

Women empowerment a must to curb corruption

Says visiting US envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer yesterday said no country would be able to reduce the number of corruption from different sectors without empowering its women.

"By increasing women's empowerment, any state can reduce the number of corruption from all sectors," she said, adding: "It is also an indicator of any country's development on its women empowerment."

The envoy said this as the guest of honour at a programme organised in association with US embassy, USAID, National Endowment for Democracy and NDI at a city hotel to mark the first anniversary of Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership (BDWL).

Verveer, who was appointed by US President Barack Obama, coordinates foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic and social advancement of women around the world.



US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer speaks at a programme at a city hotel yesterday. Sitting from left are James F Moriarty, Nasim Firdaus and Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan.

She appreciated the stable financial condition of Bangladesh even during the global financial crisis.

She met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. Earlier, she met Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia on Tuesday.

Verveer will meet with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni

this evening to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues with special focus on women's development.

US Ambassador James F Moriarty congratulated BDWL for stepping into its second year of journey, saying that the country's women are very vibrant to take any challenge and energetic to work in any sector.

"They are contributing a lot to the country's economy as well as women's empowerment."

Executive Director of BDWL Nasim Firdaus delivered her speech on the alliance's goals and steps. She spoke about the short-term goal to achieve 33 percent of leadership position and 50 percent leadership by 2021 in the country.

In the previous elections in 2008, 66 women leaders were contested at 88 constituencies out of 300. Nineteen women were directly elected while 45 were elected for reserved seats and the total number of female members of parliament is 62.

Rumana Iqbal Mahmud MP shared her experience how she came from kitchen to the parliament, as she was not directly involved in any political party earlier.

Saira Rahman Khan, founding member of BDWL, Treasurer Tahmina Rahman and Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan spoke at the programme while women rights leaders Ayesha Khanam and Taleya Rehman were present.

'Ensure safe walking on footpaths'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called on the government to take necessary steps to ensure safe walking on footpaths in order to ease traffic congestion in the city, says a press release.

Increasing number of private cars is causing massive gridlock in the city, they said, adding that the authorities should encourage people to practise walking instead of using private cars to control traffic congestion.

The speakers said this at the rally following a human chain formed by Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) at Shahbagh in the city.



DOA MAHFIL

Imtiyaz Husain, former Chairman Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chairman Imtiyaz Husain Securities Limited passed away on October 29, 2009 at the age of 68.

A Doa Mahfil seeking salvation of his departed soul will be held at the Baridhara Jame Mosque (Road 01, near to British High Commission) after Asar Prayer on Friday, November 13, 2009.

Family members, friends and well wishers are requested to kindly attend this Doa Mahfil and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Requesting your kind prayers his wife Sharmin Husain, his sons Shabbir & Tawqir, his daughters-in-law Zohora & Sayma

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Street rally, drama festival ends at Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day street rally and drama festival organised by Sachetan Nagorik Committee and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) ended at Savar yesterday.

The play 'Sonar Bangladesh Chai' was performed in six important places in Savar during the two-day programme as part of an anti-corruption campaign.

It showcased irregularities and malpractices in different government agencies. The play also stressed the harmful effects of pollution.

Speakers at the rally called for unity against such corrupt acts to create a better Bangladesh.

Environmentalist and former teacher of Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof Ataur Rahman, Md Hamid Ranju, Dr Md Abdul Latif Bishwas, Advocate Nazrul Islam, Headmaster of Gono Bidyapith High School Md Asadur Rahman and TIB Area Manager Md Atiqur Rahman spoke at the rally.

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