



An HSC examinee is writing the answer script with rapt-attention at Habibullah Bahar Collage centre in the city on the first day of the examination yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

BNP leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday asked the government to explain about the confusion arose over the women development policy, okayed by the cabinet recently.

"Islamic scholars took stance against the women development policy. It would be proved as anti-Islamic if the government fails to give acceptable clarification regarding the confusions," Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain told a discussion in the city.

Juba Dal, a front body of BNP, organised the discussion at Engineers Institution Auditorium marking the Independence Day with its president Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal in the chair.

Mosharraf, former minister and member of BNP standing committee, said the government will be forced to give a midterm election by forging a mass movement under the leadership of Khaleda Zia as it showed absolute failure to run the country.

Party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir said "religious people" supported the Monday's countrywide hartal (called by Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee) as people won't accept anything, which will hurt their religious sentiment.

Rahimafrooz
fined Tk 6 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd, one of the leading battery manufacturers in the country, was fined Tk 6 lakh yesterday for polluting the environment of Zirani, Gazipur.

A team of the Department of Environment (DoE) penalised the company during a crackdown on river polluting industries in Gazipur.

DoE Director (monitoring and enforcement) Munir Chowdhury led the team accompanied by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) personnel.

The factory, labelled as a "level red" industrial establishment, was found discharging toxic liquid waste into the nearby canal and agricultural lands, said DoE officials.

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The domestic helps in Bangladesh are still deprived of basic needs and become victims of torture by their employers, as they are not protected by the labour act, 2006, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

After monitoring eight national daily newspapers from 2001-2010, it was found that at least 398 domestic helps were killed by their employers while at least 299 others suffered injuries and 77 were raped, said the speakers.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) and Global Network-Asia jointly organised the two-day long seminar titled "Domestic Workers Rights and Present Status: Role of Trade Unions and Human Rights Organisations" at their auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the seminar trade union leaders, human rights workers and stakeholders urged the government to implement

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES Demand for equal rights reiterated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded the government provide equal opportunities and facilities to all indigenous communities by recognising them in the constitution.

They said Adivasi people are not enjoying the benefits of the independence though they fought for the country during the liberation war of 1971.

They are not still given constitutional recognition, and even development issues that concern them were not emphasised in the constitution, added the speakers.

This was told at the seminar held jointly by Jonoudoyag and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) at RC Majumder Arts Auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Promod Mankin, in his speech as the chief guest, said a group would be backward if it is exploited by advanced ones for long.

Emphasising that political will is required to establish the rights of indigenous people, he also protested use of the term "Upaiati" to refer to the Adivasis.

Harendranath Sing, president of Adivasi Chhatra Parishad, presented the keynote paper at the programme.

He showed in the paper that 90 percent of the 20 lakh indigenous people dwelling in plain land are landless and lagging behind in education for a host of reasons.

The seminar was chaired by Prof HK Arefin, convener of Jono Udyag Jatiya Committee.

the Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy-2011 to prevent tortures against the domestic helps.

They demanded the government to recognise the domestic help as 'worker' through the policy and fix their salary and other privileges as per the standard of international labour acts.

Speakers opined that the domestic helps couldn't enjoy their rights, as they don't have trade union to raise voice.

Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary general of BILS, stressed the need for creating awareness among the employees and employers to ensure security and rights of the domestic helps. To this end, he said, the government, non-government and trade unions need to work together.

Among others, regional coordinator of Global Network-Asia Rey Rasing, joint general secretary of BILS Zafrul Hasan, assistant executive director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed spoke at the seminar.

A Nokia smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying a Bengali calendar application on its screen. The calendar is for the month of Baisakh (বৈশাখ) ১৪১৮. The background of the advertisement is a vibrant green with a traditional Bengali floral pattern. The text is in Bengali, promoting the Nokia Ovi Store and the availability of Bengali applications.



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