



PHOTO: STAR
Vice Chancellor of Premier University Prof Dr Anupam Sen speaks at the concluding ceremony of a programme titled 'Enriching Schools with New Resources' in Chittagong Collegiate School yesterday.

'ENRICHING SCHOOLS WITH NEW RESOURCES' Enhance English skills to face global challenges

Say educationists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students must learn English properly to successfully compete in the present era of globalisation, educationists said at the concluding ceremony of a programme titled 'Enriching Schools with New Resources' in Chittagong yesterday.

The programme was initiated under the 'English in Schools' (EIS) programme, a joint initiative taken by The Daily Star and Robi, a mobile operator, to improve English language skills of the secondary school students throughout the country.

Over one thousand students joined the programme at the Chittagong Collegiate School.

Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor of Premier University Prof Dr Anupam Sen said English is spoken by one billion people in the world and it is the language of world commerce.

He underscored the need for mastering the four skills of English language -- listening, speaking, reading and writing -- through proper practices.

He also urged the students to give first

priority to learning their mother language properly.

Prof Sen also observed that faulty method of teaching the language at school level is the main reason behind poor English skills among the students.

Prof Muhammad Abu Zafar Chowdhury, chairman of the Chittagong Education Board, hoped that the EIS programme would surely help the school students improve their proficiency in speaking as well as writing English.

Thanking the organisers for providing copies of The Daily Star to 1,000 schools free of cost, Prof Zafar said students of most academic institutions in the country do not get scopes to read any English newspapers.

He also hoped that such initiative would encourage the students to come forward to learn English properly.

Michael Kuehner, managing director and chief executive officer of Robi, said the programme would be helpful for the students in building their professional career, as the global economy and the computer technology are very much

based on English.

He also assured that all-out support would be extended to expand the programme.

Shahnoor Wahid, editor of the Star Campus, said students would benefit greatly from the guidelines in the EIS page of The Daily Star. The EIS page is published every Monday.

He also urged the students to read English magazines and storybooks regularly to develop English skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Headmaster of Collegiate School Muhammad Aziz Uddin proposed that the organisers should launch a programme under EIS to train the English teachers so that they could help the students in a better way.

Head of Communications and Media Relations of Robi Mohiuddin Babar also spoke.

The 'Enriching Schools with New Resources' under the EIS programme began in Khulna on May 28. The EIS is the country's largest CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programme.

Squatter settlements, slums devoid of civic amenities

Say urban planners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The squatter settlements and slums in and around the capital are devoid of basic civic amenities such as electricity, gas and water supply.

Urban planners said this yesterday at a view exchange meeting titled "The role of policy makers in improving the lives of slum dwellers" organised by 'Onneshan' and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation at CIRDAP auditorium.

They pointed out that the slum dwellers pay a lot of money to illegal sources for such services. The payment, however, does not reach the government.

A study by Onneshan shows that a slum dwelling family pays about Tk 250 monthly for electricity to run a fan and a light whereas its legal value is not more than Tk 150.

Slum dwellers at the programme urged the government to

establish a system to provide legal utility services to slums.

Referring to the very important role played by slum dwellers in urban setting they demanded low-cost housing facilities for them in the city.

Economist MM Akash said, to end the pilferage the government should consider providing legal connection to slum dwellers who pay to the wrong hands.

He also stressed proper land reform policy establishing government's control over unused land.

Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works said at the meeting the problems of slum dwellers can be addressed with proper policies such as Detailed Area Plan.

He assured the slum dwellers that the government has no plan to evict them.

Chaired by Prof Nazrul Islam, lawmaker Shagufta Yasmin spoke at the programme among others.



PHOTO: STAR
State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan addresses a view exchange meeting at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Nazrul Islam, economist MM Akash and lawmaker Shagufta Yasmin.

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PM's support for Aleya's family

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has donated Tk 50,000 in aid of family of late Aleya Begum who was burnt to death by a gang of criminals.

Director General of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Begum Dina Haque handed over the cheque to Aleya's mother Hasna Begum yesterday at her office.

Aleya Begum, a resident of the city's Mirpur area, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious burn injuries on May 26. Later she succumbed to her injuries.

The Prime Minister's Office said the main accused of the killing has been arrested following direct intervention of the PMO.

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