



Participants at a seminar on 'Women & Children Repression (Amendment) Act, 2003' organised by the Legislative Support Service Project of Manabik Shahajya Sangstha yesterday.

Violence against women persists despite legislation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite plenty of legislation to combat violence against the women, there has been persistent rise in women repression in the country, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

"Can mere enactment of laws prevent women and children repression?" asked Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan while presenting a keynote paper on Women and Children Repression (Amendment) Act 2003 at the seminar organised by Legislative Support Service Project in the city.

areas where women become victims of discrimination and violence because of their economic and traditional dependence on men," she said.

A host of lawmakers, women activists, legal practitioners, and human right activists discussed the paper that aimed at bringing out various shortcomings in defining violence committed in multifarious manners against women.

"In the event of rape, the government must make arrangements to carry out the post-rape medical investigation so that the perpetrator can no way influence the process nor the victim," Salma Ali of Ain O Shalish

Kendro said.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam of Jatiya Party said proper implementation of existing laws depends largely on political commitment and non-interference by political parties.

"Politicians must be neutral letting the law enforcing agencies act independently," he added.

Islam said we have to create social awareness to stop violence against women.

Eminent lawyer Sudhangsu Shekhar Haldar suggested that both the law enforcers and the judiciary must be speedy and accountable in dispensing justice.

Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party alleged that the Women and Children Repression (Amendment) Act' is randomly misused to serve political purpose.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) MP G M Kader said the greatest beneficiaries of the act are the police and the administration, neither women nor the children.

He was also critical of speedy trial as it "runs the risk of human rights violation."

Sultana Kamal of Ain O Shalish Kendro, who moderated the session, said the society is yet to recognise the rights of women.

Face 'AL plot' politically

Bhuiyan tells Jubo Dal leaders and activists

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called for facing politically the conspiracy hatched by Awami League.

"To Awami League the country is not big, the party is bigger than the country," the BNP Secretary General told a conference of the

Dhaka City (north-south) unit of Jatiyatobadi Jubo Dal at the Mahanagar Natya Mancha here.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman greeted the Jubo Dal delegates.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu spoke at the opening session with Jubo Dal city president Jashimuddin Mahmud in the chair.

Bhuiyan regretted that AL was not rising up to the expectation of the people as the opposition political party.

He recalled that while in power Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina had promised to the nation that she would not call any hartal but she broke her promise enforcing 17 hartals on "silly matters."

"She has also threatened to call not-stop hartal while calling a general strike on August 16. Awami League has taken the stand against the development and the nation. We have to face it unitedly," the BNP secretary general added.

He said Awami League was now ruining the country in its bid to discredit BNP.



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurates a meeting of the delegates of Jatiyatobadi Jubo Dal city unit (North-South) at the Mahanagar Natyamancha yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

DU student suspended for torturing wife

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday suspended a student for torturing his wife, a student of Eden College.

Shahajahn Ali Rubel, a fourth year student of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology and resident student of Fazlul Haque Hall, was also expelled from the hall for one year.

The Eden College students under the banner of 'Students against torture' submitted a memorandum to the DU vice-chancellor demanding expulsion of Rubel and cancellation of his certificates as he married the female student by using false name and address and tortured her brutally.

They also demanded compensation from Rubel.

At a press conference at the Madhu's canteen of DU, the Eden College students claimed that Rubel had tortured the female student inside the Curzon Hall area on the night of August 6 and pressured her to give Tk six lakh in dowry.

A general diary was lodged with the Lalbag Police Station in this connection.

Nasrin Jahan, a student of Eden College, read out the written statement at the press conference.

A three-member committee headed by Fazlul Haq Hall Provost Prof. Yarul Kabir was formed yesterday to investigate the incident.

Stiglitz visits BRAC programmes

BSS, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Joseph E Stiglitz said yesterday that the people of Bangladesh, especially the women, had enormous amount of energy and micro-finance had provided them with the opportunity to use their potentials.

The Nobel laureate said this while visiting BRAC programmes in Sreepur area under Gazipur district yesterday, a BRAC press release said.

Prof Stiglitz met a group of micro-credit women entrepreneurs and another group of women taking human rights and legal class and visited a BRAC School and a seed processing plant.

Prof Stiglitz also had a meeting with the founder and chairperson of BRAC Fazle Hasan Abed at the BRAC Centre.

JCD burns BCL banners at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists of Jahangirnagar University (JU) burned down four banners of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Wednesday night.

The BCL activists put up the banners at different points on the campus welcoming the freshers of 2002-03 academic session.

The banners were put up in front of dairy farm gate, central auditorium, physics department and arts faculty building in the evening but the JCD activists burned the banners at dead of night.

"The JCD activists are trying

to create instability on the campus, so that we cannot observe the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman", said Jebin, president of BCL.

FM leaves for US

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan left for Washington yesterday on a private tour to the United States.

It is a private tour, the foreign ministry officials said. During the two-week tour, he would attend some family programmes. Khan is expected to return home on August 28.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 25 degree at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32 pm today and rises at 5:34 am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	26.7	76	88
Chittagong	32.5	25.8	78	72
Rajshahi	33.8	26.5	86	84
Khulna	31.2	26.0	98	86
Barisal	30.8	26.5	83	85
Sylhet	35.0	26.3	69	69
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	89	85

Int'l confce of NRBs next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international conference of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) will be held in the city next year.

The International Committee to Uphold Bangladesh (ICUB), a organisation of expatriate Bangladeshis, will organise the conference.

The New York-based organisation was formed two months ago and it has affiliated committees in the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan, said its leaders at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

The organisation aims at projecting a brighter image of the country abroad, protecting the interests of Bangladeshis and fighting against 'anti-Bangladesh' forces.

It will also hold a NRB conference in New York this year.

The leaders urged the government to take necessary steps to protect the interests of Bangladeshis living abroad.

At present, around 30 lakh

Bangladeshis are living overseas and they remitted \$3 billion last year, they said.

They demanded that 10 per cent of seats in parliament be reserved for the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) as they have significant contributions to the national economy.

Atikur Rahman Salu, convener of ICUB, and Gias Ahmed spoke at the press conference.

Naval chief receives gold medal

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia awarded gold medal to chief of the naval staff for outstanding contribution to fisheries resource development.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba received the award from the prime minister at the inaugural function of Fisheries Fortnight-2003' at Sarail of Brahmanbaria district on Tuesday, an ISPR press release said here yesterday.

This award was given as state recognition to Bangladesh Navy for its contribution to fisheries development activity by massive participation in Jatka protection operation.

Navy has been conducting anti-Jatka catch operation during Hilsha-breeding season (March to May) since 2001.

JCD leaders beat up student at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal leaders assaulted a student on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus on Wednesday night as he protested their activities.

Gazi Shah Alam, a student of philosophy department and a correspondent of the Bangla Bazar, a Bangla daily, was beaten up by Raihan Ahmad Siddique and Lilon at around 10:00pm at the Al-Beruni hall guest room.

The two leaders were bullying another student for his refusal to take part in the JCD procession when Gazi intervened and protested their activities.

Rafique Russell, who happens to be a friend of Gazi, was watching television at the TV room of Al-Beruni (extension) hall when the JCD cadres asked him to join in the procession.

As Russell refused to do so, the JCD cadres forcibly took him to the Al-Beruni hall guest room and bullied him.

Meanwhile, the JU JCD served showcause notices on the two leaders.

Gazi also submitted a written complaint to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmed, Pro-VC Prof. Imamuddin and Proctor Moshir Rahman demanding punishment to the attackers.



Students of Viharunisa Noon School and College who achieved excellent results in the SSC examinations pose with Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon and Local MP Major (ret'd) Abadul Mannan at a reception ceremony on the school premises yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR