



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a roundtable, "Be the Change You Want to See: Conversing with Youth of Bangladesh", co-hosted by The Daily Star, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

DEMAND FOR RU VC'S REMOVAL Pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers, staff lock admin building

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers and staff of Rajshahi University under the banner "Conscious Teachers-Officers-Employees" locked the administrative building and staged a sit-in before it yesterday demanding Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan's removal.

They protested his alleged irregularities and demanded that a new VC be elected through the senate, said witnesses. Afterwards they submitted a memorandum to the VC to press home their demands.

Meanwhile, some pro-Awami League teachers met the VC, alleging that the protesters were trying to create anarchy to disrupt the war crimes trial.

Prof Abdus Sobhan urged them to stay united to face off the protesters.

Speakers at the sit-in alleged that the VC illegally recruited some 301 teachers against

186 advertised posts in the last four years.

This is a violation of the Rajshahi University Act 1973 and of the 2011 embargo placed by University Grants Commission over recruitments and caused RU a budget deficit of around TK 50 crore.

They said the VC politicised the upcoming December 9 convocation by keeping pro-AL teachers in the preparation committees.

Four students were killed by pro-AL student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League activists as the VC failed to ensure students' security, they said.

The VC also failed to call a single senate session since taking office in 2009, they said, threatening to go for tougher agitations if their demands were not met soon.

Prof Afrauzzaman, Prof Azhar Uddin, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Mamunul Keramot, M Abdur Razzak, Abul Hashem, Abdul Hai Talukdar and Anamul Haque addressed the programme.

Allocate more share of budget for children Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discussants at a seminar yesterday called for allocating more share of the national budget for the areas of children's education, health and nutrition.

Regardless of the national and global economic environment, the government should increase key social sector budgets for education, health and nutrition to reach the goal of becoming a middle income country by 2021, they opined.

The seminar was organised by Unnayan Shamannay and Unicef at a hotel in the capital to launch a report titled "Children and Budget in Bangladesh".

In the recent years, there has been a reduction in the budgetary allocation for children's education, health and nutrition, the paper said.

Although budgetary allocation for education has increased over the years, the share of this budget as a percentage of the total budget has decreased, it said.

Only two percent of the country's GDP is allocated for education, it added.

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Music director Emon arrested Female singer files repression case against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested music director Shawkot Ali Emon yesterday after a 25-year-old female singer filed a case accusing him of luring her with false promises of marriage to get physically involved.

Police, during a raid at Shawkot's Eskaton Gardens flat in the capital's Ramna, also seized nine Yaba tablets and a few bottles of contraband liquor.

The singer filed the case with Ramna Police Station on Tuesday under the women and children repression prevention act.

In her case statement, the singer said she and Shawkot were living together in the flat for the last one and a half years following the false promises.

A few days ago he declined to keep his promises and threw her out, she said. Police said Shawkot admitted the allegations in preliminary interrogation.

7 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Feni, Natore, Brahmanbaria and Barisal yesterday.

At Feni, the driver and three passengers of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were killed on the spot after a truck rammed the vehicle on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning.

The deceased were Lokman Hossain, 45, Md Yasin, 45, Kazi Sheikh Farid, 60, and Abdul Khalek, 35.

Two others, injured in the accident, were rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital, said police.

Our Natore correspondent reports, a Dhaka-bound bus rammed a motorcycle at Dattopara in Sadar upazila yesterday, killing one person and injuring another.

Of the victims, Khorshed Alam, 45, of the upazila's Gokulnagar village, was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 4:30pm, said locals and police.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds, a man was killed after a truck hit him while he was crossing the Comilla-Sylhet highway at Ponchabati village in Sadar upazila yesterday evening.

The deceased was Abdus Salam, 50, of Saydabad village under the district's Kasba upazila.

Our Barisal correspondent reports, a sexagenarian was left spot dead after a speeding truck hit him while he was crossing the city's port road yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Alhaj Khorshed Alam, a retired supervisor of BIWTA and a resident of the city's Parara Road area.

Youths should be engaged in all sectors Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youth should be increasingly engaged in all sectors, including policy making, for the country's further development and for fighting the challenges ahead, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They also emphasised promoting youth volunteerism to address major national challenges like unemployment, disaster management, violence against women, social stigma, and political instability.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Neal Walker said youths should take the leadership in social, political and economic development activities. "If you choose to be a leader, you can be a leader," he told the young folks.

He noted that Bangladesh had achieved successes in disaster management and in cutting child and maternal mortality for significant contribution from volunteering youths.

"Youth volunteerism is a critical component of development paradigm," he told the roundtable, "Be the Change You Want to See: Conversing with Youth of Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

The English newspaper co-hosted the programme with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Asha Mehreen Amin, magazine editor of The Star, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, said the young generation should have the spirit and an absolute determination to

push the society towards a positive change.

Plan Bangladesh communications official Tony Michael Gomes laid importance on life skills training like swimming, trekking and community level networking to enhance the skills of young volunteers.

He advised young women to fight their inbuilt prejudices to eliminate gender discrimination.

Debashis Roy, head of CSR of Grameenphone Ltd, viewed that national commitment and incentive for the youth volunteers would create a platform for them to perform better.

The youth volunteers should work for ensuring access of rural people to health care information, said Dr Nowmi Mirza, volunteer and medical consultant at Maya.

Taskin Ur Rahman, deputy manager (campaign and communication, health and nutrition) of Save the Children, advised the youth to get involved in communication and infrastructure development to provide health care in rural areas.

MK Aaref, director of EMK Center, focused on arranging orientation courses for the youth volunteers so that they could work better in social development.

A youth volunteer from Change the Lives, Touhidul Islam Tusher, emphasised the youth's role in preventing street children from being drug addicts.

Razee Mohammad Fakhrul, chairman of Debidar upazila of Comilla, laid stress on capacity building of rural youths so that they could contribute to social changes.



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