

Call to start eliminating gender discrimination at family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eliminating gender discrimination has to start from the family, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They said parents have to

change their mindset at first and stop discriminating between a boy and a girl.

They also stressed women empowerment and establishing their rights.

Women Ending Hunger, a

non-government organisation, held the discussion titled 'Self-reliant women, independent Bangladesh, expectations of 2021: Women's aspirations' at the National Press Club in the city.

Rekha Saha, director of Steps Towards Development, stressed the need for ensuring education for all girls, saying only education can make girls aware of their rights and responsibilities in the society.

"Forming policy on discrimination against women would not be effective without proper implementation," she said, adding the policymakers also have to change their mindset to build a society free from discrimination.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) leader Ruhin Hossain Prince stressed political commitment to eliminate all sorts of gender discrimination.

"Women at the grassroots level would have to be united to press home their demands," he said, adding that the government would have to come forward by appointing competent women at the policymaking level to change the society.

Rasheda Khanam, president of Women Ending Hunger, chaired the programme while former lawmaker Tasmin Rana also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Advocate Maleka Begum speaks at a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'Law should not be imposed from above'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law is not a system to be imposed from above rather practice that can be managed in a system thus eliminating violence from the society and creating empowerment, said Prof Werner Menski of School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

He was delivering a lecture titled 'Flying kites: Banglar ghuri ichher ghuri - Managing family laws and gender issues in Bangladesh' arranged by Department of Law, Stamford University Bangladesh yesterday on its campus at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Prof Menski defined the duties of lawyers and allegorically termed it with flying kites.

Appreciating the performance of the legislators and judges of the country he said they are doing well in context of the country.

"The lawyers should work in their country being local agents but uphold the global requirements", he said while presenting the keynote.

He emphasized the need of making law based on officially introduced laws and laws adopted by the people, which he coined as living laws.

Reza-E-Morshed Kamal, chair of the Department of Law, Dr Salimullah Khan, academic adviser, Prof Fazle Elahi of Department of Environmental Science were also present at the session.

Measures to be taken for copy-free HSC exams

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said necessary measures would be taken to hold the HSC and its equivalent examinations in a completely copy-free atmosphere, beginning from April 16 under 10 education boards, across the country.

"Necessary steps would be taken to hold the examinations this year in a peaceful

atmosphere," the minister said while presiding over a review meeting at the ministry auditorium.

Nurul also called on the top officials concerned for taking necessary measures so that nobody can dare take any kind of unfair practices during the month-long exams.

"We are committed to hold the upcoming HSC exams in a completely copy-free atmosphere. Stern action would be taken against the central

secretary and teachers if any unfair practice is found during the exams," he added.

Ministry sources said as many as 6,18,308 candidates from some 7,237 education institutions will sit for the HSC exams from 1,919 centres across the country.

Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, Additional Secretary Mozammel Haque and chairmen of the education boards participated in the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Drivers of the CNG-run autorickshaws form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of cases against the owners.

AUG 21 ATTACK Statements of 2 constables recorded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two police constables yesterday gave their statements to a Dhaka court in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack cases.

Judge Mohammad Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 recorded statements of Monoranjan Bishwas and Daud Ali and later they were cross-examined by defence lawyers.

The court then fixed April 2 for next hearing of the cases and summoned several other prosecution witnesses to appear before the court on the scheduled date.

In their statements, Monoranjan and Daud told the court that Motiheel police seized shirts, pants, lungis of 13 victims who were injured and later succumbed to their injuries. Police then prepared a seizure list of those alamas (evidences) where they put their signature on the seizure list.

The grenade attacks were carried out on an Awami League (AL) rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

Earlier, 21 other prosecution witnesses had given their statements before the court and they were cross-examined by defence lawyers.

Former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and 12 others, now in jail custody, were produced before the court yesterday.

Eight others, including Pintu's brother Maulana Tajuddin have been absconding since the cases were filed.

On June 11 last year, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges against Pintu, Hannan and 20 others for carrying out the grenade attacks on the rally.

FAO ministerial meeting in Bangkok today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ministerial meeting of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) regional conference for Asia and the Pacific begins in Bangkok today.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque left the city for Bangkok yesterday to attend the meeting.

Razzaque is leading a four-member delegation comprising Agriculture Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed, Joint Secretary Md Zahirul Haque and Joint Secretary of Ministry Fisheries and Livestock Mosharraf Hossain.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with the Thai agriculture minister.

The minister will also visit export-oriented high-value crops (vegetable and fruits) production farm and halal food processing industry.

4 Arakan Army men arrested in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Four members of Arakan Army, a Myanmar-based militant group, were arrested by the intelligence agency men at Roangchhari Jeep Station in Bandarban town yesterday.

Official source said they are being interrogated. But the authorities concerned refused to disclose the identity of the arrestees.

Bir Bahadur takes over as CHTDB chair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Awami League lawmaker Bir Bahadur yesterday took over as chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tract Development Board (CHTDB).

He was appointed chairman through a gazette notification on March 24.

He also served as chairman of the body during the Awami League regime in 1996 to 2001.

Two cattle lifters beaten to death

UNB, Savar

Two suspected cattle lifters were killed and two others injured seriously in a mass beating at Sharifbagh in Dhamrai poura area early yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Local people said a gang of cattle lifters stole some cows from the area and herded on to

a truck late at night. Local people chased and caught red-handed four of them while they were fleeing with the cows.

The angry mob beat them up mercilessly, leaving two of them dead on the spot.

The injured were admitted to local upazila health complex.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Char Bishwanath in Munshiganj stage a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Arun Sarkar.

Conspiracy on to turn country into failed state

Says Delwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandker Delwar Hossain yesterday said his party along with the people would face the conspiracy now being hatched to turn the country into a failed state through misleading propaganda.

"We along with the people will fight the conspirators who are carrying out propaganda against the country and distorting history," he said.

Delwar made the remarks while addressing a protest rally on the premises of BNP central office in the afternoon.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organised the rally protesting "unfair and untrue" remarks made by Awami League leaders about late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Delwar said that being a responsible person AL leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim should not have

uttered false and unfair comments about Zia.

"I can't find suitable words to reply to your such uncivil comments," he said indicating Selim.

The BNP secretary general urged the AL leaders to show the documents to people, which support that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed the independence.

"It's known to the countrymen that it was Zia who had declared the independence," he said, adding "So, you (AL) should seek apology from the nation for your false statement."

Delwar said: "The countrymen won't accept it if you try to distort history."

BNP leaders Mirza Abbas and Fazlul Haq Milon, and JCD President Azizul Bari Helal, General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu and other senior leaders also addressed the rally.

After the rally, the JCD activists brought out a protest procession that paraded different city streets.

Attack on DU teacher, artistes condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different cultural organisations condemned the criminal attack on Dr Hossain Mansur, a teacher of Dhaka University and Bangabandhu researcher, TV producer Sheikh Uzzal and recitation artiste Arzu Khan.

In separate statements Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik Forum, Centre for BTV Artistes, Bangladesh Jatiya Baul Shilpi League, Bangabandhu Research Centre and an alliance of 30 cultural organisations demanded investigation into the incident and punishment to the criminals.

6 Japanese volunteers arrive

METRO DESK

Six new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) arrived in the city recently for a two-year assignment, says a press release.

Among the volunteers Kana Fukuhara and Noboru Kawakami will work on infection control in Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Brahmanbaria Civil Surgeon Office.

Toshie Oguma will work as instructor at Primary Training Institute, Chittagong, and Sayaka Oka will work on rural community development in Monohordi, Narshingdi.

Takuya Tanaka will work as an instructor on automobile maintenance at Underprivileged Children Education Programme.

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BBC Vacancies

1. Position: Assistant Producer (One)
Programme : Bangladesh Sanglap
Duration : 10 months

BBC Bengali service's ground-breaking discussion television programme, Bangladesh Sanglap is currently in its fourth season and we are looking for an assistant producer to work on the weekly debate programme.

As well as recent experience producing programmes and packages for television the successful candidate will have an in-depth understanding of the socio-political landscape of Bangladesh. They will also have a good command of Bengali and English and an excellent track record in producing original and innovative journalism.

Applications to be received by 6th April 2009.
To apply, please go to the BBC website; www.bbc.co.uk/jobs and use reference: 8233009

2. Position: Assistant Producer (One)
Programme : This Week in Parliament
Duration : 3 months initially

BBC Bengali service is launching a new exciting television and radio series called This Week in Parliament. The programme will report, discuss and debate the week's proceedings in the Bangladesh parliament. We are looking for an Assistant Producer to join this new venture.

As well as recent experience producing programmes and packages for television the successful candidate will have an in-depth understanding of the socio-political landscape of Bangladesh. They will also have a good command of Bengali and English and an excellent track record in producing original and innovative journalism.

Applications to be received by 6th April 2009.
To apply, please go to the BBC website; www.bbc.co.uk/jobs and use reference: 7417809

3. Position: Researcher (One)
Programme : This Week in Parliament
Duration : 3 months initially

BBC Bengali service is launching a new television and radio series called This Week in Parliament. The programme will report, discuss and debate the week's proceedings in the Bangladesh parliament. We are looking for a Researcher to join this exciting, new venture.

As well as recent experience in media research the successful candidate will have an in-depth understanding of the socio-political landscape of Bangladesh, especially the Bengali Parliament. They will also have an excellent command of Bengali and English and a pro-active attitude to sourcing contacts and contributors.

Applications to be received by 6th April 2009.
To apply, please go to the BBC website; www.bbc.co.uk/jobs and use reference: 7421109

4. Position: Reporter (One)
Programme : This Week in Parliament
Duration : 3 months initially

BBC Bengali service is launching a new television and radio series called This Week in Parliament. The programme will report, discuss and debate the week's proceedings in the Bangladesh parliament. We are looking for a Reporter to join this exciting, new venture.

As well as first-class and recent experience in journalism the successful candidate will have an in-depth knowledge of Bengali current affairs and a specific understanding of the workings of Parliament. They will also have fluent, broadcastable Bengali with an authoritative microphone voice.

Applications to be received by 6th April 2009.
To apply, please go to the BBC website; www.bbc.co.uk/jobs and use reference: 8254209

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