

# Call for end to sick student politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for an end to sick student politics, saying that such politics is creating obstacles to ensuring congenial academic atmosphere in all institutions.

The political leaders are responsible for sick student politics, which breeds violence and terrorism instead of helping students become dedicated and honest leaders, they said.

They also said students politics itself is not bad, but the way it is being used is really alarming as it can ruin the student community who are the future leaders of the country.

Sheba Bangladesh Foundation organised the roundtable on 'Making good

citizens through youth leadership development: Possibilities and strategy' at the LGED Bhaban in the city.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, who presided over the roundtable, said, "We should promote healthy politics to help students, who will lead the country in future, fulfil their dreams."

"In the past, youths, especially students, played a key role in uniting the nation at every critical juncture of the country, but at present we don't see such spirit and values among students because of sick student politics," he said.

He also urged the political parties to give up the culture of using students as political shield to serve their own purpose.

The speakers also called

on the government to take immediate steps to bring changes to madrasa curriculum to prevent madrasa students from being lured to militancy.

As madrasa students do not receive modern education, they find it difficult to enter the competitive job market. As a result, they got themselves involved in militancy for their livelihood, the speakers said.

They also placed some recommendations including employment opportunities for youths, loan facilities for students and guidelines for them.

Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and writer Ajoy Roy also spoke.

## Make effluent treatment plant mandatory for industries

Bapa urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded the government take immediate steps to make installation of effluent treatment plant (ETP) mandatory in all industries to save the rivers from pollution.

The Bapa also placed various demands to save the country's rivers. They include stopping dumping domestics and medical wastes into the rivers and setting up latrines on the river banks, constituting a body for controlling river pollution and dredging dead rivers and canals.

Bapa placed the demands at a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters Unity office.

Vice President of Bapa ASM Shahjahan urged all to save the rivers for the sake of preserving the beauty of Bangladesh, livelihood of people and national economy.

Now the rivers are under a threat due to reducing flow of water, siltation, river erosion, river grabbing and environmental pollution, Bapa General Secretary Abdul Matin said.

He said effluents from industries falls into the rivers, causing heavy river pollution.

He urged the government to formulate a policy to ensure sound environment.

## LGRD minister undergoes operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam underwent a laparoscopic surgery at the capital's Labaid Specialised Hospital yesterday for removing stones from his gallbladder.

Mesbah Aajad, media coordinator of the hospital, told The Daily Star over phone that the operation was successful and the minister was then in the post-operative unit.

His condition was also stated as stable but the time of his discharge was not specified.

"It might take a day or two," Aajad said. The Awami League spokesperson was admitted to the hospital at around 11:00am, while the operation started at 1:15pm.

He was undergoing treatment under Prof Dr Khademul Islam at the hospital, says a party press release.

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