

Happy on clean Ctg streets

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Omar Faruk, an A-level student of Sunshine Grammar School and College, looked very pleased yesterday as he along with a hundred mates just finished a clean-up campaign on different streets that surround their school compound in the port city.

"I am satisfied as I have performed my duty as a citizen of the country," he said.

The college boy said they not only made the streets free of trashes but also tried to make people aware about their duty as citizens to clean their environs by themselves. A hundred of his fellows yesterday launched the three-hour cleaning campaign with the slogan "We will keep our surroundings clean by ourselves".

Saifa Gazi Rahman, principal, Sunshine Grammar School and College, said the drive began from the entrance of the institution at Road-1 in Nasirabad Housing Society area at 9:00am.

She said the students were very much enthusiastic to join the cleaning operation. Not only the students but the teachers and other employees of the school took part in it, she added.

Rashedur Rahman, coordinator, Sunshine Community Service, said he felt very happy having taken part in the cleaning at the side of the students.

"We have formed six groups with the students, each led by a teacher, for the cleaning campaign," he said, adding that these groups also consist students of O-level.

The A-level students were advised to control the vehicular movement on the roads, he said. They also made the drivers and commuters aware about traffic rules, he added.

Omar said they asked the drivers not to blow horns at random in the residential areas, as there might have been patients in the houses by the roadside.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 100 students and teachers take part in a clean-up operation on the streets surrounding Sunshine Grammar School and College in Chittagong city yesterday.

"We also removed traffic jam on the roads in front of the schools by making organised parking arrangement".

Omar hoped that the drivers and the commuters would maintain the systematic discipline at the time of parking respective vehicles and moving on the roads.

Adina Ayesha Khan, an ex-student of Sunshine Grammar School and College,

came to join the campaign as soon as she learned about it yesterday morning.

She said they are trying to set an example so that others can learn from it.

Adina, who has completed her graduation in Canada, said the more people become aware the more our surroundings become free from pollution, and discipline will come to the thoroughfares.

Referring to an instance of Canada, she

said everything including the vehicular movement goes in order in Canada, as the people there are more conscious. "We want a green Chittagong," she said.

Adina said setting examples of being a responsible citizen is more important as ten more will learn from the example set by one, and a hundred more will learn from the example set by the ten.

EDUCATION, HEALTH

PM reiterates tax rebate on donations

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would give tax rebate on the donations to be made to education and health sectors.

She said this when a delegation of Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Nurul Islam, met her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the morning.

Talking to the delegation, the premier urged the country's affluent section of people and institutions to come forward with financial donations to the health and education sectors for national development.

She said her government attaches top priority to the education sector, especially to science and technology-based education, for the country's development.

"There's no alternative to having skill on science and technology for development," Hasina was quoted by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad as saying.

Hasina reaffirmed her government's commitment to maintain congenial academic atmosphere in educational institutions at any cost and sought support from teachers in this regard.

She said the last AL government had taken a project to establish 12 science and technology universities, but the BNP-Jamaat government, after assuming power, shelved it on political ground.

The present government, however, has restarted the project, she said.

Hasina also mentioned the newly formed Education Assistance Trust Fund with Tk 1,000 crore for providing free education to the poor students up to the graduate level.

The delegation apprised the prime minister of various problems of the university. Hasina said she would look into the matters.

They said the MBSTU opened a number of new departments, including Criminology and Police Science.

Paying tributes to the memory of great leader Maulana Bhasani, she said she herself would take care of the university.

Death of domestic help sparks protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 house helps who work in Japan Garden City at Mohammadpur in the city took to the street yesterday protesting the death of their fellow worker allegedly in the hands of her employer.

Police detained Mahi Zinnat Tisha, 26, in connection with pushing the domestic help off a 16-storied building in Japan Garden City and torturing her.

Locals said they saw 12-year-old Moni Akhter of Barisal dangling from the guard rails of a balcony on the 13th floor of building-11 around 7:45am. Apparently wounded Moni then fell to her death from the balcony.

Her employer Tisha, wife of Abdul Matin, an official of an NGO, claimed before police that she was asleep when Moni fell and died.

"... I was woken up by the noise of the crowd, got down stairs and found Moni's body lying on the ground," she said.

"Moni had been working for me for six months but she had been eager to quit for over the last one and a half months," she claimed.

House helps of the complex thronged near the building and alleged that Tisha killed Moni by hurling her off the building. They claimed that Tisha on several occasions confined Moni to her flat and tortured her.

The demonstrators calmed down after police detained Tisha.

ORGAN TRADE Another held in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Police yesterday arrested an alleged member of illegal kidney trade syndicate in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat.

Police raided the residence of Faruk Hossain, 35, of village Bherendi early in the morning and arrested him.

With this arrest, a total of 10 people have been arrested in connection with the trade since August 28.

At least 42 people of 18 villages in the upazila have fallen victim to the syndicate.

Home gets moving over detectives' arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday formed a three-member committee to investigate the incidents relating to the arrest of three Detective Branch (DB) inspectors by National Security Intelligence (NSI) men on charges of receiving bribe on October 6.

Additional Home Secretary (police and politics) Yunusur Rahman will head the committee consisting of Joint Commissioner (crime) Mir Shahidul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Additional NSI Director (Dhaka Division) Aminul Islam as its two members.

Officials from the home ministry and NSI said the committee was formed upon directives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Yunusur Rahman said he was verbally informed that he has been made the head of the committee to dig up the facts. He, however, said he was yet to receive the official letter in this connection.

NSI members arrested DB inspectors Shafi Uddin Sheikh, Ruhul Amin, and Gias Uddin when the three officials were allegedly realising bribe money from a person in front of Holy Family Hospital in the city's Moghbazar on October 6.

The three inspectors were later freed from NSI office and suspended by the police high authorities.

The DB inspectors alleged that the NSI men tortured them severely on the spot and at the NSI office.

Worker stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals stabbed to death a shoe factory worker at East Rampura in the city yesterday.

The deceased was Mohammad Islam Miah, 25, son of late Shahjahan Miah, of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria.

According to witnesses, police said three unidentified youths called Islam Miah and stabbed in his chest after an altercation with them while he was returning to factory after taking lunch.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but the duty doctors declared him dead.

Police said the motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

CASE AGAINST KOKO Charge framing hearing deferred for 20th time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the 20th times the hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a tax evasion case.

The court fixed November 20 for the hearing.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court extended the time following a time petition submitted by Koko's lawyer Zainul Abedin Meshbah.

In his petition, Meshbah said he could not bring any order on the rule issued earlier from the High Court (HC) following a writ challenging the legality of the case.

The HC issued a rule upon the government on June 9 last year to explain why the proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal.

He prayed for an adjournment of the hearing on charge framing as hearing on the rule is still pending with the HC, Meshbah added.

The court asked the defence to submit an order on the rule from the HC by the scheduled date otherwise charge will be framed against the accused. The court on September 8 gave the defence time till yesterday for submitting an HC order on the issue.

The National Board of Revenue filed the case against Koko on March 1 last year for evading tax on his income of Tk 52.39 lakh for fiscal years from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 on June 23 sentenced Koko to six years' imprisonment in absentia and fined Tk 38.83 crore in a money laundering case.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests with recipients of Unesco Club Journalism Award at a function at Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco in the city. National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh organised the event.

17 JOURNOS GET UNESCO AWARD Work to build peaceful society Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming peace a tool for strengthening democracy, speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the journalists to work more vigorously for building a peaceful society.

Journalists act the role of the "second parliament" in absence of a parliament in the country, they said, urging the media persons to work with objectivity and accuracy.

National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh organised the discussion titled "Journalism for Peace" and an award giving ceremony of "Unesco Club Journalism Award-2011" at the Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco in the city.

A total of 17 young journalists of both print and electronic media were awarded for outstanding performance and contribution to journalism.

The award winners are Wasim Bin Habib of The Daily Star, Kamran Reza Chowdhury of The Daily Sun, Mahmudur Rahman of ATN Bangla, Farzana Rupa of Desh TV, Sharmin Riny of Bangla Vision, Moursalin Babla of Channel i, Samir Kumar Dey of Ittefaq, Abdul Majid of Samakal, Hossain Zakir of Jugantor, Dilruba Shumi of Shokaler Khabor, Akhil Kumer Podder of Ekushey TV, Tamanna Majumder of Independent TV, Rafiqul Islam of UNB, Akkas Sikder of Prothom Alo Jhalakathi district correspondent, Amirul Momenine Manik of Diganta TV, Zulker Nain Rano of Bangladesh Pratidin, and Amin Al Rasheed of ABC Radio.

Each of the journalists received a crest and a certificate at the event. The association introduced this award in 2006.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin handed over the awards to the recipients.

Journalists play an important role to establish rule of law, ensure human rights, develop standard of people's lives, said Promod Mankin, adding they have to play role for underprivileged people of the country.

"Journalists always work to maintain stability in the society through their objectives and accurate information that helps ensure peace", said AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

It is not possible to have a strong foundation of democracy without peace, he said.

DU Prof Aminul Islam said in absence of parliament of the country journalist work as the "second parliament" and they even play role as the opposition party in absence of them in parliament.

Kiichi Oyasu, officer-in-charge of Unesco Dhaka Office and Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the event while Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury, president of Unesco club was in the chair.

Provide facilities to children with disabilities Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should provide required facilities to the children with disabilities to help flourish their physical and mental growth, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

The challenged children should be treated in a way so that they can grow up as human resources, they said, calling upon the government and private entrepreneurs to facilitate challenged children with mental and economic support.

Jatiya Protibondhi Forum and Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) jointly organised the discussion in association with ActionAid in BSA conference room in the city to mark the World Children Day-2011.

The speakers demanded the government

to launch a school lunch programme for all students irrespective of their physical and mental condition immediately. They said that it will be hard for the students to concentrate in study with empty stomachs. They also demanded safe shelter home for the children with disabilities.

"We have to ensure the rights of the children to live as human being," said Prof Mahfuza Khanam, general secretary of Asiatic Society.

Dr Shamim Ferdous, executive director of the forum, presented a keynote paper while BSA Director Falguni Hamid spoke.

BSA organised a drawing competition where around 300 challenged children participated. It also arranged a cultural function with the participation of the students of city schools.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold a discussion. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi, Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will hold a roundtable. Venue: House - 3A, Road-50, Gulshan-2, Time: 4:45pm.

Discussion
Brac University Business Club will hold a discussion. Venue: 66, Mohakhali, Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain
Paribesh Bachao Andolan will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Dhaka City Corporation office, Time: 11:00am.

Eye Camp
An eye camp will be held. Venue

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