

Disadvantaged segments unite to fight child abuse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rabindra Sorobar in the city's Dhanmondi area was buzzing with hundreds of children yesterday. The place became lively with their chatter, gossip and chit-chat, recital of music, dances and drama and what not.

Boys and girls of all ages belonging to the disadvantaged segments became united to protest against child marriage, trafficking and various forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Bangladesh.

Organised by Aparajeyo Bangladesh (AP), the cultural programme was a part of the Youth Partnership Programme (YPP) project.

Sheikh Faridul Islam, a member of YPP who lived on the streets in his early

childhood, said, "Heinous crimes are being committed against children in Bangladesh. The worst form of all is trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. This is our way of spreading message to the society."

Formerly a domestic help, 15-year-old Babli Akter, another YPP member, said, "Adolescent girls often do not have a say about some very important life choices. They suffer immensely for early marriage. We are trying to sensitise the community to end child marriage and other forms of child abuse."

"Our focus today is to talk about our own problems among ourselves and send the messages to elders who take decisions on our behalf," she added.

YPP is currently working in India, Nepal and Bangladesh aiming to end child

prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Maiti Nepal in Kathmandu, Aparajeyo Bangladesh in Dhaka and SANLAAP in Kolkata are implementing the project at the national level.

According to various reports, every year around 10,000 children are trafficked from Bangladesh to neighbouring India, Pakistan and Middle Eastern countries.

They are mainly trafficked for domestic work, forced labour, camel jockeying, often forced marriage and other forms of exploitative labour. However, a large segment is trafficked for sex trade.

The participants in the programme called on the governments to better protect children from commercial sexual trafficking, exploitation, child marriage and other forms of child abuse.

RUBEL MURDER CASE

Two ex-police officers get bail for six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has granted bail for six months to former police officers Amir Ahmed Tareq and Nurul Alam in the sensational Shamim Reza Rubel Murder case.

They were earlier sentenced to life imprisonment by the lower court in this case.

Upon separate petitions filed by the convicts, an HC bench of AFM Abdur Rahman and Justice SM Emdadul Hoque granted bail to Amir yesterday and to Nurul Alam on Tuesday.

Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University in the city, was picked up by a DB police team led by AC Akram from in front of their Siddheswari residence on July 23 in 1998 and was beaten to death the same day.

Hold all-party talks to ensure fair trial of war criminals

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the trial of war criminals should be held without delay to resolve the issue.

He also called on the government to reach a national consensus through all-party talks to ensure a fair trial.

The former law minister also suggested reviewing the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, saying that there are some loopholes in the act, which could raise questions about the trial process.

He also said that new laws can be formulated to hold the trial.

Moudud Ahmed said this while speaking at a roundtable on 'War Crimes: Special Tribunal and Independent Trial' organised by Nagorik Forum at the National Press Club in the city.

He said the government can hold a series of meetings with the political parties, as the demand for the trial of the war criminals is now the demand of the whole nation. But the trial should be conducted quickly so that no one can use the issue as a political weapon next time, Moudud said.

BNP leader Wing Commander (ret'd) Hamidullah Khan alleged the motive of the trial is not to ensure justice for the victims but to do 'injustice to the war criminals'.



Employees of Proshika stage a demonstration in front of its head office at Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding resignation of Qazi Faruque Ahmed. (Story on Page 16)

Road accidents kill 5, injure 63

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 63 others injured in separate road accidents in Patuakhali, Dinajpur and Natore in last two days.

Our correspondent from Patuakhali reports: Two people, including a child, were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Patuakhali-Dashmina road at Kakrabunia in Patuakhali yesterday.

The dead were identified as Munira, 2, and Sufia, 35, of Vaila village under Sadar upazila. Sufia died on the spot and Munira at hospital.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Dashmina-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control.

The injured were treated at Patuakhali general hospital and local clinics.

Our correspondent in Dinajpur reports: Two people were killed and 8 others injured in separate road accidents at Birganj and Parbotipur upazila in Dinajpur in last two days.

The dead were identified as Md Shamser Ali,

16, son of Israfil Ali of Parbotipur upazila, and Abdul Kuddus, 35, son of Md Montaz Ali on Birganj upazila.

Police said Shamser Ali was killed when his motorbike collided head-on with a speeding tank lorry near Small Jamuna Bridge in Parbotipur yesterday.

Kuddus was killed and 8 others were injured as a speeding truck rammed a roadside tree at Rajapukur village in Birganj upazila on Tuesday.

The injured were treated at Birganj upazila Health Complex and Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

UNB from Natore adds: A man was killed and 30 others were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Fultala in Natore Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the Bogra-bound bus from Natore fell into the ditch at about 4:00pm as the driver lost his control over steering, leaving a day labourer Mostakim dead on the spot.

Eleven of the injured were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.



Children perform a dance at a cultural programme as part of the Youth Partnership Programme project at Rabindra Sorobar at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Aparajeyo Bangladesh organised the event.

Bangladesh-UK naval exercise begins

UNB, Dhaka

A five-day mock naval warfare dubbed 'Exercise Shamudro Torongo' kicked off in the Bay of Bengal yesterday with a view to enhancing military cooperation between Bangladesh security forces and the British Navy.

The exercise started under the supervision of Bangladesh Navy and at the initiative of the United Kingdom, said an ISPR release.

Two warships of the British Royal Navy and few ships from Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard are taking part in this exercise.

Besides, few fighter aircraft and helicopters of Bangladesh Air Force, a large number of Commando, Rapid Action Battalion and Police personnel are participating in the joint exercises.

Earlier in the day, Exercise Shomudro Torongo (TAURUS 09), the routine deployment of the British Royal Navy's Amphibious Task Group, arrived in the Bay of Bengal.

Exercise Shomudro Torongo, the name given to the Bangladesh element of the deployment, aims to maintain the Royal Navy's fighting capability as well as develop the UK's capacity to operate with key partners and other nations' enhanced interoperability.

Women edn can ensure dev

Speakers tell Sylhet roundtable

METRO DESK

Speakers at a roundtable in Sylhet on Tuesday said women education can ensure exponential development in multiple sectors.

The roundtable on 'Women falling behind field

of education -- reasons and solutions' was held at Sylhet City Corporation.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran was present at the roundtable as the chief guest while Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal was the special guest.

The roundtable was organised to commemorate the launching of a nationwide promotional campaign on Millennium Development Goal 3. This campaign intends to increase awareness on empowering women in the fields of education, health and career.

Kamran said women in sylhet have fallen behind in the education sector.

"In addition to the efforts of our government, all of us must responsibly assist from our respective positions and strengthen the government's efforts," he added.

He said that he has directed people concerned to take effective measures to address eve teasing and harassment of women at the educational institutes.

Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said, "We must identify the barriers to women's progress in the education sector and then break all those barriers by establishing strong education and women policies."

Former adviser Geeteera Safiya Choudhury also spoke.



Guests at a roundtable on 'Women falling behind field of education -- reasons and solutions' held at Sylhet City Corporation on Tuesday. From left are former adviser Geeteera Safiya Choudhury, Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran and Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

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Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd, a steadily growing Company developing high quality homes, is looking for hard-working professionals for the positions of "Assistant Project Accountants" to be posted at various construction projects within Dhaka City.

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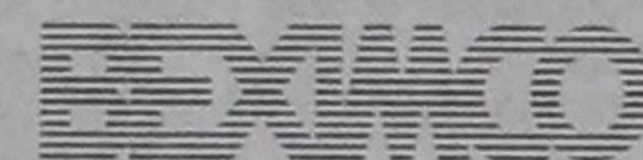
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Requirements:

- MBA/Masters with major in Marketing from any reputed University.

- Minimum 3 Years experience in the Managerial Position. Age Limit 40 years.

- Proficiency in English and Computer Operation is a must.

Manager, Planning and IT

Job responsibilities: The Person should possess sound knowledge in Information Technology with capability to analyze and process Information, and prepare Reports with Recommendations. Should have flexibility to work under pressure and adaptability to new changes and developments in the trade. Should have exposure in monitoring day to day information processing, coordination among all the Key Departments and problem solving activities.

Requirements:

- MBA with major in IT from any reputed University.

- Minimum 3 Years experience in the Managerial Position. Age Limit 40 years.

- Proficiency in English and Computer Operation is a must.

Manager, Administration and HRD

Job responsibilities: The Person should possess sound knowledge in local Labor Law to handle large number of labor force with leadership quality, and be able to liaise with all the related Government Bodies. Should formulate effective

training and motivational activities for the Employees, implement HR activities and be flexible to work under pressure with adaptability to new changes and developments in the trade. Should have exposure in monitoring day to day labor affairs and coordinate Administration and HR activities with Factory and HO. This is a Factory based Position.

Requirements:

- MBA with major in HR from any reputed University.

- Minimum 3 Years experience in the Managerial Position. Age Limit 40 years.

- Proficiency in English and Computer Operation is a must.

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If you think you are the best match for any of the above positions, please send your application with detailed Professional Resume and a recent passport size color photograph at the address below on or before 15 May 2009.

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