

# Get ready for leadership in struggle for nation-building

## Chief adviser urges youths

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the youth to get ready to take the leadership in the new struggle for nation-building.

"I make a clarion call to you all to play a pivotal role in establishing honest, patriotic and people-friendly leadership, good governance and justice," he said this while he was inaugurating the National Youth Day 2008.

Terming the youths as the movers of change and the nation's future guides, he said the role of youths is vital in bringing qualitative changes in all sectors, including the family and society and politics.

Fakhruddin said the youth community has a record of glorious and courageous history and tradition, and extraordinary contributions to every movement, from the Language Movement to the Liberation War, for establishing democracy apart from their role in tackling natural disasters and providing humanitarian services.

Department of Youth and Sports Ministry organised the event at the Osmani Memorial auditorium, marking the Youth Day.

The slogan of this year's Youth Day is 'Jugopjugi Prashikhhan Jubo Bekarotta Nirashan' (Time-befitting training for elimination of youth unemployment).

Presided over by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Youth and Sports Ministry Mahbub Jamil, the function was also addressed by Secretary of the ministry Golam Mostofa Talukder. Hosnera Akter Lata spoke on behalf of the self-employed workers and Shukur Salek on behalf of the best organisers.

The best self-employed workers are M Hasanuzzaman Sarker of Salidha in Narsingdi, M Saiful Islam of Burichong in Comilla, Mahmuda Begum of Keranipara in Rangpur, Yasmin Nasim of Bagerhat, Rakib Mahmud Talukder of Durgapur in Barisal, M Moyezuddin of Fenchuganj in

Sylhet, Hosnera Akter Lata of Pashchim Deowbhog in Narayanganj and Kolnis Chakma of Sukhi Nilganj in Rangamati. The two best youth organisers are Shukur Salek of Hazaribagh in Dhaka and Ferdous Alam of Golapganj in Sylhet.

Each award carries a prize bond of Tk 20,000, a crest and a certificate.

Fakhruddin distributed the awards among the recipients.

Expressing her feelings after winning the award and the experiences of her struggle in becoming a self-employed woman, Hosnera said she started her journey of struggle taking the responsibility of their seven-member family after the death of her day-labourer father.

She said she had to face various obstacles as well as negative criticisms from her relatives when she started searching means of earning. "Defying those barriers, I attended a short training course on dressmaking at Youth Training

Centre in 2001 and started seeing the ray of hope," she told the function.

Hosnera said she set up Shoshi Handicraft project with a loan of Tk 25,000 from Youth Development, Narayanganj.

Hosnera, a successful small entrepreneur, told the function that she now earns Tk 2 lakh a month and over 1,000 women have so far received training from her institution and presently 250 women are receiving training from it.

She advised the youth, both men and women, not to waste their valuable time just looking for jobs and get self-employed taking different occupational trainings.

Advisers, special assistants to CA, young men and women from different organisations and youth organisers attended the function.

Earlier, the CA inaugurated the National Youth Day 2008 by hoisting national flag and releasing pigeons in the air.



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury held a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday.

## MILK OF PRAN, BRAC AND AKIZ BRANDS Collection centres fined for unhygienic condition in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Mobile teams led by UNOs and health experts collected samples of milk from collection centres of Pran, Brac and Akiz brands at different places in Pabna yesterday and fined a few centres for unhygienic condition.

Sources say that the samples would be sent to the capital for tests. Meanwhile, supply of milk dropped after a Bangla daily ran a report Friday on the production of spurious milk in Pabna and Sirajganj. Shajadpur police in Sirajganj arrested five people Friday night in connection with making spurious milk and seized a huge quantity of spurious milk.

"It is true that some people are making spurious milk. We are trying to identify them," said Upazila Health Officer (UNO) of Faridpur, Pabna, Khalilur Rahman. "We collected samples from Brac and Pran milk collection centres in Demra of Faridpur upazila today (Saturday)," he said.

Another mobile team led by Santhia UNO Abdul Razzak visited several collection centres in Santhia

and Bera upazilas yesterday. The team collected samples and fined Pran, Brac and Akiz milk collection centres there for unhygienic condition.

"We fined a few centres Tk 5,000-6,000 for unhygienic condition," Monsurul Islam, Santhia upazila health officer, told The Daily Star.

He said they also went to some local milk producers and took samples of their milk for testing. They fined trader Bipul and Helal Tk 30,000 and Tk 25,000 for processing milk in unhygienic conditions.

Meanwhile, Officer-in-charge of Bera Police Station Md Moriuazzaman said they picked up two people for questioning about the production of spurious milk in the area. They were later released.

Brac, Pran and other milk collection centres yesterday refused to buy milk from many sellers as their milk was questionable. The manager of a Pran milk collection centre said they turned down milk from one seller as his milk had traces of sodium.

"When a supplier comes to us, we test the milk and then buy it. Without testing we do not collect

milk. So we can never collect spurious milk," said Sarif Uddin Tarafdar, manager of a Pran milk collection centre.

Arabinda Babu, manager of a Brac milk collection centre in Bera, told The Daily Star, "We did not know that spurious milk is produced this way. Since we test milk before collecting our milk is safe."

Both officers claimed a number of local influential people often try to intimidate them into buying not-so-pure milk.

A number of milk producers were found processing milk in unhygienic conditions violating health codes when The Daily Star correspondent went on a visit to different areas in the district.

"Using cutting oil, sodium and other essences some people are producing spurious milk from the water that remains when the milk is curdled," said a milk trader seeking anonymity.

Sources say that such practices have been continuing in Sarisha, Karamja and Sonatola villages of Santhia upazila, Pachakola, Haturia and Nakalia villages in Bera upazila for a long time.



National Debate Federation Bangladesh takes out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the 4th National Debate Festival 2008.

### NAT'L DEBATE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

## Call to create enlightened generation to resolve crises

### Mahfuz Anam honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 4th National Debate Festival 2008, organised by National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDFBD), began yesterday with a call to create an enlightened generation in order to resolve the crises facing the country.

Around 1,000 debaters, including students with disabilities, from various educational institutions across the country are taking part in the grand debate competition.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury inaugurated the two-day festival at the National Museum in the city.

At the inaugural ceremony, the National Debate Federation also honoured Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, with Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the country's debating arena.

Speaking on the occasion, Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said that the country is now passing through a critical phase and that the rational and science-minded youths would be able to steer the country out of this critical situation.

Debate can help students become good human beings who would look at things logically, she said, adding that the country needs a better education system, which can create an enlightened generation who will get the country out of all crises.

"Our generation has done a lot of mistakes and is still doing so. I hope the younger generation will show us the right path," she added.

Rasheda K Chowdhury also urged the debate festival organisers to ensure participation of underprivileged students in such events.

At the inaugural ceremony, the debaters made a pledge that they would never take drugs, never commit repression of women and never resort to corruption.

Receiving the award, Mahfuz Anam said the debaters should widen their knowledge base and improve language proficiency to do better in debate and to be competent in this competitive world.

He said the main difference between argument and debate is that one can present arguments without having no knowledge of

the issue, but one must have proper knowledge to debate any issue.

The problems facing the country have been created due to less practice of debate and more practice of arguments, he added.

Speaking as a special guest, Dhaka University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider described this festival as one of the greatest debate competitions.

He called on the students to practise debate more and more and acquire knowledge and improve their language skills.

S Ranganathan, country manager of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Pablo Stansbury, senior director (education) of Save the Children, USA, Abdulla Hil Rakib, country director of Tex-Ebo International Pvt Limited, and Zulfiqar Ahmed, managing director of Radio Amar, also spoke as special guests.

Earlier, the debaters took out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University campus to mark the festival.

Debating workshops, model debate, public speaking competition, meet the personality and a cultural programme were also held on the first day of the festival.

## Khagrachhari hill district chief sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A Dhaka court sent Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura to jail after he was produced before it yesterday.

Monindra was arrested from the house of his relative Prabin Chandra Chakma at Raja Bazar in Dhaka at about 4:30pm on Friday in connection with the murder of former KHDC councillor Anupam Tripura.

During the interrogation by the police at Detective Branch (DB) office yesterday, he denied his involvement in the murder, police sources said.

Former KHDC councillor Anupam Tripura was allegedly killed by poison on July 11 this year in the capital.

## Road crash kills schoolteacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A schoolteacher was killed and a peon of the school injured in a road accident in front of Jhrowdanga College at Sadar upazila in Satkhira yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abul Hossain, 50, headmaster of Tuljapur Gobinda Chandra High School under Sadar upazila.

Quoting locals police said when Abul Hossain was going to school riding a motorcycle, a Satkhira-bound bus hit him leaving him seriously injured. He succumbed to his injuries at Satkhira sadar hospital. Injured peon Mahfuz Rahman, 40, was admitted to the hospital.

The agitating locals and students put barricade on the road for two hours after the accident.

## Establish physiotherapy college

Demands BPSU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students' Union (BPSU) formed a human chain in the city yesterday as part of its continuous movement to meet its demand for a physiotherapy college.

Some 200 students of National Institute of Traumatology Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (Nitor), Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyse (CRP), Bangladesh Medical College and State College of Health Sciences took part in the programme in front of the National Museum.

The agitating students demanded resumption of classes and examinations, establishment of a physiotherapy college and withdrawal of cases against 26 students immediately.

Classes at Nitor have been suspended for last two months following a clash between the students of physiotherapy and orthopaedics on September 4.

The results and examinations of some 500 students of Nitor and three other private institutions have also been stuck due to the current situation, they added.

Terming the government indifferent in this regard, they said the Nitor director has said that classes will resume soon after getting order from the ministry, whereas the ministry is yet to take any steps regarding this, though two months have already passed.

Even the investigation report is still unpublished when the health secretary assured them of taking necessary steps after receiving the report.

The committee, which was formed to find out a suitable place to establish a distinct college, is also inactive, they said, adding that they would go for a tough movement if their demand goes unheeded by two weeks.

## NUS training on AIDS begins

METRO DESK

A two-day training programme for journalists on 'Eliminating stigma of HIV and AIDS' began in Khulna yesterday, says a press release.

Dr Md Anwar Hossain Munshi, joint secretary, Health and Family Welfare Ministry, inaugurated the training programme at Karitas Centre.

A total of 24 journalists are taking part in the training organised by Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS), an organisation working to empower women, with support from the World Bank.

Dr Md Lutfar Rahman, civil surgeon, Khulna, SM Zahid Hossain, secretary general, Khulna Press Club, and Mokbul Hossain Mintu, former president of the press club, were present as special guests at the inaugural session presided over by Afroja Parvin, executive director, Nari Unnayan Shakti.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 33.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 19.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:06am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	21.2	58	56
Chittagong	30.4	21.6	78	81
Chittagong	30.8	19.3	82	79
Khulna	31.0	21.5	75	75
Barisal	32.4	20.5	75	75
Sylhet	32.5	21.8	70	67
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.2	71	71

## Two 'robbers' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mob beat two suspected robbers to death at Sakhra village in Gafargao upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Shaheed, 30, and Ishaq, 40, both of them hailed from Dubail village of the upazila.

Police said a gang of around 20 to 25 robbers started looting at two houses, including the house of a Muslim member of the village, at about 3:00 am.

At one stage of robbery, nearby people informed Pagla police investigation centre under Gafargao thana about it. On information, police rushed to the spot and encircled the robbers with the help of local people.

Police sources said the gang then fired about six rounds of bullet in an attempt to flee from the scene and police also retaliated by firing nine blank shots.

"As the robbers tried to flee the scene, police along with the villagers chased them and caught the duo from nearby Longair village. The angry mob beat them dead on the spot," police sources said.

Police recovered a pistol, four rounds of bullet and looted goods, including mobile sets and gold ornaments from the robbers, said Habbibur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Gafargao police station.

Police also sent the bodies to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy. Three separate cases, including a murder and a robbery case, were filed in this connection.

27 BCS EXAMS

## Unsuccessful candidates on hunger strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Unsuccessful candidates in the 2nd phase result of the 27th BCS examinations and their guardians yesterday started hunger strike unto death demanding validity to the 1st phase result of the exams.

Over 100 candidates who came out successfully in the first-phase result, but were excluded in the 2nd phase along with their parents and guardians took part in the strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city at around 3:00pm.

The candidates vowed that they would not leave the place until their demands met.

To realise their demand, they have been staging demonstrations on the Dhaka University campus and other places in the city since September 27.

"We cordially urge the president and the chief adviser to recognise our logical demands and fulfil those," said Mahfuzur Rahman, an unsuccessful candidate, adding, "We would stay here until death to meet our demand."

Mahfuzur, who became first in the customs cadre in the 1st phase result of the exams, but excluded in the 2nd phase result, said due to the autocratic decision by PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain, a total of 1137 candidates were deprived in the 2nd phase result.

Of the excluded candidates, 71 percent were the children of freedom fighters and 62 percent were in the merit list in the 1st phase result of the exams, he added.

He alleged that the 2nd phase result of the exams was not published maintaining the proper rules and regulations, saying that it was published on September 23, whereas Dr Saadat accepted its resolution on October 20.

Talking to The Daily Star, freedom fighter Siraj Mia, father of Abu Hanifa, who got a police cadre in the 1st phase result, called on the head of the state to give back the job to his son.

## Govt firm to hold free, fair election Says adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday refuted all allegations brought against them and said their caretaker government is committed to holding the national elections in a free, fair and nonpartisan manner.

He reaffirmed the government position responding to a volley of questions from journalists at his ministry office after meeting with visiting Indian State Minister for Commerce and Power Jay Ram Ramesh.

The adviser, a spokesman for the caretaker government in dealing with political parties, said the government is now focusing on the facts coming up in the electoral process. "We are not interested in giving comments against comments."

He said the government is firmly committed to holding election on December 18 and hoped that the Election Commission would announce the election schedule as the government is heading towards the election.

The journalists jostled for answers to questions cropping up over the EC failure to announce poll schedule today pending cases against the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, missing the deadline for registration of political parties as per the reformed politico-electoral rules, and former prime minister Khaleida Zia's demand for resignation of the election commissioners.

## Breastfeeding can save lives of 37,000 newborns a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday said some 1.20 lakh newborn dies in the country every year due to preventable diseases and of them, lives of around 37,000 babies could be saved by early initiation of breast milk.

They stressed the need for promoting breastfeeding for the babies for their proper growth, saying breastfeeding within one hour of child birth could save its life and the rate of child's getting diarrhoea, pneumonia and other diseases reduce significantly if it is breastfed properly avoiding the infant formula available in the market.

The experts said this at the workshop jointly organised by Save the Children UK, Eminence and The Editor at DB Bhaban in the city with Centre for Women and Child Health (CWCH) Chairman Prof MQ-K Talukder in the chair.

"The rate of diarrhoeal deaths among the children, who were not breastfed, is 17 times more than those who were breastfed properly, while it is four times more in the case of pneumonia," said Dr Khurshid Talukder, research coordinator of CWCH.

He also underscored the need for

breastfeeding for the mental and physical health of the children and for the sake of mothers also.

Breastmilk is the best drink for the babies and up to six months, the mother need not provide water for her child, let alone formula milk. Dr Khurshid said, adding that after six months it should be provided with complementary diet that must be cooked at home along with the mother's milk, which can go on for two years of its age.

Breastfeeding helps develop the mother-child bonding, it helps delaying a new pregnancy and increase immune system of the mother, improves mother's nutrition and protects mother's health also, he said.

He further said, "Lives of one-third mothers of around 16,000 who die every year due to pregnancy-related complications could be saved also if they start breastfeeding their children within an hour of their birth as feeding breast milk is equally important for the mother."

Drawing elaborative distinction between mother's milk and cow's milk for the children, the experts also said that cow's milk is not easily digestible for the children and nothing could be more suitable for the babies than breast milk.

As the rate of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) has been stuck to 43 percent in the country, the rate of under-5 malnutrition has also been stuck for several years, they said, adding that the EBF situation of the country is worse even than that of Nepal, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

"It is a must to ensure proper infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practice for ensuring children's nutrition, growth and intelligence as it involves the future of our next generation," said Prof Talukder.

Chief Executive of Eminence Dr Shamim Hayder Talukder moderated the session which was also addressed by Director of Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) Fatima Parveen Chowdhury, Secretary General of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation Prof Soofia Khatun and Maskawat Ahsan of The Editor.

## 'Shun path of hostilities, show respect to national leaders'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said there are a number of issues regarding the national interests which should be addressed during the next five years in building the country prosperous.

Titled 'Priorities of Bangladesh in the next five years', the roundtable was organised by Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies (CSPS) at the National Press Club in the city.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed called on the major political parties to shun the path of hostilities and show respect to the national leaders irrespective of their political identities.

Political hollowness of the parties leads them to political dynasties by using the image of the liberation war, but it should be an inspiration of the nation for doing noble deeds instead of drumming up support of the voters, he added.

Prof Emajuddin said an unsuccessful child longs for its parents' property for his survival but a successful child boasts of its parents' property.

Engineer Mahmudur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, said the country's democracy was snatched by the so-called civil society and NGOs. The countrymen must forge a unity to regain

the lost democracy.

It is time to ask the foreign donors whether they are trying to eliminate poverty from the country with the help of NGOs by financing them or trying to grab its political power, he added.

He further said Kazi Faruq of Proshika has floated a political party recently utilising the funds of foreign donors that was given for the poor through the NGO.

He further said the idea of National Security Council itself is a controversial one, adding that the country needs unity between civil and military to ensure its national security.

He also said foreign aid cannot be a solution to eliminate poverty. The government must make its manpower skilled by providing training on different skills.

The speakers in the roundtable said over 4.3 crore people of the country live under poverty line and most of the NGOs do business taking the advantage of their poverty, adding that NGOs lend money to the poor at 60 percent interest rate.

They further said the gas resources of the country will be exhausted by 2012 and it will have to explore new sources of energy.

India and Myanmar claimed 12 gas blocks out of 28 in the Bay of

Bengal, but the government does not settle the matter, they said, adding that it is trying to lease out these gas blocks to multinational companies ignoring the interest of the country.

The speakers stressed the importance of honest leaders to contest the upcoming election and the leaders must be accountable to the country for their deeds.

The ruling party as well as the opposition party must reach a consensus on the important national issues though they have political rivalries, they added.

Prof Hasan Mohammad of Chittagong University presented a keynote paper in the meeting with CSPS Chairman Shah Abdul Hannan in the chair.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Trishna Chakraborty, Mahila Parishad general secretary of Satkhira district unit and wife of public prosecutor Advocate Tapan Kumar Chakraborty, passed away due to a heart attack on Friday at the age of 40.

She left behind her husband, a son and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.