



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique (second from left) unveils the monogram of a five-year long campaign, Avijatra, on the university campus yesterday to establish the challenged children's educational rights.

Campaign for challenged children's edn launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

A five-year campaign, Avijatra, was launched yesterday at Dhaka University with the promise to establish the education rights of the physically challenged children across the country.

Disable Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA) and Lilianna Foundation Netherlands jointly arranged the programme to involve the special needs children in the mainstream education.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the campaign as the chief guest. He urged the people to come forward to introduce a uniform education system.

Prof Arefin also emphasised proper education for the challenged to boost the country's economy.

Ten percent of the world's people and 15 million people in Bangladesh are physically challenged, said Md Nurun Nabi Talukder, director of the NGO affairs bureau, quoting a survey of World Health Organisation (WHO).

Country Director of ActionAid, Farah Kabir, said Avijatra will inspire the challenged people to involve in the mainstream education system and will monitor the progress to help the government.

She also urged the people to call the challenged "differently able people" instead of "disable". "They are not disable; they are able enough but differently".

The speakers said HICARE is teaching 600 hearing impaired students in two schools mentioning that a sign language course may be initiated at modern language institute of DU.

DRRA Executive Director Farida Yesmin in her keynote paper said 4,000 special needs children are getting education at 29 institutions of her organisation in 19 districts.

The launching programme was attended by a number of challenged people who presented a 20-point recommendation and performed different cultural items. They urged the government to establish adequate number of educational institutions for them.

Khandaker Jahurul Alam, president of national forum of organisations working with the disabled; Rifat Shahpar Khan, programme director of Sightsaver; Md Tariqul Islam Khan of HICARE; and Emdad Morshed of CRP; also spoke at the programme chaired by DU Prof Dalim Chandra Barman, also vice president of DRRA.

SIXTH 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

'End disparities against slum dwellers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should think the socio-economic conditions out in planning urban development strategy of the sixth five-year National Development Plan to address large inequalities between urban slums and rest of the country.

Speakers at a launching ceremony yesterday made the call saying that the disparities between slum dwellers and non-slum dwellers in the cities continue to undesirably increase.

They suggest for adequate investment in infrastructures to develop human capital in the shantytowns for achieving Millennium Development Goal and realise Vision 2021.

Unicef and Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) jointly organised the launching ceremony of a policy paper titled "Un-

derstanding urban inequalities in Bangladesh: A prerequisite for achieving Vision 2021" at a city hotel.

Representing the paper, Carel de Rooy, representative of Unicef Bangladesh, said people in Bangladesh shift from rural to urban areas in search of economic opportunities, not in search of basic social services.

Social services are mostly nonexistent in slums, and when they exist, they are provided mostly through unscrupulous middlemen using exploitative means, he said.

The paper showed that the country is experiencing one of the most rapid urbanisations in Asia with about 41 million people now living in urban areas. The slum dwellers make up of an estimated 7 million in 2010, it said.

According to the paper, the condi-

tions in slum areas are much worse than those in most rural areas, even in regard to service delivery-type indicators like secondary education attendance rates and skilled attendance at birth.

The under-five mortality rate in slums is almost double as in the urban areas and almost 50 percent higher than the rural rate, the paper said. Slums have very high rates of school dropout and repetition and an extremely poor ratio for gender parity in secondary school, it added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Bangladesh University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said the situation of inequality in Bangladesh is not good; rather it has increased tremendously.

Prof Dr Nurul Islam Nezam, secretary of CUS, and Deqa Ibrahim Musa of Unicef also spoke.

Protect biodiversity to fight climate impacts: Minister

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud yesterday stressed protecting country's biodiversity to face the adverse impacts of climate change.

"Prosperity of a nation as well as a country depends on a rich biodiversity. Global communities are now seriously considering for preserving biodiversity to avert climate change impacts," he said.

The minister told a symposium titled "Climate Change and Bio-diversity" as at Buet in the city.

The Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association jointly organised the symposium with Association President Prof Naiyuum Chowdhury.

Buet VC SM Nazrul Islam, UGC member M Muhibur Rahman, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Tamotsu Shinotsuka, and Association VP Dr SM Imamul Huq among others spoke.

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত



সাবেক প্রধান বন সংরক্ষক ও র্যাংগ্‌স গ্রুপের সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান সী-রিসোর্স গ্রুপের সম্মানিত পরিচালক জনাব মোঃ বাহাউদ্দিন চৌধুরী মঙ্গলবার (২১-১২-২০১০) বাংলাদেশ সময় সকাল ৬-১৫ মিনিটে আমেরিকার ইউজিন শহরের একটি হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইল্লালিল্লাহি...রাজিউন)। তার বয়স হয়েছিল ৮২ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, দুই পুত্র, দুই কন্যা, নাতি-নাতনিসহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন। তার আত্মীয়স্বজন, সহপাঠী, সহকর্মী, বন্ধু ও গুণগ্রাহীদের মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করে দোয়া করার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

শোকাহত পরিবারবর্গ ও সী-রিসোর্স গ্রুপের সকল সদস্য



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