

## Build violence-free society for children

Speakers tell national consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national consultation yesterday underscored the need to change the attitude towards children to prevent violence against them, which are taking place in diverse nature and scale in society.

It is necessary to build a violence-free society for proper development of children, they said.

Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs, Save the Children Sweden-Denmark and Unicef Bangladesh jointly organised the 'National Consultation on Developing a National Strategy for Bangladesh on Prevention of Violence against children' in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Woman and Children Affairs Secretary Razia Begum said violations of child rights still take place in the country due to social

**Children are being exposed to violence from families to schools and streets to shelter homes**

inequality and discrimination.

Country Representative of Unicef Carel De Rooy said, "Children are being exposed to violence from families to schools and streets to shelter homes."

The consultation recommended harmonisation of child protecting laws with UN Convention on Rights of Child (CRC) and other relevant international instruments and introducing life skills-based education aiming at protecting children from exploitation.

It also underscored the need to create a database

on child victims of violence and abuse under the management of Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs and enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration services for them.

Children from 64 districts, representing various segments of society, conducted focus group discussion at the programme and shared their experiences.

Adults and children took part in the consultation to draw up the recommendations.

Country Representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Niels Bentzen, Deputy Country Representative Shamsul Alam, Rose-Anne Papavero of Unicef Bangladesh, Nomita Halder, project director at Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs, and Selina Ahmed and Firozul Islam Milon of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, also spoke.



Teachers and students of Islamic History and Culture Department form a human chain in front of the Aparajevo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding fair investigation into the death of Abubakar Siddique, a student of the department, and trial of the persons responsible for the killing. (Story on Page 16)



Participants observe one minute's silence in memory of veteran Indian politician Jyoti Basu at a memorial meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

## Call to unite against fanaticism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties and socio-cultural organisations yesterday called on the countrymen to unite to step up the movement against fundamentalism and militancy in order to build a secular Bangladesh.

They made the call while addressing a memorial meeting on Jyoti Basu, former chief minister of West Bengal and veteran Communist leader, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

The Citizens' Committee organised the meeting, with

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government, in the chair.

The speakers paid tribute to Jyoti Basu as a legendary and humanitarian leader.

Awami League General Secretary and IGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam called on the people to be imbued with his ideals to implement the spirit of the liberation war.

Basu had always played a leading role in anti-fundamentalism movement, he added.

Ashraf also said relationship grows between one per-

son and another only when they share similar beliefs and opinions.

So, there cannot be any relationship between the two top leaders of the two major parties because of differences of opinions, he added.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Rashed Khan Menon, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, gineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury and language movement veteran Abdul Matin also spoke.

## ILLEGAL WEALTH Court frames charges against Gayeswar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against BNP standing committee member Gayeswar Chandra Roy in a case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information from the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Judge Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 passed the order rejecting a discharge petition submitted by the BNP leader.

The court also fixed March 18 for trial of the case and summoned complainant and witnesses to appear before the court on the day.

Gayeswar pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the charges were read out to him.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station on January 5 last year on charges of amassing Tk 2.61 crore and concealing information of his wealth worth Tk 25.95 lakh in his wealth statement.

On August 3 last year, the court issued an arrest warrant against the BNP leader following a report submitted by the investigation officer of the case.

## WORLD CANCER DAY OBSERVED '40pc cancers can be prevented'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Cancer Day was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe yesterday with the theme 'Cancer can be prevented too'.

According to the World Health Organisation, 40 percent of cancer cases can be prevented through changing lifestyles and diet, and 90 percent of lung cancer cases can be prevented by avoiding tobacco.

Experts said this at a discussion organised by Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital at the office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

They also stressed the need to perform self-examination of breast to prevent

breast cancer and stop early marriage to prevent cervical cancer.

The experts also said that early diagnosis could save lives of a huge number of cancer patients.

State Minister for Health Mojibur Rahman Fakir attended the discussion as the chief guest.

Brig Gen Dr Syed Fazle Rahim, Dr Mohammad Lutfur Rahman, Prof Dr Syed Akram Hussain, Prof MR Khan, Prof ABMF Karim and Kazi Rafiqul Alam spoke at the discussion.

Bangladesh Cancer Society and Bangladesh Cancer Hospital and Welfare Home jointly took out a procession from in front of the National Museum at Shahbag in the morning on the occasion.

A 'Tomtom' procession was also held in the city.

Another discussion was held at Geneva Camp at Mohamadpur to make the disadvantaged people aware of the disease.

The experts said cancer is the second most common cause of death in the world, but simple lifestyle techniques can save huge lives.

They stressed the need to eat fresh vegetables and avoid fast food, do more physical exercise and lead stress-free life.

They also advised all to consult with doctors if they notice an abnormal lump anywhere in the body.

Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation also organised a procession and an awareness campaign.

## Dhaka Zoo beefs up biosecurity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biosecurity measures on Dhaka Zoo have been strengthened in the wake of fresh outbreak of bird flu.

The zoo authorities beefed up the biosecurity measures, as bird flu broke out at the government's central poultry farm at Mirpur adjacent to the zoo.

Dhaka Zoo Curator Dr Mosaddek Hossain told The Daily Star that disinfect-

ant has been being sprayed on the bird sheds thrice a day.

Cautionary signs have been put up near the bird sheds and that the fences would be shifted farther from the bird cages today to keep the visitors at a safe distance from birds, he added.

"However, the birds in cages are less vulnerable to H5N1 virus, known as bird flu. It mostly infects the poultry birds in farms," Dr Mosaddek said.

"We have placed disinfectant foot baths at the entry and exit points of the zoo so that the virus cannot spread and the visitors can remain safe," he added.

Bird flu struck the central poultry farm recently and more than 800 fowls were culled on Tuesday evening, officials of the Directorate General of Livestock said yesterday.

Earlier this year, bird flu attacked three poultry farms in Joypurhat and Sirajganj.

**শেল্টেক বর্ষশুরুর বসতি মেলা ২০১০**  
**১ থেকে ৬ ফেব্রুয়ারী**  
 সময় : সকাল ১০:০০-সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০  
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