



Prof MM Akash speaks at a seminar on MDGs at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

'Food security a must to achieve MDGs by 2015'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A number of non-government organisations yesterday demanded of the government to take immediate action to ensure food security for the ultra poor, and thus achieve Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Daridro Birodhi Mancha, a platform of 26 NGOs, put the demand at a seminar on "MDGs achievement and food security for extreme poverty" and a human chain programme at National Press Club.

The platform also demanded healthy accommodation, education and health

care for the ultra poor and underprivileged people.

The country has achieved the goals in education and health sector, yet thousands of people with disability and of minority communities still live below the poverty line and starve, said Prof Dr MM Akash of Dhaka University.

So, the government should address these major issues to achieve MDGs in due time, he added.

He also suggested strong monitoring of MDGs indicators to get real status of MDGs, since some claim that Bangladesh is close to target achievement while others deny.

Muhammad Hilaluddin, chief of Ongkar Bangladesh, presided over the seminar, and Mohsin Ali, executive director of Wave Foundation, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and Monisha Biswas of UN Millennium Campaign addressed it.

The platform launched a six-day campaign on MDGs on September 16, which ended yesterday.

National consultation meeting, art competition, rally, human chain, procession, seminar and advocacy report presentation marked the campaign.

Child trafficking on rise

Says Swiss Envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Terres des homes (TDH) Foundation Italy, an international NGO, yesterday launched a project titled "Trafficked- A project to raise awareness about child trafficking in Bangladesh" to make people aware about child trafficking.

"Trafficking and child trafficking is an issue, which needs our attention. It is on the rise," said Switzerland ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Urs Herren at a press conference at the launching ceremony of the project in the city's National Press Club.

Media can play an important role in making the program a success, he said seeking help in this regard.

"This is a pure awareness building program. Through the program we invite people to think what they can do regarding the issue," said

TDH-Italy country representative Patrizia Gattoni.

TDH-Italy project coordinator Foyzun Nahar presented the activities planned at the national and local levels.

The project will display photographs on the issue through photo exhibitions to be held in eleven places across the country -- Patuakhali, Satkhira, Jessore, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Pirganj, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Saidpur, Kurigram and National Museum in Dhaka in January of 2011.

The project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation while the implementing partners are Expoforum GmbH and TDH.

The photographs have been taken by Shehzad Noorani from different areas of Bangladesh in between 2007 and 2009.



A colourful procession is brought out on Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of the International Day of Peace-2010. JMI Bangla Co. Ltd organised the event.

Missing sand trader found dead in pond at Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday recovered the body of a sand trader from a pond at Subhadda Uttar Para under Dakkhin Keraniganj police station.

The trader identified as Mohammad Nayan, 26, son of late Shamsul Alam of Subhadda Uttar para had been missing since September 13.

Dakkhin Keraniganj police found the body in a sack at around 12:00noon yesterday.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Sub-inspector Azizul Haque told The Daily Star that Nayan went out of his house at 10.30pm on September 13 and remained missing since then.

His relatives said Nayan and nine other traders jointly lift sand using dredger. Neither his relatives nor police have any clue behind his murder.

Locals said a cowboy saw the sack containing the body at around 11:00am while he was collecting fodder for cattle from the pond.

Govt to ensure modern edn

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Considering improvement of the standard of education as the main challenge, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government wants to spread modern and standard education and technology to the young generation for building a country free from poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

"We want to make our generation complete human being equipped with modern education and technology, and imbued with moral values and patriotism," he said while delivering a lecture on "Education in Bangladesh: Present state, challenges and future outlook."

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the lecture at its auditorium in the city.

Pointing out various steps taken by the government, the minister said the government has framed an education policy to ensure equal educational opportunity for all.

"The policy which has already been

finalised would be put on the website within few weeks and also be placed in the current parliament session," said Nahid.

He said many education commissions and committees have been formed to formulate education policy in the last 48 years but their recommendations were not implemented as the policies had little involvement of the people.

"But, this time the policy has been framed taking opinion from all which indicates the big possibility of its implementation," he added.

The minister said though the education sector gets the highest budgetary allocation, it is not enough as the expenditure is increasing every year.

Mentioning the government's plan to modernise madrasa education, Nahid said the government would set up an Islamic Affiliating University to oversee the entire activities of madrasa education along with incorporating modern education in its streams.

He stressed the need for modern

curricula and syllabuses saying it is not possible to fulfil the dreams of building a digital Bangladesh with the existing education curricula.

The minister said the government is laying strong emphasis on technical education, as it wants to turn the young generation into competent human resources.

The speakers at the programme made some suggestions, including immediate implementation of the education policy, increasing of budgetary allocation in education, keeping politics out of educational institutions, ensuring teacher's by giving intensive training, forming an education fund and stop and freeing the educational institutions from the interference of the lawmakers.

Muhammed Firdaus Mian, chairman of Board of Governors of BISS, presided over the programme while economists and educationists Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, Prof Syed Anwar Husain and Prof Shamsheer Ali, among others, spoke.

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