

Include mental health in educational curriculum

Speakers tell at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said rapid breaking up of joint families, decline of lineage ties and restlessness of modern lifestyle are primarily responsible for mental disorder of people in the society.

The roundtable was organised by the Welfare Society for Mental Health and Rehabilitation (WSMHR) in association with the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and the ActionAid Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city to mark the 16th World Mental Health Day.

This year the theme of the day was 'Making mental health a global priority: Scaling up services through citizens' advocacy and action'.

ActionAid Country Director

Farah Kabir was in the chair while Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, director of social welfare department was the chief guest at the roundtable.

Speakers at the roundtable demanded cancellation of Lunatic Act 1912 which was formulated on the principle of "mad and bad should be out of the society."

They called for introducing mental health education in the curriculum from primary to university level to make people aware of mental illness.

WSMHR General Secretary Badrul Mannan in his keynote paper said apart from neurological disorders, any prolonged disease and social and family problems can cause mental disorder.

Whatever the cause may be, the mental patients do not receive due priority, he added, saying a good

number of mental patients can go back to normal life contributing to national development instead of becoming a burden for the nation if they can receive proper treatment from their families and trained physicians and nurses.

He said the theme of the day as set by the UN has stressed three points: right to sound mental health, developing quality mental health service and increasing advocacy and action.

Associate Professor Salahuddin Kawsar Biplob of psychology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University said single family or nuclear family are on the rise and joint families are breaking up in the country leaving elderly people and children vulnerable to mental disease as they feel very insecure.

"Among other steps to address

the issue we should encourage people to live in joint families leaving present trend of prodigal lifestyle leading to live in single family," he added.

He said in western countries incidents of committing suicide are increasing rapidly as their family bondage is getting weaker due to breaking up of joint family.

According to a survey conducted on the people above 18 years during a period between 2003 and 2005, 16.1 percent people of the country have mental illness in different degrees.

Prof Nazimuddaulah Chowdhury, psychiatric, Prof Dr Mahmudur Rahman of medical psychology department at Dhaka University, Rabeya Sultana of ActionAid and NFOWD General Secretary Zawaheerul Islam Mamun also spoke on the occasion.



People crammed like sardines in a commuter train reach Kadamtali railway station in Chittagong yesterday after spending Eid and Durga Puja holidays with their near and dear ones.

PROTEST RALLY TOMORROW

Intra-party conflict in Ctg city BNP surfaces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Internal conflict in Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh National Party (BNP) has surfaced centring the centrally announced protest rally scheduled to be held tomorrow.

The convening committee of city BNP and another group are organising the October 12 protest rally at two different venues.

The convening committee at a meeting at the party office yesterday afternoon announced to hold the rally on Nasiman Bhaban premises.

On the other hand, the other

faction would organise the rally at a hotel near Lalidighi Maidan, sources said.

The conflict surfaced clearly when the convening leaders held a meeting with the upazila committee leaders at the party office while the other at a different place on Thursday to prepare for the protest rally.

Convening committee members and former ministers Abdullah Al Noman and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury addressed the meeting at Nasiman Bhaban as the chief guest and key speaker with Convener Syed Wahidul Alam in the chair.

BNP leaders AM Nazim Uddin, MA Sabur, Dostagir, Abu Sufian, Md Mia Bhola, Neaz Mohammad Khan and JEL Khan Fazu were

present at the meeting.

Another group held the Thursday's preparatory meeting with BNP city committee former vice president Kamaluddin Chowdhury at the latter's city residence at Panchlaish.

BNP leaders who were in the field after the 1/11 changeover attended the meeting.

Pointing to the convening committee leaders, speakers at the meeting said they had been away from the party during the crisis. The tenure of the convening committee has also expired, they added.

BNP leaders Ershad Ullah, advocate Abdus Sattar, Dr Shahadat Hossain and former city JCD president Nazimur Rahman were present at the meeting.

RU reopens tomorrow

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) reopens tomorrow after 51 days of unscheduled closure, the RU authorities said yesterday.

The syndicate, the highest policymaking body of the university, at a meeting declared the RU closed on August 20 following a clash between students and villagers.

At another meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof Mammunul Keramat in the chair, the syndicate decided to reopen all residential halls on October 11 for the convenience of the students.

It also decided to resume the official activities on October 11 and resumption of classes as well as examinations on October 12 as per the schedule, the RU authorities said.

The RU vice chancellor sought active cooperation of all towards ensuring a congenial atmosphere on the campus in the greater interest of the students.



Acting principal of Viharunnisa Noon School and College Rokeya Akter Begum, fourth from left, and Persona Hair and Beauty Ltd Managing Director Kaniz Almas Khan, fourth from right, cut a cake at a reunion of the students of SSC 2004 and HSC 2006 batch on the school premises yesterday to celebrate their sorority.

Postponed JU exams begin Oct 30

BSS, Savar

The postponed Masters examinations of Drama and Dramatics Department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin on October 30, a JU press release said.

As per the schedule, the examination of drama criticism and research method will be held on October 30, history of drama writing and drama direction in different media on November 3, drama writing strategy on November 6, history of acting arts on November 9, acting strategy and method on November 12 and history of drama direction on November 15.

New alliance in Nov to form govt of consensus Says Gen Ibrahim

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim yesterday said a new election alliance will be formed with pro-liberation and anti-militancy forces to form a government of consensus through the December 18 general election.

He made the remarks at a views exchange meeting at the party's New DOHS secretariat. Party Secretary General Abul Kamal Azad, Dhaka district convenor Abdul Malek Chowdhury, Chittagong district member secretary Aziz Ahmed, Khulna district

convenor Sadruzzaman Pintu were spoke at the meeting.

Gen Ibrahim said his party would build up a poverty and corruption-free Bangladesh with the spirit of 1/11 and establish accountability in all spheres. To materialise it, he said, united election and a government of consensus is needed. The new alliance will formally be floated in the first week of November.

He said Kalyan Party already had discussions with some political parties about the alliance which would include new and old parties. The discussion on the proposed alliance will continue throughout October, he said.

2 women crushed under wheels of train

UNB, Narsingdi

Two unidentified women were crushed under the wheels of a train at Outer Signal of Ghorashal Station in Polash upazila yesterday.

Police said Inter-city Eleven Sindhur train crushed the women to death while they were crossing the rail track at about 9:00am.

GRP recovered the bodies and sent those to Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsies.

Job seekers to Korea sit for language test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 14,812 job seekers willing to migrate to Korea for employments appeared for the second Korean language test in 14 examination centres in the city yesterday.

Out of them, Korea is expected to recruit 5100 workers under Employment Permit Scheme (EPS) that allows foreign workers to enjoy wages and facilities equal to the native workers in Korea.

Starting from June this year, Korea employed 858 Bangladeshi workers in agriculture and construction sectors and 168 others are expected to leave by the end of October.

In the first Korean language test earlier, 5400 job seekers appeared, says a foreign ministry release. Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd (BOESL), a state-owned recruiting agency, is responsible for the documentation process of the workers going to Korea. The total migration cost for a worker is fixed at \$788.

Foreign and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Itekhkar Ahmed Chowdhury expressed his satisfaction at these developments.

"The Republic of Korea is a key market. During my visit there last year, they expressed willingness to recruit more and more Bangladeshis," he said.

"We have also set up a training centre at Mirpur with Korean assistance which will provide skilled manpower for the Korean market in due course," he added.

Tributes paid to humanist painter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life paid glowing tributes to acclaimed painter SM Sultan on the occasion of his 14th death anniversary yesterday.

One of the world's reputed artists Sultan whose works depicting strength of rural folks in 'strong muscles' earned appreciation from home and abroad.

The daylong programmes began with the placing of wreaths at the grave of the humanist painter at his Masindia village on the outskirts of Narail town in the morning.

SM Sultan Foundation, Narail Press Club, SM Sultan Shishu Charu and Karukala Foundation and the district administration organised different programmes that included Quran Khwani, milad mahfil, offering of fateha and painting competition for children.

Over 100 children participated in the painting competition at Shishu Swarga, a child art centre dreamt and established by Sultan.

The children also took a five-kilometre-long boat ride on Chitra river from Narail to Gobra College where local Police Super Kamrul Ahsan distributed prizes among the children who took part in the painting competition.

Other programmes included discussion on SM Sultan's life and works. Former district education officer Sharif Atiar Rahman chaired the discussion while Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) Jahangir Alam was present as chief guest.

Member-Secretary of Sultan Foundation Prof Munshi Hafizur Rahman and Curator of Sultan Smriti Complex Nayla Nahrin were present on the occasion.

Sultan, fondly called by his village people as Lal Miah, was born to a family of Meser Ali and Maju Bibi of Masindia village on August 10, 1923.

Despite not having institutional qualification, he was admitted to Calcutta Art College.

But his bohemian nature saw him embarking on travelling around India without completing his studies.

He first went to different states of India and later to the then West Pakistan.

He also visited the US and Europe and had exhibition of his works in New York, Washington, Chicago, Boston and London.

Sultan returned to Bangladesh in 1953.

He established Nanda Kanan primary school, Nando Kanan secondary school and Nando Kanan Fine Arts College in Jessore.

He was introduced to cultural connoisseurs of the country through a solo art exhibition at Shilpakala Academy in 1976.

In 1982, Sultan was conferred the 'Man of Achievement' award by the Cambridge University.

He also received 'Ekushey Padak' in 1982, 'Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad Award' in 1986 and 'Independence Award' in 1993.



Winners of a children's art competition pose for photograph with the guests at Shishu Swarga in Narail yesterday. The event was organised on the occasion of the death anniversary of artist SM Sultan.

The Daily Star

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents.

Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students.

Star Campus helps link young minds together.



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH

Graduate Programs

Masters of Science in Computer Science (MScs)

Masters in Public Health (MPH)

Masters of Business Administration (MBA)

Finance
Marketing
Operations Management (OM)
Human Resource Management (HRM)
Management Information System (MIS)

Special Degrees

Agribusiness MBA
Executive MBA

Continuing Education Center (CEC)

Microsoft IT Academy, MSDNAA, CCNA and IT Essentials in collaboration with CISCO, Authorized Sun Education Centre, Pearson VUE Authorized Centre (Select)
For more information on the CEC programs
Phone: 9887934-5, 8814462, 8815173
Ext. 408

ADMISSION Spring Semester Academic Year 2008-09

Admission Exam: November 1, 2008

Admission Information Office
House 83/B, Road 4, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213
Phone: 8815387, 9897387, 8811749, 9894229; Ext. 100, 200
Graduate Program Office (12 pm to 8 pm)
House 58/B, Road 21, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213
Phone: 8820865, 9890804, 9894641; Ext. 555
E-mail: info@aiub.edu Web: www.aiub.edu

