

Consult political parties before adopting edn policy

Speakers say at roundtable

DU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities should consult the political parties before adopting an education policy in order to avoid frequent changes in the policy every time a new government comes to power, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They also said that in the education policy, there should be clear directions to ensure congenial atmosphere at the educational institutions.

They said this at a roundtable on the education policy at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The weekly Shaptahik in association with National Children's Task Force and Save the Children organised the

roundtable.

Students' representatives from different districts across the country took part in the discussion.

They urged the government to develop a monitoring system for the implementation of the policy.

The scenario did not change in a positive way because there was no monitoring regarding implementation of the previous policies, they added.

Prof Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, co-chairman of the committee formed to make a draft for a new education policy, said the draft policy, which is expected to be filed within two or three days, will be made public in order to spell out the contradictions

and disadvantages through public and experts' opinion.

The policy would stress reducing dropout rate at the primary level and ensuring equality, he added.

Frequent changes ringed by different governments in the education policy seriously hampered the education system, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia said.

It is also important to modernise the madrasa education system for ensuring development of the country, he added.

"The commission should address all the problems of educational system in the country and the government should allocate sufficient budget to ensure its imple-

mentation," said Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam.

Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said the main objective of education is to instill moral values in the students.

The speakers stressed the need for developing the educational infrastructure, setting up a library at every school and ensuring students' access to information technology.

Editor of the Shaptahik Golam Mortoza moderated the roundtable while human rights worker and former adviser Sultana Kamal, Awami League Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Prof Akhtaruzzaman also spoke.



Bangladesh Association of Banks leaders pose for a photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

UN chief to visit Myanmar to break junta stand-off

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will visit Myanmar on July 3-4 at the invitation of the government to highlight key issues such as the need to release all political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate and democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ban, who last visited the country in the wake of the devastating cyclone Nargis last May, "looks forward to returning to Myanmar to address directly with the senior leadership a broad range of issues, including long-standing concerns to the United Nations and to the international community," his spokesperson, Michele Montas, said, according to a report of UN News Centre received here yesterday.

The secretary general, she added, believes that issues of political prisoners, resumption of dialogue between the government and opposition to achieve national reconciliation, and setting the stage for credible elections "cannot be left unaddressed at this juncture of the country's political process."

Further, Ban considers building on the joint humani-

tarian effort following his visit to Myanmar last May in the aftermath of Nargis, which killed nearly 150,000 people, to be also essential.

"The secretary general believes that the sooner these issues are addressed, the earlier Myanmar will be able to move towards peace, democracy and prosperity," Montas said, adding: "He looks forward to meeting all key stakeholders to discuss what further assistance the United Nations can offer to that end."

Ban is currently on his way to Japan, where, upon his arrival tomorrow night, he is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone. While in the country, he will also meet with Prime Minister Taro Aso and Japanese business leaders.

Next week, he will embark on a trip to Europe which will take him to Switzerland, Ireland and Italy.

On 6 July in Geneva, the secretary general will open the substantive session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and address the Second Global Review of Aid for Trade, organised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

While in the Swiss city, Ban

will also open ECOSOC's Innovation Fair and meet with donors at the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the influenza A(H1N1) virus.

Ban will then travel to Ireland for his first official visit from 6 to 8 July, and he plans to discuss the country's cooperation with the UN, especially regarding peacekeeping operations, with President Mary McAleese, Taoiseach Brian Cowen, Foreign Minister Micheál Martin and Defence Minister Willie O'Dea.

At the Dublin Castle in the Irish capital, the secretary general will give a speech on peacekeeping at an event facilitated by the Institute for International and European Affairs.

Ban will wrap up his European trip in L'Aquila, Italy, where he will press leaders attending the summit of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised nations for greater cuts in greenhouse gas emissions; increased funding for the African development targets set at the G8 gathering in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, in 2005; and bolstered support for developing countries seeking to weather the economic crisis.

US House Speaker hails Iraq pullout

AFP, Washington

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi yesterday hailed the withdrawal of US forces from Iraqi towns and cities as a major step towards a complete pullout and "the end of the war."

"Today marks a critical step toward the responsible withdrawal of American forces by December 2011 and the end of the war in Iraq, a war that tragically began more than six long years ago," Pelosi said in a statement.

The California Democrat said that US military commanders and top Iraqi political leaders had assured her when she visited Iraq in May that Iraqi security forces "have increased their capacities and are ready to assume responsibility for securing Iraq's cities."

"The Iraqi people have made clear their desire to assume responsibility for security in their country," said Pelosi, a top ally of US President Barack Obama and a longtime critic of the March 2003 US-led invasion.

The war, including bloody sectarian violence after Saddam Hussein's ouster and execution, has claimed the lives of 4,321 US troops.

Take steps for permanent solution to labour unrest

Organisations urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday urged the government to take proper measures to bring a peaceful and permanent solution to the labour unrest in the garment sector.

Expressing concern over the incidents of killing and torturing, vandalism and setting fire on garment factories, they demanded right to form free trade union and solve the crisis through discussions.

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) yesterday said a vested quarter is conspiring to create anarchy in the sector centering the issue.

Urging all workers to be alert against such activities, they, in a statement, said creating an atmosphere of discussion could solve such anarchic situation in the industry.

Demanding neutral investigation into the incidents, the

Skop leaders said that they would not sit idle if the workers are tortured.

They also demanded compensation for the victim's family, proper treatment of the injured and reopening of the factories immediately.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) expressed deep concern over the incidents and said urgent, peaceful and permanent solution of any kind of unrest is amust.

In a statement, ASK demanded effective measures so that such incident would not take place in the future.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) leaders said firing on garment workers following the clash is a part of deep conspiracy against the country.

Condemning the incident, they said a vested quarter committed such incidents creating confusion among the workers.

Bangladesh Trade Union

Kendra leaders demanded right to form free trade union to avoid such incident.

In a statement, they said such kind of unrest or violent incidents would not have been erupted if there were a body representing workers.

Jatiya Mukti Council, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Biplobi Chhatra Jubo Andolan, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Pragati Paribraj Dal, Sangskriti Noya Setu and Film Bangladesh also condemned the incidents and demanded proper investigation and trial of the perpetrators and realisation of demands of the workers.

Our correspondent in Narayanganj reports: Narayanganj unit of Garment Workers' Action Council brought out a procession and held a rally on municipality library premises in the town yesterday demanding trial of the killers of garment workers in Ashulia.

Obituary



Abdus Salam, assistant vice president of Board Secretariat Division of

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away due to brain stroke at Mirpur in the city yesterday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, daughter and son.

Rashida Begum

METRO DESK

Rashida Begum, wife of Aftabuddin Ahmed, additional registrar of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), passed away due to cancer on Monday at the age of 54, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, three sons and two daughters to mourn her death. Her namaz-e-janaza was held in front of BAU Baitul Aman Mosque.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Balashpur in Mymensingh.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandal, former VC Prof Dr M Amirul Islam, teachers, students, officers and employees condoled the death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Md Makbular Rahman, assistant secretary (drafting), Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his brother at 3/F (Madhab), Sobhanbagh in Dhaka after Maghrib prayers today.

His colleagues, friends and relatives are requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Makbular Rahman passed away on this day in 2004, leaving behind his father, only child, five brothers, two sisters and a host of well-wishers.

Ali Hossain Molla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Ali Hossain Molla, a social worker and

one of the organisers of the Liberation War, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Barisal after Zohr prayers.

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

Nasreen Sultana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Nasreen Sultana, wife of Mojibar Rahman

Khokha, owner of Biddya Prokash, says a press release.

On the occasion, a destitute feeding programme will be held.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for peace of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong City Corporation workers engage in removing a tree fallen from DC Hill on Momin Road near the Cheragi Pahar Intersection in the port city due to yesterday's torrential rain.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over all the six divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 23.8 degrees at Rangamati.

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	31.7	27.3	90	94
Chittagong	30.4	24.4	97	83
Rajshahi	29.2	25.6	100	100
Khulna	33.2	25.6	96	80
Barisal	32.6	26.3	90	84
Sylhet	30.0	25.4	96	95
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	87	83

Rain paralyses life in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Normal life and activities in Chittagong halted to a standstill while low-lying areas in the city became submerged due to yesterday's torrential rain.

According to the fire service department, there was no report of landslide or casualty in the rain till 5:30pm.

Several big trees fell down on the city streets in different areas like Court Building area and Cheragi Pahar Intersection, disrupting vehicular movement.

A large tree from DC Hill fell on Momin Road near Cheragi Pahar Intersection at around 10:30am.

According to the met office at Ambagan, the city and adjoining areas have experienced 135.5mm downpour in the past 24 hours ending at

4:00pm yesterday while Patenga met office recorded 83.8mm downpour during the same period.

The incessant shower that began early yesterday also inundated different low-lying areas like Chwakhbazar, Katalganj, Bakalia, Agrabad CDA Residential Area, Agrabad Access Road, different parts of Halishahar, including Shantibagh, Shyamoli and Bepariara.

Commuters, especially office goers and students, underwent immense suffering in the morning due to thin presence of different public vehicles.

However, officials in the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport said all scheduled flights left Chittagong without any delay.



PHOTO: STAR

Krishi Diploma Kendriyo Chhatra Kalyan Parishad forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday to press home their eight-point demand.