

Improve quality of care for abandoned children

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government to ensure safety of the abandoned and victimised children through improving the quality of care for them.

They also called for taking up programmes to prevent the separation of children from their families.

The safest place for a child is his or her family and separating a child from the family constitutes the gravest threat to normal development of a child, they said.

They also urged all to welcome children's opinions and to look at the world through the children's eyes to ensure better childhood and proper development of children.

Shishu Palli Plus (SPP) organised the discussion titled 'Safe custody of children in Bangladesh' in association with Save the Children-UK at Cirdap auditorium.

"In Bangladesh, poverty is the main reason for children entering alternative care. Other reasons are prolonged illness, disability or death of parents, abandonment by parents; and family breakdown causing neglect, abuse and exploitation of children," Dr Mizanur Rahman, a professor of law faculty, Dhaka University, said in his keynote paper.

The seminar was told that there are now 387 juvenile offenders in jails and the government and non-governmental organisations have been looking after some 11,826 children in care across the country.

Dr Mizanur Rahman suggested strengthening coordination between local and national agencies to ensure protection of children in care and directing available

resources into more responsive child protection programmes.

Speaking as the chief guest, Social Welfare Secretary Dewan Zakir Hussain said that the children committing minor offences should not be sent to the custody.

"The number of children in custody has declined in recent weeks. I hope that the day will come when all the children will remain in their mothers' lap and not a single child in the custody," he said.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foksett, Director of Department of Social Services Habibur Rahman and SPP's Overseas Director Patricia Karr and Director Khadija Sultana also spoke at the seminar moderated by Habibun Nessa of the Save the Children-UK.

Youth found dead in Intellectual Graveyard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from the Martyred Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Mirpur police said they recovered the body of the youth aged around 30 from inside the graveyard and sent it to the DMC morgue for autopsy.

He was clad in a red T-shirt and blue trousers.

Police said the body bore a black mark of injury around his neck and a bruise behind his head.

Meanwhile, one of the six people injured on Wednesday after criminals fired gunshots on them at a slam at Karail in the city's Gulshan area succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Friday night.

Identified as Zahurul Islam, a rickshaw-van puller, the deceased suffered a bullet wound in the waist.

Harmony among different faiths stressed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Akhandamandali, a religious organisation of the students, celebrated its fifth founding anniversary with two-day programmes on the campus.

It held a discussion on 'Inter-religious harmony and character building' on the Jagannath Hall premises as part of the programmes on Friday, the last day of the celebrations.

Dr Jugul Brammachari, principal of Ajachak Ashram Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper and columnist Syed Abul Maksud, DU Proctor Prof AK Feroz Ahmed and Prof Nironjan Adhikari took part in the discussion.

They stressed the need to promote harmony among different faiths to build a prosperous nation.

Tapas Kumar Sarkar, general secretary of the organisation, delivered the welcome address.

Earlier in the morning, the organisation took out a colourful procession on the campus and also held a voluntary blood donation programme.

Trader stabbed to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A businessman was stabbed to death in Jessore town yesterday.

He was identified as Akhil Banik, 47.

Police said snatches stabbed Akhil when he was returning his house getting down from a bus near Abdur Razzak College.

With injuries he reached at his residence and was declared dead when he was shifted to a local hospital.

Police arrested six people in this connection.

Razzak undergoes operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzak underwent on a renal stone operation at Saint Luis Hospital in Bangkok on Friday, says a press release.

He is now under treatment at intensive care unit and his condition is stable.

He urged the leaders and workers of the party and the countrymen to pray for his early recovery.

Delwar protests police action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain protested the police action during the human chain programme by the four-party alliance on August 27 in Khulna, says a press release yesterday.

Delwar termed the obstacle as interference to the democratic rights of the people. It reflects the repressive and undemocratic nature of the present government, he added.

He also condemned the filing of case against his 15 leaders and demanded withdrawal of the case.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Hasmat Jahan Makhon (Hashu) will be held at her residence at House No.1, Road No.140, Gulshan-1 in the city today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her residence after Maghrib prayers.

Hasmat Jahan was the member of Ducus and Awami League National Council.

She was wife of late Abdul Kuddus Makhon, one of the organisers of the War of Liberation.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doa and pray for her departed soul.



Winners of Prothom Alo Mirpur School Debate Competition pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Mirpur Bangla High School and College yesterday.

BBC BANGLADESH SANGLAP

'Govt has failed to meet people's aspirations'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The present caretaker government could not keep its promises and failed to meet the aspirations of the people, audience and panel members said at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday.

The invited audience said the government has no success other than the steps of political reforms by preparing the electoral roll, adding that people want accountability and holding of a successful parliamentary elections.

The 41st episode of the Sanglap on the latest incidents in the country was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

The panel members were BNP Chairperson's Adviser ASM Hannan Shah, Awami League Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Prof Anu Muhammad and Bangladesh Women Entrepreneurs' Association President Nasreen Awal Minto.

The audience raised a number of questions about the recent bail and release of the political leaders and independence of work of the judges.

Answering to a question, Anu

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutfur Rahman Bhuiyan, former joint secretary of information ministry, passed due to a cardiac arrest at the United Hospital in the city on Thursday at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter, grand children and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried at Mirpur Shaheed Intellectual graveyard on Friday.

Shamsul Haque Mojumder

METRO DESK



Frontline Communications Limited, passed away at his home at Peni on Friday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, five daughters, grandchildren and a host of well-wishers.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Amzadhat in Fulgazi.

Amjad Hossain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Amjad Hossain, a freedom fighter, passed away at his village home in Jhenidah yesterday due to old-age complications at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

The freedom fighter was laid to rest at his family graveyard with station honour.

Awami League General Secretary of Jhenidah Sadar upazila ZM Rashidul Alam prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Ahmad Husain, first librarian of Central Public Library and former president of Library Association of Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Awlad Husain Market Jame Mosque, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue (New Airport Road) after Maghrib prayers today.

Muhammad said crossfire and trial process cannot go along at the same time.

Hannan Shah replying to a question about the recent death of an innocent individual in the face of the protest of JCD activists at the news of injury of a BNP leader said the incident was merely an accident.

On the recent court verdict on the Jail Killing Case, Manna said

they would appeal against the verdict.

Anu Muhammad said the verdict was a farical one while Nasreen Awal said such incidents should not take place again.

The hour-long programme, moderated by BBC Bangla's Masud Hasan Khan, will be broadcast on BBC Bangla Radio at 8:00pm today and on Channel-i at 9:00pm tomorrow.

Robber killed in 'shootout'

UNB, Narsingdi

A robber was killed during a "shoot-out" between his cohorts and police at Narendrapur village under Monohordi upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Hiron, 28, leader of a gang of robbers, at his house at Dairerpar village in the upazila Friday afternoon.

As per his confessional statement, police along with Hiron went to Narendrapur village to recover hidden firearms at about 3:30am. When they reached the village, Hiron's cohorts opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Police said Hiron received bullets during the shootout and died instantly, while his accomplices managed to flee.

Three policemen were also

injured during the gun battle. They were admitted to Monohordi Upazila Health Complex.

Thai PM cancels Japan visit

AFP, Tokyo

Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej has cancelled a planned visit to Japan next week due to the country's political unrest, according to the Japanese foreign ministry.

Samak had planned to make an official visit to Tokyo starting on Tuesday for three days to hold talks with Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

But the Thai foreign ministry told the Japanese embassy on Friday that he decided to call off his trip, "considering the domestic situation in Thailand," the ministry said in a statement.



Workers of GM Establishment Ltd stage a demonstration in front of Saarc Fountain at Sonargaon crossing in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears.

PROTHOM ALO MIRPUR SCHOOL DEBATE

SOS Hermann Gmeiner School becomes champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SOS Hermann Gmeiner School emerged as the champion and the BCIC School became the runner-up in the Prothom Alo Mirpur School 1st Debate Workshop and Competition.

In the final round of the competition yesterday, the two teams presented their arguments on the issues responsible for various problems facing the residents of Mirpur.

Sheikh Nafiz Imtiaz of Hermann Gmeiner School was adjudged the 'Debater of the tournament'.

Prothom Alo Mirpur Bandhusava in association with Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) organised the contest at Mirpur Bangla High School and College. Hasan Mahmud Biblob moderated the final round of the debate.

A total of 32 schools in Mirpur, Shah Ali and Pallabi areas took part in the two-day competition.

Speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony, former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said, "We, the elderly people, are responsible for the backwardness of our country. The leaders of our generation are facing towards darkness. They should be made to turn around so that they face towards light, which will help bring stability to the country."

Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo Anisul Haque, poet Kazi Rosy, Dr Abdun Nur Tushar and Principal of Mirpur Bangla High School and College Badruddin Hawlader also spoke.



Shankar, Nayan BUJ president, gen secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Pradip Bhattacharya Shankar of the daily Bhorer Kagoj and Mahmudul Alam Nayan of the daily Janakantha were elected president and general secretary of Bogra Union of Journalists (BUJ).

The election was held at Bogra Press Club yesterday.

Other office bearers are: Zia Shahin - vice-president; GM Sajal - treasurer; and Shahinur Rahman - joint secretary. They were elected unopposed.

Members are: Nasima Sultana Chhutu, Limon Bashir and Anwar Hossain Rana.

Training on child-focused disaster risk cut begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day international training of trainers on 'community-based, child-focused disaster risk reduction' will begin at Brac Centre for Development Management at Rajendrapur in Gazipur tomorrow.

The regional office of Save the Children Sweden in cooperation with country office of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark will organise the training, says a press release.

The programme aims at encouraging country teams to enhance their knowledge on child-focused disaster risk reduction and inter-linking it with education and child protection to create a child-focused disaster risk reduction plan.

Representatives from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Afghanistan will attend the programme.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at an international symposium on 'Climate Change & Food Security in South Asia' at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson was present. (Story on Page 1)

One fake army man arrested on charge of abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a fake army man yesterday while he and his four accomplices were kidnapping an employee of a hotel at Gulistan introducing them as army men.

The arrestee was identified as Arif Hossain, 20.

Arif and his accomplices, three of them in military uniform, went to Swagatom residential hotel at Gulistan yesterday morning and identified them as army men.

The fake army men picked up hotel staff Alamgir Ahmed, saying there are a number of allegations against him.

They later took Alamgir to Rose Residential Hotel at Sayedabad and tied up him in a room of the second floor of the hotel.

At one stage, a retired army sergeant, who was waiting at the hotel lobby, challenged them for their suspicious movement.

Sensing something wrong, the perpetrators left the spot helter-skelter for their microbus parked in front of the hotel.

Local people chased them and managed to catch Arif red-handed, but other accomplices managed to flee the scene.

Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station Azizur Rahman said they have already collected the names and addresses of others involved in the incident and a massive hunt is on to arrest them.

Alamgir filed a case with Jatrabari Police Station in this connection.



Daily Star Employees' Union executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdus Sattar Pramanik and Ayub Khan were elected uncontested president and general secretary of The Daily Star Employees' Union yesterday for the year 2008-10, said press release.

Other office-bearers are -- Delwar Hossain, vice president; Jashimuddin Patwari, joint secretary; Abul Kalam, treasurer; Mujibur Rahman Sharif, publicity secretary; Jalal Akan, cultural secretary; and Abul Kalam Azad, executive member.

'Work together to restore democratic rights'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The extended meeting of the central committee of Chhatra Oikya Forum was held at its central office in the city on Friday.

Sohan Sobhan presided over the meeting while former president of the forum and incumbent convener of Biplobi Oikya Front Mosharefa Mishu was present as guest speaker.

Mosharefa Mishu in her speech said the role of students'

politics in political movement of the country is very vital. The long history of students' movement proves the necessity of students' politics in national movement.

She said left-leaning student organisations should work together to overcome the present crisis of the country and to restore people's democratic rights.

A 15-member committee was formed in the meeting for the upcoming council of the forum.



A fake army man was arrested at Sayedabad in the city yesterday. The picture was taken at Jatrabari Police Station.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that day temperature may rise slightly over the country. Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuandanga and lowest 22.9 degrees Celsius at Sakthira.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.9	25.0	90	73
Chittagong	28.6	25.1	90	88
Rajshahi	33.5	25.6	87	82
Khulna	31.0	24.0	93	76
Barisal	31.6	24.5	88	77
Sylhet	29.2	24.9	91	92
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.0	97	90