

Education Day today

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 47th Education Day.

On this day in 1962, the student community staged a demonstration against the Hamudoor Rahaman Education Commission report. Police fired on the demonstrators killing several students including Mostafa, Wajidullah and Babul and injuring many others.

After the killing of the students in police firing, the movement spread all over the country, which led to the six-point movement in 1966 and mass uprise in 1969.

Different student, teacher and socio-cultural organisations and educational organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussions and placing of wreaths at the Education Square in front of Shikha Bhawan in the city.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) will hold a discussion at the National Press Club at 3:00pm.

Chaired by NFTE chief coordinator Principal Kazi Faruk Ahmed, the discussion will be attended by the leaders and activists of the movement.

The leaders are Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Education Rashed Khan Menon, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, National University VC Prof Dr Kazi Shahidullah, DU Pro-VC Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid and DU Treasurer Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman.

Left-leaning student fronts will bring out processions on the DU campus at noon. They will also hold a rally.

'Pay salary, Eid bonus to RMG workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Forum for Implementation of Minimum Wage for the Garment Workers to Live, a platform of several labour organisations, have urged the garment owners to pay due salaries and Eid bonus to workers immediately.

They placed the demand at a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Shamima Nasrin, president of Swadhin Bangla Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation, said, 'The garment owners should pay salary arrears and Eid bonus by September 16, otherwise labour unrest might occur in RMG sector and BGMEA would be responsible for any such unpleasant incident.'

Labour leader Asma demanded distribution of five percent of the total profit of each garment factory among the workers.

She also demanded the government allocate Tk 500 to compensate the global recession-hit as well as retrenched workers.



PHOTO: STAR

Narayanganj district administration yesterday launched a survey on the river Balu to demarcate a seven-kilometre stretch of its bank in line with a court directive to draw the actual limits of four rivers around Dhaka. (Story on page 1)

Community participation a must to control malaria

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said community involvement in controlling malaria from 70 upazilas across the country is imperative and media can play an important role in involving the community by raising awareness in this regard.

Titled 'Malaria control programme: Assistance from mass media', the discussion was jointly organised by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Brac and the daily Shamakal at Brac Centre in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, DGHS Director General Prof Shah Monir Hossain said strict monitoring as well as supervision is needed for smooth running of malaria control programme and media's role would be helpful to achieve the target.

Bangladesh received Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) grant for Malaria-round 6 to halve the morbidity and mortality related to malaria in 13 high endemic districts by 2012 comparing to that of 2005, he added.

The speakers said in 2005, total malaria cases were 48,647 and the death toll was 502. Though the number of total cases has increased recently, death toll has come down by this time due to awareness and rapid diagnostic tests.

They said some 84,690 people were detected with malaria in 2008 and the death toll was 154 and since July this year, some 35,790 cases were detected with 26 deaths.

Implementation of malaria control activities in high malaria endemic districts is challenging due to the remote and hilly geographical situation with difficult communications, they added.

The speakers suggested involvement of more community health volunteers and workers and setting up more service delivery points to those hard-to-reach areas.

Prof Faiz of Salimullah Medical College said the goal of the programme includes

providing quality diagnosis and effective treatment to 80 percent of the malaria cases in 13 high endemic districts, promoting use of insecticide-treated nets or long-lasting insecticidal nets in 80 percent of the households and selective indoor residual spraying for containment of outbreaks.

Executive Editor of the daily Shamakal Abu Sayeed Khan stressed the need to set off community radio service and distribute leaflets, brochures and booklets in local languages to make people aware of the disease and its prevention.

Acting Director of DGHS Dr Azizur Rahman, Prof Imran Bin Yunus of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital, Dr A Mannan Bangali of World Health Organisation, Dr Ridwanur Rahman of Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, Dr Rasheedul Haque of ICDDR,B, Dr Abdur Raquib, deputy programme manager-malaria and Farook Ahmed of Brac were also present at the programme.

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During the credential ceremony, the Ambassador focused on continued Swedish assistance for socioeconomic development in Bangladesh and for strengthening its democratic and human rights institutions, according to a message received here yesterday.

He also briefed the king on various plans and programmes being implemented by the government to make the country a digital one as per vision 2021 of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The envoy added that Bangladesh would appreciate to learn from the Swedish experience and seek assistance in its efforts to improve the IT Sector.

Besides making Bangladesh a digital one, the thrust areas for the government included poverty alleviation, empowerment of women and development of human resources, institutionalisation of democracy and good governance and establishment of the rule of law, he also said.

Identifying himself as Asif, ringleader of notorious 'Asif Bahini', he phoned Editor of the Phulki Nazmus Shakib over his cellphone and admitted his involvement in the shooting.

Being contacted by an influential quarter, a six-member gang from the city took part in the gun attack on computer operator Hasan Chowdhury, he added.

Asif said, 'This is our first operation outside the city and such operation would be carried on here later.'

A group of miscreants fired on the computer operator of the daily at the newspaper office early hours on September 10, leaving him critically wounded.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with local police station in this connection.

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