

## Policy to protect, promote child rights drafted

Says State Minister Dr Shirin Sharmin

DU CORRESPONDENT

Women and Children Affairs State Minister Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said the government has already drafted a child policy to protect and promote child rights.

She said the country's infant mortality rate has recently reduced to a large extent but tendency of engaging children in labour is rising and people should immediately refrain from this malpractice.

She was speaking at a day-long national seminar titled "Child rights in higher academia" jointly organised by University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) at the UGC auditorium in the city.

Dhaka University Emeritus Prof Najma Chowdhury, SCSD Country Director Birgit Lundbak and Prof

Amena Begum were present as special guests while UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam presided over the programme.

Inaugurating the seminar as the chief guest, Sharmin said the government, for the first time, is taking on a national education policy to reach 100 percent literacy by 2014 and ensure schooling for all children.

Prof Nazrul said half the country's population is children. But they are not getting the proper support they deserve. Laws and acts should be initiated to ensure their right to education, health and shelter, he added.

He urged the government to ensure proper education for children throughout the country.

Birgit stressed the importance of discussion between academicians and practitioners to develop child rights.

She said academia provide new

ideas, knowledge and solutions to problems and provides a clear idea to the new generation on child rights.

Speakers said according to a report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 2003, a total of 7.4 million children were engaged in child labour.

They pointed out two causes -- child labour and sexual harassment -- as the vital challenges.

They also urged the government to implement section numbers 24, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 35 of the constitution to ensure economic, health, cultural, educational and social rights of children.

They said women and gender studies department was initiated from the ideology of feminism. Similarly, an independent academic study centre and institution should be formed on child rights.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at Moscow House in St Petersburg, Russia yesterday.



## Valerie Taylor gets honorary doctorate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valerie Taylor, founder and coordinator of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), received an honorary doctorate degree in Health Sciences from York St John University, UK, on November 19, says a press release.

The degree was conferred to her at the convocation ceremony of the university. It was in recognition of her contribution to serve the disabled people in Bangladesh for the last 40 years.

A number of dignitaries including the chancellor and vice chancellor of York St John University; vice chancellor of Leeds University; executive director of CRP; members of FCRP UK; and graduate and post-graduate students were present at the programme.

## Pro-BNP lawyers' rally on Nov 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, an association of pro-BNP lawyers, will stage demonstrations on the bar premises across the country on November 29, demanding withdrawal of the government notice that asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to leave her cantonment residence.

Forum Secretary General Mahbubuddin Khokon announced the action programme at a press conference organised at the south hall of Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday.

He protested the chief justice's move to administer oath to two High Court judges -- Justice Ruhul Quddus and Justice M Khasruzzaman, and the government's "interference and politicisation of judiciary and transfer harassment of the lower court judges."

## Energy bulbs another hazardous E-waste

Say environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and development workers voiced concerns over the ecological aspects of the energy saving bulbs, calling them potentially hazardous.

The concerns came at a seminar on 'Sustainable E-waste Management: Bangladesh Perspective' organised by D.Net and Toxics Link, India at the Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

While the compact fluorescent lights (CFL) bulbs use 80 percent less electricity than standard bulbs, they take too long to warm up and contain mercury, making them hard to dispose of, said the speakers.

Mercury along with other harmful elements present in these bulbs can trigger migraines, exacerbate skin conditions and lead to other serious health problems, they added.

"The [CFL] bulbs are brittle containing hazardous materials that pose serious health hazards," said D.Net Executive Director Dr Ananya Raihan.

These mercury-containing bulbs are among the hundreds of household and office electronic products that contribute to the piles of electronic waste in the country.

A Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers Association (BEMMA) study shows that nearly 2.5 million tonnes of electronic products are thrown away to waste dumps every year, said Dr Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, an associate professor at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Electronic waste (E-waste), which refers to

discarded electronics that are thrown in the trash, often contain lead, cadmium, mercury and other toxic materials that pollute the environment said Dr Sarwar in his keynote paper.

"Take batteries for example," he said, "just one small cadmium battery commonly used in cell phones or photocopying machines could pollute 600,000 litres of water."

The cheap non-branded electronic products flooding the market makes the situation even worse, the discussants said.

The cheap mobile phones, for instance, used by remote rural villagers, lack durability and turns into e-wastes within a short time, they added.

"Immediate plans and policies are required to regulate the disposing of these mobile phones, which threaten to clog the riverbeds across the country," said Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Centre for Global Change.

At the seminar, Environment Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Mazumder said, "When it comes to E-waste [management] we do not have any policy."

"There are also no policies for solid waste management," he added.

As Bangladesh moves towards a technology driven culture, disposal of the wastes generated from the technologies becomes a major concern, the speakers said.

They also asked the government for timely proactive steps to form explicit policies on E-waste management.

## Lutful Hai laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Awami League lawmaker Advocate Lutful Hai Sachchu was laid to rest beside his father's grave at his village home at Shuhata of Sadar upazila in the district yesterday.

The third namaz-e-janaza of Lutful Hai Sachchu, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry and also the guerrilla adviser of the Sectors 2 and 3 of the War of Liberation, was held at Zila Eidgah Maidan in the district at about 5:00pm.

After the namaz-e-janaza the body was sent to his village home at Shuhata where the fourth and fifth janazas were held at night.

His body was landed at 1:05pm at Brahmanbaria Niaz Stadium from Dhaka. His first and second namaz-e-janaza was held in Dhaka.

Lutful Hai passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Gulshan residence in Dhaka on Monday.

District AL called a three-day mourning programme. Meanwhile, before his namaz-e-janaza a guard of honour was given in honour of Lutful Hai.

## GP set to pair up with Channel i

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone Limited, Bangladesh's largest cellular operator, will pair up with Channel i to provide information services to farmers.

Jon Fredrik Baksaas, president and CEO of Telenor Group, largest shareholder in Grameenphone, expressed his willingness while visiting the headquarters of Channel i.

Telenor Group, headquartered in Norway, is one of the world's major mobile operators with 195 million subscribers, revenues of NOK 91 billion (2009), and 34,000 employees.

It operates in 11 markets in Nordic, Central and Eastern Europe and Asian region, also holding approx. 40 percent stake in VimpelCom Ltd.

Baksaas, who's been spearheading Telenor since 2002, is visiting Dhaka to join the inauguration programme of GPHouse, new head office of Grameenphone. Odvar Hjesjedal, CEO of Grameenphone accompanied Baksaas during the visit.

## 'ATTEMPT TO KILL' HUMAYUN AZAD Hearing against 4 cops Dec 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has fixed December 30 for hearing on charge framing against four police officers for implicating and torturing a Dhaka University (DU) student for 'attempt to kill' Prof Humayun Azad.

The police officials are the then Officer-in-Charge Mahbubur Rahman, sub-inspectors Rezaul Karim and Naser Ali of Ramna police station and Sergeant Anwar Hossain who was in charge of Nilkhet police box.

After scrutinising case docket and other documents, Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hussain on

Sunday passed the order.

Earlier on September 22, Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hassan Talukder issued arrest warrants against the four after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a report.

But the four accused obtained anticipatory bail from the High Court.

The report said that the charges brought against the four cops for torturing DU student Mohammad Abu Abbas Bhuiyan were primarily proved and they should be brought to justice.

But the IO excluded detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar from the charge finding no connection of him.

## DENIAL TO GIVE FREE FOOD Shopkeeper assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscrants injured a shopkeeper and a schoolboy and assaulted several others in the city's Kadamtali area yesterday as the shopkeeper refused to give them food for free on Monday.

The miscrants created a dreadful situation by exploding at least ten cocktails.

Shopkeeper Mohammad Sumon, 25, received injuries on his head as the criminals hit him with a pistol while schoolboy Mohammad Kawser, 17, was stabbed with a sharp weapon. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe wounds.

Locals at Pokarbarazar of Muradnagar said local rogue Jasim and his accomplices attacked as Sumon refused to give some packets of 'Tehari' free of cost.

"Jasim along with his cohorts Razib, Himu, Babu and 15 to 20 others swooped on Sumon with weapons around 1:00pm and injured him critically," said Mohammad Mishu, a student of Muradpur Samirunnessa High School, also beaten up by the gang.

As pedestrians protested the attackers, the men stabbed Kawser and assaulted other pedestrians, said locals.

Officer-in-Charge Syed Ayub Ali of Kadamtali Police Station said they heard two men were injured in a clash but were not aware of the cocktail blasts.

## JMB leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An anti-militancy unit of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a leader of the banned Islamic militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Kurigram district early yesterday.

The JMB leader Abul Kashem, 25, a close aide to the former JMB chief Matin Mehedi, is a 'Gayree Ehsar' -- a part-time member -- of the militant organisation, said Rab officials.

According to Rab-5 officials, a Rab team led by Additional Superintendent of Police Mirza Golam Sarwar, on information, raided and caught Kashem from a closed tea-stall at C&B Ghat area while he was holding a secret meeting with some other JMB men around 1:30am.

However, the other JMB men fled, they added.

Col Moin Uddin Mahmud, director of Rab-5, said Kashem escaped from being arrested when Matin Mehedi and three of his cohorts were arrested from Hatir Par area of Kurigram with bomb making materials and jihadi books in April 2007.

Kashem has been busy in reorganising the militant outfit, he alleged at a press conference held at Rab headquarters in Rajshahi after the arrest.

Abul Kashem is a charge sheeted accused in the case which was filed under Special Power Act following Matin Mehedi's arrest.

## CASE AGAINST BABAR Hearing deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the seventh time deferred the hearing on charge framing till January 30 against former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in connection with a tax evasion case.

Judge (in charge) Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-5 passed the order after Babar's lawyer submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

Babar was produced before the court during the hearing.

In the petition, the lawyer said his client had earlier filed an appeal with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the proceeding of the case. The HC then issued a rule upon the government asking to explain why the proceeding of the case would not be declared illegal. But the rule hearing is now pending. So, the lawyer prayed for adjournment of the hearing, lawyer added.

National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Babar for dodging Tk 2.65 crore income tax from 1999-2000 to 2008-09 fiscal years.

## US embassy closed tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The American embassy, including the consular section and the American center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Student Advising Center will be closed tomorrow on the occasion of Thanksgiving Day, an American national holiday, says a press release.



Shaikh Siraj, a founding member of Channel i, hands over a crest to Jon Fredrik Baksaas, president and CEO of Telenor Group, the largest shareholder in Grameenphone, at the Dhaka headquarters of Channel i yesterday.

## Six people killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least six people were killed and 24 others injured in separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj, Gaibandha, Manikganj and Gazipur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Chapainawabganj: A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a microbus on Chapainawabganj-Sonamajid land port highway at Baroghoria of Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as, Rahim Akash, 6, son of Ayatullah Sumon of Bhigore village in Narayanganj district.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred around 12:30pm when a Shibganj-bound microbus from Chapainawabganj crushed Rahim under its wheels while he was playing beside the highway.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for

autopsy. They also seized the microbus but its driver fled away.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha adds: One person was killed and 16 others were injured in a head-on collision on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Telabu yesterday.

Highway police said the accident took place when a Rangpur-bound bus, Belal Enterprise, collided head-on with a speedy truck, leaving the truck driver dead on the spot. The identification of the driver was not known immediately.

The injured people were admitted to Pirganj Health Complex.

Our correspondent from Manikganj says: A schoolteacher was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Manikganj-Garpara road at Khanpur under Saturia upazila in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Toukir Ahmed, 28, an assistant teacher of Bartha Government Primary School in Manikganj.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred at about 10:00am when a Dautia-bound tempo with five passengers overturned. The schoolteacher was killed on the spot and four others including Shaheeda Akter, a head teacher of Dighi Girls High School, were injured.

The injured passengers were taken to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

The body was also sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

The tempo driver fled the scene after the accident.

A Correspondent from Gazipur reports: At least three people including two motorcyclists were killed in separate road accidents at Sadar and Shreepur upazila of the district yesterday.

Source said the first accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Kishoreganj collided head-on with a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction in

Dhaladia area under Shreepur upazila, leaving two motorcyclists dead on the spot.

The deceased were identified as Khokon Khan, 20, son of Aslam Khan and Aminul Islam, 22, son of Aminul Islam, of Rajendrapur of Shreepur upazila, both students of Dhaladia Degree College.

Hearing the news, agitating people set fire to the bus and barricaded the road for three hours.

Later, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Meanwhile, a youth was killed in another road accident at Salna of Sadar upazila.

Source said the accident took place when a passenger bus hit a Leguna, a human hauler, from behind. The Leguna overturned and fell into roadside ditch, leaving one dead on the spot and injuring four others.

The deceased was identified as Atik, 13, helper of the human hauler.

আজ পুরুষের অঙ্গীকার নারী নির্বাহন নয় আর

আইন বিচার সুশাসন রাখবে নারী নির্বাহন

নারী নির্বাহন প্রতিরোধ পক্ষ ২০১০

যৌন নির্বাহনসহ নারীর প্রতি সকল ধরনের সহিংসতা প্রতিরোধে

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ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান

২৪ নভেম্বর ২০১০ • বিকেল ৩:৩০ • রবীন্দ্র সর্দার, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা

## আপনারা সবাকব আমন্ত্রিত

ক্যাঙ্গেইন টু ওয়ার্ক উইথ মেন এন্ড বয়েজ  
Campaign to work with men and boys - a national network in Bangladesh

সংযোজিত: UNFPA