

'Say no to drugs'

METRO DESK

A daylong programme to create awareness about drug abuse was held at Gulshan in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

Alo, a voluntary organisation, organised the programme with a slogan 'Say no to drugs'.

An art competition styled 'Say no to drugs', a skit titled 'Khoka choley gelo, phirey elona' and a fashion show were held at the programme.

Children of Utsho Bidyaniketan, Eglals ABC School and Streetwise participated in the art competition. Renowned artist Jamal gave out the awards to the best three entries. The skit was written, directed and performed by Utsho Bidyaniketan, a school for the under-privileged children.

Tootli Rahman, one of the leading fashion designers of Bangladesh, designed the clothes at the fashion show, choreographed and directed by her.

Alo President Shahana Khan involved Utsho and Imogen Butler-Cole along with the theatre group Prachyanat in the awareness campaign. The message DRUGS stand for death, ruin, ugly, gutter and slow poison. She urged all to convey the message 'Say no to drugs' and to help Alo's cause.

Brother Ronald of Apon who had brought along a few young recovering addicts, in his speech appealed to all to help in whatever way they could to prevent drugs from destroying our community.

Prachyanat, a theatre group, performed a play titled 'Pinik', written by Imogen Butler-Cole, at the end of the programme.



Artistes of Prachyanat stage a play titled 'Pinik' at a programme at Gulshan in the city on Saturday.

PHOTO: COURTESY BY ALO

Matia blames non-govt sector for project-based activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday criticised short-term and project-based development activities in the non-government sector.

"When there is some money available, a project is initiated. Once money is over, the project is over and you don't see any sign of the job after two years," she said, suggesting for proven technologies and measures having long-term implications in people's lives.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of a workshop on deep placement of NPK Briquettes at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) conference room in the city.

The US-based organisation, International Fertiliser Development Center (IFDC), organised it with support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

IFDC in collaboration with Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is implementing a project titled "Improved Livelihood for Sidr-Affected Rice Farmers

(ILSFARM)" that promotes NPK briquettes, a mixed fertiliser.

Its use increases productivity up to 30 percent and helps save the environment because it is placed deep in the paddy field in certain gaps instead of applying on surface, said soil scientist Dr Abdul Mazid of the project.

Matia appreciated it, but said it has problems on farmers' part, as they find it troublesome to apply manually because it causes finger and back pain. Some mechanic applicators have been developed, but those are not yet perfect, she added.

"It is surprising that briquettes have been introduced in Bangladesh for over a decade, but its coverage is only around 6 lakh hectares," Matia Chowdhury said.

In fifteen years, briquettes coverage should have been 100 percent, but that has not happened, she said, posing a question if the developed countries do not use manual labour to place briquettes, why it should be the base in Bangladesh.

"Are we then used as a guinea pig?" the agriculture minister said, adding that it is

imperative that they transfer the technologies that are tested in their countries.

Stating that depletion of underground water is a real problem for Bangladesh, she said, "I would say the US should help us in dredging rivers if it really wants to help us."

"Solutions like cosmetic surgery would not help. The whole body should be healthy. River erosion has eaten up a huge amount of land. So, dredging the rivers and maintain their flows are our main challenge."

BARC Executive Chairman Dr Wais Kabir said using NPK briquette in the coastal belt could be very effective provided that a perfect applicator is developed. "We are trying to do that," he said.

DAE Director General Syeed Ali said taking greater care of Aus and Aman alongside boro could easily increase rice production to 3.5 crore tonnes, which is now only 3.2 crore.

USAID Mission Director Dennis Sharma, ILSAFARM Chief of Party Graham Hunter and IFDC Bangladesh Resident Representative Ishrat Jahan also spoke on the occasion.

'Dhaka yet to be a civic city'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Redesigning of the Dhaka city should begin from the edges of rivers, canals and wetlands as the city was born at edges of wetlands, said noted urban designer Dr Kazi Khaled Ashraf yesterday.

Dr Khaled, also an associate professor at University of Hawaii remarked this while making a presentation on "Designing Dhaka: Illusions and Vision" at an Asiatic Society of Bangladesh auditorium.

He said that Dhaka is yet to be a civic city as it does not have all the ingredients to be a civic city.

Through his presentation, Dr Khaled took a section of Dhaka city dwellers that attended the occasion to a dream city where a lot of open spaces, greeneries and flow of water on the canals and other wetlands on and around the capital will be available.

An alumni of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Dr Khaled in the slide-show presentation also shared his idea to redesign the capital in a bid to resolve its existing problems and establish it as a civic city.

Speaking at the session, Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, a former professor of

Buet also echoed Dr Khaled that the process of planning the capital should be started from edges of its wetlands.

He stressed strong political will to protect the water-lands on and around the capital from grabbers and implement other plans regarding the city saying that, otherwise, everything will remain in paper.

The Centre for Dhaka Studies and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh arranged the programme addressed among others by Asiatic Society of Bangladesh General Secretary Prof Mahfuz Khanam and Director to the Centre for Dhaka Studies Prof Sharifuddin Ahmed.

Help implement edn policy: Nahid

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday called upon deputy commissioners (DC) to extend their cooperation in implementing the education policy and curbing corruption and wastage in the education sector.

Nahid made the call during a working session of the Deputy Commissioners' Conference-2010 at the Cabinet Room.

He also asked the DCs to help in holding junior school certificate examination,

expansion of technical education and distribution of school textbooks.

The Education Minister said that the present government has formulated an education policy, distributed 19 crore school textbooks and enlisted 1624 private educational institutions under the MPO.

He also added that they were successful at holding a copy-free SSC and HSC exams and at increasing IT practice in the educational institutions while taking initiatives to stop corruption and wastage

in education sector.

He said that aim of the government is to make the new generation skilled in modern technology and knowledge apart from improving the standard of education.

He also asked the DCs to wage a social movement against eve teasing.

State Minister for Science and ICT architect Yeafesh Osman and State Minister for Primary and Mass Education M Motahar Hossain were present as special guests.

One stabbed to death in Narsingdi

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Robbers stabbed a microbus passenger to death and injured two others seriously at Belabo upazila here yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Dulal Mia, 28, a businessman. The injured were Helal Mia, elder brother of the deceased and Maju Mia, also a businessman.

While Dulal, his brother Helal and Maju were going to Dhaka boarding on a microbus from Ashuganj at 9:00am, six robbers in guise of passengers got on the microbus from Bhairab busstand.

As the microbus reached the Patildhoa area of Narsingdi, the six robbers started to stab the passengers indiscriminately and looted their money and valuables.

Hearing their screams, passers-by rushed to the spot and took them to Bhairab Matrika Hospital, where Dulal succumbed to his injuries. The robbers, however, managed to flee. Later, Helal was shifted to Brahmanbaria Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Release of Mahmudur demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad, a body of professionals, demanded withdrawal of all the cases filed against the Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman and his immediate release.

They placed the demand at a meeting of central committee of the organisation on Saturday, said a press release yesterday.

Expressing deep concern over shutting down print and electronic media and torturing journalists, they urged the government to refrain from such 'anti-democratic' activities.

They said the government is trying to destroy the democratic system, religious values and social justice in the name of reviewing the constitution.

They also blamed the government for launching administrative torture on different government officials.

Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) Secretary General Dr AZM Zahid Hossain spoke at the meeting with Eng ANH Akhter Hossain in the chair.

FALSE ARMS-POSSESSION CHARGE IN SATKHIRA HC asks home secretary to submit probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered the home secretary to submit to it the probe report on the allegations against some Rab personnel of trying to implicate a Satkhira businessman in a false arms-possession charge to it within a week.

A team of Rab-6 led by its Operation Commander (Khulna) Maj Kamruzzaman and Deputy Assistant Director Delwar Hossain reportedly went to Natuward village in Sadar upazila of Satkhira and tried to implicate Shafigul Islam, owner of a shrimp enclosure, in a false arms possession charge on May 22 this year.

The HC on May 26 directed the home secretary to form an inquiry committee and to submit report to it.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Delwar Hossain yesterday came up with the order during hearing a public interest litigation

filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), and Society of Justice (SoJ) seeking necessary orders from this court to prevent such incidents.

Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder yesterday informed the HC that the home secretary had formed a two-member committee in May this year to investigate the incident and also prepared a report in this regard as per its earlier order.

He said the home secretary has not submitted the report to the HC, as there was no specific deadline for its submission.

The court directed the government to close Kamruzzaman and Delwar Hossain and also issued a rule upon it to explain why it should not be directed to take action for their failure to protect the fundamental rights of people.

The government has since closed Kamruzzaman and Delwar.

The petition came up before the bench for hearing yesterday.

Afsarul Amin's mother passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hazera Amin, mother of Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Amin and mother-in-law of The News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Saturday at the age of 82, says a press release.

Hazera, wife of late Dr Fazlul Amin, left behind her five sons and four daughters to mourn her death.

In a statement, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock and conveyed her sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

In a separate statement Dewan Farid Gazi, president of the parliamentary standing committee on Primary and Mass Education Ministry, also condoled the death.

1 held with arms

UNB, Savar

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in a drive arrested a gunman along with a shooter gun from Enayetpur area of Ashulia here on Saturday. The arrestee was identified as Abul Kalam, 30, son of late Kudrat Ali of Chaita Village in Netrakona.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Fall in temperature likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall falls by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.4 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.4	72	73
Chittagong	30.5	26.3	75	83
Rajshahi	33.5	26.5	86	73
Khulna	32.8	26.8	76	78
Barisal	31.5	26.4	80	83

GHORASHAL POWER PLANT Closure of three units halves production

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Production at Ghorashal thermal power plant in Palash upazila of Narsingdi has reduced to half yesterday as two units were shut down in the last six days and one unit shut three months earlier.

Chief Assistant Engineer of the power plant RP Roy said 210MW capacity unit No-4 of the power plant was shut down on Saturday night due to a technical glitch while 210MW capacity unit No-6 went out of order after a fire incident on July 18.

Besides, 55MW capacity unit No-2 has been kept shut for the last three months due to a technical problem.

Power plant sources said production at the power plant has come down to 475MW per day from 950MW as the three units, out of six, went out of order.

Load shedding in several districts throughout the country increased, as electricity production in the three units of the power plant remained suspended till filing of this report.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Roundtable**  
Free Thinkers of Bangladesh will hold a roundtable. Venue: VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Awami Ainjibi Parishad will hold a discussion. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

**Meeting**  
Chinnamul Shishu Kishore Sangstha will hold a meeting. Venue: WVA auditorium, Time: 10:30am.

**Human chain**  
Shasthya Andolon will organise a human chain. Venue: Sat Masjid Road (Medinova), Time: 11:00am.

**Workshop**  
Unesco Dhaka in collaboration with Bureau of Non-formal Education and Japan International Cooperation Agency will organise a workshop titled "Developing a non-formal education delivery framework". Venue: BNFE, 232/1 Tejgaon I/A, Time: 9:00am.

**Award ceremony**  
Bangabandhu Agriculture Award-1415 giving ceremony will be held. Venue: Oamani Memorial Auditorium, Time: 9:00am.

**Freshers' reception**  
Dhaka City College Student Council will organise a reception for the students of first year. Venue: Dhaka City College, Time: 3:00pm.

**Business awards**  
The "12th Bangladesh business award 2009-10" ceremony will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 7:00pm.

**Photo exhibition**  
A photo exhibition will be held marking the "World Tiger Day". Venue: National Press Club auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

**Closing exhibition**  
The closing ceremony of National Fisheries Week will be held. Venue: BMA auditorium, Time: 7:00pm.

**AGM**  
The 33rd Annual General Meeting of IFIC bank will be held. Venue: Bashundhara Convention Centre (Baridhara), Time: 11:00am.

**Music function**  
Maleka Shilpi Goshthi will arrange a musical soiree. Venue: National Museum, Time: 5:30pm.

**Discussion**  
Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmla Committee will hold a discussion. Venue: WVA auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

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