



Winners of the international art competition pose for photograph with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Children's Day and Child Rights Week 2005.

Make society a safe habitat for children

PM tells World Children's Day function

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to work from their respective positions to make society a safe habitat for children for their proper grooming, failing which the nation could face a future leadership crisis.

"It is our responsibility to keep this country and society safe and prosperous for future generation. We all have to think what we are leaving for them," she told the inaugural function of the World Children's Day and Child Rights Week 2005 at the Osmani Memorial auditorium.

Khaleda said children of today are the citizens of the future and if they don't grow up as worthy citizens, then there might be a vacuum in future national leadership. "So we have to be more attentive to overall blooming of children."

The theme of the day this year is 'Sushasthya Sushikha Nirapad Paribesh ---Barbe Shishu Gorge Desh' (good health, good education, safe environmenthelp grow children to build country).

Khaleda said observance of this day and week should not be confined merely to ceremonies--all should work everyday of the year for grooming, welfare and development of the children.

Listing a number of policies, programmes and achievements, she said her government's one of the major commitments is to protect child rights.

She said the government is implementing a number of international and regional programmes, including UN Child Rights Charter and MDG, to ensure children's overall welfare.

She said the government is implementing its national children policy formulated in line with those programmes. The children from different institutions, ministers and MPs attended the function.

Referring to her election commitments to build up children healthy, strong and educated, Khaleda said they have given priority to children in national activities, upholding the motto: 'Sabar Agey Shishu' and 'Shishuder Ha Bolun'.

She said a "silent revolution" has taken place in children's education. She said her government is first in this region to provide stipend to make poor children school-going.

The government has provided about Tk 1,277 crore in stipend for 1.65 crore students till January 2005 from July 2002, she said. And high food-quality biscuits also are being supplied to over seven lakh poor students.

Khaleda said the project 'Reaching Out-of-school Children' is being implemented in 60 upazilas involving Tk 400 crore to bring underprivileged and dropout children under primary education curriculum.

Hard-to-Reach project has also been taken up for education of working children.

Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Huq presided over the inaugural function. Unicef officer in charge in Bangladesh Dr Rosella Morelli and a girl, Morsheda Karim, on behalf of children also spoke.

Khaleda also distributed gold and silver medals among children who have attained first and second positions in international art competition in Egypt, China, Japan and Iran.

Later she enjoyed a cultural show performed by children.

Lawyers condemn bomb attacks on court premises

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP), a pro-opposition lawyers' forum, yesterday strongly condemned the incidents of bomb blasts on the court premises in Chittagong, Chandpur and Laxmipur.

In a joint statement, they blamed the government for its failure to ensure the security and safety of the lives of the litigant public, judges and lawyers.

Expressing concern over the recurring bomb attacks, they said failure of the government to take effective measures for combating terrorism encouraged the militant fundamentalist groups, threatening the security of the state.

They urged the people to get united against the evil forces, who are out to make the country a failed state.

They also expressed sympathy for the victims of the blasts.

The signatories to the statement are: Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Shahara Khatun, Z I Khan Panna, Subrata Chowdhury and M Enayetur Rahim.



A policeman runs a metal detector on the bag of a pedestrian at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday as security has been beefed up after bomb blasts on the court premises in Chittagong, Laxmipur and Chandpur.

Purbokone journo killed in road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

AZM Omar, 53, acting news editor of the Dainik Purbokone, was killed in a road accident in the port city yesterday.

A speeding truck hit him at Chawk Bazar area at around 6:00pm when he was waiting for transport on the way to office.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Omar had been working with the Dainik Purbokone, a leading Bengali daily in the port city, since 1987.