



Members of the newly elected executive committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) pose with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

All highways to have trauma centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All major highways will be especially equipped with trauma management centres for treating road accident patients on an emergency basis, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandekar Mosharaf Hosain announced yesterday.

He was speaking at the press briefing at the Press Information Department (PID) auditorium on the eve of the World Health Day (WHD) today.

Dr Lee Jong-wook, director-general, World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Suniti Acharya, WHO representative to Bangladesh and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, among others, attended the briefing.

The theme for this year's WHD that is being observed globally is Road Safety.

Mosharaf said, "We already have five trauma management centres and we plan to have more gradually for all major highways to deal with road accident cases."

The minister also said that facilities in the district sadar hospitals would also be enhanced to provide emergency treatment for

the injured in road accidents, without hassles of having to travel to the capital.

He said that the country suffers a financial loss of Tk 4,000 crore annually due to road accidents, adding, "We have to raise awareness to prevent road accidents and I urge the media to come forward to help us in this campaign."

Dr Lee Jong-wook said the risks of traffic crashes are understandable and therefore preventable, adding, "Road safety is no accident. We have the knowledge to act now. It is a question of political will."

Dr Suniti Acharya, WHO representative to Bangladesh, in her speech said, "Most of the factors causing road crash deaths and injuries are avoidable through coordinated efforts like public education campaigns, improving the road safety, taken on the part of governments and their partners."

A joint report by the WHO and the World Bank on road safety was launched in the press briefing.

Attack on Jugantor reporter condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convenor of Keraniganj Thana Awami League (AL) and Joint Secretary of the Central Sub-Committee Nasrul Hamid Bipu yesterday condemned the attack on Delwar Hossain, Keraniganj correspondent of daily Jugantor.

In a statement, Bipu said no professional is safe under the current coalition government as the cadres belonging to the ruling party have turned the country into a valley of death.

Demanding the resignation of the government, Bipu alleged that Delwar came under attack as he exposed extortion, abduction, murder and other criminal activities of the ruling party cadres.

He also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the attack to avert such kind of incident in the days to come.

Delwar received bullet injuries at city's Malibagh area on Sunday and now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has also condemned the attack on Delwar.

In a joint statement yesterday, BSEHR Secretary General Sigma Huda and Executive Director Advocate Alena Khan expressed concern at the deteriorating law and order in the country.

They said the journalists have become the targets of the miscreants for publishing authentic reports on their misdeeds.

They also urged the government to improve law and order and bring the culprits to justice.

Khaleda to lay foundation of Reporters Bhaban May 26

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said that she would lay the foundation stone of high-rise Reporters Bhaban of Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city on May 26.

Prime minister assured members of the DRU executive committee when they requested her to lay the foundation of the Bhaban on the day marking its ninth founding anniversary.

Khaleda also assured of making necessary arrangements for quick handover of the land for the Reporters Bhaban near the temporary office of the DRU at Topkhana Road, Segun Bagicha.

DRU President Alamgir Hossain and General Secretary Saleh Shibly led the team when they called on Khaleda at her office. Shibly briefly apprised the PM of the DRU activities.

She also wanted to know about the progress of the Reporters Unity in the past nine years and its current activities and future plans.

1451 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,451 people, including one listed criminal, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

'Launch social movement against dowry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for launching a social movement against dowry and raising awareness to combat the growing menace.

Empowerment of women is a must to rid the society of the curse, they said.

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) organised the seminar, Social movement against dowry, in the city.

"Dowry system is the result of degradation of social values, illiteracy, poverty and economic disparity," said Khurshid Jahan Haque, minister for women and children affairs, as chief guest.

Despite law against dowry, women are being tortured for dowry and such incidents are on the rise, she said.

She also called on all to change the attitude towards girl children.

The minister requested the teachers and imams to impart moral values to students and help ensure equal rights for women.

Prof. Dr M Ershadul Bari, vice-chancellor of BOU, said dowry system is not accepted in Islam but it has

been commercialised in the present society.

In most cases, the victims of dowry cannot take legal action due to illiteracy, poverty and lack of awareness, he said.

Prof. MA Razzaque, pro-vice chancellor of BOU, called on the women to be self-reliant to combat the dowry system.

Ensuring gender parity can help eradicating the curse from the society, he added.

Meherun Nesa, a lecturer of BOU, in her keynote paper, said absence of a uniform family code related to property and rearing of children makes women even more vulnerable.

She identified population boom, low GDP growth and massive unemployment as major obstacles to eliminating dowry system.

Dr Nusrat Amin, Dr Mamtazuddin Patwary, Dr Shahnaz Huda and Dr Abul Hussein Ahmed Bhuyian and Prof. Dr Abdur Rashid also spoke.