

MMC REPORT REPRESSION OF WOMEN

3,043 killed, 2634 injured last yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

3,043 women were killed and 2634 injured in the last year owing to repression, according to a research report of Mass-line Media Centre (MMC).

A total of 54,954 women were repressed in different ways in different incidents in this period, the report added.

83,75,500 children fell victim to violence and repression in different incidents and among them 4125 died and 2,891 were injured during the period, the report showed.

Shahab Uddin Nipu and Khan Md Robiul Alam, programme officers of MMC, presented the report at a seminar on "Woman and child rights situation in Bangladesh" organised by MMC at

LGED auditorium at Agargaon in the city yesterday.

The MMC officials prepared the report by analysing 12 national daily newspaper reports and 198 local newspaper reports from January to December 2005.

The report said that during that time 1041 women committed suicide.

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, the chair of the seminar, said, "In order to prevent violence against women and children, we have to establish a secular and democratic country where equal rights of all citizens will be ensured."

The children of our country fall victim to repression for three reasons as they are born in a poor family, as they are female and

finally as they are children, he added.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, said the government has to take steps to stop violence against women if it wants to ensure democracy, peace and development in the country.

Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said there are many cases of women and children rights violation besides these newspaper reports presented by the MMC but it is a good job done by the organisation.

The main cause of violence against women in our country is social degradation, she said adding that men's chauvinist mentality is growing up in the country and the state is patronising this mentality in different ways.

She said we must change our family culture along with enacting laws to stop violence against women.

She demanded that the government reserves one-third seats for women in the parliament and holds direct elections in those seats.

Shaheen Anam, team leader of Manusher Jonno, said enacting laws and enforcing them is not the solution to stop violence against women but the perception of the society about women has to be changed.

Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan, women leader Maleka Begum, Chittagong University Mass Communication and Journalism department teacher Mir Mosharruf Hossain and Chittagong Bureau chief of Bhorer Kagoj Omor Kaiser also spoke at the seminar.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Chhatra League takes out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday marking its 58th founding anniversary.

'Resist move to close Khulna Newsprint Mill'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a public meeting at Khalishpur yesterday urged the people to be united to resist a move to close down the Khulna Newsprint Mill in the name of establishing a 'Shilpa Park'.

They called upon the people to forge greater unity to foil conspiracy against permanent closure of the mill on pretext of establishing a 'Shilpa Park'.

They warned the government of dire consequences for the move for closing down the mill.

'Khulna Newsprint Mill Rakkha Committee' organised the meeting in front of KNM with its convenor Engineer Azadul Huq in the chair.

Whip Ashraf Hossain, Khulna District Awami League General Secretary Mostafa Rashid Shuja, AL leader Bagum Mannujan Sufian, Khulna Press Club President Alhaj Liaquat Ali, Khulna District Awami

League President Shaikh Harun-ar-Rashid, City Jamaat Nayebe-e-Amir Master Shafiqul Alam, Khulna District Workers Party President Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Jatiya Sramik League Central Vice President Sarder Motaharuddin, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal central leader Shamsul Alam and Ward commissioner Delwara Khondoker addressed the meeting.

Swiss envoy meets Khurshid

UNB, Dhaka

The first Swiss Ambassador in Dhaka, Dr Dora Rapold, called on Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Huq at her office in the city yesterday.

They discussed matters related to bilateral, international and other issues, including women development and empowerment.

The envoy lauded different programmes of Bangladesh government for women development and empowerment particularly expansion of women education and development of women entrepreneurs.



PHOTO: STAR
Jatiya Garments Kalyan Federation stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding arrears of salaries and bonus ahead of Eid.