

Make budget child sensitive

Dr Atiur urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD), a leading international organisation fighting for the rights of children, and its partner organisations at a press conference have demanded a child sensitive revised budget.

Welcoming the proposed budget for the fiscal 2008-09 as 'gender sensitive', Unnayan Samunnay Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman urged the government to revise the budget in order to ensure children's interest.

One third of the total population of the country live under 18, said Dr Atiur, adding that "As much as we would be able to invest in the

children, we would get a good result in the long run."

He said this at the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday with Uddipon Executive Director (ED) Imranul Haque Chowdhury in the chair.

The Uddipon ED said Bangladesh is going to enter the 2nd phase of poverty reduction strategy (PRS).

"Implementation of PRS-2 and NPA (national plan of action) largely depend on availability of resources," said Imranul, adding "If we want to reach the child-related goals mentioned in millennium development goals (MDGs),

we must adopt proper budgetary policies for children."

Dr Atiur was the consultant to the SCSD to prepare and analyse feedback about child rights in the proposed budget. In his recommendations for the budget, he proposed that the government should not reduce ADP (annual development programme) for primary and mass education.

He said public-private partnership is needed for proper and full implementation of the ADP. Share of primary education both in budget and GDP needs to be increased consistently. Budgetary allocation is needed for introducing technical and vocational education in every

secondary school.

An epidemiological map should be drawn to understand spatial variation of the incidence of children's diseases in the country in order to formulate plan and ensure proper allocation of budget, he added.

Prof Atiur recommended for health centres in the char, hill tracts and coastal areas and called for separation of child health programme from maternal and adolescent health programme.

He suggested the government to allocate Tk 25 crore to ensure full coverage of sub-student for children with disabilities. He also called for incorporating children's share in the local government budget to address the problems of child labourers, street children, urban and slum children.

In his other recommendations, Dr Atiur proposed to form registration and monitoring cell to monitor the mobility of the migrating children, psycho-social care centre for the victim of violence and also funds to rescue and reintegrate trafficked children.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association Executive Director Salma Ali, acting Country Representative of SCSD Shamsul Alam Bokul and Incidin-Bangladesh Executive Director Ratan Sarker also spoke.

RLY SCRAP METAL THEFT Seven arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Railway security force caught red-handed seven people, including four railway staffs, for stealing scrap metal from its bridge factory at Kadamtali area in Chittagong yesterday.

The force also seized one-and-half tonnes of scrap metal and a pick-up van from the spot, sources said.

The arrestees were identified as mechanic of Bangladesh Railway's bridge factory Mohammad Shamim, staffs Jinal Abedin and Mohammad Rahmat Ullah, guard Shariat Ullah, pick up driver Badshah Mia, helper Mohammad Emran and a burglar Bashir Ullah.

However, the arrested railway staffs were released later for departmental action and others were handed over to police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the railway security force raided the bridge factory at around 5.00am and caught them. Three other railway staffs of the gang - Abdul Jalil, Shah Alam and Abul Khair - managed to flee the spot.



Quarter Master General of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury inaugurates Tree Plantation Campaign-2008 of Bangladesh Army by planting a palm sapling beside Army Central Mosque yesterday.

Army initiates massive tree plantation campaign

Bangladesh Army have undertaken a massive programme to make the National Tree Plantation Campaign 2008 a success, says an ISPR press release.

Quarter Master General of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury formally inaugurated the tree plantation campaign of Bangladesh Army by planting a palm sapling beside Army Central Mosque yesterday.

Senior army officers were present on the occasion. Later he offered munajat along with other officers seeking success of the campaign.

This year the Bangladesh Army have chalked out a massive programme of planting saplings in army establishments throughout the country. In addition, as part of government initiative of making the capital a green city, Bangladesh Army has undertaken special tree plantation drive in the city's military outfits, which includes plantation of 21,000 saplings of fruit, timber and medicinal species.

Bangladesh Army, one of the pioneers in National Tree Plantation campaign, have been planting, nursing and conserving the saplings successfully.

Tree plantation in the cantonments across the country has been appreciated by the citizens as well as the ecologists. Bangladesh Army have also received national awards in previous years as recognition to its contribution to this end.



Nargis Ahmed, the first female president of Bangladesh Society New York, was honoured by the District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) on Friday in recognition of her contribution to the Asian-American community.

'RMG workers' interest ignored in budget'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the interest of workers in the garment industry, the powerhouse of the country's export economy, has been ignored in the proposed national budget for the fiscal 2008-09.

They said this at the discussion on 'National budget and workers' expectations' organised by Textile Garments Workers' Federation at Shaheed Asad auditorium in the city.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WBP) President Rashed Khan Menon was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

He said, "Although the government acknowledges the contribu-

tion of the garments industries and workers to the national economy, it has not created any option for the development of the workers in the proposed budget."

"This discrepancy shows the depth of the government's accountability," he added.

He called on the government for more allocation in the proposed budget for the infrastructural development of garments industry, saying that the government should declare 50 percent dearness allowance for the workers and employees in the production sector.

Eminent economist prof Atiur Rahman also spoke at the discussion which was presided over by workers' leader Abul Hossain.

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Seminar
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at Chittagong British Council on
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- Developments on Current UK Immigration Law; and
- IAS Activities in Bangladesh with British High Commission

Presented by: Chief Executive of IAS
(a former member of the British Parliament) Rt Hon Keith Best

- Update on Current UK Immigration law and its effect on the Bangladeshi public.
- Effects and Consequences of using false documents in submitting application to the BHC.
- BHC & IAS relation in Bangladesh and the common goal.

Presented by: Neil Angell, Entry Clearance Manager,
British High Commission

Seminar is open for all

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