



PHOTO: STAR

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at the opening of database network of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training at its Kakrail office in the city yesterday.

Change attitude towards women

Speakers tell seminar on 'United Nations and women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar called for a change in the attitude of the society, particularly the men, towards women.

Media should carry more positive stories on women and their success to show that women are also capable of doing everything, they said at a two-day seminar on 'The United Nations and women' that ended yesterday.

Today women get a lot of attention; they even hit the front-page headlines frequently but only in negative contexts, related to violence and abuse, they said.

"But we want to read about women in different contexts daily and not only once a week on the women's page, also on the front and business pages," said Selima Ahmad of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Organised by the United Nations Foundation and Quest Ltd., the seminar covered all possible issues with respect to women and their situation like health, water, education, shelter, economic empowerment, governance and violence.

At the seminar, representatives from different organisations like DemocracyWatch, Unicef,

WaterAid Bangladesh, World Bank and UN Habitat shared their knowledge.

The seminar was aimed at improving the collaboration between the media and different organisations working on gender issues.

The speakers said media can play a key role in making gender a mainstream issue.

"Women are contributing at least half of the work accomplished in this country. But as most of this work is unpaid, it does not appear in any statistics," Suvara Chaturvedi of the ILO pointed out.

"So, women's labour remains undervalued and is not taken into account of policy-makers."

Women still suffer from discrimination and inequality at home and at work, remain vulnerable to violence and trafficking, and are subjected to deprivation of wages, said Women and Children Affairs Minister Kurshid Jahana Haque in her opening speech.

"Women still continue to be the poorest of the poor. Their job opportunities are limited and they

work at low-paid jobs," she admitted.

Women face not only unequal access to health, food, proper hygiene conditions, training and education, but also other hidden barriers.

"If women entrepreneurs need to get a loan from a bank, often the financial institutes make more claims from them than it does for a male entrepreneur," said Denet Zeenat Latif of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

"We have to raise awareness about the gender disparity existing at all levels," Latif added.

"Economic empowerment of women means to let women acquire skills which allow them to run a business professionally," said Suvara Chaturvedi.

Only when women make independent decisions, they are economically empowered. Most

importantly, women have to be trained on non-traditional trades. Poultry, sewing and cows will not bring economic prosperity in the long term, many participants of the seminar agreed.

Women often lack necessary assets to start their own business. Especially land and loans are always entitled to men. "As a woman, it is still very hard to find an office for rent in Motijheel in Dhaka," Selima Ahmad said.

Masuda Khatun Shefali, executive director of Nari Uddug Kendra, said proper housing is the fundamental base for any female activity.

Female students still have to give up their studies because they can't find proper housing to live in Dhaka, she said, adding that they are forced to go back to their villages and have no other choice than to get married.

Cabinet body okays absorption of 182 officials

BSS, Dhaka

The cabinet committee on "Public Administration Reform and Good Governance" yesterday decided in principle to introduce provident fund (PF) for judges of the Supreme Court (SC) to be appointed from among lawyers.

It was decided at a meeting of the committee with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The committee also made a recommendation to the establishment ministry to absorb 182 surplus officials and employees of now-defunct supply monitoring directorate of the commerce ministry.

The committee also approved in principle the recommendations of the sub-committee on manpower recruitment to fill up 356 vacant posts of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) in Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Engineering University, Youth and Sports Ministry, Bangladesh Television and other offices under different ministries.

Unite to face misrule, Inu urges FF

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hasanul Haque Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), yesterday called upon the freedom fighters to be united against the fundamentalism and misrule of the present government.

He made the call when the former chief of armed forces Major General (ret'd) KM Shafiullah, Chairman of Muktiyoddah Sanghati Parishad Colonel (ret'd) Shawkat Ali MP, Vice Chairman Khan Tipu Sultan, Secretary General Abdus Salam Pintu, Abir Ahad and Fazlul Haque Sarker met him during an opinion sharing meeting in the city.

The JSD president invited all freedom fighters to attend the Muktiyoddah rally to be held at the Paltan Maidan on December 30.



PHOTO: STAR

The Mohila Awami League took out a procession from Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday to mark the Victory Day.

Security steps for Victory Day reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

The Home Ministry yesterday reviewed security arrangements for the Victory Day on December 16 at a coordination meeting with Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting discussed in particular the security measures and traffic control mechanism for National Monument at Savar and other sites of the Victory Day programmes, including Mirpur National Stadium. It decided to launch an awareness campaign through print and electronic media regarding the proper size, colour and measurement of the national flag used to celebrate the day.

Obituary

Hamida Hossain Chhabi, wife of former Medinimandal Union chairman and deputy attorney general Mosharrif Hossain Khan, died yesterday at the age of 50, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, three sons and a number of grandchildren.

Her kulkhwani will be held at Green Tower, 72 Siddheswari Road, after Maghrib prayers on December 10.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qu.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Jannaatun Nahar Mithun, daughter of Abdul Badio and Lutfun Nahar Reba, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Star journalist robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior reporter of The Daily Star was robbed of Tk 2,500 and a wristwatch in the city's Tejgaon Industrial Area last night.

Senior sports reporter Hasan Masood was travelling in an autorickshaw when three muggers swooped on him at around 7.30pm. He was coming to his office at Karwan Bazar from the cricket board office at Gulshan.

The muggers got on his autorickshaw (Dhaka-metro-Tha-14-2571) as the driver stopped it near Nabisco factory on the pretext that the headlight has gone out of order.

They sprayed gul (tobacco powder) in his face and took away the money and the wristwatch at gunpoint before leaving the scene.