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Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Advocate Sultana Kamal, centre, at the end of a parliamentary styled debate on "Education, science, information and technology will ensure development of girl child", jointly organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Debate for Democracy at the city's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

# 'End discrimination against women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper use of technology in the field of education is a must for the full development of the potentials of the girl child, said speakers at a debate yesterday.

The parliamentary style debate on "Education, science, information and technology will ensure development of girl child" was jointly organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Debate for Democracy in the city's Jatiya Press Club.

Speaking at the programme, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said social awareness about development of the girl child can be created through practicing debate, which might be included in textbooks as a co-curricular activity.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, former

adviser of a caretaker government, said both women and men need to be made aware on the development of the girl child.

In the present competitive world, technology is a tool for social development. All forms of discrimination against women must be eliminated from society, she added.

ATN Bangla Chairman Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, speaking as the chief guest, said creating awareness about the need for educational programmes to develop potentials of the girl child is a socially important issue.

He said both boys and girls need technology but its abuse must be prevented.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said education can be

expanded with the easy availability of technology.

He emphasised on the need for science education, which, he said, required private initiatives alongside government attempts.

A team from Dhaka University contested as the treasury bench while that of United International University played the opposition's role, says a press release.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, Prof Dilara Choudhury, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum Secretary Nasima Akhter Jolly and National Debate Federation (NDF) Chairman Tajul Islam Chowdhury Tuhin also spoke at the programme.

NDF General Secretary Mustafizur Rahman presented the programme.

# Troubled schoolgirl takes her life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl troubled by family matters allegedly committed suicide in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Dihan Mehjabin Ridita, was a class-VII student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

Police recovered her hanging body from her grandmother's house at Tikkapara in Mohammadpur around 7:15am.

She was the only child of Fatema Sultana Chowdhury, a teacher of the same school, and Aliuzzaman Sheikh.

The victim's maternal uncle Kawser Chowdhury said, on the day, Ridita excused herself by saying she was sick and did not go to school with her mother. Later, she hanged herself.

He said Ridita had been living with her mother in Mohammadpur since her parents lived separately.

Ridita was trying to convince her parents to stay together, failing which she was frustrated, he added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Siraj Ud Dowla, sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, said the incident is being investigated.

# Missing businessman found murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was found murdered at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday four days after he went missing.

Police recovered the decomposed body of Sumon Kumar Datt, 31, from his office at Dhanmondi, Road No # 27 under Mohammadpur Police Station.

Family members and police suspect that one of his employees killed him and hid the body in his office -- A-Tech Corporation -- on the fourth floor of a five-storey building.

Police said they recovered the body after breaking open the main door around 5:00pm. The body bore marks of injury in the head.

Quoting a security guard, Mahmudul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said peon Abdul Karim and an unknown man went out of the office with some accessories on Wednesday.

Karim told the guard that Sumon had gone to Chittagong for an official tour asking him to take some goods there.

Police suspect that Karim had killed Sumon and fled with the accessories.

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**Conference**  
United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme and Govt of Bangladesh will jointly organise a high level conference. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

**Human chain**  
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Janatar Prattsha will hold a discussion. Venue: Photo Journalists Association, Purana Palatan, Time: 11:00am.

Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 5:00pm.

**Human chain**  
Department of Clinical Psychology of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Society will jointly form a human chain. Venue: Dhaka University campus to Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Janatar Prattsha will hold a discussion. Venue: Photo Journalists Association, Purana Palatan, Time: 11:00am.

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