

'Make teachers, students aware of sexual abuse'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers yesterday opined for creating awareness among students and teachers to resist sexual harassment in educational institutions.

They said this at a view-exchange meeting on "Forming anti-sexual code of conducts in educational institutions managed by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)" organised by Adolescent Development Foundation (ADF), Bangladesh at a restaurant in the port city.

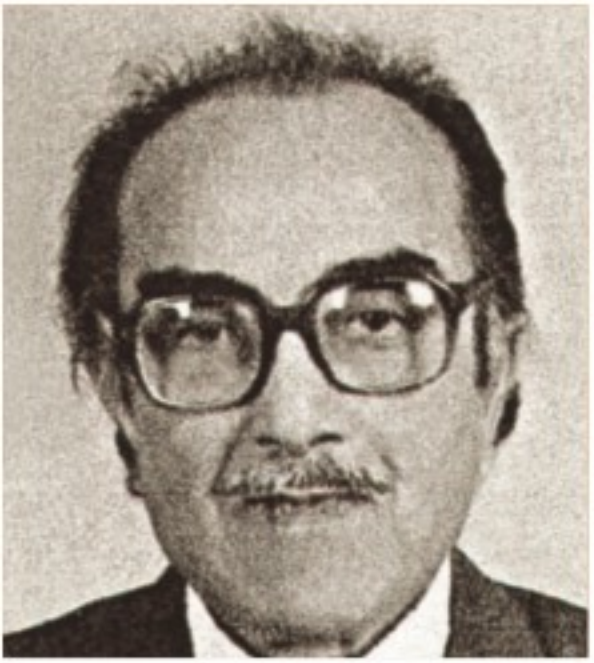
Presenting the keynote paper, ADF Consultant Syeda Sajida Khanam Snigdha said sexual harassment in educational institutions is a burning issue at current.

Adolescent girls are being harassed in educational institutions by their classmates, senior students and, also, by their teachers, she said.

Giving examples, she said there are incidents where the teacher, accused of harassing students, remained unpunished.

A teacher, dismissed for sexual harassment, manages a job in another school very shortly, she said. Thus ultimately, this teacher remained out of punishment, she added.

ADF General Secretary Saroj Kanti Das said there are 85 educational institutions managed by CCC, and ADF is trying to formulate some common code of conducts for these institutions to resist sexual harassment of the female students.



Journo Zahidul passes away

METRO DESK

Zahidul Huq, renowned journalist and language expert, passed away at Central Hospital in the city on Saturday at the age of 77, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers today at Shinepukur Apartment Complex, Buxnagar in Mirpur. He will be buried at Banani graveyard the same day.

His qulhwani will be held after Asr prayers on Friday at his Mirpur residence.

Huq started his career in the then Pakistan Observer in 1958. Later, he joined Dawn in Karachi. Thereafter he went to Beijing and served the Beijing Radio as language specialist for about 18 years.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



A girl, right, is very quick to announce her success to family the moment she gets to know she has achieved GPA-5 in the Primary Education Terminal Examination. (Clockwise from top) Jubilant students of Monipur High School, Dhaka; Dr Khastagir Girls' High School, Chittagong; Viqarunnissa Noon School and College, Dhaka; and Milestone Preparatory KG School, Dhaka. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, views the results on the internet at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR, PID



5 brick kilns fined

CU CORRESPONDENT

Five illegal brick kilns were fined Tk 1.30 lakh in a drive at the port city's Chandanais upazila yesterday.

A joint team comprising officials of the Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong and the local administration gave the drive led by DoE senior chemist Jashim Uddin.

The kilns were fined on charge of attempting to burn bricks using a banned technology, says a press release.

They also did not have discharge certificate and license of burning bricks.

The team fined M/s Syed Ali Fakir Bricks Tk 10,000, M/s Shaheen Bricks Tk 50,000, M/s Ayas Bricks Manufacturer Tk 10,000, M/s Ali Shah Bricks Manufacturer Tk 50,000 and M/s Ali-Riad Bricks Tk 10,000.

The team also directed the authorities to stop activities in the kilns and to show cause by appearing in the DoE, Chittagong office today.

DHAKA TODAY

Rally
National Garment Workers Federation will organise a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

Seminar
Save The Environment Movement will organise a seminar; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Time: 10:30am.

Meeting
National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will hold a meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Ain o Salish Kendra will organise a workshop; Venue: Biam Foundation, Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) will

Jica to help develop private sector

UNB, Dhaka

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is preparing a plan for the development of private sector of Bangladesh, said a visiting Jica delegation yesterday.

Jica will conduct a study on local and foreign prospective entrepreneurs in this regard, said members of the delegation when they met Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Asif Ibrahim at the latter's office.

They said it is necessary to analyse the value chain of Bangladesh's prospective sectors through identifying impediments to success.

Asif said Bangladesh should give more emphasis on the prospective new markets instead of the existing export market to overcome the imbalance in bilateral trade between the two countries.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 33rd death anniversary of Prof Dr Abdul Quader, former head

of the Department of Ophthalmology at Sir Salimullah Medical College.

A 1946 alumnus of Calcutta Medical College and 1963 alumnus of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Quader was a leading ophthalmologist in the country, said a press release.

His relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX 2011

Bangladesh's position unchanged

UNB, Dhaka

The process of democratisation is "stagnating" in Bangladesh, according to a new report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The EIU is a think-tank affiliated with The Economist, a London-based news and international affairs publication.

The latest edition of the EIU's Democracy Index that measures the state of democracy in 167 countries sees that Bangladesh hold on to its ranking at number 83, with only a minimal improvement in its index score from the previous edition.

The index is based on a set of 60 indicators grouped into five different categories that combine to give a score out of 10 for each country.

Based on the score attained in the

index, countries are put into one of four categories: full democracies (those scoring between 8 and 10), flawed democracies (6-7.9), hybrid regimes (4-5.9), and authoritarian regimes (below 4).

Last year's report saw Bangladesh jump up eight places from its previous edition, which had come out in 2008, with a score of 5.86. Somewhat disappointingly, the country's score has moved just a tick in the 2011 edition, to 5.87.

That means Bangladesh has failed to move out of the bracket for "hybrid regimes", as classified by the EIU.

The ranking at number 83 puts Bangladesh ahead of a clutch of countries like Bolivia, Turkey and Lebanon, and just behind a pack containing Singapore, Ukraine, and Ghana.

Regionally, Bangladesh's position compares favourably its neighbours;

only India and Sri Lanka, at 39 and 57, are ranked higher. The likes of Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal languish outside the top 100 list, with Bhutan highest at 104 with a score of 4.57.

The white paper accompanying this year's index is titled "Democracy under stress" to capture a year in which some Arab nations abandoned authoritarian regimes, yet the average democracy score in the index declined, including in North America and Western Europe, usually considered to be the bastions of democracy.

Possibly the most perceptive observation in the report is that economic crisis is "subtly eroding democracy" in even advanced nations, as evidenced by the resignations of the elected Italian and Greek prime ministers in the aftermath of the crisis engulfing the eurozone.



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