

Call to formulate ICT policy for people with disability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday said political commitment is a must for the development of physically and mentally challenged people.

They also called for formulation of an information and communication technology (ICT) policy to help mainstreaming them in the society.

The press conference was organised by the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium on the eve of the International Day of Disabled Persons today.

This year, the day is being observed with the slogan 'Access to ICT for persons with disabilities.'

Explaining the significance of 'E-accessibility' for the persons with disability, the speakers said this will facilitate the economic growth of the country creating employment opportunities for them.

NFOWD President Khandaker Johurul Alam called for inclusion of mentally and physically challenged people in the national ICT policy to help implement the global theme of the day.

He said all the ministries should work for the welfare of physically and mentally

challenged people instead of only social welfare ministry.

Reading out a written statement, NFOWD General Secretary AHM Noman Khan said it will never be possible to establish the rights of physically and mentally challenged people in the society without any political commitment.

He said media has an important role to raise awareness about the rights of physically and mentally challenged people.

Adviser Yasmin Murshed will address a discussion at the Directorate of Social Services as chief guest.

11-party demands ouster of controversial ECs

DU CORRESPONDENT

11-party, a combine of left leaning political parties, yesterday demanded resignation of controversial election commissioners, update of voter list and depoliticisation of administration for a free, fair and credible election.

The group made the comments at a meeting of 11-party central steering committee at Asad auditorium in the city, a press release said.

Convener of the 11-party Nurul Islam, Dilip Barua, Anisur Rahman Mollik, Abu Hamed Shahabuddin, Jakir Hossain, Asit Baron and other leaders were present at the meeting.

In a statement, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and

General Secretary Bimal Biswas said the Election Commission (EC) has led the upcoming general election to uncertainty through announcing the election schedule without updating voter list.

They said the 'biased' EC hatched 'new conspiracy' for serving the interest of BNP-Jamaat coalition.

Bimal new coordinator

Bimal Biswas, general secretary of Workers' Party, has been elected 11-party coordinator for the next three months, says a press release.

He took over the office yesterday.

CPB countrywide protest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh will stage demonstrations and hold rallies from today across the country demanding cancellation of the 'illegal' and 'farce' electoral schedule, reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) by removing the controversial persons and implementation of their 53-point recommendation.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim in a joint statement said activities of the president/chief adviser are pushing the country into a deep crisis and he will be responsible if any untoward situation occurred.

The unprecedented move of the chief justice has worsened the whole situation, they said, adding, a conspiracy is also going on to make the election a farce.

A mass movement is a must to get rid of all the conspiracies, they said and urged all to join the demonstrations.

Jewellers keep shutters down for an hour

Demand arrest of robbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jewellery shops in the capital kept the shutters down for one hour from 12:00 noon yesterday to protest the robbery that took place in three jewellery shops at Holland Centre Shopping Plaza in North Badda on November 26.

The jewellers also protested the inaction of the law enforcement agencies on the issue.

A number of jewellery shops have been looted recently, but no steps have been taken to arrest the criminals or recover the looted valuables, said MA Wadud Khan, president of Bangladesh Jewellers' Society.

He demanded that the authorities step up security measures at shopping complexes to prevent robberies.

The shop owners also expressed their disappointment, saying that closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage showing the robbers have been supplied to the law enforcement agencies, but no arrests have been made so far.

If the robbers go unpunished, more robbery will take place, pushing the jewellery business into ruin, they said.