



(From left) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud speak at an orientation meeting of 'English in Schools' project, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and AKTEL, at the Chittagong centre of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday. Sitting from right are Chittagong University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Alauddin, AKTEL CEO Jeffrey Ahmad Tambi and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam.

PHOTO: STAR

DAILY STAR- AKTEL EIS PROJECT KICKS OFF IN CTG

Improving English skills to help keep pace with globalisation

Speakers tell orientation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

To materialise the dream of a digital Bangladesh, it is essential to develop English language skills which can help keep pace with globalisation and information technology, speakers at an orientation meeting of 'English in Schools' (EIS) project said yesterday.

The orientation meeting for schoolteachers also marked the inauguration of the project, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and AKTEL, in Chittagong zone.

Learning English, which is not only a language but also a technology, can open up a new horizon for the students. But it is a big problem for them to learn the language properly due to complicated teaching method, said the speakers.

Against this backdrop, the EIS project aims to make learning English meaningful, enjoyable and accessible to all, they observed.

As many as 266 teachers from 133 schools in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Noakhali and Feni districts took part in the orientation session at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Dr Hasan Mahmud attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest while Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM

Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Chittagong University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Alauddin as special guests.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and AKTEL Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Jeffrey Ahmad Tambi also spoke.

The EIS project that aims at enhancing English language skills of the secondary school students across the country has already started in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Rajshahi, Barisal, Jessore and Rangpur.

With the commencement of activities in Chittagong, a total of 923 schools came under the project.

Addressing the ceremony, State Minister Hasan Mahmud said it is imperative to develop English language skills to keep pace with globalisation and information technology.

"We should give priority to activities helping the younger generation learn English, who will be the future leaders of the country," he said.

He thanked The Daily Star for taking such a unique initiative to prepare students as worthy citizens.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury called on the students not to hesitate to speak English even though they might make mistakes initially.

"Start reading and speaking English to overcome the

fear of English," he said.

He also called on the teachers to extend cooperation to EIS project and help students learn English in a constructive way so that they do not get discouraged.

Prof Mohammad Alauddin said, "We must learn English to know about globalisation and the global village."

Schoolteachers can play an important role in helping students build a strong foundation of English and contribute a lot to building a knowledge-based society, he added.

Jafri Ahmed Tambi said English literacy rate in Bangladesh is only one percent as against the literacy rate of 48 percent.

"We want to create a platform to help students develop English skills and prepare our future generations for technology-based globalisation," he added.

Mahfuz Anam said, "We have to enhance our English language skills to help the country become a partner in globalisation and help build a digital Bangladesh."

"English would be a great tool for us to explore the international arena," he said, adding that the EIS project aims to make learning English meaningful, enjoyable and accessible to all.

"Through improving English skills, we can emerge as skilled workforce and attract foreign investment,

since English language is the medium of globalisation," he said.

Monowara Begum, deputy director of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education in Chittagong Zone, called on the teachers to follow the method of teaching English in a easier and simplified way under the EIS project and make the initiative a success.

The organisers said that EIS will cover 1000 schools across the country initially. To develop the habit of reading and comprehension skills, each school under EIS programme will be provided with three copies of The Daily Star five days a week free of cost.

There will be a weekly full-page containing English learning materials, which the students and teachers can use in and outside the classrooms.

Besides, students would find newer education materials in attractive articles, cartoons and captions of interesting pictures. News reports on historic events would create interest among the students and encourage them to develop the habit of reading.

The organisers also urged the teachers to arrange inter-school competition every three months, inter-district competition every six months and national level competition annually.

TENDER INVITATION FOR POWER PLANTS

Move to complete process in three months

UNB, Dhaka

In a bid to implement the government's mega plan for giving a fillip to the problematic power sector, the power and energy ministry has taken an initiative to complete the tender invitation process within next three months for setting up numerous power plants.

A high-level meeting at Power Division yesterday with State Minister for Power Brigadier Gen (Retd) Mohammad Enamul Haque in the chair took the decision. Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury Birbikram was also present at the meeting.

The power ministry last week presented a mega plan to the prime minister with the target of adding 7,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by 2024.

After the meeting, Enamul said his ministry has already

started working to implement the ambitious plan. A committee headed by an additional secretary was formed to scrutinise all the matters related to its implementation.

Dr Elahi said initially the power ministry has planned to set up two coal-fired power plants, each having the capacity of generating 500MW electricity.

"We have sought support from the World Bank. But they said they would inform us after the Copenhagen climate conference," he told reporters.

He also said that the World Bank has agreed to provide financial support to the planned 450MW Bibiyana power plant.

Power Development Board (PDB) Chairman SM Alamgir Kabir, who was also present at the meeting, told reporters a committee is now working to find out the suitable locations and fuel options for the planned power plants.

"The committee is now conducting survey on the matter and will hopefully submit their outcomes shortly. Alongside this, we are working to complete the tender invitation procedures for the power plants," he said.

Initially, tenders will be floated for setting up two power plants.

Meeting sources said the Rural Electrification Board (Reb) proposed to revive Rural Power Company's (RPC) 450MW Dhaka North Power Plant project in Gazipur.

They also proposed to include the project in the government's mega plan on the power sector.

The meeting, however, asked the Reb to produce a comprehensive plan giving detail of the present state of gas-supply possibility, transmission scope and other important issues related to the project.



Public relations professionals pose for a photo with Marguerite H Sullivan, director of the Center for International Media Assistance at National Endowment for Democracy, at a lecture on 'Public relations in 21st century: Our strategy' organised by Bangladesh Jonosangjog Samity at PIB conference room in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Nat'l broadcasting policy soon

Azad tells BEI roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to formulate a pro-people national broadcasting policy as soon as possible to ensure free flow of information.

A series of dialogues will be held with experts and stakeholders to find out a set of policies best suited for the country, he said.

The minister said this as the chief guest at a roundtable on 'Policy for broadcasting media in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its conference room in the city.

Termining electronic media more effective than print media, he said it could be used to make the industry a powerful tool and shape views and perspectives of the masses.

Therefore, it is imperative to frame a broadcasting policy to regulate the sector, the minister added.

Fahana Afroz, a media specialist based on Illinois University, California, presented a keynote paper at the roundtable.

She pointed out that the country has too many different laws and policies for radio, television channels and other related industries which make monitoring things all very complicated.

"Therefore, the country needs a comprehensive national policy covering all the broadcasting media," she

said.

Speakers at the roundtable also highlighted the necessity of a national policy for regulating terrestrial, satellite and cable broadcasting services in the country.

They stressed the need to ensure that the proposed policies do not seek to restrain mass media, rather help the industry flourish by standardising and regulating the sector.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan moderated the event where Project Director Shahab Enam Khan and Independent University Bangladesh Vice Chancellor Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury were also present.

HC asks police to return car of Kashmiri

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the police to immediately return the private car of Kashmiri Kamal, wife of Awami League lawmaker AHM Mostafa Kamal popularly known as Lotus Kamal.

After hearing the petition, the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Borhan Uddin passed the order.

The Gulshan police seized the car during the caretaker government in connection with a corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Kashmiri recently filed an application with the HC to direct the police to return her car.

Advocate Shah Monjurul Hoque appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam for the government.

Apollo Children's Hospital opens in Chennai

METRO DESK

Oscar winner Indian music composer Dr AR Rahman inaugurated Apollo Children's Hospital in Chennai, the first quaternary care paediatric hospital of Apollo Hospitals Group recently, says a press release.

The hospital aims at providing comprehensive paediatric care to children and adolescents up to the age of 16 years. It is complete with a neonatology care unit and paediatric intensive care facilities.

The music maestro said, "Apollo's new paediatric hospital is like a symphony with numerous centres of excellence, highly skilled doctors, caring nurses, state-of-the-art technology and an incredibly child-friendly ambience."

New RU public admin chair

METRO DESK

Dr Pranab Kumar Panday took charge as chairman of Department of Public Administration at Rajshahi University (RU) on August 1, says a press release.

He was the student of the first batch of public administration at the university. Currently he is an associate professor at the department.

Pranab did his Mphil from University of Bergen, Norway and PhD degree from City University of Hong Kong. He authored two books and more than 28 of his research articles were published in different international journals.

Internal Auditor Course on ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System)

Dates : 15th August 2009 to 16th August 2009

Venue: Washington Hotel, Gulshan Circle - 1, Dhaka.

For enrollment (Last by August 12, 2009)

Bureau Veritas (Bangladesh) Private Limited

Contact Person: Syed Anwar Hossain. Email: anwar.hossain@in.bureauveritas.com

Tel: 01714 069177, 01714080516, 02-9146113, 8143387 & 031-2525403



Governing Body Chairman of Green University of Bangladesh Prof AKM Fazlul Haque inaugurates a seven-day admission fair on its Rokeya Sarani campus in the city yesterday. Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury was also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

'Promote productive use of water'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for promoting productive use of water at all levels to ensure safe water for all and enhance livelihoods.

Ensuring proper use of water can help conserve water resources for the future generations and protect the environment from pollution, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak said as the chief guest.

The Centre for Irrigation and Water Management (CIWM) of the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra organised the seminar on 'RDA-Model of safe water for all, ensuring its productive use and livelihood improvement in Bangladesh' at Cirdap auditorium in the

city.

RDA also launched a new project 'Model of Safe Water For All' to ensure most productive use of water in irrigation and fisheries. In its first phase, RDA implemented the project at 112 thanas under 42 districts across the country successfully, said RDA director MAMatin.

"We hope that the RDA's model would be able to ensure safe water for all by the end of 2012," said State Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak.

RDA also developed a plant for supply of arsenic-free water and water-saving technology for rice cultivation, which are internationally recognised, said Secretary to the rural development and cooperatives division Samar Chandra Paul.

STAMFORD UNIVERSITY BANGLADESH
Education for tomorrow's world... Admission Fall 2009

Are you seeking global standard Engineering degree?

Our Engineering Programs:

- Bachelor of Architecture
- B.Sc. in Civil Engineering (Day & Evening)
- B.Sc. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (Day & Evening)
- B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engineering
- B.Sc. in Computer Science & Information
- M.Sc. in Computer Science & Engineering
- Master in Computer Application

Stamford Also Offers:

- BBA
- MBA
- Economics
- Pharmacy
- MPA
- LL.B. (Hons.)
- English (Hons.)
- Journalism
- B.Sc. in Microbiology
- MS in Microbiology
- M.A. in English (Final)
- M.A. in English (Pre & Final)
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- M.Sc. in Environmental Science
- B.A. in Film & Media
- M.A. in Film & Media
- 10 electrical & electronic labs
- 12 computer labs
- 8 pharmacy & microbiology labs
- 6 civil labs, 3 design & drawing labs
- Jury room, language lab, acoustics lab
- 2 video editing labs, 8 professional video cameras
- More than 350 full time qualified & experienced teachers
- 5 libraries with more than 50,000 books
- First & only ISO certified university in Bangladesh
- Full free studentship for 5% students on merit basis

Contact Address:
Head Office & Dhanmondi Campus
744, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Tel: 9124161, 8156122-3, 8153168-9
(Ext - 118, 119, 124, 125, 126, 127 & 128)
Mobile: 01713082401, 01713082402, 01713082403
E-mail: admission@stamforduniversity.edu.bd, Web Page: www.stamforduniversity.edu.bd

Siddeswari Campus
51, Siddeswari Road, Dhaka
Tel: 8355626, 8355596, 8354577, 835512-13
(Ext - 114, 116, 119, 121 & 122)
Mobile: 01937082093, 01937085783

Last Date of Application: August 31, 2009
Admission Test: September 04, 2009

www.baydevelopments.com

Luxurious Apartments @ Gulshan & Baridhara

Be the Discerning Few. Experience the stylish ambience. And enjoy the superb attention given.

Own a DREAM HOME

0173 002 0499
0173 002 0444

Bay
The Art Of Life

Asset DEVELOPMENTS

LAND WANTED at DHAKA

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, Old DOHS, Cantonment R/A, New DOHS Baridhara, Lalmatia, Wari, Uttara, Eskaton Garden & Other Prime Areas

For joint venture apartment development with the most trusted developers in the country.

Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd
91 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh
(Office Of Corporate & Management Services)
Tel: 8857230, 9882245, 8829437, 8851791, 8851795, 8861225, 8854553, 8859578
Mobile: 01711-594855, 01713-000204, 01730-015830
Fax: 880 2 8828272 Email: assetplan@agni.com; asset@agni.com