

Govt to formulate policy on early childhood dev

Geetara tells ECD confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury yesterday said the government is preparing a policy document to develop the profile of early childhood development and promote holistic development of young children.

"In order to raise the profile of early childhood development and promote holistic development of young children, the women and children affairs ministry is preparing a policy document on early learning," she said.

The adviser said primary and mass education ministry is also developing an integrated guideline for early childhood education with the focus on early preparation and smooth transition to primary schools.

She was speaking at the inaugural session of the Second National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Conference 2007 organised by Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) at the Shishu Academy auditorium

in the city.

BEN, a forum of about 200 organisations providing services and supporting ECD at local, regional and national levels, was formally established on September 7, 2005.

The ECD network, through the efforts of non-government organisations (NGOs), is providing pre-school education to almost a quarter of the children aged between five to six years, said the adviser.

She expressed the hope that the conference would contribute to expanding cost-effective, sustainable and community-run quality services to the children.

Over 600 representatives from government, local and international NGOs and UN agencies are attending the two-day conference sponsored by Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Brac University-Institute of Educational Development (BUIED), Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children USA, Unicef, Nayanara Communications and Channel i.

In his welcome address BEN

Chairperson Dr Manzoor Ahmed said the gathering of ECD professionals at the conference would provide an opportunity to share ideas and disseminate relevant information and knowledge.

Terming ECD education a very significant and challenging to implement, Primary and Mass Education Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the success of education depends on the access of ECD education to all children.

Admitting the fact that the success in ECD education is yet to achieve, the secretary said the government requires active participation of NGOs and civil society to ensure ECD education for all children in the country.

Secretary to women and children affairs ministry Rokeya Sultana, Plan Bangladesh Country Director Haider Wasim Yaqub, Chief of Education Section of Unicef Nabendra Dahal and Deputy Country Director of Save the Children USA Margarita Clarke also spoke on the occasion.

Relief work carried on properly: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said relief operation is taking an institutional shape in the country and the ongoing relief activities in the cyclone-affected areas are being carried out properly.

He said rice is being distributed among 26 lakh families in the cyclone-battered areas through Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, which will continue for four months from December to March.

He made the remarks while receiving donations for the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund from individuals and organisations at his office.

He said work on infrastructure rehabilitation is going on and power supply in all the affected upazilas except Moroganj has been restored. Restoration of electricity supply in the rest upazila will be possible next week, he added.

Those yesterday handed over cheques to the chief adviser include former IGP and President of Bangladesh Retired Police Officers' Welfare Association ABMG Kibria, Chairman of Atlas Bangladesh Ltd M Abu Zafar, Md Ashraf on behalf of Bangladesh National Cricket Team, CEO and Branch Manager of Goodman Co Ltd Bangladesh Park Dae Chun, President of Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Dhaka Takao Kobayashi, Secretary General of Bangladesh Poverty and Health Development Centre Russell Ahmed, President of Dhaka Motor Parts Traders Welfare Association Fazlul Huq Mintu, President of Keraniganj Garments Traders and Shop Owners Cooperative Society Md Anwar Hossain and Bilkis Khanam of Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhaka.



Children of Oroni School yesterday perform at the inaugural function of a week-long programme of Liberation War Museum on its premises in the city, marking the Victory Day.

'Ensuring good governance, rule of law can protect HR'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election of honest and competent candidates is crucial to establishing good governance and that democracy, rule of law and good governance are the foundations of human rights, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal said at a discussion yesterday.

He also called on all to abide

by the law and respect other's rights in order to ensure human rights in the country.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samannaya Parishad organised the discussion at the National Press Club in the city to mark the International Human Rights Day 2007.

AHM Noman presented a keynote paper at the discussion presided over by ASM Shahjahan, former adviser to a caretaker government.

Urging all to stand by the cyclone-affected people, Adviser Anwarul Iqbal said the NGOs are gradually adopting a commercial attitude instead of providing service to suffering humanity.

"I hope they [NGOs] will stand by the distressed humanity and take various steps to help the people in cyclone-ravaged areas, such as writing off loans," he said.

Anwarul Iqbal said the government has already decided to form a human rights commission, which would be empowered to investigate and summon anyone.

The commission will send the complaints to the government and the army for taking proper action and it would be mandatory for the authorities to inform the commission of what types of action they have taken regarding the complaints, he added.

He also said that a child labour policy would be finalised soon to reduce child labour and that the government is working to alleviate poverty in order to ensure human rights.

The adviser also said the government has taken necessary measures to preserve the places of genocide, which took place during the Liberation War.

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said human rights would not be ensured unless democracy and good governance are strengthened.

\$324m Japanese loan aid for three projects

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will get Japanese loan assistance of \$ 324 million for implementing three projects.

To this effect, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue and Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan will sign an exchange of notes at the ERD today, said a Japan embassy release.

Under the agreement, the government of Japan will provide the loan assistance to the government of Bangladesh through Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the implementation of the projects.

The projects are Haripur Power Plant (360 MW) Development Project (Part II), Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project and Small Scale Water Resources Development Project.

The interest rate is 0.01 percent per annum and the repayment period is 40 years inclusive of 10-year grace period.

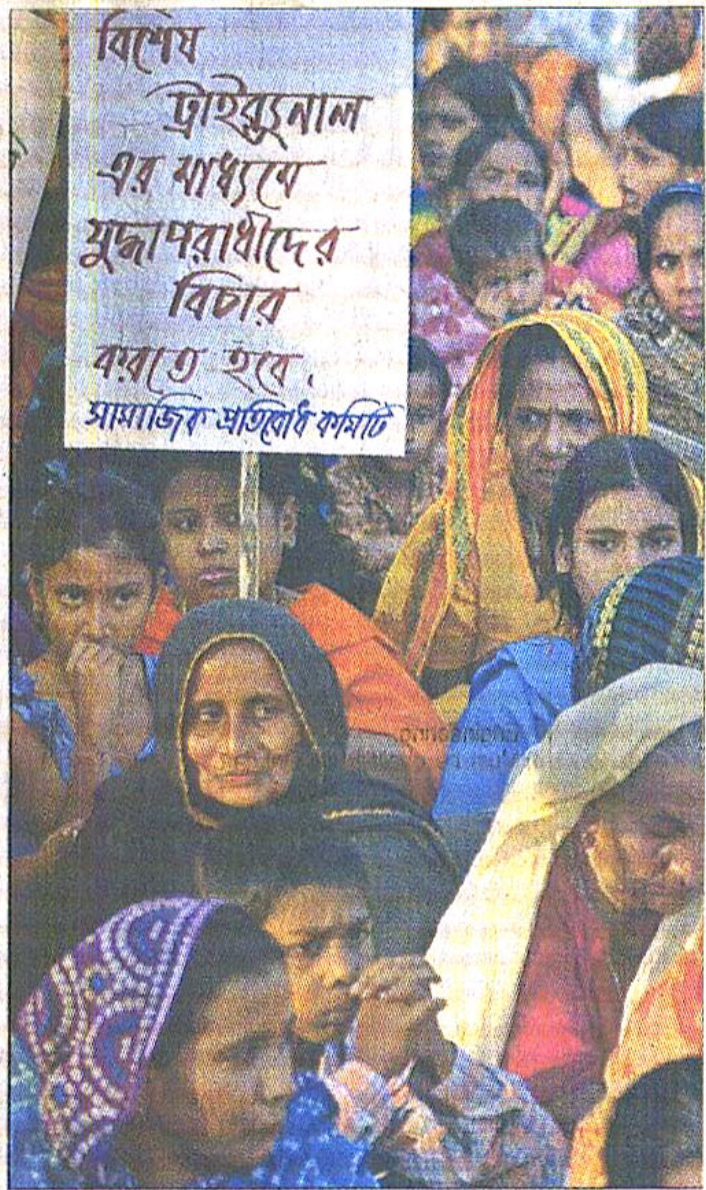
'Operation Nabojatra' inaugurated

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurated 'Operation Nabojatra', a voter list and national ID card registration project at Bhola and Mongla on Sunday, says an ISPR release.

Commodore Commanding Chittagong and Commodore Commanding Khulna briefed the naval chief about various aspects of voter registration in their respective areas.

The navy chief urged all concerned to devote their best efforts and dedication to make the programme a success.

Elaborate training programmes were held at BNS Issa Khan and BNS Titumir on this project.



One murdered, another stabbed by muggers in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A gang of muggers stabbed one person to death near Lalkhan Bazar Ishpani in the port city on Sunday night.

The dead was identified as Suman Das, 24, an employee of NM Plastic and son of Gauranga Das of Shikarpur under Hathazari upazila.

He was stabbed while he was returning home in the GEC area from a furniture fair at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Local people rushed him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim's brother Sujon Das filed a case in this connection.

Meanwhile, a paper trader was stabbed and robbed of Tk 2 lakh by a gang of five muggers at Zakir Hossain Road under Khulshi police station in the broad day light of yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Shamimur Rahman, 40.

The incident occurred when Shamim along with his friend Mohiuddin Manzu was returning to shop -- Kamal stores -- at Anderkilla after drawing money from Olonker More branch of Prime Bank.

The muggers in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw intercepted the auto-rickshaw of Shamim near Chittagong Veterinary University and took away the money stabbing him indiscriminately at around 12:30pm.

Shamim was rushed to the CMCH.



Kafco Chairman and Secretary of Ministry of Industries Dr Md Nurul Amin hands over cheques for Tk 1.5 crore to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the cyclone victims at the latter's office on December 1 while M Qaiser Jamal, Chief Executive Officer of Kafco, looks on.



Chairman of Eastern Bank Ltd AQI Chowdhury OBE hands over a cheque for Tk 50 lakh to Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Dhaka Cantonment recently for the cyclone-affected people.



NCC Bank Chairman Tofazzal Hossain hands over a payment order for Tk 10 lakh to Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed recently in donation for the cyclone-affected people.

US resident Bangladeshi to donate Tk 40 lakh for cancer hospital

Mohammad Nur Uddin, a resident of New York, USA committed to donate Tk 40 lakh towards the construction cost of a 10-bed ward in Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital while visiting the construction site of the hospital at Uttar in the city yesterday, says a press release.

During the visit he was accompanied by his wife, Dhaka Ahsania Mission USA Chapter President Dr Mansur Khan and other officials of the mission.

Mansur Khan said if Bangladeshis living in USA come forward in this way, this most modern cancer hospital in Asia would come into reality soon. He appealed to all living outside Bangladesh to come forward in completing this cancer hospital for greater interest of the people.

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At Niketon SPRING 1416 - 1803 sh	At Niketon Shelpeca 1488 sh	At Banani Greenwood Park 2408 sh	At Uttara Amadues 1453 - 1471 sh
At Uttara ARIANA 1466 - 1477 sh	At Wari Crimson Vale 1221 - 1466 sh	At Nazimuddin Rd. Crystal PLAZA Shops & Comm. 1078 - 1270 sh	At Mirpur PEONENZA 1078 - 1270 sh
At Siddheswari SERENITY 1310 - 1531 sh	At Mitoli Road Blue Bells 1016 - 1169 sh	At Moghbazar Deer park 1245 - 1382 sh	

On-going projects [In Chittagong City]

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