

# SEMINAR ON LABOUR LAWS Paid maternity leave of 16 weeks suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari, an initiative for working women, yesterday called on the government to include a provision for paid maternity leave of 16 weeks in the proposed labour law of 2003.

It also called for enacting a special law to prevent sexual harassment in the workplaces.

The recommendations were placed at a seminar on labour law in the city.

Enforcement of laws is a must to ensure safe workplaces for women, said eminent lawyer and Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain.

Workers are being deprived of

their rights as some factory owners do not comply with the existing labour laws, he added.

He also said Bangladesh is lagging behind other countries in the age of globalisation because of wrong policies adopted by the successive governments.

Referring to the shutdown of Adamjee Jute Mills, Dr Kamal said the government made thousands of workers jobless, whereas 12 jute mills were established in the West Bengal in the last few years.

Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari, and SK Jenefa Khanom, consultant of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), also spoke.

## Oikya Mancha, BDB joint declaration today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) will announce a joint declaration today with a view to formulating a people's manifesto.

Bikalpa Dhara President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr. Kamal Hossain will announce it at the Institution of Engineers at 4.00pm.

## Obituary

Begum Razia Ahmad, wife of late Ambassador Mirza Rashid Ahmad, died here on Friday.

She left behind one son and two daughters to mourn her death.

Her qulhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at her residence at Concord Chameli, House No 17, Road No 55, Gulshan, Dhaka.

# 'Bring children under ECCD programme'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for formulation of a national policy to bring all children under early childhood care and development

(ECCD) programme. They said physical and psychological growth of our people has not reached up to optimal level due to lack of early childhood care that resulted in low standard of human resources.

The seminar on 'Early Childhood Care and Development' was organised by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) at IDB Bhaban in the city.

"Most of our children suffer from malnutrition as the parents are not aware of their nutritional needs causing impediment to their physical and mental growth," said Rasheda K Chowdhury, director of the Campe.

Dr Manzoor Ahmed of Brac University and Campe Programme Manager Tapan Kumar Das also spoke.

## Death anniversary

Today is the death anniversary of litterateur and journalist Mafruha Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held at her residence at 21 West Malibagh after Magrib prayers.

A discussion meeting in memory of Mafruha will also be held.



**DHAKA**  
T O D A Y

**Photo exhibition**  
The opening ceremony of a ten-day photo exhibition titled 'China in the eyes of Bangladeshi photojournalists' will be held. Chinese Embassy has organised the exhibition to mark the 55th founding anniversary of Peoples' Republic of China. Venue: National Museum Gallery, Shahbagh. Time: 11.00am.

**Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled '28 Days' (2000). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

**Seminar**

**Photo exhibition**  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh organises a seminar on Bangladesh Standards on Auditing- Launching of latest edition of BSA with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Chartered Accountant Bhaban, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

**PIB meeting**  
Bangladesh Press Institute will hold an opinion sharing meeting with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan as chief guest. Venue: PIB seminar room, Circuit House Road. Time: 11.00am.

# Bagerhat Jubo Dal leader beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Jubo Dal leader was beaten to death by the miscreants in Bagerhat town on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Abdur Razzak Sarder, owner of two shrimp enclosures at Dema union under Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

Police said a gang of four unidentified miscreants stormed into the house of Razzak Sarder in the town near PC College. They dragged him out of his house at gunpoint and beat him mercilessly. He died on the spot, police said.

The murder is a sequel to previous enmity, police added.

