



Prof Kabir Chowdhury unveils cover of a book titled 'Sadakalo '71' at its launching ceremony at Rayer Bazar killing ground in the city yesterday. Drawings on Liberation War of 57 eminent artists in the country are content of the book.

## Commission to recruit teachers on the cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will form a recruitment commission to appoint teachers at primary and secondary levels across the country after approval of proposed education policy, said Dr Alauddin Ahmed, adviser to the prime minister on education and political affairs, yesterday.

"There should be a specific government organisation for recruiting teachers at primary and secondary schools like Public Service Commission (PSC). It might be named as 'Teachers' Recruitment Commission'. We will set up the commission following approval of the proposed education policy," he said.

Alauddin said this at a roundtable styled 'National Education Policy and Spirit of the Liberation War' organised by Centre for National Regional Service (CNRS) at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

He declared to form a separate salary structure for the teachers to make them financially solvent with an aim to inject

vigour among them for providing quality education.

The government would establish science and technology universities in larger 19 districts across the country for enlightening the young generation with the light of science education to implement the vision of establishing a digital Bangladesh.

"The government will approve an educational TV channel immediately through which the students of all levels will enjoy educational programmes," the adviser said.

Terming the implementation of the new education policy a tough challenge, he stressed the need for coordinated efforts from all to this end.

He stressed the need for engaging the local government representatives in illiteracy eradication programme.

Dr Mejbahuddin Ahmed, vice chancellor (VC) of Jagannath University, pointed out that the proposed education policy has been drafted in the light of the liberation war and the country's constitu-

tion. "The religion businessmen are trying to gain political benefit centring the education policy."

He opined for modernisation of madrasa education system and its syllabus.

The VC was critical of the education policy for not keeping any provision and direction for higher education.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan asserted that teachers should be trained up properly to ensure quality education.

He called on different student organisations, civil society members and professionals to contribute to eradicating illiteracy from the country.

Journalist Haroon Habib presided over the roundtable moderated by Jayanto Acharjee, coordinator of the CNRS.

Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, publicity secretary of Awami League, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, former chairman of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad Central Command Council, Tanvir Shakil Joy MP and freedom fighter Abul Kalam Azad also spoke.

## 7,000 born with thalassemia a year: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts at a roundtable yesterday said more than one crore people in the country have been suffering from thalassemia and every year around 7,000 babies are born with the disease.

They said thalassemia is a hereditary form of anaemia.

The experts said this at the discussion titled 'Alarming Rise of Thalassemia in Bangladesh: Our Responsibilities' at the National Press Club in the city.

If both husband and wife are the carriers of the disease, there is a tendency of their child having thalassemia, they said, adding

that it is important for every one to test before getting married whether he or she is a thalassemia carrier.

Bangladesh Thalassemia Foundation and Sandhani Sir Salimullah Medical College Unit organised the discussion where the thalassemia situation and its treatment in the country were highlighted.

The experts stressed the need to prevent the disease by mandatory thalassemia testing before marriage, as the treatment in the country is still inadequate and expensive.

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Monjur Morshed of the department of Haematology of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said though World Health Organisation (WHO) termed it a priority issue, the government is yet to take action in this connection.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mozibur Rahman Fakir was present at the discussion as the chief guest.

He underlined the importance of turning thalassemia-testing programme into a social movement.

Prof Wakar Khan of Thalassemia Centre, Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Secretary General of Bangladesh Thalassemia Foundation Dr Mohammad Abdur Rahim and representatives from different organisations working with thalassemia were also present.



Members of the guerilla wing of NAP-Communist Party-Chhatra Union and a number of freedom fighters take out a procession from Mukhtangan in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

## 'Invest more in water sector'

METRO DESK

Speakers at a dialogue emphasised more investment in water sector in the country.

Bangladesh Water Partnership organised the dialogue on 'Financing water infrastructure' in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The dialogue focused on broad-based water resources intervention and shortage of financial resources in the sector. It demanded more fund in the sector and initiatives for finding sources of fund.

Dr Wais Kabir, executive chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Centre, was the chief guest at the programme, while Md Shahidul Hassan, president of Bangladesh Water Partnership, presided.

Wais Kabir said water sector deserves prime focus for all development related activities. But unfortunately we don't have adequate capacity for managing the water sector.

Md Shariful Alam, deputy secretary of Local Government Division and Project Director,

Policy Support Unit for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh, in his keynote presentation observed that most of the donors committed funding in the water sector will be ended in 2012. Government should start dialogue with donors for new commitments and explore new source of funds.

Wadud Bhuiyan, chief engineer (monitoring) of BWDB, suggested more investment in water sector. National Water Management Plan provided an excellent roadmap for water sector investment, he added.

Dr Khondokhar Azharul Haque said that investment pattern in the water sector need to be changed. Fund absorption must be judicious and human resources require to be developed in the sector.

Syed Ishteaque Ali Jinnah, Md Moshir Rahman, Zahiruddin Ahmed, Dewan Naquib Ahsan, Toshiro Tsubota of JICA, Md Habibur Rahman, SM Nasim Uddin, Shah Noor Rahman, Lailun Nahar Ekram, among others, took part in the discussion.

## Bill to ensure rights of people with disabilities in next JS session: Minister

BSS, Faridpur

Labour, Employment and Expatriate Welfare Minister Engineer Khondoker Mosharruf Hossain yesterday said that the present government is committed to ensure the overall development of the down-trodden and neglected people of the society.

He said this while addressing as the chief guest a view exchange meeting on the employment opportunities of

the people with disabilities of the district held at Deputy Commissioner's conference room.

The minister disclosed that for ensuring the rights of employment and other facilities of the people with disabilities, a bill will be placed in the next session of parliament.

The meeting was organised jointly by Implementation committee for establishing employment rights of the disabled, Faridpur and Surjodoy Pratibandhi Sangstha in

collaboration of Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Bangladesh and Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Mosharruf said a disabled person is not responsible for his or her disability. So those are fortunate they have responsibility to look after their welfare.

He called upon the organisers and Social Welfare Department to make a detailed survey of the disabled persons in the district mentioning their

type of retardation so that they can be provided with necessary supports in phases.

Prof Md Shahjahan, president of Faridpur chapter of Employment Rights of the disabled, presided over the meeting. DC of Faridpur Helaluddin Ahmed, Police Super Awlad Ali Fakir, Awami League presidium member SM Nurunnabi, Social Welfare official Syed Abu Hossain and ADD official Ferdousi Begum.

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**UCEP-BANGLADESH**

21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UCEP ASSOCIATION

(An International Body)

PHOTO: COURTESY

The 21st annual general meeting of Underprivileged Children's Education Programme (UCEP) Association was held at UCEP Head Office at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

## EC to allow voters to change polling areas

BSS, Dhaka

Election Commission (EC) has decided to allow listed voters to change their polling areas at the beginning of the new year.

EC, for the first time, has taken the decision as over two lakh voters filed prayers with the commission seeking the opportunity to change their polling areas.

The concerned voters would be able to cast their votes in the changed addresses only. Senior Assistant Secretary of EC Israil Hossain told the news agency yesterday.

Many individuals could not contest the third upazila elections as there was no provision for changing polling address, he said, adding that many people could not contest the elections to city corporation, municipality and union parishad.

With EC's decision on changing polling address, scopes have created for many candidates to contest at all tiers of local government in polling areas of their choice, he said.

The commission secretariat at a review meeting on November 12 gave a five-point directive to registration officers and assistant registration officers on changing polling areas.

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