

MEENA DAY CELEBRATED ‘Ensure birth registration for all children’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meena Day was celebrated in the country yesterday with a call for birth registration of all children.

Different government and non-government organisations organised various programmes including art and story telling competition, video shows, rally and musical programme.

The central event of the day was held at LGED conference room in the morning.

Organised by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME), the programme was attended by about 400 children.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan addressed the function as chief guest.

"Meena is a symbol of girl child who sensitises people about child rights. This year Meena called for ensuring birth registration for all children to help ensure their health, security and equality," said Musharraf.

"The efforts of Meena will be successful when every child will enjoy their basic rights, nutrition, health, education and shelter," he added.

Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children Project of the Bureau of Non-formal Education under the ministry organised a discussion and cultural programme performed by young learners of the project at the Central Public Library in the city.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) also held an elaborate programme that included discussion, Meena video show and distribution of prizes among the winners of art and story telling competition.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme, Shishu Academy Chairman Mushfeka Ikfat said Meena, a South Asian symbolic character, not only advocates the rights of children but also help create awareness about the nurture of children in proper way.

She called on the children to

request their parents to complete their birth registration in order to ensure their better future.

Speaking as special guest, Unicef Education Chief Nabendra Dahal said Meena is not real but more than real and an enduring symbol of communication.

Meena has become so popular in South Asia that currently it is being replicated in many countries including Cambodia and Laos and is currently being screened in Afghanistan, Nabendra added.

Meena Day is being celebrated since 1998 to uphold the value of the girl child across the country.

Meena, born in 1991 during the 'Girl Child Decade' of Saarc, started her journey addressing issues like education, water, sanitation and hygiene, management of diarrhoea, dowry, early marriage, injury prevention and child protection.



Children drawing pictures at an art competition on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday. The competition was organised on the occasion of Meena Day.

3 envoys happy over voters' list project in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Swedish, Danish and Norwegian Ambassadors yesterday expressed their satisfaction over the ongoing voter registration activities in Bogra.

Swedish Ambassador Britt Hagstrom, Danish Ambassador Einar Jensen and Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring yesterday visited the different voter registration centers in Bogra as part of the Ambassador's efforts to support free and fair election in Bangladesh.

"We are very impressed by the registration works carried out here in Bogra by the Election Commission and by local NGO's voter motivation campaigns," Swedish Ambassador Britt Hagstrom told reporters at a joint briefing at the local circuit house auditorium.

"The people of Bangladesh deserve the right to freely and fairly choose its government in a timely manner," said the Swedish Ambassador.

The Ambassadors urged the government to work towards full restoration of civil and political rights as soon as possible.

Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of the voters' list project Lt Col Mahbulul Haq, District Election Officer Abdul Hamid were also present at the briefing.

Declaration of 9 Rangpur dailies cancelled

Bss, Rangpur

Rangpur district administration has cancelled the declaration of nine daily newspapers for irregularities in publication and violation of the existing laws.

An order to this effect was issued by the Deputy Commissioner's Office under Sections 9(3) and 10 of the Printing Presses and Publications Act of 1973.

The order stopped further publication, distribution and marketing of the newspapers.

The newspapers are: The Daily Bijlee, The Daily Uttorer Kagoj, The Daily Surya, The Daily Rangpur, The Daily Bijoymala, The Daily Ganodin, The Daily Rangapratat, The Daily Khudha and The Daily Rangpurer Kagoj.



Lt Col Mahbulul Haq, officer-in-charge of the voters' list project in Bogra, explains the process of the ongoing voter registration activities to Danish Ambassador Einar Jensen, Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring and Swedish Ambassador Britt Hagstrom at Shaheed Chandu Stadium auditorium in Bogra yesterday.

BNP distributes relief at Jatrabari

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday urged the government to undertake massive rehabilitation programmes to recoup the losses caused by the monsoon floods that hit the country twice.

While distributing relief among flood-affected people at Uttar Jatrabari in the city, he suggested adequate supply of fertilisers, seeds and pesticides so that farmers could overcome the losses.

He distributed relief among 300 families at Uddipan School compound in Bibir Bagicha under the auspices of Jatrabari BNP.

Talking to reporters, Delwar suggested distribution of foods among the poor through VGF cards on regular basis to assuage the people's misery in the wake of price-hike and lack of employment.

Delwar said at the instruction of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, he distributed the relief and this effort would continue in the flood-affected areas across the country.