

YOUTH CONVENTION

'Make parliament effective to stamp out corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption at the government level cannot be eradicated unless parliament becomes effective, speakers at a youth convention of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said yesterday.

They urged the political parties to respect the people's verdict in the 9th national parliamentary elections and fulfil election pledges to make parliament accountable for the greater interests of the national.

Chairman of TIB Trustee Board M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal and TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman spoke at the 7th annual conference of Conscious Citizens' Committee (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

The speaker stressed the need to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) so that it can fight corruption independently and



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaks at a youth convention at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman and former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal.

efficiently. They said corruption is directly linked to human rights violations. It is not possible to ensure human rights unless corruption is eradicated.

About 2000 youth volunteers from 36 districts across the country participated in the convention pledging to stamp out corruption. They shared their experiences and future plans in this regard at the

convention. Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said formal education alone cannot create a cultured nation. "Our thinking pattern and perspective must be changed."

Sultana Kamal said the power of the youth was manifested during the last parliamentary election. They clearly expressed their views of having a government that would run the country with righteousness.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said corruption is clearly an obstacle to development.

The youth of today must take the leading role to eliminate corruption. The youth proved their strength during the mass movement against Gen Ershad in '91, he added.

The speakers also urged the government, political parties, the civil society and the mass people to work together to uphold justice.

Promote science education

Minister urges scientists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman yesterday called upon the scientists to help find ways to spread science education among the students.

"In future, the society will be science-based one where all the problems will be solved scientifically. The scientists who are the brains of the nation need to show us the way towards that future," he added.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of an international seminar on science education at the National Museum of Science and Technology auditorium in the

city. He said instead of bureaucrats, scientists and researchers would be given the authority to determine the distribution of money allotted for research activities.

"Only they can comprehend the importance of research," he said, adding that they should guide the country to help face the future world which will have to depend on science to solve most of its problems.

The daylong seminar was organised by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) in collaboration with the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and the Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies

(FASAS).

Other speakers at the seminar were also unanimous in their opinion that be it agriculture, climate change, health or education, a nation will have to have a good grasp of scientific knowledge to progress and prosper.

"We have to begin from the very beginning," said BAS President and Southeast University Vice Chancellor Dr M Shamsheer Ali.

"We have to start from the schools and create interest among the children about scientific knowledge and then move upwards," he said.

While presenting his paper titled 'Ways and means' of increasing interest in science

education in Asia', he said new methods of learning should be developed to actively engage students in the entire process of learning, which would lead them to much better understanding of science.

BAS Secretary Prof Dr Naiyym Choudhury moderated the seminar which was also addressed by AASA President Prof Jinghai Li and FASAS President Prof Omar Abdul Rahman.

At the seminar, 30 participants from 11 countries presented papers on the present status, development and promotion of science education at the secondary and higher secondary levels in their respective countries.

Ensure suitable jobs, living wage

Demand working children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of children engaged in hazardous jobs yesterday called on the authorities to ensure suitable jobs and living wage for them according to their age and skills.

They also called for ensuring congenial environment in workplaces and providing facilities for their education, so that they can also pursue their

studies alongside their job.

They made the call while sharing their experiences at a cultural function celebrating the World Child Day and Child Rights Week 2009 at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city. Yesterday was the sixth day of the weeklong programmes.

At least 600 working children gathered there to enjoy the function organised by

Woman and Children Affairs Ministry in association with United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

While some children said they cannot go to schools due to financial crisis although they have a strong desire to study, some others said they are enjoying their jobs as they also have access to education.

Singer Bappa Majumder and four children known as

'Khude Ganraj' sang several songs and magician Ulfat Kabir and his wife Rokhsana Kabir performed magic at the function.

Unicef official Arifa S Sharmin told The Daily Star that about four lakh children of the country are engaged in jobs most of which are hazardous.

This cultural function has been organised only for the working children, she added.

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