

Better edn system a must to face global challenges

Experts say at BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country needs such an education system which will enlighten its people as well as make them skilled and competent to face the global challenges, panelists at the Bangladesh Sanglap, a talk show of BBC Radio, said yesterday.

It is quiet tough to bring the country's existing three types of education system - general, madrasa and English - into a single medium overnight, they said suggesting maintaining possible consistency among the types.

The special programme on the education system was hosted at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, a panelist, said there should be such an education system which must enlighten the countrymen and will also be related to life.

He said there are eleven types of education systems only at the primary level and the government wants to impart education of equal standard to all for a certain level.

"We want to ensure equal opportunity to all the children. So, we want to introduce untrack curriculum," he said, adding: "We want to make some subjects mandatory for all mediums so that they can know about their root."

The minister said they want to introduce modern education in madrasa apart from their own subjects so that they can use their learning in their practical life.

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice

chancellor of Dhaka University, said it is not possible to make a single track by breaking three mediums overnight, rather there should be consistency in all mediums.

Every medium develops separate characteristics due to long practice, he said, adding that these mediums should be brought closer.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, said the aim of education is not only making the people competent, but also enlightening them.

She said the productivity of the rural people, especially the farmers, who are the backbone of the agricultural economy, will be increased if they are imparted more education.

There will be no problems with having three types of education system if the state sets a standard at the basic level, the ex-adviser said, suggesting that some subjects be made mandatory for all mediums apart from the mediums' own subjects.

Annisul Haq, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said the types are not important, rather ensuring quality education is more important.

"At an employer's point of view, I think we are not getting end product from our education system and even the students are lacking in basic confidence," he said.

There is a huge difference in basic foundation between the students of urban and rural areas, he said, adding that the basic foundation needs to be strengthened.

Replying to a question of the participants on the issues of primary education and condition of primary schoolteachers, Nahid said the government has already appointed 20,000 primary school teachers and would soon appoint 25,000 more teachers.

"Apart from these appointments, we will give minimum training to the teachers," he said, adding that they would increase the salary of teachers of community and registered non-government primary schools.

Asked about the 20 marks in the viva voce exam before appointment of a teacher, the panelists said the matter of transparency and political influence came into front as the marks were increased.

Rasheda K Chowdhury opined for bringing down the marks, while Prof Moniruzzaman said the mark would be reasonable if it is brought down to 10 from 20.

The minister, however, said five marks have been kept for paper qualification and there will be no chance of political influence here.

"We want to keep education sector free from political influence," Nahid added.

Regarding the allegations of private universities, he said the government is preparing a new act accommodating the opinions of private university owners.

Prof Moniruzzaman said there must be an accreditation council for private universities, while Rasheda said the state should have a monitoring mechanism over the universities.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday protesting the Indian move to construct Tipaimukh dam. (Story on Page 3)

Three cops suspended for trying to loot money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three police constables were suspended on charges of attempting to loot money from the workers of a bakery in old Dhaka yesterday.

The suspended constables are Ilias Hossain, Towhidur Rahman and Ahmed Ullah.

The workers and local people also beat up the constables of the Kayetuli outpost after they entered Purnima Bakery at Nawabkatar in the early hours of yesterday and tried to loot Tk 45,000 from the workers.

On receiving information, forces from Kotwali police station rushed to the spot and rescued the injured policemen, local people said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kotwali Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Mohammad Salauddin said the constables entered the bakery without the approval of the higher authorities.

He, however, said that the workers were gambling when the three constables police entered the bakery.

Two girls raped in Ctg: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four-year-old girl was raped on Thursday while a 14-year-old girl had been confined to a room and raped for 13 days at Khulshi in the port city.

Two cases were lodged with the Khulshi Police Station.

The police arrested two accused - Abu Siddique, 43, and Sakina Begum, 50, - yesterday in connection with the rape of the four-year-old girl at Siddique Colony in Tigerpass area.

However, three other accused - Md Sabuj, 20, his brother Shamsher, 25 and sister-in-law Ambia, 22, - remained at large.

Sub-Inspector Sanak Barua of Khulshi Police Station said Sabuj violated the girl, who lives in a nearby house in the colony, when she came to his flat on Thursday afternoon. The girl later told her mother about it.

Meanwhile, the other victim who was confined to a room for 13 days is now undergoing treatment at the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The criminals freed the girl on July 7.

A case was filed against four youths - Ujjal Das, 20, Razzak, 20, Jewel alias Tofael, 22, and Kibria, 23, - on charges of rape.

Sources said the 14-year-old girl went out of her house at Shaheed Lane on June 23 to sell milk but remained missing since then.

Four held with antique statue

UNB, Lalmonirhat

The police arrested four members of a gang of antique smugglers and recovered a statue of 'Lord Shiva' made of black stone at Goral union in Kaliganj upazila early Thursday.

The arrestees were identified as Matul Islam, 45, Hanif Mia, 34, Billal Hossain, 50, and Abul Kashem, 37.

Acting on a tip-off, the police conducted a raid at about 2:00am and arrested the four from Goral union.

Acting on their confessional statement, the police recovered the statue weighing eight pounds kept under the earth's surface beside the house of Matul.

Nat'l Press Club honours writers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Press Club yesterday accorded reception to eminent writers and member writers of the club for their contribution to literature and journalism bringing about socio-economic and political changes in the country.

The eminent writers were conferred crests, while the member writers medals at a ceremony on the club premises in the city.

The writers who were honoured include Abul Hossain, Shawkat Ali, Syed Shamsul Haque, Badruddin Umar, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Hasan Azizul Haque, Qayum Chowdhury, Murtaza Bashir, Fazal Shahabuddin, Kazi Anwar Hossain, Sayeed Ahmed, Rabeya Khatun, Rizia Rahman, Abdul Mannan Syed, Noorjahan Begum, Humayun Ahmed, Kaiser Chowdhury, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Al Mahmud.

The Club also honoured around 150 of its member writers who wrote one or more books.

President of the National Press Club Shaikat Mahmud, life member Faiz Ahmed, General Secretary Kamaluddin Sabuj and AB Bank Managing Director Kaiser Ahmed handed over the crests and medals.

Expressing his feelings, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said he is happy on receipt of the honour, but regretted that journalism and literature are attacked by capitalism today.

Journalists played crucial role in the struggle for democracy, but they need to be free from capital to better serve the nation and people, he added.

"Even literature has become a product today," he said, urging the journalists and the writers to be free from all influences of vested quarters, and continue to play their due role for a free and democratic society.

Veteran journalist Faiz Ahmed said different vested quarters have always tried to control journalists who are not free from such efforts even today.

"We must not be the victims of vested quarters," he asserted.

Shaukat presented a paper titled 'Today's crisis of literature and journalism' at the programme that ended with a cultural function.



Save the Environment Movement forms a human chain under Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj yesterday with a call to save the river Shitalakhyha.

Pakistan hands over secretariat of South Asia EFA Forum to Bangladesh

UNB, Islamabad

Pakistan has handed over the Secretariat of South Asia EFA (Education For All) Forum to Bangladesh at a simple ceremony held at the Pakistan Secretariat in Islamabad yesterday.

Federal Education Secretary of Pakistan government Abdul Rauf Choudhury handed over the documents of the Secretariat of South Asia EFA Forum to Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad Yasmeen Mursheed.

The South Asia EFA Forum comprising seven Saarc countries was set up in 2001. The objective of this sub regional forum was to promote exchange of information and expertise for the achievement of Education For All (EFA) goals.

The secretariat of this forum is being rotated among the member countries.

More aircraft to be taken on lease

UNB, Dhaka

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader yesterday said the hajj pilgrims would not face any flight crisis this year as several aircraft would be added to Biman fleet on lease within one and half months.

"We hope the pilgrims will face no problem in hajj flights this year as we'll take some new aircraft on lease within one and half months," he told reporters after attending the inaugural ceremony of Jet Aircraft MD-83 of United Airways marking its 2nd anniversary.

The minister said the process of modernising Biman is going on by removing the aircraft crisis and reforming its management.

"We've taken all necessary

steps to resolve Biman's flight crisis. A total of three Boeing-777s, two 737 and one 747 Airbus would join the fleet soon and one more 747 aircraft would be included on lease, if necessary," Quader said.

Chairman and managing director of the United Airways Captain Tasbirul Ahmed Chowdhury said they want to survive in the market by increasing their aircraft "as this is the right time to procure new generation aircraft."

He also said they are also in the process of buying two more MD-83 aircraft and those will be here by the year end.

Biman Chairman Jamaluddin and Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamoon also addressed the function.

RAKIBUL MURDER One arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested a person on Thursday night in connection with the murder of diploma engineer Rakibul Hasan Mukul alias Yusuf.

Criminals abducted and shot dead Rakibul, an employee of the Urban Development Directorate, in the city's Mirpur area on July 7.

The arrestee was identified as Rashedul Islam Mintu, 26, an alleged 'killer' of Raza Shahor Ali group in the city's Shewrapara area, according to Rab official.

Members of Rab-4 arrested Mintu around 7:30pm from the city's East Shewrapara area and handed him over to Mirpur Police Station.

During the preliminary interrogation, Mintu denied that he was involved in the killing. Rather, he indicated that his brother is a professional killer of the area and might know about the killing. Investigating officer (IO) of the murder case Sub-Inspector Suman Hasnat Rabbani told The Daily Star.

The IO also said the police are now investigating whether Rakibul had enmity with anyone.

Indian goods seized

UNB, Dinajpur

BDR jawans seized Indian contraband goods worth Tk 36 lakh from separate places of Phulbari and Birampur upazilas here yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR jawans conducted drives and seized a truck loaded with 4MT of sub-standard fertilisers, 1,315 bottles of Phenidyl, 20,600 eggs and 106 pieces of saree and three-piece sets.

They also seized a micro-bus and arrested its driver.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura



Shuvo Sarkar, a five-month-old baby, has been suffering from heart disease since his birth, according to doctors and his family members.

Shuvo with a perforation in his heart is undergoing treatment at Jessore General Hospital.

Doctors said Shuvo needs urgent operation which will involve at least Tk 3 lakh.

But it is not possible to afford such expensive treatment for his indigenous father Subrata Sarkar who is a journalist at Mohammadpur upazila in Magura district.

So he has appealed to generous people and organisations for financial assistance to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Subrata Sarkar, Savings Account No 6842, Janata Bank, Mohammadpur Branch, Magura. Interested persons can also call at 01713905338 to contact his family members.

Wealthy, they turned poor for medical bills

FROM PAGE 1

report in parliament on Thursday.

"As I am not financially solvent, I shall be grateful if the expenses amounting to Tk 27, 86,364 is disbursed from the parliament budget by relaxing 'The Special Medical Attendance Rules, 1950' under rule 12. And for the act of kindness, I shall remain ever grateful," the former speaker wrote to the prime minister in April 2006.

He addressed her as 'Respected Madam'.

Sircar flouted the rules and ignored the parliament secretariat's opposition also in case of Delwar. He however had an undertaking from the then chief whip's son and daughter before disbursement of the funds.

Delwar in his letter to the former speaker said he is incapable of paying for the medical expenses.

He sought Tk 14 lakh, but Sircar directed the parliament secretariat to apply to the then premier for Tk 10 lakh to cover Delwar's treatment costs.

Sircar finally gave him Tk 6 lakh as medical allowance, while the ex-chief whip drew Tk 18 lakh from the parliament members' club to "bear the

medical expenses".

The wealth statements submitted with nomination papers for the December 29 general election do not support the two leaders' insolvency claims.

According to Sircar's statement, he earns Tk 11.67 lakh a year. He has around Tk 27.06 lakh in cash and Tk 2.8 lakh in deposits. His wife has around Tk 2.92 lakh in accounts with different banks and financial institutions.

He has 1,200 tolas of gold (around 14 kg) and electronics and furniture worth Tk 50,000.

He and his wife together have savings and fixed deposits to the tune of around Tk 34 lakh.

Besides, he owns a Toyota Corolla worth about Tk 12.67 lakh.

Of the immovable property, he has 12.09 acres of land, and his wife has 3.32 acres.

As per the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, he met his election expenditure from his own sources of income.

Sircar, who failed to win in the December 29 polls, has returned to parliament in a by-election recently.

According to Delwar's wealth statement to the EC,

the BNP secretary general's savings certificates, fixed deposits, ornaments and cash total Tk 1.47 crore.

He has a two-storey building under construction, a six-storey building with 14 shops and a five-storey with five shops in Dhaka and Manikganj.

The statement claims these structures combined are worth Tk 1.88 crore.

The price of the 22-katha land at 103 Sharatchandra Road in the city's Armanitola is shown to be Tk 16.05 lakh.

Delwar's annual income is Tk 5 lakh and expenditure Tk 1.80 lakh.

He has a Toyota Land Cruiser worth Tk 32 lakh.

He had Tk 19.98 lakh in cash when he submitted the nomination papers for the December 29 election.

Moreover, his son Khandaker Akhtar Hamid Dablu, who gave an undertaking to receive Tk 6 lakh from the parliament secretariat, was rich enough to pay for his father's treatment.

His wealth statement submitted to the EC for election from Dhaka-19 says he has Tk 20.66 lakh in cash.

He has two flats on New Eskaton Road, shops and

office space in the capital. These along with a pistol, a shotgun and cash were worth Tk 64.98 lakh.

Each of the flats—one of 1,800 square feet and the other 900 square feet—is valued at Tk 14.46 lakh.

He has two bighas of land in Manikganj and Savar, and those are worth Tk 2 lakh.

In fiscal year 2006-07, Tk 8 lakh was earmarked to cover the medical expenses for chief whip, whips and the parliament secretariat officials.

Interestingly, Sircar and Delwar alone took Tk 33.87 lakh as medical allowances, forcing the secretariat to manage the additional amount from allocations for other purposes.

Besides, the then speaker granted his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui Tk 1.21 lakh in 2008 on an undertaking that the money would be returned.

Apart from irregularities in claiming the expenses, Sircar did not return furniture, air-conditioner, sofa and household appliances worth Tk 12 lakh to the parliament secretariat after his tenure expired.

Delwar did the same, saying many household items had got lost. He was exempted from the liabilities by Sircar.

Essentials' prices go up on poor supply

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soyabean oil is available for Tk 390 to Tk 425.

Retail price of green chilli skyrocketed to Tk 100 a kg although it had been selling for Tk 30 ten days ago.

Iman Molla, a wholesaler at Karwan Bazar kitchen market, said yesterday the wholesale price of green chilli was around Tk 16 a kg only ten days ago. It is now being sold at Tk 80.

He said the poor supply of green chilli was due to recent heavy raining, as the crop cannot tolerate water logging.

Price of local onion rose by Tk 6 to 8 a kg over the past week. However, the price of imported onion went down by Tk 3 in the kitchen markets.

In the retail market, local onion was being sold at Tk 40 to Tk 42 a kg, while the imported onion was available

at Tk 24-27.

The price of pulses also went up by Tk 3-5 a kg. Traders at kitchen markets were selling pulses at Tk 88-112.

Mohammad Rubel, owner of a wholesale store, told this correspondent an increase in the wholesale price of pulses over the past two days caused the hike in retail market.

He went on to add that Khesari dal is being sold at Tk 55 a kg, which was Tk 50 last week. The price went up because of increased demand ahead of Ramadan.

Wholesalers and retailers in the city's kitchen markets said the prices of leafy vegetables increased by Tk 3-10 a kg due mainly to rotting in the rains.

Price of garlic also went up over the last week. It is now being sold at Tk 40-50 a kg, which was Tk 35-40 in the last

week.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, prices of edible oil and battery chicken went down while the prices of egg, garlic, ginger and onion rose at different kitchen markets in the city over the past week. Price of non-brand palm oil went down by Tk 190-240 for each 37.32 kg (1 maund) of oil.

Wholesale markets in Khatunganj are now selling palm oil at Tk 2060-2110 a maund, which was being sold at Tk 2250-2300 two weeks ago.

The new company rate of a 5-litre jerry can of Rupchanda brand soya bean oil has been fixed at Tk 415 against its earlier price of Tk 419, which was Tk 439 two weeks ago.

Company rate for the same jerry can of Mostafa brand came down at Tk 392 from its earlier rate of Tk 405.

Battery chicken was selling

at Tk 115 to Tk 120 a kg yesterday against Tk 130 last week.

Price of egg, however, rose by Tk 2 to Tk 4 per half (four pieces). Retailers were selling egg at Tk 30 to Tk 32 per half against its earlier price of Tk 28.

Traders said poor production and lack of enough supply due to the recent downpour caused such hike in the egg price.

Retail price of both Indian and locally produced garlic shot up by Tk 8 to Tk 15 a kg. Indian garlic was selling at Tk 40-42 per kg against Tk 32-34 before, while retail price of good quality local garlic rose at Tk 100 a kg from its earlier price of Tk 85.

Price of ginger also rose by Tk 4 per kg, selling at Tk 60 from its earlier price of Tk 56. Onion was selling at Tk 24 to Tk 26 a kg while the price was Tk 16-18 last week.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely to occur at places in Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions, Met Office said.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:49pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi and the lowest of 24.2 degree at Rangamati.

The 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
Dhaka	32.2	26.2
Chittagong	29.6	24.4
Rajshahi	33.2	25.8
Khulna	31.6	26.2
Kurail	31.5	25.5
Sylhet	32.9	26.0
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.4
	Morning	Evening
	85	74
	81	87
	92	88
	96	82
	90	92
	90	76
	83	90



Discussion