

## Law enforcers' ignorance lands many children in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children in no way are criminals and, thus, they cannot be arrested and imprisoned, rather there should be a diversion facility so that they can be corrected and protected in contact with law, said speakers at a national consultation yesterday.

The Children Act 1974 provides all provisions to protect children. But law enforcers often do not know and understand it properly. That's why, many children are imprisoned and suffer badly, they added.

Aparajeyo Bangladesh organised the national consultation titled 'Im-

proving responses to children in contact with the law in Bangladesh' at IDB Bhaban in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, Justice M Imman Ali said children are jailed even for minor incidents, which is not right.

He suggested establishing child-friendly corners in courts, recruiting more probation officers to watch the activities of children in contact with law and setting up victims support units in court areas.

"If a case can be dissolved through early diversion, it will save the government's money and ease the burden of justice," he said, adding that arbitration committee can be formed in different localities to curb children's violence.

The local chairmen and members can act as probation officers in their localities, he observed.

The speakers said apart from police training, there should be a correction centre in every district.

Regarding proposed Children's Act 2010, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said it would be prepared in such a way that no child can have to go to the jail.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) will be made mandatory in the law. At the same time, trained mediators would be created, he said, adding that the government has already made a directorate for legal aid.

Aparajeyo Bangladesh Executive

Director Wahida Banu said the organisation is going to set diversion model in eight district towns and cities to protect the children, who are mainly used by the elderly people and suffer badly.

"The government also needs to implement international commitments and should have to conduct a survey on how many children are in jails and how many are engaged in hazardous works and living on the streets."

Lawmaker Shahida Tarek Dipti, Editor of the Bhorer Kagoj Shyamal Dutta and Programme Manager of Aparajeyo Bangladesh Aminul Islam also spoke.

## Nat'l congress of Revolutionary Workers Party on April 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 8th National Congress of Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh (RWPB) will kick off on April 1 at Mohanagar Natya Mancha in the city.

General Secretary of the party Saiful Haque yesterday said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, says a press release.

Representatives from the left-leaning political parties of the neighbouring countries -- India and Nepal -- will join the four-day conference, he added.

## ICDDR,B 33 diarrhoea patients rush in an hour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 33 patients with diarrhoea, on an average, are coming to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) at Mahakhali in the city an hour for treatment.

The figure was 22 a week ago, according to the ICDDR,B. On Friday, a total of 813 patients came to ICDDR,B and 60 percent of them were adults with severe dehydration, said Senior Scientist and Head of the Longer Stay Unit Prof Shahadat Hossain.

A total of 630 patients rushed to the ICDDR,B as of 5:00pm yesterday, he added.

To cope with the growing number of patients, the ICDDR,B authorities are setting up more tents and engaging more manpower in managing the patients.

The centre has a capacity to accommodate 450 patients, but it had to provide treatment for more than 1000 patients at a time last year.

## Democratic practice needed to flourish leadership

Says M Hafizuddin Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan yesterday said democratic practice is needed to flourish leadership, but it has failed to meet expectations in the country.

He called on students to sensitise people to their civil rights as citizens have a very important role in strengthening democracy and ensure democratic practice.

The ex-adviser made the call to the students who participated in 'Democracy Olympiad' organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform, at Mirpur University College in the city.

About 300 students took part in the event in two groups -- university and college -- amid enthusiasm. The participants had to answer to 50 MCQ type questions on subjects like constitution, independence, elections, constitutional amendments, election commission and noted political and rights leaders.

The students also participated in an open discussion and a question and answer session where they expressed their firm determination to take leadership and play their part in fighting corruption and strengthening democracy.

Twenty participants, 10 each from both the groups, were awarded while all participants were given certificates at the Olympiad, which Sujan started on December 26 at district and upazila-level



PHOTO: STAR  
Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder speaks at 'Democracy Olympiad' at Mirpur University College in the city yesterday.

educational institutions to sensitise youths to democracy and good governance.

Stressing the need for a change in the present political trend, Sujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said, "We want to regain the lost glory of the students, otherwise the distress of our country would not be removed."

About corruption, he said there are different bodies and institutions like

parliamentary standing committee, court and Anti-Corruption Commission to fight against corruption, but unfortunately those are not functioning well. "Those are even being made weaker."

Chaired by MN Islam Tapan Chowdhury, the discussion was also addressed by Dr Meher-e-Khuda, principal of Mirpur University College, and Mohammad Ishaq, principal of Fazilatunnesa College at Mirpur.



PHOTO: STAR  
Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Post and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju launch a book titled 'Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam' by Tahamida Sayda at a programme marking the Independence Day in the city yesterday. Bangalee Samagra Jadughar organised the event.

## State impunity an obstacle to establishing rule of law

Says British lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State impunity has acted as a major obstacle to establishing a just world order and the rule of law, said renowned British lawyer Philippe Sands QC during a lecture yesterday.

Claim to immunity after having committed crimes against humanity is inconsistent with the laws and legal norms, he said while sharing his experiences as a practising lawyer at various national and international courts and tribunals.

The South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (Sails) and the law department of Dhaka University jointly organised the lecture on 'War Crimes, Impunity and Accountability -- International Legal Perspective' at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the city.

The British lawyer said the assault on global norms of human rights did not begin with 9/11, but it had already begun with atrocities carried out in Congo and Uganda in 1998.

Referring to the US-UK war on Iraq against so-called weapons of mass destruction, he said that the war without the UN sanction could be considered a crime of aggression. He also harshly criticised the UK's alliance with the US in Iraq war.

He also criticised the detention of suspected terrorists in Guantanamo Bay. They have been branded as 'unlawful combatant' and denied the protection of Geneva Convention of 1949, he said.

Torture and abuses carried out by the US army in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay manifest blatant disregard to international law, he added.

Phillippe is currently a professor of law and director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals, University College London, and a barrister at Matrix Chambers.

Supreme Court judges, lawyers, academics, researchers and law students attended the lecture.

Prof Dr Asif Nazrul moderated the session attended by Law Commission member Prof Shah Alam, Prof Mizanur Rahman, Prof Sumaiya Khair and Barrister Sara Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR  
Philippe Sands QC delivers a lecture at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the city yesterday.

[www.btibd.org](http://www.btibd.org)

# The Allure

Ultimate Luxury

*Like any true work of art,*

*The Allure is...*

*A vision brought to life by a team of gifted specialists at BTI.*

*An idea where style meets intellect.*

*A location which presents to you an exclusive retreat in the prestigious neighborhood of North Gulshan.*

*A fusion of an urban lifestyle with richness of design and a comfort which one calls 'home'!*

building technology & ideas Ltd.

since 1984

in pursuit of excellence...

Corporate office: Celebration Point, Plot: 3 & 5, Road: 113/A, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
Tel: 9889392, 8824457, 8815073, 8812578, 01713-247679, 01819-232240, 01714-057050  
01713-332909, 01819-232241, 01713-247678, 01713-247680, 01714-057051, 01713-332910  
Fax: 880-2-8812672, email: info@btibd.org, btil@citechco.net

ISO 9001: 2008 CERTIFIED  
REHAB MEMBERSHIP# 001

## Exclusive apartments at Gulshan for people who care for taste and quality.

### South Breeze Harmony

Rd. 136, Plot S.E. 7 (B), Gulshan  
Gross apartment sizes : 3000 sft.



This south-facing ultra-modern apartment complex named SOUTH BREEZE HARMONY stands on a 40' wide road which is met by a street near the building. Since the road (Rd No. 136) running to the east ends at the lake the dwellers of the apartment complex will enjoy quietness and be spared hassle and bustle of the ordinary busy roads. The plot is situated within the walking distance of the shopping centres.

The building covers only 50% of the plot in order to be in keeping with the new law. The size of the apartments are 3000 sft., which is inclusive of the proportionate share of the common spaces and the community hall.

Meticulous attention has been paid to the details of design, colour, planning, air circulation, light and other matters of architecture. SOUTH BREEZE HARMONY will no doubt stand as a landmark in real estate development.

**SOUTH BREEZE HOUSING LTD.**  
Rd. 11, Building 155, Block-E, 4th Floor, Banani.  
9891170, 9892370, 9892394, 9891467  
01713 063 895, 01729 29 29 89, 01715 078 691

The best thing in your life

