city demanded declaration of at least one haor as sanctuary, because haors are a great source of indigenous fish and paddy.

Member Secretary of Haor Festival Committee Kamal Pasha Chowdhury said Mohanganj declaration was adopted based on those problems, adding, "The most neglected area and population exist in haor areas where touch of development is almost absent."

Convener of the festival committee Abu Naser Khan said indigenous fish from only Mohanganj haor worth Tk 1.5 crore is supplied to Dhaka every day.

The speakers demanded withdrawal of lease system of the haors to save them from illegal encroachment by the influential people.

The declaration included small agro loan for farmers, establishing a bio-fertiliser factory, setting up more schools and introducing specialised education for children of haor areas as their lifestyle is different due to bio-diversity, establishing hospitals in haor areas, infrastructure development for communication and regular government campaign to save the environment of the areas.

Coordinator of the movement Dr Halim Dad Khan and Member Secretary of Haor Festival Committee Chhabi Bishwas also spoke.

Security beefed up in KCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Security measures have been beefed up in Khulna metropolitan city area in a bid to contain different criminal activities ahead of the holy Eid.

Source said city special branch of KMP Police have been put on high alert at 21 shopping centres and 22 other vulnerable places to intensify patrol and surveillance.

Besides, special teams have been formed to take stern action against the dishonest traders who will create artificial crises of essentials and increase fares of passenger buses, launches and trains without any acceptable ground.

Special branch source said security forces on-duty would also be responsible for safe transportation of different goods by businessmen so that they do not fall victim to extortionists during the holy

month. Two special teams of armed police have also been formed to patrol the river routes which fall within the jurisdiction of Khulna city.

KMP Deputy Commissioner Shahadat Hossain said a total of 10 teams comprising plainclothes

private teachers asked to draw salaries by Sept 23

BSS, Dhaka

Teachers and employees of private educational institutions have been requested to draw the government portions of their salaries from the head offices of Agrani and Rupali banks and local offices of Janata and Sonali banks by September 23.

policemen will also patrol the areas under five police stations in the city. They will also carry out hunts in any places in the city if necessary to nab any criminals or miscreants based on specific information.

A total of 252 constables, 24 sub-inspectors and five assistant police commissioners would be responsible for ensuring security in shopping centres and containing crimes, particularly extortions, muggings and terrorist activities, he added.

A control room has been opened yesterday in the KMP headquarters to monitor activities of the special teams and patrol parties.

Sources further said security guards of both private and state-owned banks would be provided with extra policemen while carrying money from one bank to another.



Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury addresses a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting sexual harassment at Jahangirnagar University.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT JU 'Make probe report public'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students and academics yesterday demanded that the Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities make public the probe report on sexual harassment by Sanwar Hossain Sunny, associate professor of Drama and Dramatics department of the university.

They also demanded forming a new probe committee under the supervision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to look into the incident neutrally.

The demands came from a demonstration of 'Jahangirnagar against Harassment' on the Dhaka University campus.

The speakers at the meeting also demanded withdrawal of the acting vice chancellor Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman, formulating a policy to resist sexual harassment in the universities and punishment to the accused teacher.

Noted academician Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said it is a matter of shame that such incidents occur in the society.

Urging all to wage a war against such crimes, he said, "Such crimes are like diseases. So we need to wage a war against these crimes to bring about changes in the society."

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the probe report that declared Sunny innocent should be made public within 24 hours.

The chief justice should interfere in the matter and the president, too, as it is not a movement of only a few students," he said.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said the JU syndicate said that they could not prove Sunny guilty, so the probe report that could not prove him guilty should be published and a fresh probe committee should be formed to look into the matter.

Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port, said a new investigation committee should be formed under the supervision of the University Grants Commission as the investigation by JU authorities might not be neutral.

Journalist Kamal Lohani said charges should also be brought against the syndicate of the uni-

versity since they said Sunny is blameless.

Dhaka University Associate Professor Robayet Ferdous, Assistant Professor Kabery Gayen, JU teacher Fauzia Akter, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu, Prof Piash Karim of Brac University and leaders of different students' organisations spoke at the meeting in presence of a large number of JU and DU students.

Meanwhile, Anti-Imperialism Seven Student Organisations at a press conference at DU demanded immediate removal of Sunny and the JU VC, alleging the VC was involved in the conspiracy to save him.

Representatives from Biplabi Chhatra-Jubo Andolan, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Biplabi Chhatra Sangha, Sanskritir Naya Setu and Pragatir Paribrajak Dal were present at the press conference at Madhu's Canteen.

Body of Bangladeshi peacekeeper arrives

UNB, Dhaka

The body of Bangladeshi UN Peacekeeping soldier Mainul Islam, who passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Darfur in Sudan, arrived here yesterday.

Additional Inspector General of Police (Training) Mohammad Aminul Islam received the body at Zia International Airport. The body was flown to ZIA by an aircraft of Emirates Airways.

Later, the body was taken to Razarbagh Police Line where Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Nayeem Ahmed placed wreath on Mainul's coffin on behalf of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad.

After his namaz-e-janaza at police line's Central Jam-e-mosque, the body was taken to his village home at Daripara in Daudkandi upazila in Comilla for burial. He was buried after his 2nd namaz-e-janaza.

Top police officials and family members of Mainul attended in the janaza.

Mainul, who went to Sudan under UN Peacekeeping Mission on November 27 in 2007, died on September 8.

Historic Education Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Historic Education Day will be observed today.

On this day in 1962, the student community staged a demonstration against the Hamdur Rahman Education Commission report. Police opened fire to the demonstrators killing several students including Mostafa, Wajullah and Babul and injuring others.

After death of the students in police fire, the movement then spread all over the country, which later sparked off the six-point movement in 1966 and mass upsurge in 1969.

To mark the day, different student bodies and socio-cultural organisations have chalked elaborate programmes.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj will place wreaths at the memorial plaque in front of Shiksha Bhavan in the city.

Different student organisations will also bring out processions and rallies on the Dhaka University campus to mark the day.

Chhatra Moitree will march towards the chief adviser's office from DU campus to submit a memorandum with demands related to education. Chhatra Federation will hold a discussion at RC Majumder auditorium at the university at around 2:30pm.

Concern over 'fatwa' incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee in a statement yesterday expressed grave concern over the recent 'fatwa' incidents in Comilla and Narail.

They also demanded putting an end to such heinous crimes.

In the statement, members of the committee said that the anti-liberation forces are continuously violating human rights by issuing fatwa in the name of religion and Islamic laws.

Women and rights organisations are continuously demanding ban on religion-based politics and separating religion and politics from the state, they said.

They added, "We have noticed that the incidents of issuing fatwa are increasing day by day and the recent incidents in Jessore and Narail are certainly a matter of concern."

The incident of issuing fatwa in the twenty first century is really heinous, they said.

They demanded immediate

execution of the High Court's anti-fatwa verdict delivered in 2001 and taking measures in accordance with the verdict.

Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), Dr Hameeda Hossain of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK, Dr Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women, Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari, Farah Kabir, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, Dr Maleka Banu, general secretary of BMP, Barrister Tania Ameer, Barrister Sara Hossain, Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, Sara Zaker, Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of The Hunger Project, and Nasim Ara Haque of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra are among the signatories to the statement.



Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Salma Akhter and on his left is Ferdousi Priyobhasini. Centre for Domestic Workers' Rights organised the event.

Awareness drive against noise pollution on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The department of environment (DoE) during an awareness drive filed cases against 14 vehicles, including bus, mini-bus and cab, and seized four vehicles in the city yesterday for creating noise pollution.

The cases were filed under Motor Vehicle Ordinance-1983 at the DoE's makeshift office at Eskaton in the city on the third day of its four-day awareness campaign against noise pollution.

A team led by DoE Deputy Director (implementation) Billal Hossain conducted the drive. BRTA representatives and policemen were

included in the team. The team also seized eight hydraulic horns of five buses during the drive.

After Ramadan, a massive drive will be launched and action will be taken against those who will violate Noise Pollution (control) Rules-2006, Billal said, adding that the rules do not allow people to use horns which produce sound over 85 decibels on the city's thoroughfares.

There is a restriction on using horns near education institutes, hospitals and offices, but the people continue to violate the rules as they are not aware of it, he added.

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