

Set up nat'l food control system to ensure quality

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said an effective national food control system is necessary to ensure food quality as well as to control food adulteration in the country.

Food expert of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) Dr Humayun Kabir said three things are important -- food law, proper enforcement and measurement -- for an effective national food control system.

He was speaking at the seminar on 'Food quality: Consumers' responsibilities' organised by Bangladesh Science Writers and Journalists' Forum at the National Press Club in the city with its President Prof Muhammad Ibrahim in the chair.

"Although there are a num-

ber of food control systems in the country, those remained haphazard to different organisations which are not being implemented properly," he added.

Kabir further said most of the foods remained uncontrolled as BSTI has provisions only to control 58 packaged food items.

"The number of adulterated food items could be reduced if we implement the existing laws properly and do ethical business practice," he added.

Underscoring the need for forming a separate independent commission and laboratory to control food quality, National Press Club President Shaukat Mahmud said private and public sector initiatives should come forward to setting up of an autonomous laboratory.

Institute of Food Science and Technology Principal Scientific Officer Dr Umme Ara suggested forming a combined authority comprising different organisations working on food quality control, including BSTI, BCSIR and CAB, to reduce food adulteration.

Save the Environment Movement Chairman Abu Naser Khan said it is very important to take commitments from two big political parties that they would take necessary steps to stop food adulteration if voted to power.

Dr Sheikh Nazrul Islam of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science and Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) General Secretary Quazi Faruque also spoke at the programme.

Book on DU incidents in August '07 launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

A book titled 'Dhaka University: August Ghatana, Grefar-Remand O Karagarer Dinguli' (Dhaka University: Incidents in August, Arrest-Remand and Diary in the Jail) by Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid was launched at the TSC auditorium on the DU campus yesterday.

The book was published comprising all the writings of Prof Harun that he wrote during his five months in jail from August 2007 to January 2008 as diary writings.

The writer and three other professors were arrested and detained in connection with the students' unrest on the campus in between August 20 to 22 in 2007. They were released on January 23 this year.

Emeritus Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury at the launching ceremony said the book would convey the history and preserve its elements. Prof Harun in his book preserved written documents that such repression can be happened in an independent country.

The most important part of the book is the description of remands. The book also reflects the relationship between the state and the university, Prof Islam said, adding it also describes that the countrymen did not find a democratic country and the state repressed its citizens who protested injustice.

National Prof Kabir Chowdhury said it was for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that DU teachers were arrested on charges of conducting criminal activities. The government, administration and all concerned have to remain responsible for such shameful action against them.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, President of Bangladesh Society of Professors, Prof Sirajul Islam, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Prof Harun-or-Rashid also spoke at the programme moderated by poet Dr Muhammad Samad.



Birth anniversary of Nasiruddin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 120th birth anniversary of Mohammad Nasiruddin, a legendary journalist and one of the pioneers in establishing the rights of women.

He was the editor of the monthly Shawgat and founder of the weekly Begum.

A memorial meeting and milad mahfil will be held at his house, 'Nasiruddin Smriti Bhavan', at 38 Sharatgupta Road in Narinda after Asr prayers.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK



Fariha Rahman, an eight-month-old baby, has been suffering from heart disease, says a press release.

Two holes have been detected in her heart.

Doctors have suggested an immediate operation for her which will cost around Tk 2.50 lakh.

But her father Hafizur Rahman, an MLSS of the National University, is unable to afford the treatment cost involving such a big amount of money.

So he has appealed to well-off section of the society for financial assistance to save the life of his daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Md Hafizur Rahman, Account No 2016493, Sonali Bank, National University Branch, Gazipur. Cell Phone: 01914887812.



Guests hold copies of the book 'Dhaka University: August Ghatana, Grefar-Remand O Karagarer Dinguli' (Dhaka University: Incidents in August, Arrest-Remand and Diary in the Jail) by Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid at its launching ceremony at the TSC auditorium on the DU campus yesterday. From left are Prof Abdus Samad, Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Sirajul Islam, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Syed Rezaur Rahman and Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

'Polls essential for German investment in Bangladesh'

MAHTABI ZAMAN from Khulna

Timely election is essential to develop a conducive environment for German investment in Bangladesh, said German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank Meyke in Khulna yesterday.

He was talking to journalists at a local hotel after visiting different development projects run by GTZ, a development organisation of Germany.

The upcoming Dec 18 election is a must for smooth transition to parliamentary democracy, the envoy said.

He hoped that the caretaker government would be able to hold a free and fair election.

Extolling the reforms made by this government, the envoy said the upcoming parliament

can utilise the opportunities created in last two years.

Terming Bangladesh a development partner, he said Bangladesh has great future.

"The country has the potentials to become a middle-income nation by 2020," he added.

Frank Meyke assured that the German government would continue its support to achieve this goal.

"We are working together to strengthen our development partner," he added.

The envoy said Bangladesh is very important country not for its population but for its economy.

Germany is the second largest export market for Bangladesh, he added.

Peter Palesch, country director of GTZ, Eng Khurshed-ul-Islam, Anette

Funk of GTZ, Tazmilur Rahman and Mujtoba Ahmed Murshed were present at the press meet.

Light tremor in Tangail

UNB, Dhaka

A light tremor, measuring a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter scale, was felt in Tangail and its adjoining areas at 5:00 am yesterday.

The epicentre was near Tangail, 71 kilometre north-northwest of BMD Seismic Centre at Agargaon in Dhaka, said a Met Office bulletin.

However, there was no report of any damage or casualty.

Bar Council polls today

FROM PAGE 16

and constitute other standing committees to run the institution for a tenure of three years from takeover.

A total of 50 lawyers are contesting in the election and about 29,121 lawyers registered with the council are expected to cast their ballots across the country to elect the 14 executive members.

The elected members will select one from among them as the Bar Council's vice chairman who works as its chief executive.

The attorney general, the top law official of the government, functions as ex-officio chairman of the Bar Council.

Three panels- Sammitito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad (SASP) led by incumbent Supreme Court Bar Association president Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya

Panel (JAOP) led by senior advocate ABM Nurul Islam and Ainjibi Oikya Panel (AOP) led by Advocate KM Zabit- are contesting the election.

The Supreme Court lawyers said the main contest will be between the two panels- the SASP and the JAOP.

The SASP candidates are: Shafique Ahmed, Abdul Baset Majumder, Syed Rezaur Rahman, Parimal Chandra Guha, Zi Khan Panna, Md Kamrul Islam, M Enayetur Rahim, Mohammad Israfil, AHM Khalequzzaman, AM Anwarul Kabir, Md Mesbahuddin Siraj, MA Hakim Hawlader, Md Yahya and Md Al-Mahmud.

The JAOP contestants are: ABM Nurul Islam, Md Helaluddin Mollah, Mohammad Ashraf-uz-Zaman, Shah Ilias Ratan, Md Shahjada, Amatun Noor Begum (Panna), Shihab Uddin

Mahmud, Khan Farhad Uddin Ahmed, Md Nazrul Islam-1, Syed Salah Uddin Ahmed, Md Kalmul Huq, Abdul Malek, Md Moniruzzaman and Badrul Islam Chunnun.

AOP candidates are: KM Zabit, Belal Hossain Joy, Nitto Gopal Debnath, Kawsar Alam Chowdhury, Nurul Amin and Sheikh Akhterul Islam.

The polling will be held from 10:00am to 5:00pm on the premises of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and all the civil courts in districts and also Bajitpur, Ishwarganj, Durgapur, Bhanga, Chikandi, Patia, Sakania, Fatikchhari, Sandwip, Hatia, Nabinagar and Paikgachha Police Stations.

The Bar Council election was held last time on May 14, 2004 and the tenure of the elected committee expired on June 30, 2007.

Physical survey in Bay

FROM PAGE 1

Azad of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dr Uttam Kumar Deb of the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Professor Shahiduzzaman of the international relations department of Dhaka University spoke at the event.

The speakers said amid a lack of political direction, the media have a great role to play through raising public awareness regarding the issue.

Commodore (ret'd) Khurshed Alam made a brief presentation on the maritime boundary delimitation issue, the historical background, international laws and conventions, as well as about the country's position, progress in the negotiation, and the ground reality.

He said a great deal of harm has already been done to the country by not taking proper action in proper time, and it will be too late if the nation fails to take a decision now.

He recommended setting up a permanent forum for dealing with the matter, redrawing the baseline, updating the maritime zone act, claiming continental shelf up to 350 nautical miles into the bay, and developing maritime capabilities to safeguard national maritime interests.

Reaz Rahman said Bangladesh has an opportunity to claim up to 350 nautical miles of the continental shelf into the deep sea fulfilling the conditions of UNCLOS.

After 2002 the immediate past government had trained some 15 officials of the foreign ministry on maritime issues, but they were later posted abroad, he said.

"The country should determine the maritime boundary through negotiations according to international conventions, at the same time the government should build capacities for the younger generation," he said.

Shafi Shami stressed the need for arousing a political will for delimiting the maritime boundary as the country has not moved much yet on this issue.

Harun Ur Rashid said Bangladesh had proposed a joint survey to resolve the issue with India, especially about South Talpatty during the 70s, but India did not agree.

Barrister Kaiser Murshed said the maritime issue is not a matter of a national debate but of a national consensus, so all should work together on the issue for the sake of national interest.

Serajul Islam said no professional approach has been seen yet for solving the problem, although the country has to file its claim within 2011. He suggested bringing technical and legal expertise on the matter under a single umbrella.

SI Mujtoba said it is regrettable that politicians and bureaucrats have failed to demarcate the maritime boundary yet.

He urged the government and policy makers to take the marine resources into consideration.

Stressing the importance of the country's marine resources he said, "We need to adopt a look south policy towards the sea rather than looking east or west."

Muhammad Zamir said the

foreign ministry took many steps regarding maritime boundary, but all those seemed to lack proper planning.

Since the issues involve national security, political direction is a must to solve the problem, he said adding, no matter which government comes to power, it must develop some experts who will help the government in moving forward on the issues.

Dr AK Azad of BISS suggested joint explorations with neighbouring countries in the bay, as ultimately the differences of resolutions are about marine resources.

CPD researcher Dr Uttam Dev said the negotiations should not only focus on sovereignty, rather should also take into account the economic importance of resolving the issue.

"So it is very clear, the negotiators should know what they are getting out of the negotiations and what they are losing," he said mentioning upcoming projected crisis of gas reserve in the country. So the country needs to focus on capacity building on legal, scientific and economic resources.

Suggesting use of the influence of international alliances during negotiations, Prof Shahiduzzaman said the country should not get stuck in a single strategy.

"We should think about the manifold ramifications of the issue. We should not put all eggs in a single basket," he said adding that Myanmar might even try to use its force against the country in the future.

Arrest warrant against Mishal Karim in beating case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Mishal Karim, a grandson of former speaker late Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, in a case filed against him for beating a son of an army official in July this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rashed Kabir passed the order following a plea submitted by Sub-Inspector Jahangir Alam Mondol, the investigation officer of the case.

The IO on September 20 this year submitted the charge sheet against Mishal and dropped the names of three other accused. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against him and the order to attach his properties, as he has been absconding since the case was filed.

According to the prosecution, Mishal and three of his friends, who were drunk, entered the house of Lt Col (ret'd) Abdul Latif Khan at Gulshan in the city at about 7:10am on July 25, took his son Nuher Latif Khan out of the house and beat him up.

Following the incident, victim's father filed an attempted murder case with Gulshan Police Station against Mishal and three others.

Ctg Mahila AL leader Halen passes away

BSS, Dhaka



Shahnaz Malik Halen, organising secretary of Chittagong district Mahila Awami

League, passed away at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 48.

Halen, also a former ward commissioner of Chittagong City Corporation, had been suffering from SLE and nephropathy for a long time, family sources said.

Halen, wife of Khizir Malik, a businessman of Chittagong, left behind her mother, husband, two daughters, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her body has been kept at Birdem mortuary. She will be buried after arrival of her daughter and son-in-law from the United States, family sources said.

Obituary

BSS, Hilli, Dinajpur

Akher Ali, a freedom fighter and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, passed away due to long ailments at his residence under Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur on Monday at the age 60.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Hamida Islam, wife of former justice of the Supreme Court Syed Amirul

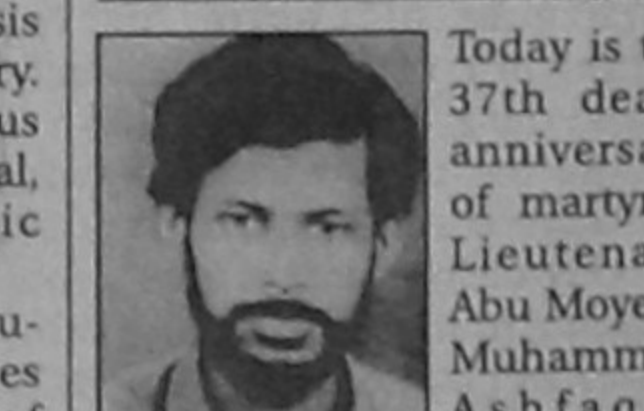
Islam, will be held at her residence (House-45, Road-35, Gulshan-2) in the city after Maghrib prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

She passed away at a hospital in Kolkata, India on October 10.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 37th death anniversary of martyred Lieutenant Abu Moyeen Muhammad Ashfaq

Samad, Biruttam, says a press release.

On the occasion, a biography written on the life of martyred Lt Ashfaq Samad, will be published at Public Library auditorium at 4:00pm.

Friends, admirers and freedom fighters are requested to attend the programme.



Staunch supporters of the deprived Awami League nomination hopefuls stage a demonstration in front of Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

World Piles Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Piles Day will be observed in the country and elsewhere across the globe today.

Bangladesh Society of Colorectal Surgeons and Department of Colorectal Surgery of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) have chalked out different programmes on this occasion.

On the occasion, a discussion will also be held at Dr Shaheed Milan Hall at BSMMU at 11:00pm on Saturday.

One third of Bangladesh's people aged between 20 and 80 suffer from piles sometimes in their life, according to physicians who identify pain at passing stools, slight bleeding in the case of internal trouble, and feeling of soreness and irritation after passing a stool as symptoms of piles.

Nat'l confce on early childhood development concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Third National Conference on 'Early Childhood Development (ECD) 2008' concluded at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city on Monday.

Experts at the conference called for declaring the admission tests for children illegal, terming such examinations at kindergartens and similar schools violations of Child Rights Convention (CRC).

They also recommended formulating guidelines for improving the standard of education in kindergarten schools.

They also stressed the need for training of teachers to prepare children under eight years for entering school.

The conference was organised by the ECD Network. The network is conducting early childhood programme in 30000 schools.

Dr Manzur Ahmed, president of ECD Network, presided over the conference. He suggested that if the government wishes, ECD network can work together to collect funds from various donors.

On the concluding day, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury distributed course certificates among the participants.

Two killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Sirajganj and Rajshahi yesterday.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: An elderly woman was killed in a road accident on Sirajganj-Enayetpur road at Enayetpur Bazar under Chowdali upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

The dead was identified Anni Khatun, 55, of Enayetpur village.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 12:00am when a speeding bus hit her from

behind leaving her dead on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent to Sirajganj Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our RU correspondent adds: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Mohanpur upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Naima Khatun, 7, daughter of Saidur Rahman of Sakoa village.

Police said the accident occurred when Naima was crossing the road, a 'Bhubuti', an engine run vehicle, knocked her down leaving her dead on the spot.



Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury speaks at the concluding session of the Third National Conference on 'Early Childhood Development (ECD) 2008' at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city on Monday.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 13.0 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

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

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were.				
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	17.5	64	67
Chittagong	29.6	17.5	70	68
Rajshahi	29.5	15.2	78	83
Khulna	29.0	18.5	65	80
Barisal	29.6	16.8	81	85
Sylhet	29.4	17.2	67	67
Cox's Bazar	32.5	20.2	71	63