



Aparajeya Bangladesh stages a demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting torture on domestic helps.

Implement women dev policy soon

Demand women rights organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alliance of grassroots women organisations yesterday demanded immediate implementation of the national women development policy.

Leaders of National Women Development Policy 2011 Implementation Committee at a press briefing in the city's Shaheed Asad Auditorium also demanded plan of action and specific budget allocation to implement the policy.

They demanded immediate implementation of the policy and formulation of law on the basis of it.

The committee has taken elaborate programme to press the government to implement the policy. These programmes include rally on April 25 at the city's Muktangan, memorandum to the prime minister on April 27, roundtable discussion at Jatiya Press Club on May 7 and token hunger strike on May 12.

Central Steering Committee members of the committee Jahanara Begum, Shabnam Hafiz, Murshida Akhter and Firoza Begum among others spoke at the briefing.

Meanwhile, demanding immediate implementation of the policy, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) also formed a human chain in front of the High Court Building.

This policy is an important tool to guide women's development in the country, says a press release of BNWLA signed by its Executive Director Salma Ali.

The women policy has been announced in delay. Still a group has been opposing the policy without having clear understanding on it. A sluggish state is also prevailing in public and private sector regarding its implementation, it said.

They also demanded a plan of action in this regard and specific budget allocation.

3000 sacks of OMS rice seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday in a drive seized around 3,000 sacks of rice meant for Open Market Sale (OMS) from nine warehouses at East Tejturi Bazar of the city's Tejgaon.

Rab picked up two employees of a warehouse - Jahangir and Mostafizur.

Ali Reza Khandokar of Rab-2 told The Daily Star that each sack contained 50 kg of rice.

They bought rice at a lower price from the dealers to sell those in open market at higher price, he added.

Rab informed the Directorate of Food of the matter, he added.

Manager of the warehouse Jahnagir Alam told this correspondent that they bought nine tonnes of rice from BDR Headquarters in a legal way.

Food department officials detected the OMS rice and a case will be filed in this connection today, Rab sources said.

Red tape hinders initiatives

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bureaucratic hurdles often hamper implementation of major decisions taken to resolve long-standing problems in the education sector said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

The government is trying to achieve the maximum in minimum time in this sector through sincere and effective efforts, he said.

Nahid was addressing as the chief guest at a presentation on the findings of a research "Education Watch 2009-2010 Report", titled "Exploring low performance in education: The case of Sylhet division" at a hotel in Sylhet.

Two non-government organisations, Friends in Village Development, Bangladesh (FIVDB) and Campaign For Popular Education (Campe), which conducted the study, organised the presentation.

Adviser to a former caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury moderated the event while FIVDB Executive Director Zehin Ahmed briefed on the issue. Samir Ranjan Nath, a member of the research team, presented the findings.

The study said the region's constraints are related to social stigma; lack of economic solvency; regional and environmental barriers; migration of locals etc.

Children City for 10,000 orphans soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission will soon establish the 'Ahsania Mission Children City' in Panchagarh where 10,000 orphan street children will get shelter.

The street children will be rehabilitated in phases. The first children village would be built at Jalapara village under Hafizabad union.

There will be 10 such villages, and around one thousand street children will be accommodated in each village under the city.

The mission authorities disclosed the plan at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office in the capital yesterday.

The foundation stone of the city will be laid on April 21. Alongside vocational education, the children will get the opportunity of studying up to higher secondary level.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said at present there are about 13 lakh street children across the country, and future of these children looks bleak as they are deprived of love and care.

The hapless children would be imparted job-oriented technical education as well as skill development training through regular exercise, games and sports, and cultural activities, he said.

There will be facilities for rearing poultry birds and livestock, pisciculture and crop cultivation. In this manner, the children will stand on their own feet and become self-reliant, Rafiqul said.

The villages will be self-sufficient in nature. Resident children will produce crops on the fields of villages to cater to their needs. Schools and colleges will also be established for their proper education, Rafiqul added.

The mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman and former secretary Mohammad Lutfar Rahman Talukder spoke in the press conference.



Rama Dutta honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rama Dutta, a woman leader from Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Chittagong, has received a special award for her contributions in women movement of the country.

Noted women's rights activist Ayesha Khanam handed over the award to her on the occasion of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's 40th anniversary programme held at Dhaka Engineers' Institute yesterday, said a press release.

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan was present as the chief guest.

Rama Dutta is an active organiser of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Chittagong since 1970.

BNP backs Amini

Says Mohiuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city unit of Awami League (AL) President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday urged the party leaders and workers to be united against the conspirators who are trying to create anarchy in the country.

He was addressing a rally organised by the city unit at Laldighi Maidan to mark the Mujibnagar Day (April 17).

Mohiuddin alleged Khaleda Zia for her connection with the war criminals and fundamentalists.

He said backing Islami Ain Bastobayan Committee leader Amini, BNP is trying to catch fish in troubled water.

PRAYER TO QUIZ 2 EX-NSI DGs Hearing today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hear a seven-day remand prayer today to interrogate two former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director generals in connection with the August 21 grenade attacks on Awami League (AL) rally in 2004.

Maj Gen (Retd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury and Brig Gen (Retd) M Abdur Rahim, who have been arrested in connection with the 10-truck arms haul case, were shown arrested in August 21 grenade attack case on Wednesday following an application submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Abdul Kahar Akhand, senior special superintendent of CID (Criminal Investigation Department of Police) and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, placed a seven-day remand prayer of the two NSI DGs before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Sunday.

Saying that the two officers were holding key positions dealing with security measures during the attack, the IO suggested that they might disclose significant information regarding the grisly attack on the rally on August 21, 2004 on Bangabandhu Avenue.



Rapid Action Battalion-2 seized around 3,000 sacks of rice meant for Open Market Sale (OMS) from a warehouse in the city's East Tejturi Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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