



Manusher Jonno Foundation in association with Information Commission holds a view exchange meeting titled "Present state of the implementation of the Right to Information Act 2009 and role of non-government voluntary organisations" at the commission conference room in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Monika Debnath sent to jail in graft case
COURT CORRESPONDENT

Monika Debnath, wife of Awami Svechchhashebok League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath, was sent to jail yesterday in a graft case in which she was earlier sentenced to three years' imprisonment in absentia.

Judge AFM Aminul Islam of the Special Judge Court-1 in the city passed the order after Monika along with her lawyer surrendered before it in an ambulance as she was ill.

Monika also sought bail in the case.

The court rejected her bail prayer and ordered the jail authorities to provide her treatment as per jail code when Monika's lawyers submitted a petition for her proper treatment in jail custody.

Judge Firoz Alam of the same court sentenced Monika to three years' imprisonment in 2007.

RTI in textbooks soon Says Chief Info Commissioner Zamir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Right to Information Act (RTI) will be included in school textbooks of class eight and above, said Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Zamir at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

The education ministry has assured us that the issue would be included in the curriculum soon. And in this way we would have several lakhs of young people to be educated in RTI," said Zamir.

The meeting titled "Present state of the implementation of the Right to Information Act 2009 and role of non-government voluntary organisations" was arranged by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in association with Information Commission at the conference room of the commission in the morning.

Under the RTI act, it is mandatory for any government and non-government organisations to provide an individual with information once an individual asks for it except for some exceptions.

They said non-government organisations can play most important role in making

mass people, specially who live in rural areas, aware about effective use of the law to reduce corruption.

Mentioning that a large number of designated officers is still unaware of RTI act, Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim said the commission should go for penalisation gradually unless the designated officers won't take the matter seriously.

The government has taken an effective measure to ensure transparency and accountability by formulating the Right to Information Act. We hope the government would ensure use of the law in resolving big issues," said MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam.

Speakers also pointed out inadequate facilities in offices required to provide people with required information and urged international donors and private organisations to come forward and help in this regard.

Information Commissioner Abu Taher, its secretary Nepal Chandra Sarker, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, and former caretaker government adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury also spoke at the event.

AL to observe
Hasina's
Homecoming
Day tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling Awami League will observe Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'Homecoming Day' tomorrow in a befitting manner.

Sheikh Hasina returned to Bangladesh from India on May 17 in 1981 after she and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana had been in exile since the killing of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15 in 1975 by some misguided army personnel.

The programmes organised by Awami League include placing of wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait at Bangabandhu Bhaban, milad and doa mahfil, meeting with injured freedom fighters, distribution of foods among the orphans, jubilant procession, show of posters, publication of memorial books and screening of documentary film.

Outgoing CJ meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The president thanked the outgoing chief justice for his endeavour to dispose of the pending cases in the Supreme Court reducing the number to 2.91 lakh from 3.55 lakh during his tenure.



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Graffiti returns to CU shuttle train

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified people rewrote names of compartment-based groups of Chittagong University (CU) shuttle train inside the train five days after the university authority erased them.

Mentionable, CU authority banned all compartment-based groups following clashes between the groups on April 29 and 30. There are around 20 such groups led by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League of CU unit.

CU Assistant Proctor Mohammad Saidul Islam said the names would be erased again and strict punishment would be handed down to those found involved in this connection.

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