

Website of child news agency launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

www.shishuproakash.com, the website of Shishu Prokash, a news agency consisting of child journalists, was launched during the 1st Child Journalist Convention 2009 at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday.

Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC) with the help of United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) organised the convention.

MMC have trained up 1,235 child journalists since 2005 under its Children's Express project.

Executive Director of MMC Kamrul Hassan Monju said, "These children have achieved the confidence of writing, speaking before people and asking questions to the authorities, which is a great success of this project."

A total of 1,024 child rights based bimonthly reports by these child journalists were published in Shishu Prokash since its inception.

All those reports were published in the local newspapers and 512 reports were published in the national newspapers.

A total of 1200 reports of these child journalists were also published in several local and national dailies.

These journalists work for ensuring child rights and they work in a group of ten (five boys and five girls) with one team leader in each district. All the 640 journalists and their 64 team leaders were present at the convention.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

She said that one of the reports by these child journalists dealt with a village that had no school. As an adviser to the then caretaker government, she asked the authorities concerned to figure out how many

such villages exist that don't have a single school.

She also thanked Unicef for taking the initiative.

Child journalists Tareq Mehedi and Sumaiya Khan from Dhaka inaugurated the website while Asaduzzaman and Nowrin Ferdousi from Satkhira shared their experience and achievements as journalists.

Farzana Sagor Supti from Kishoreganj chaired the convention.

Unicef Chief of Communication Christine Jaulmes and Senior Communication Officer Zafrin J Chowdhury were also present at the programme.

Robbery in city house, two stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of robbers stabbed two people and took away valuables, including gold ornaments, from a house at Kajla in the city's Jatrabari area yesterday.

The injured were identified as Abdur Rahman, 30, and his brother-in-law Delwar Hossain, 40.

Locals said the criminals entered the house of Rahman after breaking open its door at around 2:30am. They stabbed him with sharp weapons when he began to scream seeing them inside his house.

Locals rushed to the house with sticks and rods, but the robbers fled the scene taking away two necklaces and two mobile phones.

At one stage, Delwar was also injured when the criminals hit him with iron rods.

No cases were filed in this connection, Jatrabari police said, adding that two groups of people clashed in the area early yesterday.



Chhayanaut students perform at a programme at Chhayanaut Bhaban auditorium in the city yesterday. The programme was organised to mark the death anniversary of noted Tagore exponent and journalist Waheedul Haque.

More Bangladeshis to be recruited by Saudi Arabia

Hopes Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the government of Saudi Arabia would take proper steps to ensure welfare and rights of a huge number of Bangladeshis working in the Middle-Eastern country.

She also hoped that the Saudi government would create opportunity for recruitment of more Bangladeshi workforce.

The former prime minister expressed the views when Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Dr Abdullah-bin-Naser Al Pushairi made a courtesy call on her at her Gulshan office in the evening.

The Saudi envoy said relations with Bangladesh had started during the period of late president Ziaur Rahman and the ties gradually strengthened.

Khaleda hoped that the ties would further be strengthened in future. She also hoped Saudi Arabia would play 'more roles in Bangladesh's

economic development". BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain was also present at the meeting.

'Try war criminals under Int'l Crimes Act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals should be conducted under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act enacted by the government of Bangladesh in 1973.

This was stated at the joint meeting of the Citizens' Commission on Trial of War Criminals and 'Citizens'

Commission to Prevent Militancy and Fundamentalism' formed by the Nirmul Committee at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday.

"The trial of war criminals should be held under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 and for that the country does not need to go to any international organisation," said Justice Golam Rabbani.

Wind of change blows across country: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon at a meeting yesterday said the landslide victory of the AL-grand alliance in the 9th parliamentary election ushered a wind of change in the country.

Menon, also a lawmaker, said this at a reception programme at the RC Majumdar auditorium at Dhaka University campus.

Bangladesh Chhatra Moiti hosted the reception for Menon and another lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha. "The young generation of the country has fulfilled their dreams through the general election and the victory of 'change' would be implemented through their deeds," said Menon.

"Student fraternities should end the political culture of 'capture' or 'extortion' in the post-election period and work together to establish a prosperous, non-

communal and non-violent Bangladesh," he added.

Badsha said corruption and terrorism grabbed the country having their patronisers in the ruling power during the previous political regime.

"The demands of the workers and deprived people would now be placed in the parliament," he added.

Student leaders at the programme demanded immediate trial of war criminals.

Officers Club Ananda Mela begins tomorrow

METRO DESK

The women committee of Officers Club Dhaka is going to organise a three-day 'Ananda Mela' on the club premises tomorrow, says a press release.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will inaugurate the colourful event as the chief guest.

The fair will remain open to all from 9:00am to 9:00pm.



Former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury inaugurates the 1st Child Journalist Convention 2009 at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday. On her left are Unicef Chief of Communication Christine Jaulmes and Senior Communication Officer Zafrin J Chowdhury.

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