

Change attitude towards women education: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday called upon all to change necessary initiatives to create a positive attitude towards women education in some parts of the society.

He made the call while inaugurating the Campaign for Creating Awareness for Women Development to attain the MDG-3, saying that everybody has to ensure that women do not become victims of humiliation and disgrace at their workplaces.

The United Nations announced eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by the year 2015. The third MDG is Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

Women and Children Affairs Ministry organised the campaign as part of the worldwide activities to create awareness for women development aiming to achieve MDG-3.

The key slogan of the campaign is 'Narke Tar Prappyo Dile Desh O Doshor Sufal Mele' (Country and people can get the fruits if women are given their due).

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, who presided over the inaugural ceremony at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, handed over the torch of MDG-3 to the chief adviser.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana also spoke at the function.

Advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser, representatives of various women, social-cultural and business organisations and NGOs and distinguished personalities were present at the function.

Fakhrudin in his speech said women will have to be incorporated into the mainstream of development as the country's socio-economic progress is not possible leaving a big portion of the population outside the mainstream of development activities.

He said the government has been giving special importance to women development and education and that the people are more conscious than ever about the importance of women education.

Attaining success of gender parity in primary and secondary level education is an evidence of it, he added.

Tk 21CR BRIBERY CASE Deposition resumes Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday set August 5 for resuming the deposition of the witnesses in Tk 21 crore bribery case against detained BNP leader Tanvir Ismat, Mukujuddho Projommo leader Abdullah Al Mamun also spoke at the meeting presided over by Chhatra Odhikar convener Ashraf Alam Bakul.

Advocate Sanaullah Mia sought the time saying hearing on a writ petition for quashing the case is awaiting with the High Court.

The judge then fixed August 5 for the hearing and asked the defence lawyers to submit the HC directives on that day.

Of the accused, Babar and Abu Sufian, director of a Bashundhara Group concern, were in the dock while Tanvir Ismat was represented by his lawyer Sanaullah Mia as he was exempted from appearing in person during the trial proceedings.

The rest are on the run.

DU students demand trial of war criminals

Symbolic hanging staged STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday demanded immediate steps to bring the war criminals to book and staged symbolic hanging of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Golam Azam, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mujahid, terming them war criminals.

Some five hundred students gathered around the 'Swoparjito Swadhinata' near TSC on the campus under the banner of 'Chhatra Odhikar' and staged the symbolic hanging amid slogans against Jamaat leaders who committed war crimes during the Liberation War.

The students also vowed to find out the employees of the university who collaborated with the Pakistani army during the Liberation War.

Earlier, a rally was also held where various organisations and some teachers of the university expressed solidarity with the programme.

Prof Dr Muhammad Samad said a tough movement should be forged to ensure the trial of war criminals.

"The Jamaat leaders formed Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams (local collaborators of the Pakistani army) and killed the people of the country, looted their property and committed rape. They must be tried," he said.

He also said that the Jamaat men still assault the freedom fighters, the great sons of the soil, due to lawlessness. Riadul Karim, a student, called on the government to constitute a special tribunal to try the war criminals.



Three houses and valuable properties worth around Tk 10 lakh were gutted in a fire that broke out at Raja Mia's colony in Alkaran area in Chittagong city yesterday.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION FORUM LAUNCHED 'Review draft RTI Ord'n'

METRO DESK

The newly launched Right to Information Forum has expressed concern over some significant weaknesses in the Right to Information (RTI) Ordinance 2008 presently being considered by the government for enactment, says a press release.

The Forum also called upon the government to review the ordinance involving its representatives.

A number of leading non-government organisations and individuals have launched the forum to work with the government and other stakeholders to expedite proper enactment and implementation of the RTI Ordinance as well as to establish the right to information as a means of ensuring good governance at all levels.

The Forum was formed at a meeting held at Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) office in Dhaka this week. MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam was elected convener of the forum, with MJF as its secretariat. The forum will welcome all organisations and individuals striving to ensure citizens' right to information as the key to good governance in the country.

The forum congratulated the government for its initiative to enact the RTI Ordinance.

At the same time, they expressed deep concern over some of its shortcomings. Members of the forum noted with disappointment that in the present draft Ordinance, the office and status of the Information Commission and its Commissioners have been rendered very weak and vague, which will impede the process and potential of enforcement of

the Act.

They were equally concerned that the Act has made only a limited scope to obtain information from Union Parishads.

The forum also expressed grave concern that the exemption list was too long and in many ways non-specific, which could provide the scope of subjective interpretation of requests for information.

Members of the forum called on the government to enact a law that would not act as an obstacle to people's access to information.

They also urged the government to review the ordinance, especially the three areas of concern, and offered to work with the appropriate authorities with fully open mind.

Representatives from Brac, BILS, Breaking the Silence, BNWL, BNNRC, Coast Trust, CPD, Change Makers, MRDI, MMC, MJE, NFOWD, Nijera Kori, PET, Rupantor, RIC, Shamunnay, Steps Towards Development, The Economic Times, The Hunger Project, TIB and a number of individuals representing the media, human rights and women's organisations endorsed the statement as members of the Forum.

Civil society organisations and individuals have been carrying out a campaign for the enactment of the right to information law since 2005 and a draft law was submitted to the caretaker government in 2007.

Finally, the Council of Advisers in a meeting on June 18, 2008, approved the revised draft law in principle. The law is now awaiting final approval by the government.

Lift ban on trade unions Women RMG workers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women members of National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) yesterday demanded immediate lifting of restrictions imposed by the caretaker government on the activities of trade unions across the country.

Organised by the NGWF over one-hour hunger strike was observed at Shaheed Asad Auditorium on Tophkana Road in the capital.

Speaking on the occasion, leaders of garment workers said restrictions on trade unions for long are pushing the highest foreign currency earning sector to restlessness as workers can't protest the injustices done to them by the garment owners.

They alleged that the government is following double standard policy as it has eased restrictions on political activities in phases but kept the ban on trade union activities.

The speakers said the government will be responsible if the country becomes a black listed one by the international communities on charge of violating labour laws by barring trade union activities in the country for long.

In that case, the garment sector may face closure as no international buyer will give order or purchase garment products from a black listed country leaving over 25 lakh garment workers across the country in uncertainty, they added.

The speakers said the country's constitution as well as the international labour laws allow the trade union activities, but the government has snatched away the fundamental rights of the workers.

NGWF President Shahida Sirker, Secretary Amirul Huq Amin, Vice-president Nurun Nahar and Joint Secretary Kamrun Nahar spoke on the occasion.



Raja Devasis Roy speaks at a national workshop on "Protect the Sal Forest of Modhupur and Rights of Forest Dwellers" at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Sultana Kamal and on his left is Khushi Kabir. (Story on Page 16)

REAPPOINTMENT OF 10 JUDGES Govt files leave to appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed an application with the Supreme Court (SC) to vacate the recent High Court (HC) judgment directing the government to reappoint 10 additional judges who were not confirmed during the BNP-Jamaat-led government.

Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Khalequzzaman filed the leave to appeal on behalf of the government with the appeal section of the SC against the HC verdict.

Hearing of the petition is likely to be held on Sunday.

Earlier on Wednesday, Advocate Ashraf-uz-Zaman, a pro-Jamaat-Islami lawyer filed an application with the SC seeking permission for filing a leave to appeal as public interest appeal against the HC judgment.

After hearing the petition, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin sent the matter for hearing before the full bench of the Appellate Division on July 29.

A three-member special bench of justices Mohammad Abdur Rashid, SK Sinha and Nazmun Ara Sultana, on July 17 declared illegal and unconstitutional the BNP-led government's decision for not confirming the services of 10 additional HC judges appointed during the rule of Awami League despite recommendation by the chief justice.

VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 'Dark Star' to provide round-the-clock legal aid to victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has formed a team called 'Dark Star' who will provide round-the-clock legal aid to the victims of human rights violations.

The team will work in association with the police to provide legal assistance to the victims of trafficking, rape, acid violence, dowry and repression. The team will also provide transit shelter and medical treatment for the victims, if necessary.

The team has been formed under the project titled 'Establishing good governance through implementing human rights' supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

The team members will be available 24 hours a day to help the victims in 30 police stations in the six districts.

Besides, anybody can call the members of 'Dark Star' for immediate help. Telephone numbers of the team members working under six project areas in six districts are: 01730303400 (Dhaka), 01730303402 (Tangail), 01730303404 (Natore), 01730303406 (Khulna), 01730303408 (Jhenidha) and 017130303410 (Chittagong).

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad inaugurated the activities of the 'Dark Star' at Biam Foundation in the city yesterday.

Despite various constraints, the police department will extend all-out cooperation to the team members, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Alena Khan, executive director of BSEHR, sought cooperation from all to make the project a success.

The Dark Star members would also rush anywhere outside the project area if any incident of human rights violation takes place there, and will provide necessary assistance to the victims, she said.

Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Hasan Mahmud Khondakar, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam, President of the National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary of Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh Azhar Mahmud were also present.

Boy found dead in water tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-year-old boy died after falling into an underground water tank at Shyampur in the city yesterday.

The floating body of the ill-fated Sabuj, son of vegetable vendor Sujjan Mollah of East Jurain Commissioner Road, was recovered in the morning from the water tank.

Police said the child might have fallen into the tank as its bucket was open.

Victim's grandmother Peyara Begum said Sabuj was missing since early in the morning and he was found floating at about 11:00am.

Solve transboundary river problems Adviser urges neighbouring states

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water Resources Adviser CS Karim yesterday called on the neighbouring countries to come forward with a helping attitude to solve the problems of transboundary rivers.

Addressing as the chief guest at a fellowship award giving ceremony at the National Press Club, Karim said if it is possible to demarcate the international boundaries based on information, problems related with international boundaries will be solved, adding that but the neighbouring countries will have to extend their helping hands.

The Touching Souls, a US-based organisation, in association with the Water Reporters' Forum, Bangladesh (WREB) gave the fellowship awards to four journalists -- special correspondent of Holiday Abdur Rahman, staff correspondent of Rajshahi bureau of The Independent Sarkar Shariful Islam, Staff Correspondent of Naya Diganta Sayed Mahub Morshed and Helemul Alam of The Daily Star.

CS Karim handed over the certificates and award money to the fellows at the programme with WREB President Shakhawat Hossain Badsha in the chair.

Community pry teachers' ultimatum to govt

Threaten hunger strike from August 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers will go for a hunger strike into death from August 3 if their five-point demand, including nationalisation of their job, is not met by July 31.

Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association (BCPTA) President Habibul Ahsan Bablu at a discussion said, "Without nationalisation of our job, we will not do our duties. We have given a deadline to the government to meet our demands by July 31. Otherwise, we will start our indefinite hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar in the city at 10:00am on August 3."

It is impossible for the teachers to continue their families with a monthly salary of Tk 1200 only, he added.

The BCPTA organised the discussion on 'Salary Discrimination of Teachers in Primary Education: Community Primary School' at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city where teachers declared their protest programme.

Noted economist Prof Abul Barakat said meritorious students would not come out from primary schools without making the primary teaching profession as most attractive job.

Former adviser advocate Sultana Kamal said the government should give proper attention to primary education sector because future generation depends on primary school, adding that it should also meet the demands of the teachers immediately.

BCPTA Secretary General Hafizur Rahman, community teachers Nadira Sultana, Tariqul Islam, Fakhru Islam, Majedur Rahman, Atiqur Rahman, Kazi Anwer and Aliur Rahman also took part in the discussion.

As the part of celebrating 400th anniversary of Dhaka city, Dhakabashi and Central Public Library yesterday organised a daylong book exhibition on several topics of Dhaka at the library's seminar room.

Chief Adviser of Dhakabashi Inam Ahmed Chowdhury inaugurated the book exhibition.

Abdul Kader of old Dhaka played flute during the inaugural ceremony.

Deputy Director of the Directorate of Public Library Mohammed Zillur Rahman, Adviser of Dhakabashi Nagina Chowdhury, Deputy General Manager of Elite Cosmetics Dulal Bishwas, Dhakabashi President and Member Secretary of 400 years celebration council of Dhaka Mohammed Shukkur Malek and General Secretary Sheikh Khoda Bog were present and talked at the programme.

TIMEX

When was the last time someone asked you the time?

Featured here: The Retrograms with multi-eye dial with retrograde sub-dial indicating day, date & month.

The New Timex International Collection

FREE Attractive adidas bag with every purchase

DHAKA • Rifles Square, Dhanmondi • Iqbal Centre, Banani • North Tower, Uttara • New Market • Concord Twin Tower, Malibagh • Mukta Bangla Shopping Complex, Mirpur-1 • Bashundhara City • Rapa Plaza, Dhanmondi • 199, Tejaagon I/A • **NARAYANONJ** Club Market **CHITTAGONG** • Ammen Centre • New Market **SYLHET** • Al-Hamra Shopping **COMILLA** • Eastern Yaqub Plaza **KHULNA** • New Market • Boro Bazar **Jessore** • M.K Road **RAJSHAHI** • Anam Plaza, Shaheb Bazar **BARISAL** • Hemayet Uddin Road.

Imported & Marketed by: Kallol Group of Companies, 199, Tejaagon I/A, Dhaka. Tel: 8816004 | www.kallolgroup.com

LOOKING FOR THAI & CHINESE LANGUAGE SPEAKERS!!!

GraphicPeople is looking for Thai and Chinese language speakers to do part time/ full time job. The position will require individuals to help our Desk Top Publishers in reading and writing different language contents supplied by our clients.

Skills required:

- To be able to comprehend the language (Thai and Chinese) and point out spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, usage and format
- Must be fluent in English
- Computer skills are a must
- No creative copywriting skills required
- Individuals must be dedicated to delivering quality work

Professional language training will be an added advantage. Local expatriates are also encouraged to apply. E-mail your resumes to gjobs@graphicpeople.net by **August 01, 2008**.

Please clearly mention the position on the resume.

GraphicPeople | PeopleGroup

www.graphicpeople.net

GraphicPeople is a joint venture company working as an offshore graphic design studio for international clients.