

Develop rural economy to eliminate child labour

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without developing rural economy it would not be possible to eliminate child labour from hazardous work as most of the children who come from villages to cities are engaged in hazardous work, said the speakers at a seminar.

The seminar titled 'Child labour in Bangladesh: Problems and the way out' was organised by labour and employment ministry at Biam auditorium in the city.

The seminar was aimed to gather recommendations for starting the third phase of its ongoing project titled 'To eliminate child labour from hazardous work' which is providing vocational and skill training to children engaged in hazardous work.

Speaking as chief guest Engineer Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, minister for labour & employment and expatriates' welfare & overseas employment, said it is

not possible to eliminate child labour over night.

It is important to identify the causes of child labour first and then action plan would be taken accordingly to eliminate child labour gradually, he added.

"As part of the action plan the ministry has been operating the project under which around 30,000 child labour engaged in hazardous work were provided with vocational and skill training from 2006 to 2009," the minister said.

Mentioning that 50 percent of the total population are women he said, "If we can ensure employment opportunity for them alongside ensuring proper resource management then it can help eliminate child labour from the society."

He also urged the non-government organisations to address the issue as it is difficult for the government alone to solve the problem.

Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Employment Abul Kashem who was in the chair said the government is making a plan to integrate employers, NGOs and research organisations into the elimination of child labour from hazardous work.

Speaking on the occasion Begum Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeo Bangladesh, an organisation working with children, stressed the need for engaging rights organisations to deal with the issue.

The speakers said life-oriented education, skill training, creating job market, and establishing area-based safety net are must to eliminate child labour from hazardous work.

They also stressed the need for introducing touch screen instead of black board to draw the attention of children to their study.

Ataharul Islam, acting secretary of labour and employment ministry, and

Navy ship Turag returns

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Navy Ship Turag returned Mongla port yesterday from Singapore after taking part in the "7th International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX Asia-2009)", says an ISPR press release.

Twenty Navy ships from 14 countries, including USA, UK, France, Malaysia, India and Pakistan, took part in the three-day exhibition.

Mentionable, BNS Turag paid a goodwill visit to the port of Penang in Malaysia and participated in Weapon Multinational Exercise in South China Sea during her return voyage en route.

Road crash kills 4 of a family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people, including four of a family were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Nabinagar-Kaliakair highway near Baraipara Bus Stand at Savar yesterday.

The accident took place when a passenger bus hit a microbus.

The dead were identified as Saiful Islam, 32, his two sisters Nazma Begum, 40, and Shefali

Begum, 38, and Shefali's daughter Anney, 25, of Zarmuki village at Mirzapur in Tangail, and Ariful Islam, 30, the driver of the microbus.

They were going to Zia International Airport (ZIA) to receive their expatriate relatives.

Three of the injured were rushed to Bangladesh Korea Friendship Hospital at Zirani and two others to Enam Medical College Hospital at Savar.

HUNGER STRIKE

Seven students fall sick

DU CORRESPONDENT

Seven physiotherapy students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday when they fell ill during a demonstration on Dhaka University campus demanding establishment of a separate college for them.

Students of physiotherapy department of National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) observed their hunger strike for four consecutive days at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press home their demand.

BANGABANDHU BRIDGE

Army takes over maintenance June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maintenance and toll collection of Bangabandhu Bridge will be handed over to Bangladesh Army from June 1, the Bangladesh Bridge Authorities (BBA) decided yesterday.

The BBA took the decision at its 94th board meeting with Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain in the chair at the conference room of the Setu Bhaban at Mohakhali in the city.

The tenure of Marganet One Ltd, which is currently operating on the bridge in collecting toll and maintenance, would be expired on May 31.

The meeting decided to appoint Bangladesh Army in maintenance and toll collection of the bridge for one month on temporary basis. It also decided to sign a memorandum of understanding between BBA and the army.

The meeting also decided to appoint local and international experts to give advice regarding technical matters of the Padma Bridge.



PHOTO: STAR
Gananatrik Bam Morcha takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding an end to water, gas and electricity crises, and waterlogging.

Amini gets bail in bomb attack case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, in a case filed against him and nine others on charge of bomb attack on a Sramik League procession on May 1.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order granting him bail in the case following an appeal filed by his lawyers against the rejection order of the lower court.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tofail Hassan sent Amini to jail on May 17 when he along with his lawyers surrendered to the court and sought bail in the case.

In his order, the judge said there is no specific allegation against Amini of bomb attacks on the procession. So, he is granted bail upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors of whom one would be a lawyer and the other a local person.

According to the complaint, a group of miscreants led by Amini and nine others equipped with hockey sticks, shot guns and explosive substances attacked the procession of Sramik League near Bara Katara Hussainia Ashraf-ul-Ulum Madrasa in the city's Lalbagh area when they were returning from Paltan Maidan at about 7:00 pm on May 1.

12th workshop of Scouts begins today

METRO DESK

The three-day 12th national multipurpose workshop of Bangladesh Scouts will begin at Mouchak in Gazipur today, says a press release.

Advocate AKM Mozammel Haque, MP will inaugurate the programme as the chief guest.

Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Md Abul Kalam Azad will chair the function.

The participants at the workshop will evaluate the action plan taken for the year 2008-09 and formulate the action plan for 2009-10.

Conspiracies on to foil trial of war criminals

Bangla translation of Int'l Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different vested quarters are hatching multi-dimensional conspiracies to foil the trial of war criminals, said the speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday.

They said confusions have been created whether the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 was enough to try the war criminals or to seek international assistance in trying them.

The discussion titled 'Trial of war criminals: Multi-Dimensional conspiracies going on' was organised by Ekatattar Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at the WVA auditorium in the city.

The discussion marked the launching of Bangla translation of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

Speaking on the occasion, President of the advisory council of the committee National Professor Kabir Chowdhury said those who are afraid of the trial would certainly oppose the trial but now confusions are being created among those who want the trial.

He said as the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act is enough to try the war criminals, there is no need to go for international assistance and there is no scope for confusion.

"The government is committed to try the war criminals but delay in the process creates some suspicions in the minds of people," he added.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani who translated the law said the war criminals are yet to be identified by court, so why should anybody

speak in favour of the war criminals.

Sector Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah said as conspiracies are going on to delay the trial of the war criminals the government needs to start the trial process very quickly.

"The war criminals are contacting different international organisations for their help to avoid the trial as part of their conspiracy," he said.

Shafiqullah demanded of the government to arrest the war criminals immediately on charge of sedition as they said in different occasions that no liberation war took place in the country, which is a breach of the constitution.

Journalists Kamal Lohani and Shahriar Kabir and Justice AK Badrul Haque and Barrister Tania Ameer also spoke.

Azad, Moriarty visit Sisimpur studios

METRO DESK

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and US Ambassador James F Moriarty visited the production studios of the popular children's television programme Sisimpur at Savar yesterday.

In addition to visiting the studio, they met Sisimpur Muppets and characters, including Tuktuki, Bot-tala, Lal-Bari, Ikri, and Mukul-Shumona.

Sisimpur is a partnership between the New York-based Sesame Workshop and Nayantara Communications Bangladesh, says a press release.

The United States government, through USAID, has provided \$14.7 million in funding.

Since its broadcasting began on BTV in April 2005, Sisimpur has become the most widely watched children's television show in Bangladesh.

The programme provides informal education to an estimated 9 million children each week. Sisimpur focuses on improving literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills of children between the ages of 3-6.

Sisimpur is aired on BTV and BTV World on Fridays at 9:05am and telecast on Saturdays at 2:15pm and on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4:05pm.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sisimpur Muppets and characters pose for photograph with Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and US Ambassador James F Moriarty during their visit to the production studios of the popular children's television programme at Savar yesterday. Lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor was also present.

'Raise wages, cancel labour ordinance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad yesterday formed a human chain at Rajuk Avenue in the city yesterday and later placed a memorandum at Labour Directors' Office demanding minimum wage and cancellation of labour ordinance 2008.

The leaders of the parishad said they have taken the

programmes to draw attention of the authorities on the issue.

They also warned that they would go for a bigger movement if their demands remain unheeded.

Rafiqul Islam Pathik, Shamim Imam, Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, and Mokhesur Rahman, among others, spoke at the programme.

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