

Tackle poverty to end child labour

Speakers urge govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Give opportunity to the girl children, eliminate child labour', the World Day Against Child Labour 2009 was observed across the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday with a call for action to tackle the underlying poverty that leads to child labour.

Different non-government organisations held various programmes across the country highlighting the significance of the day.

With the help of International Labour Organisation (ILO), Domestic Workers Rights Network, Bangladesh (DWRN), a network of 23 human rights organisations, and national trade union federations organised a roundtable on 'Girl child at domestic works: Social responsibilities and action' at the National Press Club in the city.

Speakers at the programme stressed the need to change people's mindsets towards child labour, especially who are working as domestic helps, with a call to sponsor one child

by one family to decrease the state's burden, as it is not possible to eliminate child labour for the government alone.

They also called for effective use of media by the government to sensitise and create awareness in this connection.

For proper implementation of the law, the labour inspection machinery should be geared up through sensitisation and rigorous training, they highlighted.

All children have rights to spend their childhood freely. So, the government should have to create such an opportunity for them by providing all facilities to meet their basic needs.

Speaking at the roundtable, former adviser Sultana Kamal, also executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, said the state is responsible for ensuring basic rights of each and every child in the country.

"Child labour would not be eliminated until the government brings the children under a right-based paradigm instead of a need-based paradigm," she added.

Presided over by Executive

Director of Shaishob Bangladesh Hosne Ara Kashem, the roundtable was also addressed by Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman of Social Welfare Institute of DU, Aminul Islam, deputy secretary of labour and employment ministry, and Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, coordinator of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad.

The speakers urged the government to incorporate domestic work in the Labour Law 2006 in order to recognise their work as well as ensure their security.

They also underscored the need for application of the existing law related to child labour to ensure punishment to those who violate the law, as lack of its proper enforcement is one of the challenges to stop violence against children.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies took out a colourful rally with the participation of a good number of children from the Central Shaheed Minar that paraded through different city streets and ended in front of the National Press Club.

Criminals take away car after injuring driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Car lifters took away a private car after firing and injuring its driver while another gang also shot a security guard in a similar attempt in the city yesterday.

Both the bullet-hit victims - driver Abul Kalam Azad, 35, and Yeasin, 32, a security guard of Nurul Islam's residence at Banani -- are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Azad said a gang of five to seven criminals shot at his hand and leg and took away the car from in front of the residence of his employer at Gulshan-2 around 7:30am.

Meanwhile, the other gang shot security guard Yeasin in front of a residence at Banani around 6:00am as he refused to hand over the key of the car parked outside the house.

However, the gang fled the scene as Yeasin raised an alarm.

Old man dies of diarrhoea in Aila-hit Kalinchi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

An elderly person died of diarrhoea at Kalinchi, a cyclone Aila-hit village in Shyamnagar, early yesterday. The dead was identified as Abdul Bari, 60.

Meanwhile, diarrhoea has broken out at Aila-hit Shyamnagar, Assasuni, Kaliganj and Tala upazilas in the district.

A total of 14,894 people fell victim to diarrhoea after the cyclone had lashed the coastal upazilas on May 25, said district health department sources.

A total of 426 diarrhoea patients were admitted to different hospitals and others were treated at local health camps, added the sources.

The cyclone-affected people have been suffering from acute water crisis as saline water submerged natural water reservoirs.

Due to water crisis and scorching heat, diarrhoea has broken out in the Aila-hit areas, Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Md Ebadullah said.

'Punish those responsible for abduction of Kalpana Chakma'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hill Women's Federation (HWF) yesterday demanded immediate release of the inquiry report on abduction of Kalpana Chakma and exemplary punishment to the abductors.

Kalpana Chakma, organising secretary of the HWF, was abducted from her house in Rangamati in 1996.

The demands were made from a human chain and solidarity meeting in front of the National Museum marking the 13th anniversary of her abduction.

The rights activists at the human chain also demanded withdrawal of all army camps from Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Sammito Nari Samaj President Farida Akhter, educationist Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, columnist Sayed Abul Maksud, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong, Haider Akber Khan Rano, Nari Progtai Sangha President Rokeya Kabir, Prof Meshbah Kamal, singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu spoke at the programme.

DU Photographic Society executives

METRO DESK

Dipankar Dipu and Mahtab-ul Alam have been made president and general secretary of Dhaka University Photographic Society (DUPS) for the year 2009-2010, says a press release.

Other members of the committee are vice president - Md Hossain Mokarram, assistant general secretary - Partha Sarker, organising secretary - Syed Nahid Uddin, assistant organising secretary - Pantha Rahman, treasurer - Kazi Tanvir Ahmed, assistant treasurer - Rumana Amin, press secretary - Avijit Nandi, assistant press secretary - Rubaiyat Ahsan, office secretary - Asaduzzaman and members - Ridwan Ahmed, Subashis Ranjan Sarker and Siddhartha Goswami.



Finance Minister AMA Muhith speaks at a post-budget press conference at the NEC auditorium in the city yesterday. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Planning Minister AK Khandaker were also present. (Story on Page 1)

MIXED REACTIONS TO BUDGET 2009-10

Ambitious, pro-poor budget, but implementation an uphill task

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-economic organisations yesterday expressed mixed reactions to the proposed national budget for fiscal 2009-10 which was placed in parliament on Thursday.

Some organisations welcomed the budget by terming it a bold and challenging one, while others termed it a highly ambitious budget which would be an uphill task for implementation.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in its post-budget reaction welcomed the proposed national budget, but expressed concern over the proposal to legalise undisclosed money.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the chance of legalising undisclosed money by giving 'nominal' taxes goes against establishment of the rule of law as well as good governance and is not relevant to curbing corruption.

Even the proposal is against the ruling party's election pledges, he added.

Karmojibi Nari (KN) in its primary reaction appreciated

the budget by terming it a good beginning for women, adding that the challenge lies in its implementation.

Welcoming the proposed budget, Arhanity Parishad leaders urged the government to introduce 30 percent duty instead of 10 percent in case of legalising the undisclosed money.

National Coalition against Tobacco welcomed the proposed budget for increasing duty on luxury goods and tobacco products.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal said fulfilling the electoral pledges of the government is not possible under this budget as necessary proposals for structural change are not available in it.

Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association said due to proposed 'unprecedented' duty on imported reconditioned car, this sector would be ruined and car would go beyond people's purchasing power.

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said the interests of the consumers have been ignored in the proposed budget.

CAB said in the budget, there is no provision of keeping

money to spend to implement the recently passed Consumer Rights Protection Act-2009.

The government has set an attainment target of earning Tk 61 crore. Of them, most of the revenues will have to be collected from the general public, CAB said.

Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad expressed concern over the proposed five percent duty on import of newsprint and urged the finance minister to cancel it.

Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad welcomed the budget for waiving VAT from private practice of physicians and expressed satisfaction over 6.1 percent allocation in the total budget for the health sector.

The organisations welcomed the proposed budget include Bangladeshu Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad, Bangladesh Besarkari Prathomik Shikkhak Samity, Bangladesh Class Four Govt Employees Association, Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association, Krishibid Institution, Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad and Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association.

Mountaineers accorded reception

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club yesterday accorded a reception to its four members who climbed up the 20,075-feet Lobuje peak in the Himalayas.

The expedition team led by mountaineer MA Muhit began its journey on May 10 and it reached the peak on May 19.

Other members of the team are Noor Muhammad, Oaid Ashraf and Kazi Bahulul Maznu.

Prof Anisuzzaman and former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan attended the reception ceremony at the National Press Club in the city as the guests of honour while executive director of Transcom Beverage Golam Kuddus Chowdhury was present as the special guest.

Team leader MA Muhit gave a slide-show presentation of the trekking while three others mountaineers spoke of their experiences during the expedition.

The expedition was sponsored by Transcom Beverage Limited.

Before embarking on the expedition, the mountaineers took part in training at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute of Darjeeling.

The organisers said conquering Lobuje peak is a great achievement for Bangladeshi mountaineers.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 33rd death anniversary of LA Chowdhury, a renowned social worker and politician, will be observed today, says a press release.

LA Chowdhury was a close aide to Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Haq. He was also the secretary of the then Jukta Front, Chittagong unit, in 1954 and the president of Krishak Sramik Party, Chittagong branch.

A milad mahfil and Qurankhwan will be held at his grave at Chittagong after Maghrib prayers and at Naya Palan Jame Mosque in Dhaka after Esha prayers.

Dr AH Shahadat Ullah

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Dr AH Shahadat Ullah, a noted economist and former member of the planning commission, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Spectrum Convention Centre at Gulshan after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Shamsul Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Shamsul Alam, a politician and social worker, says a press release.

Popularly known as Nana Bhai, he was a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He was also the founder-general secretary of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity and president of Greater Faridpur Samity in Dhaka.

Shamsul Alam Nana Bhai Smriti Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave in the morning.

Doa mahfil will be held at the office of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity after Asr prayers and at Nana Bhai's nephew Kazi Shirajul Islam's office in the city after Asr prayers.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Kalimur Rahman, a retired senior government official, will be held at Takwa Masjid Complex at House # 585/B, Road # 12/A, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Kalimur, a resident of Dhanmondi, passed away in Sydney, Australia at the age of 87 on June 10.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Set up cellphone assembling units: Minister

BSS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan yesterday called on entrepreneurs to set up mobile phone assembling units in the country so that common people can buy cellphone sets at an affordable price.

"The government would provide all support, including banking facility, to the entrepreneurs if they come forward to set up mobile phone industry," he told the concluding ceremony of the 3rd Dhaka International Telecom Fair.

The minister also said establishing mobile phone assembling industry would definitely reduce dependence on the import of mobile phone sets and would play an important role in expanding the information technology.

Regarding the imposition of 25 percent duty on imported cellphone sets in the

proposed budget, he said the duty has been imposed with a view to encouraging entrepreneurs to set up mobile phone assembling industry in the country.

The minister also urged the mobile phone traders to sell quality sets and parts so the customers are not cheated.

He said the budget for the next fiscal year has been formulated keeping in mind the global economic recession. "The budget has been formulated to make the country self-sufficient in all sectors."

Bangladesh Mobile Phone Businessmen Association (BMBA) organised the fair at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre with a slogan 'Growing Towards a Digital Bangladesh'.

Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Brig Gen (retd) Zia Ahmed and former chairman of BTRC Syed Marghub

Morshed were present at the function as the special guests.

With BMBA Adviser and First Vice-President of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Abul Kashem Ahmed in the chair, the function was also addressed by BMBA President Engineer Mohammad Nizam Uddin Zitu.

Brig Gen (retd) Zia Ahmed said the revenue income from the mobile phone sector will surpass Tk 3000 crore in the current fiscal, which was Tk 1677 crore in the previous fiscal. As of May of the current fiscal, he said, the country earned Tk 2700 from the sector.

BMBA President Nizam Uddin Zitu urged the government to reconsider the duty on imported mobile phone sets in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year in the greater interest of cellphone industry in the country.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 22.0 degree at Sylhet.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	26.4	73	65
Chittagong	32.2	26.6	81	81
Rajshahi	36.7	25.0	84	63
Khulna	35.0	28.0	80	62
Barisal	34.0	27.4	77	75
Sylhet	29.0	22.0	95	87
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.8	74	80

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

The inaugural ceremony of the workshop on 'Briefing and information sharing: Public accounts committee practice'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:30am. World Bank office, Dhaka organises the programme.

IUB orientation

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold an orientation programme for summer 2009. Venue: IUB's permanent campus at Plot # 16, Block # B, Aftabuddin Road, Bashundhara. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum organises a seminar on local government policy reform. Venue: Bangladesh Medical Association auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Odhakar organises a discussion on its training manual on primary and secondary education system. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:00am.