



PHOTO: STAR
State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman and Ananya Raihan, executive director of D.Net, jointly unveil the logo of the E-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010 at a programme at Bangladesh Computer Council Bhaban in the city yesterday.

ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD LAUNCHED 'e-Content a tool for dev'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The information of development initiatives and success stories should be digitised, replicated and disseminated to the people at furthestmost corner of the country through the information and communication technology (ICT). The change in life pattern would be inevitable and ICT is a proven tool in this regard, said speakers at the launching ceremony of 'e-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010' at Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) in the city yesterday.

They also underscored the importance of developing e-content for daily needs in mother tongue so that people can get maximum benefits out of that.

The speakers said the objective of the ICT initiative is to improve the lifestyle of people and develop the society.

The university-level research should be conducted to make the e-content avail-

able to all in an identical shape, they stressed in the programme, they added.

Ministry of Science and ICT and Development Research Network (DNet) organised the contest on e-Content and ICT for Development across the country based on 14 categories both for online and offline content products, ICT interventions and applications.

The Daily Star and Prothom Alo are the organising partners of the programme.

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman unveiled the logo of the award and said, "Our focus should be on integration of the development of e-contents to portray our true life stories to the world."

The government developed 64 districts' web portals as per its goal to achieve the target of building a digital Bangladesh, he added.

In a keynote paper, Munir Hasan, a consultant to the ministry, said the people have now internet connectivity

with various areas that create opportunities to do work in short time.

The total education sector would be run with the help of ICT by 2018, he observed.

D Net Executive Director Ananya Raihan said the contest categories for awards include e-government and institutions, e-health, e-learning and education, e-games, e-entertainment, e-culture and heritage, e-science, e-environment, e-business and commerce, e-enterprise and livelihood, e-inclusion and participation, e-localisation, e-news and m-content while the category of e-community broadcasting would be added later.

Any contestant from any company or organisation and individual can submit one nomination for each category through any one of the websites 'http://naward.dnet.org.bd', 'www.thedailystar.net', 'www.prothom-alo.com' and 'www.comjagat.com'.

A well-organised jury board will select the best nominations and the winners of this year would be eligible for contesting in the World Summit Award 2011.

The organisers hoped to continue the competition every year.

Reza Salim, director of Amader Gram, Enamul Kabir, secretary of BCC; Mahfuzur Rahman, executive director of BCC, and Suparna Roy, coordinator of A2I Programme at Prime Minister's Office, also spoke.

Channel i and ABC Radio are media partners, Digital Empowerment Foundation is knowledge partner, World Summit Award is global partner, Computer Jagat is online partner and 'lemon24.com' is internet radio partner while bdjobs.com is sponsor and www.jeeon.com is organising partner of the initiative.

For further information on the contest, anyone may visit the website 'http://naward.dnet.org.bd'.

Maldives seeks to work with Dhaka on climate issues

UNB, Dhaka

The Maldives government intends to address the global climate change issues under the leadership of Bangladesh, as both are the most vulnerable countries to climatic calamities.

"Maldives wants to work with Bangladesh on climate change issues," newly appointed High Commissioner of the Maldives Ahmed Sareer said while presenting his credential to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, Ahmed Sareer informed the president that his government highly praised the effective

initiatives taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Copenhagen Climate Conference.

"The prime minister of Bangladesh was fully successful in motivating the world leaders of rich countries to reduce their carbon emissions," said the new envoy of the island country.

Mentioning that some 45,000 Bangladeshi people work in his country, which also intends to recruit teachers from Bangladesh, Ahmed Sareer expressed his hope that the number would increase in the future.

He also mentioned that many students from the Maldives are pursuing higher studies in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the envoy, President Zillur Rahman mentioned that the country's bilateral relations with the Maldives are close and historical and the ties would be further strengthened in the days to come.

Zillur Rahman emphasized expanding the bilateral economic cooperation for development of trade and commerce between the two countries.

Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mijarul Quayes and secretaries of the president's office were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the high commissioner was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment.



AS Mahmud's 6th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 6th anniversary of death of AS Mahmud, the founding managing director of Mediaworld Ltd., the owning company of The Daily Star, and the founder chairman of Ekushey Television (ETV), the country's first private terrestrial television channel.

AS Mahmud, also one of the leading businessmen of the country, passed away on this day in London in 2004.

AS Mahmud was born into an illustrious family in Sylhet on July 10, 1933. He graduated in economics from Dhaka University in 1954 and started his career as an oil company executive in Burma Shell.

He was also the chairman of Reliance Insurance Company Ltd., a director of Infrastructure Development Company Ltd., jointly financed by the government and the World Bank, and chairman of Unidev Ltd.

AS Mahmud paved a new path in the electronic and print media in Bangladesh.

Indian air chief leaves Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff of Indian Air Force Air Chief Marshal PV Naik left Dhaka yesterday, ending a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

The Indian air chief led a three-member delegation during his visit, said an ISPR press release.

During his stay in Dhaka, Air Chief Marshal PV Naik called on President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sedition case against two lawyers

Complainant declared hostile

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Seven prosecution witnesses, including the complainant, of a sedition case filed against two lawyers on charges of vandalism on the Supreme Court (SC) premises told a Dhaka court yesterday that they saw no vandalism on November 30 in 2006.

Following his statement, the complainant, the then SC keeper Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, was declared 'hostile' as he said that he filed the case as per directives of the higher authorities.

The accused lawyers -- advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awsafur Rahman -- were present in the court during yesterday's hearing.

Six other witnesses are Assistant Registrar G Jems Richard Essa, guards Mohammad Shafiullah and Mohammad Hakim, peon Mosammat Marium and jamadars Mainuddin and

Abdul Majid.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court recorded statements of the witnesses and later defense lawyers cross-examined them.

The court also fixed January 24 as the date for the next hearing of the case. The court asked the remaining prosecution witnesses to appear before it on the scheduled date.

During the hearing, Rafiqul Islam told the court that he saw nothing about vandalism on November 30, 2006, even though he filed the case against the two lawyers and Dr Kamal Hossain and five others.

He also said that he had filed the case against them as per directives of the higher authorities, although he was not present at the place of occurrence.

Following his (Rafiqul) statement, Additional Public Prosecutor Shah Alam

Talukder declared the witness hostile and cross-examined him, but he could not extract any vital clue about the vandalism.

Six other prosecution witnesses also told the court that they saw no vandalism, as they were not present at the place of occurrence.

Rafiqul Islam filed the case with Shahbagh police station accusing 200 people, including noted jurists Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Barrister Tania Amir, Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awsafur Rahman of vandalism and tearing off the national flag on December 5, 2006.

But the investigation officer of this case submitted charge sheet against only Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awsafur Rahman on January 6 last year and dropped the names of others from the chargesheet.

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