

# 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 (BU-IED), Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children USA, Unicef, Nayantara Communications and Channel One.

In his welcome address BEN also spoke on the occasion.

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 Musharaf 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.

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.

One murdered, another stabbed by muggers in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

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

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

He was stabbed while he was returning home in the GEC area from an 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 Sujan 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 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.

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