



PHOTO: PID

The European Union (EU) Troika delegation calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

## Take measures to stop use of children in politics

Speakers urge EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the conditions for registration of political parties with the Election Commission (EC) should be that they will not involve children in political activities, said the speakers at a view-exchange meeting yesterday.

At the same time, the election manifestoes of all political parties should clearly mention their programme for children's education, health, food, entertainment and legal rights, they added.

The meeting was organised by Khelaghara Central Committee at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of

Law and International Affairs (Bilia) in the city to share views with the political leaders with a view to stop abuse of children through party politics.

The speakers demanded children's social security and security of life and said they should not be deprived of their basic rights as illustrated in the constitution.

They also demanded implementation of the Children Act 1974, and said the political parties should not use the children as carrier of arms and explosives.

Former adviser to caretaker government SM Shahjahan said using the children in political activities is a major corruption and steps should be taken against such corruption.

"We should also take care of child victims and take necessary steps to rehabilitate them," he added.

Admitting the use of children in political activities Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Hasanul Haque Inu said alongside the political parties the civil society and people of working class should also raise their voice on the issue.

Communist Party President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said poverty, unemployment and corruption have also touched the children.

He said the economic system of the country should be changed to protect children's right.

Presided over by Dr Ali Asgar, the meeting was also addressed by Advocate Subroto Chowdhury, Trade Union Kendra President Nurul Islam and Mokhlesur Rahman Sagar of Khelaghara Central Committee.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Lenin Chowdhury, second from right, speaks at a view-exchange meeting at the Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Ali Asgar, Mokhlesur Rahman Sagar and former adviser to caretaker government SM Shahjahan and on his left is Rezaul Karim.

Two prisoners die at DMCH within a span of three hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prisoners of Dhaka Central Jail died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) within a span of three hours.

The prisoners -- Fukon Mia, 60, and Mir Liakat Ali, 63, -- had been shifted to Dhaka Central Jail from Sylhet recently.

Jail sources said Fukon was rushed to the DMCH in a critical condition after he fell sick, but the doctors declared him dead at around 2:25am yesterday.

Liakat, who had been admitted to the hospital with chest pain on June 4, died at around 11:30pm on Friday, they added.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

## World Day Against Child Labour June 12

BSS, Dhaka

The World Day Against Child Labour will be observed in the ILO member countries including Bangladesh on June 12 with the theme "Harvest for the future: Agriculture without child labour".

To observe the day at the national level, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture and International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dhaka office, will jointly organise a national seminar on "Child Labour in Agriculture" at a local hotel at 9:30am on the day.

Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Ashfaque Hamid will be the chief guest and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Dr Syed Naquib Muslim will chair the seminar, an

ILO press release said yesterday. ILO and the other UN partner organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), have identified agriculture as one of the three most dangerous sectors, along with mining and construction, in which children work in hazards and risks, it said.

As agro-economy is growing fast in the world, the press release said, the number of child labour has also been increasing alarmingly.

According to the ILO statistics, every year 22,000 children die, 270 million children face different kinds of accidents and 160 million receive health related injuries around the globe.