KANIKA MEMORIAL AWARD

Tagore song competition October 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Padatik Nattya Sangsad organises a Tagore song competition on October 2 to select five artistes aged between 20 and 27 for the 'Kanika Memorial Award' competition.

The 'Kanika Memorial Award' competition will be held in Kolkata on October 12.

Mitali, an Indo-Bangla cultural forum, has organised the contest in association with the Padatik and West Bengal State Sangeet Academy to mark the 80th birth anniversary of noted Tagore song exponent Kanika Bandopaddhya.

Padaitk will hold the competition at 6 Lake Circus, Kalabagan 3rd Lane from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

Interested singers can take part in the competition directly. They have been requested to bring age certificates and passports with them.

'Discrimination against girls has reduced'

National Day for Girl Child tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discrimination against girl children has significantly reduced due to mass awareness about their rights across the country, said a survey of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum.

According to the survey, total number of discriminatory incidents against girl children this year was 2,480 while it was 7,268 in 2003.

The Girl Child Advocacy Forum placed the survey report at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium yesterday.

The forum, in collaboration with Nari Moitree and The Hunger Project, organised the conference to mark the National Day for Girl Child.

Leaders of Girl Child Advocacy Forum said many incidents of discrimination against girl child could not be included in the survey as victims and their family members did not disclose them because of social pressure and lack of security.

They called for social movement and stringent enforcement of laws to protect girl children from all forms of discrimination including murder, rape, trafficking, acid throwing and dowry.

"There are many laws to protect the girls but most of them are not implemented properly," said Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar, convenor of the Girl Child Advocacy Forum and country director of The Hunger Project.

He said policy makers of the government should lay emphasis on the rights of girl children and take necessary steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them.

Nazrina Yeasmin Hira, programme coordinator of the Nari Moitree read out a written statement at the seminar attended by Dhaka University teacher Latifa Akhtar and Programme Unit Manager of Plan Bangladesh Mohammad Masud.

The National Day for Girl Child will be observed tomorrow with a fresh vow to create further awareness about their rights.

The theme of the day is 'Our Commitment and Girl Child Rights'.

Different child rights organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Girl Child Advocacy Forum will bring out a procession from Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises at 8.00am which will end at the National Press Club.

The forum will also arrange a discussion at the club at 10.00am.

Robbery at JU newsstand

JU CORRESPONDENT

Robbers yesterday looted cash and valuables worth Tk 55,000 from a newsstand in Jahangirnagar University (JU) main gate and injured four people including a university guard.

The injured are Yusuf, Mahfuz, Shahidul and Solaiman who tried to resist the robbers.

A gang of six robbers swooped on them at around 4:00am when they were arranging different dailies in front of the shop.

Making them hostage at gunpoint, the robbers entered the shop and looted Tk 35,000 in cash and took away a TV set, a VCD player and a chargelight.

No case was filed with Savar thana in this connection.

BTV World Service to be expanded

BSS, *Dhaka*

The 11th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Information yesterday decided to expand BTV World Service to America and the European countries.

The meeting, held at the Sangsad Bhaban with committee Chairman Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair, also decided to make BTV news more attractive and to produce own programmes for BTV World's Services.