



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A broken manhole on Rampura Road near Mallbagh Chowdhury Para in the city remains unrepaired for long, causing impediment to smooth vehicular movement, but the authorities appear to have turned a blind eye.

# 'Take steps to implement Nat'l Education Policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the government to initiate the process of implementation of the National Education Policy 2009 based on the broader consensus of opinions on this issue.

A vested quarter has been running a smear campaign against the policy in order to foil the government's effort to implement the policy, they said urging the countrymen to be united against such campaigns so that a modern, timely, scientific and realistic policy can be formulated.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organised the discussion titled 'National education policy-2009: Review and call for implementation' at Shaheed Col Taher Auditorium in the city.

JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu MP said the new policy is a realistic proposal for ensuring a modern, timely and scientific education system of the

country, though there is some incompleteness in it.

He further said that O and A levels, cadet colleges and kindergartens should be brought under the unitrack system.

There is a strong recommendation for religion and moral education in the policy and the policy also proposed to make the madrasa education modern and timely, he said, adding that militant and communal forces are spreading wrong impression about the policy.

Inu urged the government not to do anything hastily, rather consult with all before the implementation of the policy. "Don't send the policy to cold storage," he said urging the government to implement the policy within its tenure.

"We could not formulate an education policy even after 38 years and it's a big mistake for the nation," he said and called on all to be united as well as alert against any kind of smear campaign against the policy.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmed, co-chair of the national education policy formulation committee, said it is not unnatural to have some weakness in any effort and this is not the end of the policy.

Many opinions and statements regarding the policy are coming and all those are being taken into consideration, he said, adding there would be necessity to bring changes in the policy in course of time.

The policy clearly states about secularism; it means everyone will perform his or her own religion and everyone will be respectful towards other religions, he mentioned.

"The main feature of the policy is inclusive as we propose to include all children irrespective of their races, colours, creeds, socio-economic backgrounds and geographical locations to the light of education," he said, adding that its other features are moral education, vocational and standard education.

The implementation of the policy will have to be initiated as it has many strong basics to start the work, he said.

Asked about the rumour of losing jobs of teachers, he said the fact is that there would be a necessity of appointing hundreds of thousands of teachers in future if the policy is implemented.

Asked about the budget, he said it would take nine years to implement the policy and if the government allocates the budget for the education sector as per its pledge, there would be no crisis.

"The government will have to make a commitment to allocate adequate money for implementation of the policy," he mentioned.

The speakers said it would be suicidal for the nation if the policy is not implemented only due to mere political impediments.

Sheikh Ekramul Kabir, member secretary of education policy formulation committee; Shirin Akter and Jafar Sajjad also spoke.

## Criminals gouge out eyes of farmer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals yesterday gouged out both the eyes of a farmer who came to Dhaka the previous day in search of a job.

The victim, identified as Shahidul Islam, 35, hailing from Madaripur, is now undergoing treatment at National Institute of Ophthalmology at Shyamoli in the city.

Sub-Inspector Naser Uddin of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station told The Daily Star yesterday the victim came to his maternal uncle's place at Gabtali on Thursday evening.

When he went out of his uncle's residence yesterday morning searching for a job, unidentified criminals forcefully tied his legs and hands with rope and took him to Agargaon where his eyes were gouged out, he added.

The criminals fled the scene immediately while police rescued the victim from an open field and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Later, he was referred to National Institute of Ophthalmology.

Riad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said, "We are suspecting that it had happened due to personal enmity. But we are yet to get detailed information as the victim's condition is so critical that he could hardly speak."

## Arms seized, pirated CDs destroyed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized two firearms and destroyed huge quantity of pirated CDs and DVDs in Chittagong city and district yesterday.

Rab seized the firearms from East Hingulia area under Mirersarai upazila in the district early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab conducted a drive at 12:45am when some armed criminals gathered there to commit a criminal offence.

Sensing trouble the criminals escaped the scene. Later, Rab recovered a local light gun and a pipe gun searching the area.

Meanwhile, Rab men destroyed huge quantity of pirated CDs and DVDs at its office Patenga in the city yesterday afternoon.

The pirated discs were seized during a drive in four godowns of a CD shop at Jalsha Market under Kotwali Police Station on Thursday.

A mobile court led by an executive magistrate in cooperation with Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI) officials conducted the drive and also realised fine Tk 10,000 from the CD shop for selling pirated CDs illegally.

Rab sources said they seized several lakhs of CDs and DVDs from godowns of the shop and brought to Rab office and destroyed those.



PHOTO: STAR

An artiste of Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Asar performs a dance number at the Peace Camp Barcelona 2009 Experience Sharing Programme at its auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Health technologists demand second class status

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Diploma Health Technologists and Pharmacists Samonnoy Parishad yesterday demanded implementation of its nine-point demand, including a better pay scale with the status of second-class gazetted officers.

The demands came from a press conference of the platform of health technologists and diploma pharmacists at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the city.

They also demanded introducing selection grade for the health technologists, introducing a four-year diploma course instead of the three-year one and appointing subject-wise teachers at the Institute of Health Technology (IHT).

Their other demands are introducing a diploma board under the health ministry and stopping all health technology and pharmacy courses conducted under the technical board of the education ministry, introducing bachelor courses in all pharmacy and health technology institutes, giving them 15 percent from the users' fees at the government hospitals

and providing them with 40 percent risk allowance.

While reading out a written statement, Convener of the platform Selim Mollah said if the government does not take steps to stop diploma courses run under the technical board immediately and bring it under the health ministry's medical education department, it will be devastating for the health services.

"The patients will be the worst sufferers because of the deteriorating services provided by the unskilled and untrained health technologists," he added.

"Although we are providing the main health services through diagnosing the diseases, we are being neglected in the health department," said a leader of the Parishad, adding that diploma engineers got the status of second class employees in 1994, but they are yet to get the status.

Parshad President Khan Md Ishaq, Member Secretary Md Moniruzzaman, Mosharrif Hossain Khan, Shahjahan Siddique, Sayed Md Asadullah, Ekram Ali and Ashish Kumar Haldar also spoke at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Khan Md Ishaq, president of Bangladesh Diploma Health Technologists and Pharmacists Samonnoy Parishad, speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Selim Mollah and Md Moniruzzaman.

## Tremor jolts northeastern districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tremor measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale was felt Thursday midnight at different parts of north and northeastern regions of the country including Sylhet and Mymensingh.

The epicentre of the earthquake was in Bhutan and 31 kilometres deep, approximately 458 kilometres from Dhaka, said the Meteorological Office in Dhaka.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and damage across the country till yesterday.

Muhammad Momenul Islam, meteorologist and in charge of Earthquake Observatory and Research Centre, told The Daily Star that the quake felt on Thursday occurred almost at the same place of the quake felt on the Eid-day in many parts of the country.

## JMB Ehsar Akbar placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

JMB Ehsar Akbar Ali alias Alamin was taken on remand for five days with effect from yesterday for interrogation in connection with militant activities.

The chief judicial magistrate of Bagerhat granted the remand on Thursday evening following a prayer by Sub-Inspector AM Mahabubur Rahman of Mollahat Police Station.

He was arrested by a team of Rab-6 from Gaola union under Mollahat upazila on October 26 after police seized from his possession a lot of brochures and leaflets on militant activities.

Police said Akbar is a close associate of Mehedi Hasan who is an operation commander-in-charge of Khulna division.

Mehedi was arrested by Rab men on the same day in Dhaka.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Citi-Agamir Alo Competition, organised by Citigroup and Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

## Transport crisis hits CU students

UNB, Dhaka

Chittagong University (CU), the country's only hillside university, often attracts tourists for its geographical location, but its students find it hard to shuttle from the port city to the campus everyday just for lack of adequate transport facilities.

Set up in 1966 on 1257 acres of land at Hathazari upazila, 22 kilometres north of Chittagong city, the university has got nearly 18,000 students, including 5,000 girls, about 700 teachers and 1700 staff.

It has four shuttle trains and bus services to transport students from the port city to the campus and from the campus to the city from 7:00 am to 11 pm, but these are too inadequate for these huge students, faculties and staff to comfortably shuttle everyday. The girl students are the worst sufferers.

But the problem is apprehended to aggravate further in near future, as the number of students in the university is increasing fast.

Recently, leaders of Chittagong University Teachers Association (Cuta) demanded that the transport facility for the faculties and the students be increased for proper functioning of the country's third largest university.

Cuta leaders at a recent press conference urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for expanding the CU transport network and constructing a

four-lane road from Oxygen to Hathazari for removing traffic congestions.

When contacted, CU Proctor Prof Jasim Uddin said the university authorities had been negotiating with the Bangladesh Railway for having more shuttle trains for the students, but it might take time.

"We know, transport problem is hampering the academic activities of the students, but the university authorities are doing their level best to expand the transport facility for the students. A positive response from the railway authorities may help address the problem to a large extent," he said.

Cuta President Prof Dr Mohammad Kamal Hossain said that the university authorities were planning to introduce an alternative transport service for the students apart from the shuttle train service.

Sources said though the university came into being in 1966, neither the university authorities nor the successive governments have ever paid heed to develop a relatively dependable and adequate transport network for the students. It has been enhancing the intake volume over decades without thinking about the required transports for these students to travel to the campus.

In the wake of student movements and pressure from different corners, the university authorities in cooperation with the Railway authorities launched the shuttle train service in 1980. Over the last two

decades and a half, there has been no effective move either to create alternative transports for the students or modernizing the existing train service.

Over 13,000 students travel to the campus and return to the city everyday by only eight trains of six coaches having seats for 150 students each. A good number of students take their trips on rooftop of the coaches for lack of adequate space inside the compartments, putting their lives at risk.

Mahmudul Hasan Mamun, a third-year student of Accounting and Information System, was killed at Sholoshahar Railway station in the city while trying to get on the rooftop of a train last year.

Another student, Sabikunnahar, of Bangla Literature was killed in another accident on August 2006, as he tried to get into a running university shuttle train.

"I take train to travel to the campus from the city and I have to keep standing for hours together for lack of seat. So, sometimes I take the risky trip on rooftop," Shahadat Hossain, a student of Communication and Journalism, told the UNB correspondent.

Nurul Islam, a senior student of the university, lamented, "The CU authorities have arranged at least 16 big luxurious buses for the faculties and officers in an effort to solve the transport crisis, but the students are always neglected.

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

