

Govt urged to raise tax on junk food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to increase taxes on junk food and soft drinks that are causing different non-communicable diseases.

They also urged the government to impose restrictions on advertisements of the products.

They said this at a roundtable on health policy to prevent diseases at the National Press Club in the city.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the Environment Movement) and WBB Trust jointly organised the roundtable.

The speakers said obesity, cancer, blood pressure, stroke, cardiac arrest and kidney problems are alarmingly increasing these days due to imbalanced food-habit, environment pollution, adulterated food consumption and leading a life with 'less physical activity', but there is no remedy.

Termining the National Health Policy 2009 only a 'treatment-oriented policy', Rashid-e-Mahbub, president of Shasthya Odhikar Andolon Iatiya Committee, said the policy should have included ways to prevent the diseases.

And creating awareness is a must to this end, which help prevent the diseases and the patients need to spend less than the treatment costs if they know how to prevent the



Abu Naser Khan speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

diseases.

Sayed Mahbubul Alam, programme manager of WBB Trust, read out the keynote paper at the roundtable.

He said people should know the benefits of physical exercise, which help lead a healthy life.

Nowadays the educational institutions do not have physical exercise classes, which was once compulsory.

They do not even care to keep a place for playground, he added.

The speakers also called on the government to include issues related to non-communicable diseases, food habit and physical exercises in the school curriculum.

They also recommended keeping open places for playgrounds that will help the children's mental and physical development.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement, moderated the roundtable while cancer specialist and President of Bangladesh Cancer Society Prof Mollah Obaidullah Baki, Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, president of Manash, an anti-smoking organisation, Convener of Shasthya Andolon Farida Akhter, President of Bangladesh Unani Ayurvedic Society Khodadat Ahmed and Secretary General of Khelaghar Dr Lenin Chowdhury spoke.

Sattar made envoy to Iran

UNB, Dhaka

Khandakar Abdus Sattar, director general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran.

A career diplomat, Sattar joined the BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre in 1989. He had his Master's degree in Political Science from Dhaka University, said an official release.

During his diplomatic career, Sattar served in Bangladesh missions in Riyadh, Muscat, Thimphu, Manama, Tehran and Beijing.

Zahirul

Haque made addl AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer AKM Zahirul Haque was appointed additional attorney general yesterday.

President Zillur Rahman made the appointment as per Article 3(2) of Bangladesh Law Officers Order of 1972.

Now the number of additional attorney general stands at three.

AKM Zahirul Haque has been enrolled as a lawyer for the High Court Division on July 11 in 1996 and for the Appellate Division on December 27 in 2002.

He served as an assistant attorney general (AAG) from 1996 to 2001.



Participants of the 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2009' pose for photo with the guests at the inaugural ceremony of the competition at the auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) yesterday.

MUTUAL TRUST BANK-DAILY STAR DEBATE CONTEST KICKS OFF

Call to build society based on logic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2009' kicked off in the port city yesterday with a call to build a society based on logic and reasoning.

Organised by Drishty, a cultural organisation, the weeklong event features 17th inter-school debate contest, 2nd children debate contest and 6th inter-university debate contest. Drishty has been organising the debate contest since 1993.

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony urged the young generation to look at things logically and not to accept anything without question in order to establish truth in every sphere of society.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, inaugurated the competition as the chief guest at a ceremony at the auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC).

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Resident Editor of the Prothom Alo poet Abul Momen urged the young generation to be a bit more sceptical about everything and not to accept anything without verifying them through logic.

A liberal outlook as well as respect for others' opinions can help overcome all confusions and bring about development and progress of the country, he added.

Mahfuz Anam called on the students to develop the habit of using logic and consider every aspect of an issue in order to take the right decision.

Such practice of reaching decisions on the basis of logic would lead to success in every field, he added.

He also urged them to always consider others' opinion before coming to a conclusion.

Anam called for using information to find out newer ways to move forward.

He also emphasised the need to change oneself first to bring changes to society.

It is a common phenomenon that everybody always blames others but remains indifferent to their own responsibilities and refrain from correcting or changing himself, he said.

Deputy Commissioner Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury called on the authorities of different schools to create scopes for students to develop their talents through extra-curricular activities.

He also assured that the administration would provide all-out help in arranging debate competitions at upazila levels.

Senior Vice-President of Mutual Trust Bank Md Nazrul Islam said that as part of the bank's corporate social responsibilities, they always try to contribute to such activities that help students develop their various qualities.

Drishty Adviser and

Principal of Sunshine Grammar School and College Safia Gazi Rahman and Vice President Rashedul Amin also spoke at the inaugural ceremony presided over by Drishty President Masud Bakul.

Drishty General Secretary Saif Chowdhury moderated the programme.

ATN Bangla and Radio Foorti are the media partners and Equity Properties Management Limited is a sponsor of the competition.

The participating schools are Chittagong Govt High School, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls' High School, Nasirabad Govt Boys' High School, BAF Shaheen College, Chittagong Collegiate School, St. Placid's High School, Government Muslim High School, Kapashgola City Corporation Girls' High School, Aparanacharan City Corporation Girls' High School, Emaratunnesa City Corporation Girls High School, City Govt Girls' High School, Agrabad Govt. Girls' High School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Kadam Mobarak City Corporation School,

Chittagong Residential School and College, Ankur Society School and BN School and College.

Ispahani Public School and College, Krishnachura Girls' High School, Agrabad Girls' School, Nasirabad Govt. Boys' High School, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls' High School, St. Placid's High School, City Govt Girls High School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Chittagong Government High School and Kapashgola City Corporation School will take part in the children debate competition.

At the university level competition, the participating institutions include Chittagong University, Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, North South University, Premier University, Chittagong University of Science and Technology, International Islamic University of Chittagong, University of Science and Technology, Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital Medical College.



The road connecting Mohammadpur Banchbari and Beribandh lies in a dilapidated condition for long, causing suffering to the passengers as well as pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

Bangladesh replaces contingent in UNOCI

METRO DESK

Bangladesh is replacing its Army Contingent in United Nations Operations in Ivory Coast (UNOCI), says an ISPR release.

Under this programme, first batch of 175 members of an Army team led by Lt Colonel Faridul Mahmud left Dhaka on Saturday night by a UN chartered plane.

Under this replacement programme, a total of 570 Army personnel of different ranks will go to Ivory Coast from July 11 to 21 by four flights. Bangladesh Army deployed its seven contingents in Ivory Coast since 2004.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers will help the local authority under the UN mandate by maintaining internal law and order situation, development of roads, medical aid to local people, reconstruction and repair of schools and different social institutions.

Action against airport officials soon to end passengers' woes

Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Golam Mohammad Quader yesterday said the government is going to take tough and exemplary action against the officials and employees engaged in harassing the passengers at the airports.

The officials and employees concerned have already been directed to take necessary measures to improve the standards of passengers' services in the airports, he said at an inter-ministerial meeting at the civil aviation ministry on improving the services at the airports.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Hedayatullah Al Mamun told The Daily Star that the government would open a separate immigration desk and a complaint desk to better serve the Bangladeshis

workers going abroad and returning home.

A committee headed by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh chairman has also been formed with representation of various agencies working at the airports to monitor the passengers' services at the airports.

Labour and Employment Secretary Ataharul Islam, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Elias Ahmed and representatives of the organisations working at the airports were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said Bangladesh migrants working abroad must be taken special care of while they travel by Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Directing the officials concerned working at the airports, the minister said the rules and regulations at the airports should be relaxed for the migrant workers returning home, says a PID handout.

Body recovered at Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth aged about 28 from a paddy field at Munshipara in Ashulia yesterday.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body and sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police suspect that criminals might have killed him at somewhere else and dumped there.



Bangladesh and India kick off a three-day director general level conference between BDR and BSF at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Ford Focus

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MASCHIO TAFE

কৃষকের মুখে ফসলের হাসি - ঢাকে ট্রাক্টর

মডি মোটাল (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড

পিরবিলা ডাওয়ার (১৫ তলা), ১৭ নর্থ ক্যাম্পিনাল এলিয়া, ডলশান সার্কেল-২, ঢাকা-১২১২

ফোন: ৮৮৩৫০০৬, ৮৮৩৮৩৮৩, ১৭১১১৮০৭২১, ০১৭১০০৮২৮৮