

Biography of Ouderland launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A biography of Ouderland Bir Pratik, the only foreigner to receive a gallantry award for his contribution to the country's Liberation War, has been launched commemorating the Dutch-born Australian's ninth death anniversary.

Ouderland, born in 1917 in Amsterdam, was the chief executive officer of Bata Shoe Company when the war broke out in 1971. He took part in the war and was later awarded Bir Pratik.

He remained in Bangladesh till 1978 and later settled in Australia. He died on May 18, 2001 at the age of 84.

The book launching ceremony was organised by Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) at its conference room in the city yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest, Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Shafiqe Alam Mehdi expressed admiration and respect for Ouderland for his role in the liberation war.

On a different note, he said the aviation ministry is free of any form of corruption and harassment, adding that anyone facing harassments at the ministry may post complaints, which would be looked into promptly.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr Justin Lee inaugurated the launching ceremony while Chief Executive Officer of RTV M Hamid and BHRB Secretary General Dr Md Shahjahan also spoke.

The book titled 'Bengali Biography on Ouderland Bir Pratik' is written by Mahbubur Rahman and will be available for purchase at a price of Tk 100.



(Right) Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque inaugurates a programme titled 'Enriching schools under EIS programme with new resources' by unveiling an EIS signboard at Khulna Zila School yesterday. On his left are Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Managing Director and CEO of Robi Michael Kuehner. (Left) Students at the programme organised by The Daily Star and Robi, a mobile phone operator.

'Drug addiction root cause of 60 percent crimes'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drug addiction is the root cause of over 60 percent of total crime incidents in the country, and is causing most of the incurable fatal diseases like AIDS, speakers said at a seminar in the city yesterday.

They made the comment at the seminar on creating awareness about harmful effects and legal provisions regarding narcotics at Stamford University auditorium in Siddeswari.

Mujibur Rahman Patwary, deputy director of the Department of Narcotics Control (Dhaka Metro Sub-zone), said drug is the main enemy of the youth that count 40 percent of total population of the country.

Drugs are taken in different styles, but it is most alarming when those are taken in groups using a same syringe, he said adding incurable diseases are spreading fast through such addicts at different points of the city.

AKM Shahidul Hoque, commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said despite frantic efforts, law enforcers could not contain the use of drugs due to lack of proper motivations by the families of the addicts.

The police officer said lessons on traffic rules and bad effects of drugs should be taught at schools.

Acknowledging that incidents of stalking are on the rise, Krishnopada Roy, deputy commissioner of the DMP (Ramna Zone), said there should have a social movement apart from the efforts of the law enforcers against stalkers.

Prof MH Hannan Feroze, president of board of trustees of the university, presided over the seminar addressed by its Vice-chancellor Prof M Mujibur Rahman, among others.

ENRICHING SCHOOLS UNDER EIS PROGRAMME WITH NEW RESOURCES

Enhance English skills to face global challenges

Speakers urge students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a programme yesterday stressed the need for students to learn better English to face global challenges and build a better future for them.

Over 1,500 students joined the programme titled 'Enriching schools under EIS programme with new resources' held at Khulna Zila School under the auspices of The Daily Star and Robi, a mobile phone operator.

'English in Schools' (EIS) is a joint initiative by Robi and The Daily Star, aiming at improving English language skills among the secondary school students throughout the country.

At the programme, the students expressed firm resolve to develop skills in English language.

Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Talukder Abdul Khaleque addressed the programme as the chief guest while the Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Managing Director and CEO of Robi Michael Kuehner were present as special guests.

"It is necessary for the students to learn English for a better future. But unfortunately not many of our students can learn it properly," the mayor said.

He also said every school should avail themselves of this opportu-

nity offered by the EIS programme.

"I personally request all the schools under Khulna division to take it (EIS programme) seriously and move forward," the mayor said and thanked Robi and The Daily Star for this initiative.

Robi CEO Michael Kuehner said Robi is proud to support this programme. Robi believes in the inner strength of people.

The EIS programme is designed to enrich the students with English language skills, he added.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said students should never ignore Bangla, but at the same time learning English is important for them to face global challenges.

He hoped to see Bangladeshi students successfully competing in global arena, saying that EIS is creating opportunity for the students to this end.

Head of Khulna University's English Department Prof ARM Mostafizur Rahman, Headmistress of Khulna Zila School Maleka Begum and Additional District Magistrate Md Mominur Rahman also spoke, among others.

Currently, 1000 schools across the country are under EIS programme and each of them receive three copies of The Daily Star five days a week at free of cost along with a weekly full-page English learning materials.

Ashrafur made SC registrar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ashrafur Islam, a district judge and a member of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association, was appointed registrar of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday.

Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim appointed Ashrafur, who was performing as director in-charge of Bangladesh Judicial Training Institute, as the post of registrar fell vacant on April 17 following resignation of Md Shawkat Hossain, sources said.

Shawkat resigned from the office of SC registrar as he was appointed a judge of the High Court on April 11 by the president and hetook oath on April 18.

Additional SC registrar M Atowar Rahman has been discharging as acting registrar after the office fell vacant.

Atowar told The Daily Star yesterday that the chief justice has appointed Ashrafur as new registrar after the ministry of law has placed his service on Monday to the SC as per desire of the chief justice.

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