

Enforce law to end corporal punishment

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The issue of corporal punishment should be viewed in a holistic approach and addressed by going deep into its root causes with taking logjams of entire education system into consideration, said speakers at a meeting.

Apart from proper enforcement of law, they stressed the need for a massive awareness among the teachers and families about the damage done by corporal punishment to prevent any form of physical and mental punishment.

The meeting titled 'Duties and formulating plans to stop corporal punishment in educational institutions' was organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

The speakers said it is important to figure out why a teacher metes out the punishment to the students that could lead permanent

psychological scars to them.

There are many educational institutions in the country where a teacher deals with more than 80 students including some unruly ones in a 45-minute class, they said, adding teacher's capacity to deal with such number of students should also be taken into consideration.

A representative of Nalonda, a school of Chhayanaut, said educational institutions have a major role to play as institutions often take the issue lightly.

Citing a survey done in 2009 by Unicef in her paper, Mahbuba Akter, coordinator, communication and advocacy of Blast, said around 99 percent of the 4,000 students surveyed faced such punishment in their own houses while 91 percent students in schools.

Lutfur Kabir, manager of Save the Children, moderated the programme while Sara Hossain, honorary director of Blast, and advocate ZI Khan Panna were present.



Visiting British parliamentarian Rushanara Ali calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the latter's Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

Developer fined in Cox's Bazar

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday realised Tk 10 lakh as fine from a developer for cutting down a hill illegally at Jhilongjha Mouja area adjacent to Cox's Bazar-Chittagong high-way under Cox's Bazar district.

It also directed the authority to restore the soil dug out and bring the area back to its original shape within one month, a DoE press release said.

DoE Director Mohammed Munir Chowdhury (Monitoring and Enforcement) fined Ideal Real Estate Limited for illegally cutting down the hill measuring four thousands square feet area to erect a Five Star Hotel on the cleared out land.

The DoE authority realised the fine from the officials of the company after they appeared at DoE office in Chittagong.

They also asked the authority to plant tress on the hill to help restore the balance of environment disturbed by their actions.

Papua New Guinea keen to more ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Papua New Guinea is eager to strengthen bilateral relationship and promote investment, trade with Bangladesh.

Governor General of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Michael Ogio said this when the newly appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to PNG Golam Mohammad presented his credentials at Port Moresby on September 27, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

The governor general expressed that there is potential scope to widen the 30-year relationship between Bangladesh and PNG. He also stressed the need for exchange of visits by leaders and senior officials and dissemination of information on major development policies and opportunities.

Michael Ogio told the Bangladesh envoy that the PNG wants to share the same micro-finance programme as Bangladesh in eradicating poverty and ensuring men and women participation at the grassroots level.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner also called on Labour and Industrial Relations Minister Martin Aini, Health Minister Jaqime Maxton Graham, Minister for Implementation and Rural Development and Acting Foreign Minister Moses Maladena and Acting Foreign Secretary Ambassador Ms Lucy Bogari Iso separately.

During the meeting, the labour minister laid particular emphasis on exploring the export of skilled and semi-skilled workers from Bangladesh for their development projects.

Road accidents kill 7

METRO DESK

Seven people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Narsingdi and Keraniganj on Monday and yesterday.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports: Three people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in the district.

Two passengers were killed and four others injured when a speedy truck hit an auto-rickshaw and dragged it about one kilometre on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Malihata village of Sadar upazila on Monday night.

The identity of one of the deceased is Sazzad Hossain, 30, of Bijoynagar upazila of the district and another aged about 28 could not be known immediately.

The injured passengers were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Agitating people caught the truck and set fire to it following the accident.

Meanwhile, one minor boy was killed when a Comilla-bound bus lost its control and hit him while it was overtaking another

bus on town bypass road at Foolbaria village of Sadar upazila on the same day.

The deceased was Md Ariful Islam Touhid, 8, of Birashar village of Sadar upazila.

Our Narsingdi correspondent adds: A college student was killed and another three were injured when a human hauler collided head-on with a pick-up van in Shristygar area of Shibpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Mozammel Haque, 18, a first year student of Narsingdi Presidency College.

The critically injured human hauler passengers Moin, 25, Kiron, 28, and Bithi, 20, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

UNB from Keraniganj says: Three members of a family were killed and three others injured when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a baby taxi at Baradia under Keraniganj Model Police Station yesterday.

The deceased were Awlad, 40, his mother Rahima, 65, and wife aged about 30, whose identity could not be known, of Atia area under the police station.

DRIVE TO SAVE SHITALAKHYA RHD staff threaten eviction team

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Roads and Highways department (RHD) officials threatened an eviction team against removal of illegal earth filling in the river Shitalakhya at Kanchpur yesterday, said officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Narayanganj district administration and BIWTA jointly launched a two-day eviction drive at the eastern foot of the Kanchpur Bridge to remove huge piles of sand and sand bags dumped around 20 feet into the river.

According to locals, a section of RHD officials in liaison with several sand traders has been facilitating earth filling and grabbing of the river foreshores to carry out illegal business despite government attempts to save the river.

As BIWTA team started sand removal within the river with excavators and trucks, Sirajul Islam, a work assistant of RHD, objected to the move. Subsequently a sub-assistant engineer of RHD rushed to the scene and claimed that the sand stockpiled on the river foreshores belonged them.

"They misbehaved and threatened us with grave consequences," said Alamgir Kabir, deputy director of BIWTA.

The situation came under control after arrival of Dr Mofizur Rahman, executive magistrate of Narayanganj, with police.

BIWTA officials said that illegal sand trading has been going on occupying an area of 2.25 lakh square foot of the river and its foreshores.



Help Asif to his feet again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven-year-old Mehedi Hasan Asif lost both of his legs after a train ran over him in April this year.

The boy met the accident while returning from Bangladesh Ideal School and College in the city's Khilgaon. He studied in class I.

Asif is under treatment in Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital and awaiting a major operation to have artificial legs. His father Shafiqul Azam said he already has spent Tk 7 lakh for his son's treatment that included several operations.

The father said Asif needs more operations to undergo before having artificial legs. The operation involves an estimated cost of Tk 10-11 lakh.

Attaching artificial legs might be impossible if the operations required are performed too late. With no way out, the undone family has sought assistance from affluent people to help his son walk again.

Any assistance can be sent to account no: 43566 of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Mouchak branch, Dhaka. Asif's father is available for contact at 01918444318.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, speaks at a press conference following a meeting on migration at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city yesterday.

NU degree (pass) registration from Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The registration of degree (pass course) and certificate course examination-2011 for private candidates under National University (NU) will begin on October 10 and continue till October 22, says a press release.

The deadline for submitting bank drafts for registration and enrolment fees fixed by the colleges is October 24 while the deadline for submitting application forms, bank drafts and necessary documents to the university is October 28.

The candidates are requested to contact for any information about registration to this mail: degadmpvt@gmail.com.

Rights boss for empowerment of people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of empowered people has led to frequent violation of human rights, said Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Without empowerment of people development is not possible, he added emphasising the need for empowerment.

One should behave with others in a way that manifests human dignity, NHRC chairman said at a discussion titled "Contribution of Mother Teresa to Preserve Human Rights" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Highlighting Teresa, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, said people should lead their life according to her principles to build a world without discrimination and oppression.

Mother Teresa Research and Welfare Foundation (MTRWF) and DU Alumni Association jointly organised the programme.

NAT'L FOUNDATION DAY Korea to continue assistance

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korean Embassy in Dhaka celebrated the Korean National Foundation Day through organising a reception programme in the city followed by a cultural extravaganza by Korean artists on Sunday evening.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin addressed the reception as the chief guest highlighting the Bangladesh-Korea bilateral relations and lauded Korean cooperation and assistance for the development of Bangladesh.

Addressing the reception held at his residence, Korean ambassador Taiyoung Cho assured that Korea will continue to assist Bangladesh in its development endeavors.

He said the Korean government provided duty-free and quota-free market access to 90 percent of Bangladeshi products this year from 85 percent last year.

The two countries have always enjoyed strong ties of friendship and cooperation, he added. During her visit to Korea, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Korean President Lee Myung-bak agreed to designate the year 2013 as the "Korea-Bangladesh Friendship year" in celebration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the ambassador said.

Ministers, opposition political leaders, civil and military bureaucrats, businessmen and many elite figures of the country attended the programme.



A mobile court of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) checks licences and relevant papers of vehicles in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. The court penalised some vehicles for being unfit and not possessing necessary documents.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Launch
HSBC and The Daily Star will jointly launch climate awards 2011. Time: 11:30am. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargon Hall.

Discussion
Bishwa Shikkhak Dibash 2011 Ujajapon Parishad will hold a discussion. Time: 11:00am. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University.

Launch
British Council will launch a climate information programme. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Roundtable
Shujan will hold a roundtable on fair elections. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Roundtable
Asia Pacific Natural Gas Vehicle Association (ANGVA) will organise a roundtable on safe use of CNG. Time: 10:45am. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium.

Launch
Government of Bangladesh, Unicef, and Koica will jointly launch a health programme. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Remembrance
Liberation War Museum and Oxfam will jointly hold a memorial programme on "Testimony of Sixty". Time: 11:30am. Venue: The museum premises.

Rally
Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote will hold a rally. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar.

Roundtable
Voice of Bangladesh will organise a roundtable. Time: 3:30pm. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Rally