

Implement HC verdict to end sexual harassment

Rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists at a workshop yesterday called on the government to implement the High Court guidelines to prevent sexual harassment and education at workplaces and educational institutions.

In a judgement on May 14, the HC also directed the government to make a law on the basis of the guidelines, and ruled that the guidelines will be treated as a law until the law is made.

Speakers at the workshop called on all government and non-government organisations as well as the educa-

tional institutions to formulate a code of conduct or gender policy and to form a committee to curb sexual harassment.

They also urged the media to come forward to raise awareness about the issue by publishing the High Court guidelines.

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (BNSK) in association with Diakonia Bangladesh, an NGO working to increase women's participation in journalism organised the workshop on 'The media's role in implementing the High Court judgements to end sexual harassment and

issuance of Fatwa (religious edict)' at the WVA auditorium in the city.

Termining the High Court verdict a landmark judgement, President of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association Salma Ali said, "It is important to make the people aware of the fact that sexual harassment is now a punishable crime, so that they remain alert and the victims come forward to take legal action."

About the fatwa issue, Barrister Sara Hossain said issuing fatwa is a gross violation of the rule of law.

Bangladesh Mahila

Parishad President Ayesha Khanam stressed the need to organise the community people to put an end to fatwa and other illegal activities.

Around 51 female journalists from across the country attended the workshop and shared their experiences related to sexual harassment.

Country representative of Diakonia Bangladesh Sultana Begum, BNSK General Secretary Parveen Sultana Jhuma and Nurjahan Bose, writer of Agunmukhar Meye, also spoke at the programme presided over by BNSK President Nasimun Ara Huq.



PHOTO COURTESY

AIUB English department and Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association jointly organise a three-day international seminar on English language teaching at American International University-Bangladesh in the city.

Seminar on English language teaching ends

METRO DESK

The three-day international seminar on English language teaching titled 'BELTA-AIUB-THT English Language Teaching 2009' ended at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) yesterday, says a press release.

AIUB English department and Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) in collaboration with Japan-based Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) Forum jointly organised the seminar.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam inaugurated the event on July 23 where nine foreign teacher trainers conducted multi-dimensional workshops and roundtable sessions for 50 English teachers from universities, colleges and schools.

With the theme 'Alternative methodologies in ELT', the seminar aimed at developing professional efficiency among the English teachers and helping them insert creativity in teaching and classroom management.

AIUB Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna, BELTA President Dr Rubina Khan and THT delegation leader Dr Patrick Dougherty distributed certificates among the participants.

Effective, strong foreign policy stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for an effective foreign policy to help Bangladesh emerge as an economically and politically strong nation.

As Bangladesh is being defeated by India every time due to her (Bangladesh) weak-kneed diplomacy, the country's position could be strengthened only having an effective and stronger foreign policy, said former secretary Asaf-Ud-Dowla.

He was speaking as chief guest at a roundtable titled 'Government's foreign policy and jeopardised national interest' organised by Bangladesh Policy Forum at the National Press Club in the city with Razia Sultana, a professor of Dhaka University in the chair.

"We have a reverse gratitude to India. Although India took our assistance to divide

Pakistan in 1971, we express reverse gratitude to India saying that their (India) 4500 soldiers were killed in our liberation war," he said.

Asaf-Ud-Dowla also strongly criticised Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarti's remark that Bangladeshis queuing up in front of the Indian High Commission are brokers and touts.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's foreign affairs adviser Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury said, "If we cannot be strong economically and politically, our independence and sovereignty cannot be protected."

He said, "The joint patrol of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India at the borders is a direct interference into our sovereignty."

Dr Sheikh Toufique M Haque said the national security and sovereignty of Bangladesh are

facing threats due to suicidal and weak statements by some ministers and lawmakers of the present government.

Former DG of BDR Maj Gen (ret) Fazlur Rahman, Prof Mainul Ahsan Khan, journalists Sadeque Khan and Mobaidur Rahman also spoke.

Buet teacher wins sticker design contest

UNB, Dhaka

Tareq Haidar, a teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has secured the first position in a nationwide sticker design contest.

Dhaka City Corporation and Japan International Cooperation Agency jointly organised the design competition held at a city hotel yesterday.



PHOTO COURTESY

The annual science fair of Morning Glory School was held on the school premises at Savar Cantonment yesterday.

Science fair at Morning Glory School

METRO DESK

The annual science fair of Morning Glory School was held on the school premises at Savar Cantonment yesterday, says a press release.

Students of Std III to V presented some 27 science projects such as water cycle, formation of river from the mountain, environmental pollution, mushroom culture, bio-gas plant and star viewer.

Besides, the students of Arts & Crafts Club presented their artistic skills through glass painting, spray painting and artworks with match sticks.

Prof Dr Abdus Salam, chairman of zoology department, Jahangirnagar University, was the judge of the science fair and appreciated the efforts of the little students and their teachers.

27 fake driving licences seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) seized 27 fake driving licences and equipment for producing such licenses and arrested a youth in this connection at the city's Darussalam yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Monwar Hossain, 18.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided the house of one Hiron at Mazar Road at Darussalam around 2:00am and recovered 27 fake driving licences, 229 pieces of blank sheets of fake driving licenses, a computer monitor, one CPU and one

printer. Rab sources said Monwar's brother-in-law Ibrahim engaged in fake driving licence trading in collaboration with a section of dishonest officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) for a long time.

Rab is trying to arrest Ibrahim and his wife in this connection.

Rab sources said the gang would get Tk 100 for a fake licence while the BRTA men Tk 3000.

The dishonest BRTA men have engaged such several gangs to produce fake driving licenses, sources said.

AL leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

Gunmen shot dead a Union Parishad chairman and Awami League leader in Kushiya yesterday.

The deceased, Jamil Hasan Bachchu, 42, was joint general secretary of Kumarkhali upazila AL, and chairman of Kaya union parishad.

Police said a gang of seven stopped Bachchu at Hatishako in Kumarkhali upazila when he was going to his village on a motorcycle at about 5:30pm. They shot him at point blank range.

As Bachchu died on the spot, the gunmen fled the scene. Four bullets pierced the chest and the head of the AL leader.

Hearing the sound of gunfire, locals rushed to the spot and found Bachchu lying dead in a pool of blood.

DEATH OF 25 KIDS

Govt to collect samples of paracetamol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to collect samples of paracetamol and vitamin syrup from across the country where the prevalence of renal failure is high.

This decision has been taken following the death of some 25 children from renal failure after taking paracetamol syrup at Dhaka Shishu Hospital and BSMMU within last one and a half months. On June 21, a seven-member probe committee was formed to investigate into the incidents.

Since Friday some 300 samples have been collected but the government is yet to start the testing.

While talking to The Daily Star Prof Moazzam Hossain, chairman of the department of Pediatric Nephrology of BSMMU and member of the probe committee, said the samples would be tested to the government's Drug Testing Laboratory and three other private laboratories.

The probe committee will sit today for taking further decision, he said.

Meanwhile, the three-member probe committee formed by the BSMMU has prepared its report to be submitted to the registrar today.

Though no more death incident occurred since last few days, a seven-year old girl Farzana from Madaripur district has been admitted to the BSMMU with acute renal failure.

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