

INT'L DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY TODAY

'Ensure rights of people with disability'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 17th International Day of Persons with Disability will be observed today in the country as elsewhere across the globe to strengthen the campaign for ensuring the rights of the physically and mentally challenged people.

The theme of the day is 'Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us'.

The government and different non-government organisations including National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations, Bangladesh Organisation for Disabled Advancement and Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The day's programmes include seminar, discussion, and procession.



PHOTO: STAR

A procession was brought out in front of the Teacher-Student Centre on the Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disability.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the programme of the day at 9:30am at Osmani Memorial auditorium. He will also expose a memorial stamp marking the day.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Malek, special assistant to the chief adviser, informed this at a press conference yesterday organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled at National Press Club.

Two seminars will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 9:00am and 2:00pm respectively, he added.

Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, director general of the Directorate of Social Service, Dewan Zakir Hossain,

secretary of the ministry of Social Welfare, Masuda Binte Kadir, joint secretary (development) of social welfare ministry, Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of NFOWD and Farida Yeasmin were present at the press conference.

On the eve of the day, a rally was organised by Action on Disability and Development (ADD) with participation of around 400 persons with disability at TSC intersection yesterday. Besides, a rally was also held at Central Shaheed Minar demanding equal rights and dignity of the persons with disability.

From the rally they demanded implementation of the United Nations Charter of Disabled Persons' Right,

formulation of policy with their participation, and creating friendly environment where they can participate in elections without any constraint.

The demands also include forming standing committee for the disabled at national and local level, and preserving 5 percent quota in government and 10 percent in private services.

Dhaka university Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, former justice Golam Rabbani, Senior Vice President (Programme) of ATN Bangla Nowajesh Ali Khan, Golam Mortuza, Rokeya Kabir, and Colonel (ret'd) Faruk Khan attended the programme.

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity also organised a seminar on 'UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities' at Biam Foundation auditorium.

Speakers at the seminar underscored the need for changing mindset of people and raising awareness on disability issue.

Iftekhhar greets Hillary

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday sent a message of felicitations to the newly designated Secretary of State of the United States, Hillary Clinton.

While congratulating her "most warmly" upon her appointment, the foreign adviser said: "we express appreciation of the fact that someone of your prodigious capabilities should be chosen to guide and implement the foreign policy of the United States".

He further added: "We see in the United States and in yourself, values that we in Bangladesh share. We see you as a friend, and have no doubt that during your tenure of office our bilateral relations will widen and deepen even further".

He wishes the newly designated Secretary of State long life, good health and happiness for herself and her family.

Next elected govt won't hold upazila polls on schedule

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday apprehended that the next elected government would not hold upazila election on scheduled time.

They called on the political parties to pledge in election manifestos that they would hold upazila polls on time.

The speakers said this at the roundtable on 'Peoples' expectation in establishing strengthened local government and democratic decentralisation' organised by Governance Advocacy Forum at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

They said the local government commission that lacks the power to look into financial necessities required by respective local areas will not be a big help in establishing a strengthened local government in the country.

The existence of financial commission, which plans budget allocation for local areas in accordance with their requirements, especially considering ecological vulnerability and peoples' status of deprivation, has strengthened local



Dr Tofael Ahmed speaks at a roundtable at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Akhter Hossain and on his left are Mohsin Ali and Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman.

government system in India effectively, they added.

Member of the commission Dr Tofael Ahmed said, "Financing the local government is a major problem. Separate budget must be allocated for local government, not as a whole budget allocation for local government and rural development ministry."

"Financing is a major issue for the decentralisation of power," he added.

Noted economist Prof MM Akash said, "Decentralisation is not enough to ensure people's rights. Enhancing capacity of the deprived and poor

people through participatory democracy would work in this regard. And actual decentralisation of power will largely depend on economic independence of the individuals."

Prof Atiur Rahman, Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Associate Editor of the daily Jugantor Sohrab Hasan and Programme Officer HRGG-PSU of Danida Sarder M Asaduzzaman also spoke at the programme moderated by Prof Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman. Coordinator of the Forum Mohsin Ali presented a keynote paper.



Late Yasmin Rahman
Wife of M. Faizur Rahman

We request all relatives and friends to pray for Mrs. Yasmin Rahman, the dearest member of our family who passed on to eternity nine years ago.

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