

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION Assess its contents to meet international standards: speakers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday urged the authorities concerned to assess whether the contents of existing vocational education are in line with local development objectives and meet international standards.

They also called for a change in societal perspective on vocational education and urged parents to send children to pursue it.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue organised the event titled "The Role of Local Vocational and Technical Education Institutions in Creating Youth Employment Opportunities", in collaboration with the European Union, Citizens' Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, and Eco Social Development Organization, in Sathkira Sadar upazila.

Towfiqul Islam Khan, senior research fellow at CPD, delivered the keynote presentation at the programme.

Addressing the event, Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at CPD, said "The societal perspective on vocational education has not evolved yet. This remains a significant issue. Moreover, we need to evaluate whether the curriculum of vocational education programmes aligns with local development needs and international standards."

The speakers made several recommendations, including raising awareness about vocational education among citizens, establishing minimum wage standards, and facilitating internships for the trainees.

Despite surplus

FROM PAGE 3

Abdul Awal, a livestock farmer in the Keraniganj area, said they have sufficient sacrificial animals. "But the price will drop if cattle are smuggled from neighboring countries. If smuggling is not prevented, then local farmers will count losses," he said.

Meanwhile, the Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdur Rahman yesterday said necessary instructions will be issued in the bordering districts to stop cattle smuggling.

The minister came up with the remark after attending the inter-ministerial meeting on demand assessment,

supply, and ensuring easy transportation of sacrificial animals ahead of Eid.

The expected supply of sacrificial animals this year is 129,803,367, which is 444,034 more than last year. Additionally, there are 22,779,973 more cattle available than the demand.

Special measures will be taken to ensure that buyers and sellers are not subjected to undue harassment. The minister said that like the previous year, the system of selling sacrificial animals will continue across the country on online platforms.

A control room (hot line: 16358) will be operated from the Directorate of Livestock.



Preserving heritage

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Pottery, a craftsmanship with a heritage of hundreds of years in Bengal, is gradually approaching oblivion.

Once earthenware items were an indispensable part of every household in this region. However, over time, as modern amenities have found their way into our lives through advancement and innovation in usage, pottery items lost their utility, and only continued to exist largely as an art form.

Nowadays, many potters are leaving their ancestral profession due to low demand for their craft.

However, some young students from Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Mymensingh have taken an initiative to preserve this craftsmanship through a project called "LAMATI".

They aim to equip the potters with modern pottery skills, create employment for them, and

make an earnest effort to save the heritage through an aesthetic revival of the craftsmanship.

Under the initiative, the team arranged a two-month training programme for some potters from Muktagacha to familiarise them with more contemporary tastes and come up with innovative approach to make earthenware items blend seamlessly with the modern lifestyle.

One such item is a clay water preserver with a tap at the bottom of it, giving it a more utilitarian take, while also adding an aesthetic touch to it by incorporating a colourful "rickshaw painting" motif on the exterior, and using a "tepa putul" (clay doll) as its lid.

"Tepa putul, or dolls made from soft clay by pressing with hands, is a traditional pottery heritage of the region. We made the lid with this to connect to our rural heritage," said Rozalina Khan, co-founder of the team.

"We've also used a rickshaw

painting theme using different bright and shiny colours like red, blue, yellow, green, and orange to give it a vibrant presence," she said.

According to the team, this earthen water preserver can be a healthy as well as effective alternative to plastic jugs and thereby reduce our dependence on plasticware.

One of the trainers, Nabila Khan, said, "We saw that they make beautiful earthenware, which can become more noticeable if they use a combination of different colours following a theme. This also adds extra values to their products. As such, we gave them primary training on colour theory and theme-based paintings."

"Using a theme to colour something makes people more curious to know about it. For example, we used the theme of Muktagacha's zamindars [feudal lords] in some of the works," she added.

Homecoming

FROM PAGE 3

On August 15 in 1975 and his two daughters -- Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana -- luckily escaped as they were abroad. In a national council session of the Awami League on February 14-16, 1981, Hasina was elected party president.

"I have returned to the country not to become a leader of the Awami League, rather to participate in the struggle for freedom by staying beside the people," she said in a heart touching reception awarded by nearly 1.5 million people at the airport after her return.

On the occasion, various organisations, including the AL and its associate bodies, will arrange different programmes.

Doa and prayers will also be offered at mosques, temples, churches and pagodas to mark the day.

**PRAYER
TIMING**
MAY 17
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:10 12:30 5:00 6:36 8:00
JAMAT 4:45 1:15 5:15 6:40 8:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Nutrition budget underutilised

FROM PAGE 3

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Health Economics of Dhaka University emphasised the need for increased budget allocation and dedicated manpower in the nutrition sector, suggesting the establishment of nutrition offices at district levels.

The event was addressed by CARE Bangladesh Director Aamanur Rahman, BRAC University Professor Sharmind Neelormi, Nutrition International Country Director Saqqa Siraj, Institute of Public Health Nutrition Division Chief (Lab) Shamal Kumar Roy, Democratic Budget Movement Joint Secretary Sekender Ali Mina, BNNC Deputy Director Nusrat Zahra Mithen, Kursha Union Parishad Chairman Md Abdul Mojid, Food and Agriculture Organization Nutrition & Gender Specialist Masuma Chowdhury, FPMU Research Director Md Mahbubur Rahman, WAVE Foundation Assistant Director Amiruddha Roy, BRAC Programme Manager Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan, Action Aid Manager Amit Dey, PLAN International Bangladesh Advisor Syed Md Nuruddin,

SA TV Business Editor Salauddin Bablu, among others.

Tanjim Ferdous of The Daily Star moderated the event.

Looking out

FROM PAGE 3

Islam was previously involved in the writ petition filed to control unregulated fireworks -- particularly in relation to the hazard caused to wildlife.

"A general diary was filed but no action has been taken yet. If this goes to a criminal court, it is unlikely to go anywhere. However, if we file a writ petition with the High Court to implement the existing law, then we might get some results," said Islam.

"I will try my best to support this cause. Many other people were involved in the initial GD filing, but backed out when we spoke about filing a writ petition. However, Anika and her friends have come forward to take on that responsibility. Hopefully, we can make the Animal Welfare Act 2019 a more solid law that is implemented properly," he added.

'AL in power to secure foreign lord's interests' Alleges Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that India has been continuously making efforts to keep Bangladesh under its control instead of resolving the water-sharing issues of common transborder rivers.

Speaking at a discussion on Farakka Long March Day, he criticised the Awami League government for its failure to resolve the water problem with India.

The current regime has been in power solely to secure interests of its foreign lord, he said.

"The root cause of this failure lies in the fact that this is completely a subservient regime. It has consistently failed to take a stand in favour of the people's interests, as they are extremely feeble in dealing with India," he added.

Bhasani Anusari Parishad arranged the programme at the Jatiya Press Club.



How does Fakhrul know about US stance?: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Regarding BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that the US remains in its previous stance over Bangladesh, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday questioned how Fakhrul knows that.

Fakhrul's remarks are worthless after the remarks of Donald Lu, he said.

He said this while speaking at a food distribution event in the capital, marking party President Sheikh Hasina's homecoming day.

Quader said Hasina has changed the fate of Bangladesh, while the previous governments only changed their own fortune.

AL's relief and social welfare sub-committee organised the programme.



Sixth season of 'Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid' starts



CITY DESK

The sixth season of the premier TV reality show "Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid" has kicked off, said a press release.

With the motto "Bangla Jagi Bhorpur," this initiative by the tea brand "Ispahani Mirzapore" has been promoting Bangla traditions since 2017.

Leading the panel is Dr Soumitra Shekhar, vice chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, joined by fiction writer Anisul Haque and media personality Tropa Majumdar.

On May 16, a press conference was organised to mark the occasion, attended by Zahida Ispahani and Emaad Ispahani, directors of the Ispahani Group.

Muhammad Nurul Huda, director general of Bangla Academy, was present as the chief guest.

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**In Remembrance
Faruq Choudhury
1934 - 2017**



**"To live in the
hearts of those
who love him
is not to die"**
From your loving family

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Dated: 16/05/2024 Eng.

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