

Close loopholes in RTI ordn

Speakers tell seminar on right to know

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on all to extend cooperation in implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Ordinance 2008 for the greater benefit of the country.

Welcoming the council of advisers' approval to the much-awaited ordinance, they said there are several loopholes in the proposed ordinance, which need to be closed in order to ensure maximum disclosure of information.

Newly floated Right to Information Forum organised the seminar titled 'Right to Information: Why at this moment?' at Brac Centre Inn in the city to mark the International Right to Know Day,

which will be observed worldwide on September 28.

The right to information is a constitutional right backed by the UN and the approval of RTI Ordinance is a step towards realising this right, said Mahbubul Alam, a former information adviser who attended the programme as the chief guest.

Pointing out that there are many loopholes in the proposed ordinance, he said the ordinance covers up to upazila level, not up to union parishad level.

"We will bring these points to the attention of the elected government," he said, urging all to continue the movement for the right to information.

Terming the right to know the mother of all rights, the speakers

demanded that a provision protecting the whistleblowers be included in the RTI law.

AK Mohammad Hossain, joint secretary of the law ministry, said the RTI legislation should have nine guiding principles including maximum disclosure of information, obligation to publish information, open governance, restricting the exemption instances, facilitating access to information and protecting the whistleblowers.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, moderated the seminar presided over by Shaheen Anam, convener of RTI Forum and executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation which has been working for the enactment of the RTI Act.

"All of our efforts should now be aimed at proper implementation of the RTI ordinance so that general people benefit from it," Shaheen Anam said and hoped that the next elected government will endorse the legislation in parliament.

After the ordinance is implemented, corruption will decline gradually and the transparency and accountability will help brighten the country's image, she said.

In his keynote paper, Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam said there are provisions in most existing laws, which support the right to information, but these provisions are not being used.

Prof Asif Nazrul, Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of University Grants Commission, and Badiul Alam Majumder of Shushashoner Jonney Nagarik also spoke at the seminar.



Dr Iftekharuzzaman speaks at a seminar titled 'Right to Information: Why at this moment?' at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On his right are Mahbubul Alam, Shaheen Anam, Prof Nazrul Islam, AK Mohammad Hossain and Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam and on his left is Prof Asif Nazrul.

One shot, robbed of Tk 10,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot an employee of a Grameenphone distributor before snatching Tk 10,000 from him at Maghbazar in the city yesterday.

Sources said the victim, Mohammad Milon, 25, was collecting money from flexload retail outlets in the area at about 1:00pm when a gang of three muggers tried to snatch a bag from him.

As Milon tried to resist the gang, one of the muggers shot him in his chest and took away the money, witnesses said. Milon's colleagues rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition. A case was filed, but the police could not arrest anybody in this connection as of yesterday evening.

Misappropriation of VGF rice, dates

UNB, Keraniganj

Misappropriation of rice and dates by UP members and chairmen was alleged in 12 unions of Keraniganj upazila including Aganagar, Kalindi and Shuvadda unions.

Locals said 1,500 VGF cards were disbursed in each union where every cardholder entitled to 15kg rice per month and two and half grams of dates during the Ramadan.

But most of them were given 10kg rice and no dates, alleged the

cardholders. Scores of poor villagers including Salam of Aganagar, Rahman of Ruhitpur and Mofiz of Kalindi unions claimed they were deprived of the allotted rice and dates by the UP members and chairman.

Mohammad Hossain, chairman of Aganagar union, dismissed the allegation. He said dates were distributed to local madrasas as directed by the authority. The rice was given in sealed packet, which was not weighed. It may be less or more than 15kg, he said.

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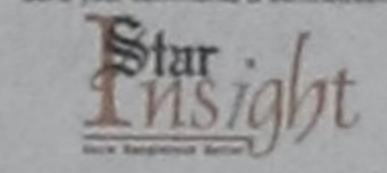
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Eid

Special

Send your comments & contribution to



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আপনি আর একমি

একটুখানি একমি মশলা

সুখ-মজাদার রান্নায় চাই আপনার বাতের ছেঁচা আর ভালো মশলা... হ্যাঁ, একমি তাঁড়া মশলা।

একমি তাঁড়া মশলা দেশের বিশেষ বিশেষ অবদানের পের জ্বালের মত, স্বাদ ও খনিয়া থেকে পরিপূর্ণ যার নিঃসরণ আর সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তিতে প্রস্তুত। একমি দিয়ে সবচেয়ে মিষ্টি, প্রাকৃতিক ও নির্ভরযোগ্য তাঁড়া মশলায় নিঃসরণ - যা পরিচালনা লাগে কম আর এতে খাবারের রু, জাগ ও স্বাদ হয় অতুলনীয়।

এখন থেকে আপনার সাথে ভাল খেতে আসুন একমি তাঁড়া মশলা।

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