

Call to allocate 6pc of GDP to edn sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding more budgetary allocation for education sector, speakers at a seminar yesterday said effective utilisation of the money is a must to materialise the government's pledge to ensure quality primary education for all.

There is no space to compromise on primary education as it builds the foundation, they said, urging the government to recognise the primary education as the fundamental rights in the constitution.

The speakers also demanded that the government immediately implement the national education policy and allocate six percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for education sector.

Amar Odhikar Campaign organised the seminar titled 'Quality primary education for all children: adequate allocation in the national budget is needed' at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, co-chair of the national education policy formulation committee, said the government had committed to allocate six percent of the GDP for the education sector and it has to fulfil its pledge.

He said the education sector got over Tk 14,000 crore in the current budget that is 12.3 percent of the total budget and the allocation may be increased to Tk 16,000 crore.

Dr Kholiquzzaman said the education policy would be implemented in nine years and it would require Tk 8,000 crore every year for the implementation.

"So the government should allocate Tk

20,000-22,000 crore for education sector in the coming budget," he said adding effective implementation is most essential.

He emphasised inclusion of the marginalised group in the education facilities.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), said the government is currently facing a tripartite challenge -- bringing cent percent children to schools, retaining them in schools and ensuring quality education for them.

A kind of politics is on centring the education policy, she said calling upon the government to implement it immediately.

She suggested introducing hot cooked meal instead of the biscuits for the children to retain them in schools.

Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, secretary in charge to the primary and mass education, said despite many problems the government is working its best to improve the condition.

"We are going to set up 1,500 schools and have already increased the number of stipends in the primary level," he said.

Though the government wants to increase the allocation, but it's not possible in one or two years, he said.

"More allocation is a must but we have to consider the fact that the government has other necessary priorities to meet," he said.

Rokeya Kabir, convener of Amar Odhikar Campaign, moderated the seminar while Principal Quazi Farruque Ahmed, treasurer of the National University, and Abdul Awal of the campaign also spoke.

AL-BNP CLASH IN CITY 73 BNP men get bail, five sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to 73 BNP leaders and activists, including the two ward councillors, who were arrested during a clash between Awami League and BNP activists at Pallabi in the city on Friday.

The court, however, sent five other BNP activists, who were also arrested with the 73 workers, to jail.

Atiqul Islam, general secretary of Ward No. 6 Awami League, filed a case yesterday, accusing 78 BNP leaders and activists of ransacking his office and his brother's shop.

Sub-Inspector Yakub Ali of Pallabi Police Station filed another case, accusing them of assaulting the policemen and creating obstacles to discharging their duties.

Some 25 people were injured in the Friday's clash at Mirpur-6. The clash erupted after both the parties brought out processions in the same area at the same time.

Mason killed by co-worker in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mason was killed at Chandanagar of Bayezid area in the port city early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Manju Mia, 32.

Sources said Manju locked into an altercation at around 4:00am with fellow mason Nazrul both engaged in construction work on a plot, at Chandanagar.

At one stage of the altercation, Nazrul hit Manju on the neck with a crowbar, police said. Manju was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 8:00am.

Police arrested one Sayem after a case was filed.



Crest recipients pose with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 100th anniversary of World Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Girl Guides Association organised the event.

Political empowerment of women must be ensured Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked women to seize the opportunities extended to them to improve their lot and contribute to social development.

"Chances are never given in hand, chances are to be seized," she said at the founding anniversary of World Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city. Bangladesh Girl Guides Association organised the function.

Deputy Leader in Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid attended the programme as special guests.

The prime minister said women have to come forward to face the challenges of the new century and to develop the country.

"It is not possible to attain the desired development without the participation of women," she said and added that they have to learn the use of new and modern technology and participate in the country's development and advancement process.

Hasina also said empowering women politically is a must for raising their social status and ensuring their participation in economic activities.

Describing her commitment to women's empowerment, she said it is her government that provides adequate scopes for them. Awami League gave nomination to the highest number of women to contest the last general election. Five most important ministries including agriculture, home and foreign are run by women.

The prime minister said during her previous tenure (1996-2201), she introduced recruitment of women in the armed forces. Women were elevated to the Supreme Court benches.

"We have extended the maternity leave to four months. Now we are thinking to extend it to six months," she added.

Hasina said that girl guides are playing an important role in the world for women's empowerment, leadership and development.

She asked the authorities concerned to take effective measures to expand the Girl Guides.

She also assured the Girl Guides of all possible assistance for its expansion.

The prime minister noted that drug and drug addiction among the youths has become a social problem. "Scouting can play a vital role to eliminate this social disease from the country."

She urged the Girl Guides to cooperate with the government to achieve its 'Digital Bangladesh' programme and make the country free from hunger, poverty and corruption.

Girl Guides National Commissioner Ful Rani Sarker presided over the ceremony where Bangladesh Girl Guides Association Treasurer Profyasmin Ahmed also spoke.

The prime minister handed over the Girl Guides crests to Lulu Rahman for her lifetime achievement.

Crests were also handed over to Asadunnesa and Jinat Ahmed for their contribution to the movement.

4 DU students arrested for creating chaos at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested four students of Dhaka University for creating chaos at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city.

The arrestees were identified as Sahadat Hossain and Afsar Hossain, students of marketing department, Sajidul Islam of sociology, and Anisur Rahman of Pali and Sanskrit department.

They are the residents of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall of the university.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said police detained the students around 11:00am while they were trying to create chaos at BSMMU.

Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan told The Daily Star that the students were locked into a clash with some BSMMU employees at the outdoor section over breaking a queue of the patients by an employee.

They protested the incident as a relative of one of the students was standing in the queue to visit a physician, he added.



Artists of Pancham Sur render a song at a programme marking the fourth death anniversary of Nasreen Parvin Haque, country director of ActionAid, yesterday. Naripakkha, a women's rights organisation, arranged the event.

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