

Experts suggest raising age of criminal responsibility to 12

UNB, Dhaka

As the government feels to raise the age of criminal responsibility (ACR) for children from existing seven years, experts yesterday proposed making it at least 12.

ACR means a minimum age below which children do not have the capacity to infringe the penal law, and therefore cannot be charged with a criminal offence.

"It should be raised after discussion considering the poverty situation, socio-economic aspects and political issues," said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Barrister Moudud Ahmed at a daylong workshop.

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with the Unicef Bangladesh, organised the workshop on 'Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility and Other Aspect of the Children Act, 1974' at Hotel Sonargaon.

State Minister for Law Shahjahan Omar, Unicef Country Representative Morten Giersing and Law Secretary Md Asaduzzaman also spoke. Prime Minister's Principle Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui presented the keynote paper.

Moudud said the country lacks any authority to identify the age limit of a person while 70 percent people of the country do not have birth registration.

The Birth Registration Act is now

under scrutiny and already approved by the cabinet which would be passed in the next session of parliament, Moudud said.

He said the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs should now move with the issue to raise the age.

Shahjahan Omar said many European countries categorise the age limit of 21 for the ACR. He suggested making any arrangement to determine the age.

Morten Giersing said Bangladesh's current ACR of seven years is in the lowest category in the world and raising it to 12 will be a good step.

"Unicef's official policy is that the ACR for every country should be 18 years," he said. Giersing also proposed amending the Children Act.



Obituary

Moazzem Husain Chowdhury, a former CSP officer of 1949 batch, died of old-age complications in the city yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

Chairman of the then EPIDC, he also held various positions during his civil service career. He later set up Kwaliti Jute Yarn Mills Ltd. in Feni.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Aman Mosque at Road # 7, Dhanmondi after Zohr prayers today.

His body will be taken to Feni tomorrow for burial at his family graveyard.

Moazzem Husain is survived by his wife, four sons, one daughter and grandchildren.

Nurjahan Begum



Nurjahan Begum, wife of late Abdul Mazid and mother of car trader Md Helal, died on Wednesday at the age of 89, says a press release.

She is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Her qulkhani will be held at her village home at Churain under Nawabganj thana of Dhaka district today.

Badruddoza to answer queries of expats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury will answer queries of expatriated Bangladeshis on the website -- www.kobitaogaan.com -- at 10.00am on January 25.

Paltalk, the site manager, has formed a panel of journalists from home and abroad to participate in the first-ever online programme with a national leader.

Shamim Ahmed, chief correspondent of the United News of

Bangladesh, Saiful Amin of Channel i, Mesbah Ahmed of the Aker Kagoj, Saiful Alam of BBC Jugantor and Quadir Kollol of BBC Dhaka correspondent will take part in the programme to be conducted by Aman-ud-dollah, an expatriate journalist.

A separate professional's panel has also been formed.

Paltalk has been organising different online programmes, including music and recitation, since the inception of the website in June, 2001.

