

5 lakh expats

FROM PAGE 3
Ahmad highlighted the various steps taken by the Bangladesh missions concerned to ensure safety of female workers abroad.

Replying to a question of AL MP Ali Azam, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said there is no shortage of food grains in the country, as per the demand.

In reply to a question of AL MP Abul Kalam Azad, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi told the House that the government has identified and taken actions against those who

tried to create a volatile environment in the market by stockpiling soybean oil recently.

The minister said the market monitoring team, led by the commerce ministry, and the National Consumer Rights Protection Department has already fined the perpetrators. "Fines have been realised from the persons responsible by operating mobile courts run by the district and upazila administrations. In addition, regular cases are being filed against them," Munshi said.

Be organised, do research

FROM PAGE 3
The transitional point. "The world will be saved if we have social ownership instead of a personal property system."

Serajul said the state is an important factor, and it tries to dominate, but none can leave it behind. A society can not run without a state. "To some extent, we have solved the problem of the nation in 1971, but we still cannot solve the problem of class."

He said he took part in the movement against felling trees at Osmani Udyan, as well as construction of a commercial building at the courtyard of Lalor Shah's shrine.

He also protested construction of an airport at Arial Beel in Munshiganj, which would have destroyed agricultural lands, not as an environmentalist but as

a rights activist.

"Why would an auditorium be built in an open place like Osmani Udyan? Why would Lalor Akhra be destroyed? It is irrational and unreasonable to make an airport at Arial Beel," he added.

Serajul said he had been nominated for the three-member panel by DU senate three times, but he refused to be included, as he was afraid that he would not be able to meet the undue expectations. He also refused to take responsibility as director general of Bangla Academy and as member of UGC.

Serajul mentioned that he escaped death in the Liberation War, as Pakistani forces did not have his proper address. In 1971, Serajul was one of the six DU teachers who were warned by then Pakistani

military rulers for their "anti-state" activities.

At the programme, Serajul's student Azfar Hussain, who is currently a summer distinguished professor of English and humanities at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, said Serajul led all social, democratic and progressive movements from the frontline. "He is an uncompromising intellectual."

An academic, essayist, literary critic, political analyst, activist, historian, translator and columnist, Serajul is known for being vocal against injustice and inspiring people to join the struggle for freedom of speech and against violation of fundamental rights.

He is the author of countless articles and more than a hundred books.

Redress it right away:

FROM PAGE 3
is 12.01 percent of the total national budget and only 1.8 percent of the country's GDP. Unicef Bangladesh's Chief of Education Deepa Sankar said Bangladesh has achieved tremendous progress in education despite seeing a relatively low allocation.

"If the government invests more in education, the country could become the next "knowledge economy," she added.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said the country's education

budget is sufficient.

What needs to be done is spending and implementing the budget effectively, he said.

Responding to other discussants, the deputy minister said, "We have already improved our physical infrastructures. What we need is a structural and qualitative change in education. To achieve the best outcome, we should think and discuss more on human capacity building than increasing the budget."

For that, he emphasised arranging more training programmes for teachers

and ensuring that they are getting better at their job.

Responding to a question, Aminul Islam Khan, senior secretary of Primary and Mass Education Ministry, said at present, they are conducting a feasibility study supported by the World Food Programme to resume mid day meals at schools.

Students, teachers, guardians, journalists and development activists also spoke at the programme, demanding an increase in the budget allocation for education.

speakers

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