



Winners of book reading programme of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra display their prizes at the prize giving ceremony at Ramna Batamul of Ramna Park in the city yesterday.

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF BISHWA SAHITYA KENDRA

'Only enlightened people can take nation forward'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only enlightened people can take the nation forward and show lights amid darkness all around while the habit of reading books can help build such enlightened people, said the speakers at the prize giving ceremony of a book reading programme of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra yesterday.

Thousands of students assembled at Ramna Batamul in the capital to receive prizes for their good performance in reading books provided by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra in last one year.

On the first day of the two-day programme, renowned intellectuals, academics, novelists and cultural activists distributed prizes among 3771 students from 47 schools.

On the concluding day of the programme today, another 2031 students from 27 schools will receive prizes.

Out of 25000 students from 74 schools, 5802 students won the book reading competition in 2008.

Speakers at the first day of the programme said today's school students, who will lead the country

tomorrow, would have to be encouraged for reading books so that they can make it a permanent habit.

"When you read books, environment around you also becomes pleasant. It also enriches your life," said Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra.

He hoped that today's winners will be enlightened people through continuing their book reading habit and lead the nation forward.

Syed Manzoor Elahi, former adviser to a caretaker government, said book is the ultimate shelter of human being.

There is no alternative to book in flourishing the beauty of human mind, he added.

Dr Muhammad Jafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology said today's students will lead the country in future and they can be groomed up as honest citizens by encouraging them to read good books.

The Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahaman said, "Our students are the freedom fighters of today who will lead the country tomorrow."

He also hoped that these enlightened students will

help build a prosperous country in future.

"The injustice and corruption that we are facing today are the results of the activities of some educated people, but I hope today's prize winners will always hate corruption," said novelist Imdadul Huq Milon.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Brac University, said the country needs more enlightened people and it is possible if people inculcate the habit of reading books.

Artist Khairul Alam Sabuj said people could be enlightened by reading more and more books.

"I believe the prize-winning students will not be the part of those who indulge in corruption," said Rubaba Daula, chief communication officer of Grameen Phone.

The Grameen Phone sponsored the award giving ceremony which will end today with different colourful programmes and jubilant attendance of hundreds of school students.

For the last 24 years, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra has been striving to develop reading habit among school students with a view to creating enlightened youths and citizens for building the nation.

Help explore talents of autistic children
Speakers urge all

BSS, Dhaka

National Prof Dr MR Khan yesterday said the autistic children are not burden of the society, rather many successes may come if their latent talents could be utilised.

Urging all to come forward in aid of the autistic children in the country, he said the major problem of the children is that they do not speak and as a result, they become isolated.

Dr MR Khan was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on 'Speech therapy for children with autism' at Islamic Foundation auditorium at Agargaon in the city.

Chairman of the Child Neurology department at BSMMU Prof Mizanur Rahman was the special guest at the workshop organised by Bangladesh Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Centre for Autism.

Noted speech therapist from the UK Shelly Blackwell and Bangladesh ABA Centre for Autism Chairperson Kaniz Mustari highlighted different

aspects of speech therapy and ABA system at the workshop.

Underscoring the need for preventing autism first, Prof Mizanur expressed concern over increasing number of autistic children in the country.

Autistic children could be brought into normal life through applying speech therapy and scientific education system, he added.

Shelly said with the help of speech therapy, autistic children could express ideas of

their minds through pictures and sign languages.

Terming ABA system a worldwide acceptable scientific and complete education system, Kaniz said the overall improvement of autistic children could be possible through the system.

The organisation would provide speech therapy to autistic children in the country and would also run different programmes for their welfare, she said.

Two muggers beaten to death in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat two muggers to death and injured another at Sarapara in Chittagong yesterday.

The dead were identified as Khokon and Jahid and the injured Shahin is their accomplice.

Sources said around 6:00pm two men on board a

CNG-run auto-rickshaw and another driving it tried to snatch belongings from two women.

Responding to the women's scream for help the locals caught the three criminals.

Khokon and Jahid were beaten to death on the spot and Shahin, the driver, was injured. He was later sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.



Residents of Mirpur form a human chain at Mirpur Section-10 in the city yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for the death of Razia Sultana Juri, a fashion designer. Juri died following a faulty surgery on her at Galaxy Hospital on January 24.

PHOTO: STAR

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