PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Streetlights on the road from Matsya Bhaban to Shahbagh intersection in the city remain on even after daybreak, although the government has taken various steps to save electricity. The photo was taken around 8:00am.

INT'L LITERACY DAY OBSERVED

Change education system to fight corruption

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said the structure of the existing education system should be changed to curb corruption through making people of the country literate.

Morality, ethics, humanity and logic should be incorporated in the education system to create a depth of knowledge for learners, they said.

The speakers said this at the seminar on 'Role of literacy in removing corruption: Context Bangladesh' jointly organised by Institute of Education and Research (IER) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Dhaka University to mark the International Literacy Day.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the structure of education should be changed and public private partnership be increased.

He suggested encouraging female students more into higher education.

Some of the NGOs working in the education sector are involved in corruption, said Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Prof Abdul Malek of IER said, "Education plays a positive role in curbing corruption, but it does not happen in our country."

"In our country, only few people are getting the chance of being educated which makes certain people clever and give them more opportunities to be corrupt," he said, adding that the role of education is getting negative in some cases.

The seminar was presided over by IER Director Prof Siddiqur Rahman.

SUPRA TO OBSERVE THE DAY

Speakers at a human chain organised by Supra called on the government to set up a public school at every village to ensure people's fundamental right to education with an aim to escalate literacy rate in the country.

They made the call at the programme organised in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city to mark the day.

Jayed Iqbal Khan, president of Bangladesh Krishak Federation, said the entire literacy rate of the country is 53.68 percent and opined for increasing the rate to ensure development.

He claimed that the non-formal education programmes financed by foreign donor agencies had failed to put any effective contribution to raise literacy level, saying: "That is why, it has become essential to establish a public school at every village."

Subol Sarkar, president of Bangladesh Bhumiheen Samity (society for the landless), demanded additional budgetary allocation for primary and mass education to strengthen the illiteracy eradication campaign.

He called on the government to prioritise the issue of raising literacy rate and to take necessary steps to eradicate all the irregularities in non-formal education.

Coordinators of the organisation Mohammad Shahidullah and Basanti Saha, and Executive Director of Society for Bright Social Services (SBS) Ferdousi Ahmed were also present, among others, at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Prof Siddiqur Rahman speaks at a seminar at Dhaka University yesterday. On his right is Dr Iftekharuzzaman and on his left is Prof Abdul Malek.

Ensure safe environment for ship-breaking workers

Demand BILS leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Leaders of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) at a press conference in Chittagong yesterday demanded safe work environment for workers in the ship-breaking industries to avert injuries and tragic death.

BILS organised the press conference at Chittagong Press Club in the backdrop of recent incidents injuries of the workers in ship breaking yards.

Mentionable, five workers sustained burn injuries at Kabir Steel Yard at Baro Aulia at Sitakunda on Saturday during cutting plates with gas cutter. One of them succumbed to his injuries next day.

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President and BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan spoke at the conference.

Nazrul said workers mostly coming from poor families from different parts of the country work in a very risky environment in the ship breaking yards at Sitakunda and very often they meet tragic death and suffer from serious injuries.

He urged the owners of the ship breaking yards to provide safety devices and fireproof dresses and shoes to the workers.

Ship Breaking Industry Workers Trade Union Forum Convener and Trade Union Centre (TUC) Chittagong unit President Tapan Dutta, Forum joint convener and divisional president of Sramik Dal Nazim Uddin and Forum joint convener and Jatiya Sramik League central leader Safar Ali also spoke.

POLICE ACTION ON PROF ANU

Eminent citizens demand punishment

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday strongly condemned 'police action' on Prof Anu Muhammad and other leaders and workers of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports and demanded punishment to those responsible for the incident.

In a joint statement, they demanded an independent judicial probe committee to investigate the matter and take steps against those policemen who attacked the march of the organisation.

The civil society members also demanded medical assistance to all injured and adequate compensation for the victims to establish democratic values.

They hoped that the government would express its loyalty and gratitude to people by giving assurance of saving people's democratic as well as basic rights through halting extrajudicial killings in the name of 'crossfire' and saving national resources.

At least 30 people, including 10 policemen, were injured as activists of the committee clashed with the police on September 2 after the police intercepted a march of the committee against the government decision to lease three offshore gas blocks to foreign companies.

It is clear to all that this "terrorist action" was made to keep people away from protest against the government's illegal and anti-country activities, the citizens claimed.

The signatories to the statement include women leader Shirin Haq, NGO leader Khushi Kabir, university teachers Dr Shahdeen Malik, Prof Firdous Azim, Sayema Khatun and Parvin Hasan and writer Omar Tareq Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, leaders of the national committee at a sit-in programme at Muktangan demanded cancellation of the government's decision to lease the three offshore gas blocks to foreign companies.

They also demanded formulation of a new model Production Sharing Contact (PSC) and cancellation of the previous one, which was formulated in 2008.

Addressing the programme, engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, convener of the organisation, said, "The countrymen will never allow any multinational company to loot our gas resources. We will resist in strong hands."

Jatiya Mukti Council organised a street drama, while Gono Sangskriti Forum held a protest rally in the city for the on same demands.

BURIGANGA BOAT CAPSIZE

Four bodies recovered, many still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four bodies were recovered from the River Buriganga so far after an engine boat capsized while going to Sadarghat from Pagla on Sunday.

South Keraniganj police said the boat capsized with around 60 passengers around 5:00pm after a sand laden cargo hit it near Shyampur Bazar.

The bodies of one Mohammad Mosin, 22, a third year student of Khilgaon Model College, and an unidentified person aged about 50 years were found floating near Postogola Bridge under Shyampur police station around 4:00pm yesterday.

The bodies of Rahim, 29, and her son Arif, 9, were recovered from near Shyampur Bazar on Monday night.

South Keraniganj police recovered the bodies from the river while relatives of other missing persons are looking for their nearest and dearest ones.

Sub-Inspector Abul Kalam of South Keraniganj police station said they have learnt that four-year-old boy Yamin and nine-year-old girl Nazma and several others are still missing.

Police said many of the victims were rescued by the boatmen.

Mojo Eid Chan Offer

METRO DESK

Cola drink Mojo is giving away free bus tickets for Dhaka-Sylhet, Rangpur, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Jessore and Khulna routes under 'Free AC Bus Ticket Offer'.

The promotional offer, which began on Ramadan 1, received tremendous response via SMS, says a press release.

To participate, one has to go to the Message option of the mobile and type Mojo <space>, name of the destination <space>, the sender's name and send it to 5353.

The participant who sends the maximum number of SMS for the desired destination will get two free tickets.

For more information, interested people are requested to log on to www.mojomasti.com.bd

Akij Food and Beverage Limited (AFBL) is the main sponsor of the 'Mojo Eid Chan Offer' while the transport partners are Greenline, Shohag, Baghdad Express and Eagle Transport with Radio Foorti as the radio partner.

PHOTO: STAR

The streets in the port city of Chittagong experience severe gridlock before and after office hours. The picture was taken from GEC intersection yesterday.

TAX EVASION CASE

Hearing adjourned till Sept 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court adjourned the hearing of the tax evasion case filed against businessman Giausuddin Al Mamun until September 29 as the jail authority did not produce him before the court on Monday.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after the prosecution appealed to the court for adjournment of the hearing.

On August 26, Deputy Tax Commissioner Ayesha Siddiqui of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Mamun with the same court for dodging Tk 14 crore in income tax during the years from 2000 to 2007.

In her complaint, Ayesha mentioned that Mamun, director of Initex Apparels Ltd, had evaded Tk 14 crore in income tax from an income of Tk 54 crore from the company for the fiscal years 2000-2007.

According to the case, Mamun repeatedly gave "false" information about his real income and expenditure to the income tax department and did not show his return on income tax.

He also did not submit any statement of the money earned from the company to the NBR for the fiscal years 2000-2007, the complainant added.

Mamun, a close friend and business partner of former BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, was arrested from his house at Banani DOHS on March 26 of 2007.

'Rich nations should bear burden of climate change'

BSS, *Rajshahi*

Scientists and researchers at a dialogue in Rajshahi on Monday categorically stated that the industrial and richer nations are responsible for the climate change and they should take effective decisions right now to face the adverse impact of climate change and other environmental degradations.

They viewed that the climate change has now caused a major concern to agriculture, environment, ecology, bio-diversity, climatic patterns and even existence of the habitation and civilisation throughout the globe.

Because of its adverse impacts, they said, untimely and devastating floods, droughts, tornadoes, cyclones, massive river and coastal erosions, pest attacks in the crop fields and many other natural calamities have been causing huge damage to Bangladesh too.

They were addressing the dialogue styled 'Conservation and management of natural resources under the challenges of a changing climate in Bangladesh' jointly organised by the Department of Zoology, University of Rajshahi (RU) and the School of the Environment and Natural Resources, University of Bangor, United Kingdom at RU Senate Building.

British Council under its 'UK-Bangladesh Higher Education Links Program' extended financial support to arrange the dialogue.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abdus Sobhan and Pro-VC Prof Dr M Nurullah addressed the opening ceremony as the chief and special guest respectively with the department chairman Prof Dr Sawdagor Mahfuzur Rahman in the chair.

Additional Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Syed Ali Nasim Khaliluzzaman, Head of Culture, Climate and Citizenship of British Council Bangladesh Syed Masud Hossain and Dean of Life and Earth Science Faculty of RU Prof Dr Golam Kabir also addressed the session as the guests of honor.

Speakers unequivocally viewed that the climate change will increase temperature, decrease availability of fresh water, scale up the sea level, trigger glacial melting in the Himalayas, frequency and intensity of natural calamities, and compel shifting of cropping zones in the country affecting agriculture and food sector.

They added that the coastal belt including the Sundarbans, the world's largest natural mangrove forest, would be severely affected and thus this region would face intense natural disasters in the form of floods, cyclones, storm surges and drought.

They suggested developing innovative mechanisms to scale up technical and financial support for the adaptation efforts of Bangladesh and strengthening institutional and policy mechanisms to promote and facilitate implementation of location-specific adaptation and mitigation practices.

260 sacks of Indian fertiliser seized

UNB, *Dinajpur*

Police and Rab in a joint drive seized 260 sacks of sub-standard Indian fertiliser at Bijul in Birampur upazila early yesterday.

Being tipped-off, a joint team of police and Rab-5 raided the area and recovered chemical TSP and SSP fertiliser from two tractors in an abandoned condition.

Tractor driver and smugglers managed to flee the scene sensing the presence of law enforcers.

PHOTO: COURTESY

President of Zonta Club of Dhaka III Rubina H Farouq hands over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to Executive Director of Acid Survivors Foundation Munira Rahman in support of acid-burnt victims recently. Zonta International District-25 Governor Kalpana Shanmugham was present at the ceremony.

FOWA EID MELA
at the State Guest House 'Padma'
(Opposite Ramna Thana)
10am-6pm, Fri 11- Sat 12 Sept 2009. Tel: 9356700, 01715030112
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