

## Include human rights issues in textbooks

### Demand teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of different educational institutions at a workshop yesterday demanded inclusion of human rights issues in the textbooks to help the students groom as good citizens.

They also demanded incorporating the real history of the liberation war in every level of education and making a book on liberation war mandatory in every class.

Liberation War Museum, in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation, organised the workshop on the draft education policy at its auditorium in the city.

The teachers also demanded inclusion of the issues of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the curriculum of secondary levels.

They also demanded including the biographies of people, who contributed a great deal to establishing peace in the world, in the syllabus.

Zikrul Haque, a teacher of

Pathanpara MU Alim Madrasa in Nilphamari, said the textbooks of madrasas contain little about the history of the liberation war, which needs to be addressed immediately.

Mazharul Islam of Longla Adhunik Degree College in Moulvibazar said the young generation are not aware of the human rights issues since they know little about the real history of the liberation war.

He suggested including the history of the liberation war in the textbooks of class one to masters and even in the curriculum of medical and engineering education.

Syed Siddiqur Rahman of Rajbari Government High School said child rights is being violated in many schools and houses.

The teachers should have proper knowledge about human rights, too, he added.

Arina Khatun, a teacher of a Bagerhat school, suggested including the life-sketch of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the curriculum of class VI to X in line with the level of the students.

"The real history of the declaration of independence and gender issues should be

incorporated in the textbooks of secondary levels," she added.

Moinul Hossain Chowdhury of Chhatak High School in Sunamganj said the history of the war criminals and their collaborators and their role in 1971, life-sketch of four national leaders and a list of the war criminals should be included in the textbooks.

In a written statement, AKM Mahubul Alam, director general of the museum, suggested including the role of the people involved in mass killing, destruction and brutality during the liberation war.

He also suggested making mandatory singing of the national anthem and hoisting national flag in the kindergarten schools and madrasas.

Museum Trustee Mofidul Haque said the museum authorities would submit their recommendations to the education ministry after consulting with the teachers, students and educationists across the country.

Educationalist Mamtaz Latif and writer Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

## Patuakhali newsmen 'break pens'

### Demand arrest of assailants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali journalists observed "pen breaking" at the local press club yesterday at around 11:00am protesting the attack on their colleagues at Galachipa upazila of the district on September 9.

Journalists from different printing and electronic media took part in the symbolic protest breaking their pens and demanded removal of officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station, withdrawal of four false cases filed against two journalists and immediate arrest of all culprits involved in the attack.

Earlier on October 7, local journalists submitted memorandums to the prime minister, minister for home affairs, and information minister through Patuakhali deputy commissioner on the same issue.

They also submitted separate memorandums to the state minister for religious affairs, also lawmaker from Patuakhali-1 constituency, Shahjahan Mia, Patuakhali DC and Patuakhali SP on September 10 demanding action against the perpetrators.

On September 9, Mufti Salahuddin of RTV, Abu Taher Bappa of BanglaVision, Sankar Lal Das of the Daily Prothom Alo and ABC radio, Khondokar Delwar Jalali of Channel 1 and Hanjala Shihab of Diganta TV were attacked by a gang at Haridevpur ferry point at noon.

The journalists, working as Patuakhali district correspondents of the media, were on their way to different places of the upazila on professional duties.

## Attack on AL leader in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Sirajganj district Awami League (AL) leader Altaf Hossain, who was assaulted by a group of miscreants on Thursday night, is now fighting for life at a city hospital.

Police said a group of miscreants equipped with sharp weapons attacked the leader, a joint secretary of the district AL unit, on his way to nearby Eliot Bridge in the town around 11:00pm for buying medicine after he came out of the party office.

Hearing his screaming, locals rushed to the spot and rescued him in a critical condition. He was admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. Later, he was shifted to the capital after his condition deteriorated.

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

A case was lodged with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station in this connection.

## BNP leader held on attempt to murder charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A union parishad (UP) chairman, who is also a BNP leader of sadar upazila, was arrested yesterday on a charge of attempted murder.

Mosharrar Hossain Shihab, chairman of Rashidabad Union Parishad, was arrested from a highway in the afternoon.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station Mir Mosharrar Hossain told this correspondent that Shihab is the prime accused in an attempted murder case.

Besides, he is engaged in land grabbing and mugging activities in his locality.

Hundreds of people of Rashidabad union brought out a procession, held a meeting and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) on October 6 demanding his arrest as early as possible.

Shihab was arrested on the basis of the allegations of the locals and the charge of attempted murder, the OC added.



Police arrest seven members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from four districts in Rajshahi division in the last couple of days. (Story on Page 16)

## Write down experiences of liberation war

### Freedom fighters urged

DU CORRESPONDENT

People who were directly or indirectly involved with the liberation war should write down their experiences to present the real history of the war before the new generation, speakers said at a publication ceremony yesterday.

Many stories of the war remain untold as freedom fighters and people who were involved with the war are leaving the world day by day, they also said.

They were speaking at the publication ceremony of the book titled 'Shotur Matitey Muktijuddho (Liberation war in the land of enemy)' authored by Altaf Rahman at National Press Club in the city.

Noted economist Prof

Muzaffer Ahmad unveiled the cover of the book.

"We do not know everything about the liberation war. But, we are fortunate that people who were involved in the process are coming up with their stories," he said.

Prof Muzaffer said this is not the story of only a writer who was young during the war. In fact, it reflects the stories of many youths during the war.

He called on people who were involved in the war to write down their stories and if possible publish them as books.

Noted theatre personality Aly Zaker chaired the programme also addressed by Dhaka University teachers Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Vishwa Dev

Chowdhury, Mahbubur Rahman and Dr Jakir Hossain.

Aly Zaker said the author, who was a teenager during the war, thought about the freedom of Bangladesh since his childhood and worked accordingly.

"The writer during the war had fought in his own way," he added.

He hoped that this book would inspire the young generation to know the history of the liberation war.

This can be the script for a wonderful documentary, too, he added.

The speakers said this book has added a new dimension to the books on the liberation war and has enriched its history.

Agami Prokashan has published the book, which is priced at Tk 220.

## INT'L MOTHER LANGUAGE INSTT

### Construction resumes after 8 years

BSS, Dhaka

Work on the construction of International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), which remained in limbo for the last eight years, is going on in full swing and it is expected to complete by December.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has already directed the authorities concerned to accomplish the unfinished works forthwith as the International Mother Language Day-2010 on February 21 would be observed coinciding with the inauguration of the institute.

Education Engineering Department under the ministry of Education is implementing the project at an estimated cost of Tk 21.58 crore located at Segunbagicha under Ramna thana in the city.

Around 75 percent construction of the institute has so far been completed and the remaining task would be completed by the year end, Mohammad Abul Mannan, project director of IMLI, told the news agency.

When completed, the IMLI project would have two large 600-seat auditoriums, archive, language museum, library

and 120 car parking arrangement in the basement apart from other facilities as international standard.

Mannan said the work on the institute was first started in 2001 with an ambition of developing Bangla language, research and its synchronisation with other languages across the world.

But, it was unfortunate that the project had been lingering due to manifold reasons, including delay in land acquisition, registration, setting up boundary and architect design selection, he added.

## Acid-burnt by drug addict

FROM PAGE 1

"I went to Bogra just four days before the Eid but I had to move from one hospital to another for treatment even on the Eid day," Mou said.

"I saw Selim clearly as it was a moonlit night. It was about 10:00pm of September 17, the night of Shab-e-Qadr," she added.

"I went to toilet which had no roof. I saw Selim on a jackfruit tree just above the toilet. He suddenly began to pour some liquid down on me. As I felt burning sensations on my shoulders, back and the other parts of my body I screamed in fear," said Mou as she described the harrowing experience of that night.

On hearing her scream her brother Abdur Rahman Jewel dashed to the spot and caught Selim who somehow managed to flee the scene. "Acid-burnt Mou was rushed to the hospital in the morning," said Jewel.

Mou is now under treatment at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burns on different parts of her body.

"Selim used to live with us but he had never disturbed me or even my elder sister. It is hard to believe that Selim should throw acid on me," said Mou at the burn unit of DMCH.

Her mother Kohinur said, "I think Selim poured acid on my daughter to avenge his turning out of the house."

No sooner had Mou's expatriate father, Abdur Rashid, come to know about the horrible incident than he returned from Saudi Arabia where he had been working for the past couple of years.

"We want justice. Why did he ruin my daughter's life," Mou's father said in a choked voice.

Investigation Officer Sub-inspector of Sherpur Police Station Alhajuddin told The Daily Star yesterday, "Everything will be clear once Selim is arrested."

## Onion and garlic prices

FROM PAGE 16

The price of imported onion, which was between Tk 18 and Tk 25 a kg in early September, has now shot up to Tk 30 to Tk 36. This is 53.49 percent rise in a month, according to the report of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Besides, the price of local variety of onion, which was between Tk 36 and Tk 38 per kg in early September, has now shot up to Tk 38 to Tk 44 with 0.81 percent rise, said TCB that prepared the report based on their visits to the city's Karwan Bazar, New Market, Hatirpool, Moulavi Bazar, Sutrapur, Fakirapool, Mirpur, M o h a m m a d p u r, Shahjahanpur, Malibagh, Jatrabari, Shantinagar, Kochukhet and Mohakhali markets.

Moulavi Bazar Traders Association General Secretary Golam Mawla said recent flooding in Indian southern states hampered transport of onion ultimately affecting its

price in the local market. "As onion price went up in Patna of Bihar, we now import from south Indian states. The onion price in southern states also increased because of floods," he said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Agriculture Products Importers' Association General Secretary Khandaker Babul of Shyambazar said traders in the wholesale market of the city were badly affected, as huge amount of imported onion got rotten during the vacation of Eid and Puja.

"Traders were compelled to sell onion at negligible prices during the vacation. They are now selling onion at higher prices to make up for the losses," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, imported garlic price went up to Tk 70 to Tk 75 a kg yesterday from Tk 65 to Tk 75 a kg early September. Garlic was sold between Tk 28 and Tk 32 a kg the same time

last year. The price of local variety of garlic on October 8 last year was only Tk 30 to Tk 34 per kg, which is now between Tk 90 and Tk 110 a kg, an increase by 212.50 percent, according to TCB.

"The garlic price was \$360 to \$400 per metric ton just four months back, but it has gone up to around \$1,050 now in China," said Khandaker Babul, a garlic importer in Shyambazar.

He said they imported garlic ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr at \$940 per metric ton, but it was sold at lower prices because of more supply.

"As the price in China went high, traders are afraid of importing more garlic," Babul said, adding that this is the reason why garlic price is now high.

China witnessed around 30 percent fall in garlic production this year, according to the US-based online newspaper—The Produce News.

## Climate camp on Cox's Bazar beach

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Environmentalists yesterday formed a human chain and brought out a procession in Cox's Bazar sea beach to create awareness among the tourists about the climate change.

Human rights and environmental organisation TREE organised the programme titled 'Climate Camp 2009' at Laboni Point on the beach.

The slogan of the camp was 'Let environmental colonialism be destroyed, resist global warming and save people from going under water'.

The procession, which was brought out from Laboni Point and ended at Kalatoli, was participated by a large number of tourists.

TREE Director Shahid Mallik said it is very important to involve people from all walks of life to check climate change, as it is a life and death question for the people of Bangladesh and many other countries of the world.

Unplanned industrialisation and consumerism in the West have affected the climate, which in turn is affecting the poor countries, he added.

## JS body discusses different aspects of visit to Tipai dam site

UNB, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on Water Resources Ministry at a meeting yesterday discussed various issues, including different aspects of the parliamentary session team's visit to the Tipaimukh Dam project area.

The meeting was held at the Sangsad Bhavan, with committee chairman Abdur Razzak in the chair.

It discussed reestablishment of a division of Water Development Board (WDB) at Manikganj, identification of defective sluice gates in the country, removal of waterlogging, enhancement of number of sluice gates for flood prevention, and the initiative to increase use of surface water instead of ground water as per the water policy.

It also discussed immediate start of work on Jahajmara cross dam with Nijhum island, the report on the projects inaugurated by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, taking steps about Sureshwar project, and progress of reconstruction works of road and cross dam in cyclone Aila-hit areas.

Committee members Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Md Abdur Rahman, AKM Fazlul Haque, Md Zakir Hossain, Abdullah Al Islam Jacob and ABM Anwarul Haque attended the meeting.

## Heroin seized at Benapole

UNB, Benapole

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized half kilogram of heroin from Sadipur border here yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, the BDR jawans raided the border area in the morning and recovered the drug, being smuggled into the country. However, none was arrested in this regard.

## Appeal for help

METRO DESK

Md Alamgir, 42, a driver residing at 23 Kutubkhali of Doria, Jatrabari in the city has been suffering from kidney ailment, says a press release.

He is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

He is unable to afford his treatment cost which involves frequent kidney dialysis.

So he has appealed to well-to-do people for financial assistance to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Md Alamgir, Account No 00171210066645, United Commercial Bank Limited, Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka-1205.

Interested persons can also contact him at cell phone no 0171-8231194.



Artists render songs after a reminiscence meeting on the occasion of the 42nd death anniversary of Che Guevara at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. Rishij Shilpi Goshti organised the programme.

## Goods train derails in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Railway communications of Sylhet with Dhaka and Chittagong became disrupted as a goods train derailed in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Stationmaster of Srimongal Railway Station said two wagons of the Akhaura-bound train derailed at a place between Shamsernagar and Bhanugachh railway stations under Moulvibazar on Sylhet-Akhaura railway at noon, resulting in disruptions to rail services.

Following the incident, Chittagong-bound Paharika Express has been halted at Shamsernagar station and Akhaura-bound Kushiya Express at Kulaura station.

A rescue train from Kulaura station reached the spot and started recovering the wagons.

The railway authorities hoped that plying of trains would become normal within hours.

Dredging on Mawa-Charjanajat ferry route begins

BSS, Dhaka

The dredging work of the second cross channel on the Mawa-Charjanajat ferry route in the Padma river has started.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Kahn inaugurated the work on Thursday.

Acting Secretary of the Shipping Ministry Mohammad Abdul Mannan Hawlader and BIWTC Chairman Golam Mostafa Kamal were present on the occasion, among others.

Under the work, six-lakh cubic meter soil of the two kilometers channel will be dug, spending Tk 7 crore. The work will end in January next, an official handout said here yesterday.

With the completion of the work, time for ferry movement between Mawa and Charjanajat will be cut by 30 minutes, the handout said, adding that one hour and 45 minutes are now needed for ferry movement on the route.

## Mainstreaming of mental health patients stressed

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a press conference here yesterday called for creating income-generating activities for the mental health patients for mainstreaming them.

They mentioned that the mental health patients are always subjected to negligence, injustice, social stigma and other repression and oppressions in society.

On the contrary, they are also deprived of fundamental rights including education, healthcare, recreation, job placement and leadership and this has become a normal phenomenon in society.

However, they underlined the need for a concerted effort to establish a sound and friendly atmosphere for the mentally disabled persons to ensure a dignified position for them in society.

They were addressing the press conference organised by Badhan Protibandhi Sangshita (BPS) and Action on Disability and Development (ADD) at Miapara Public Library ahead

of World Mental Health Day-2009 to be observed today.

Rakhi Khatun of BPS read out a written statement at the press conference that was also addressed, among others, by ADD Area Coordinator Sarker Helaluzzaman, BPS Convener Nasir Uddin and ADD Training Center Coordinator Monwarul Islam.

ADD and BPS have jointly chalked out various programs including rally, discussion meeting and sports and cultural competition in observance of the day.

Speaking on the occasion, they viewed that the underprivileged community is an integral part of society and so they must be given equal opportunity to enjoy all basic rights like the other privileged sections.

They said the disabled children must be given equal opportunity in institutional education like the privileged ones, so that they could grow as worthy citizens and contribute to the country's development in various fields.



## Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met offices said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:37pm today and rises at 6:54am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 23.0 degree at Sayedpur.

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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	25.6	85	76
Chittagong	28.2	24.0	97	96
Rajshahi	31.7	25.5	83	86
Khulna	33.7	26.0	79	
Barisal	31.0	26.0	92	90
Sylhet	30.2	23.7	92	95
Cox's Bazar	28.6	26.2	89	96