

Form separate deptt for children

Speakers at press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to form a separate department for children under the Ministry of Children and Women Affairs to coordinate the activities of different ministries.

They also demanded that the government would evaluate the implementation of allocations meant for the children.

The press conference titled "Investment for children: An important step to achieve vision 2021" was held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Save the Children, Centre for Services and Information on Disabilities and Dhaka University's Department of Development Studies organised it.

Kazi Maruful Islam, assistant professor of the department, said it was difficult to find out the amount of allocation for children from the current budget format.

He, therefore, suggested the government to find out a way to perceive the level of allocation and priority to differentiate child related allocation with other sectors.

Maruful also stressed the need for evaluation of probable loss due to not ensuring necessary services (health, education and others) for the children.

Shamsul Alam, deputy director of Child Rights Governance Programme of Save The Children, Emranul Huq Chowdhury, executive director, Uddipan and Khandaker Jahurul Alam, executive director of Centre for Services and Information on Disability, among others, also spoke.



Local people stage a demonstration at Majhir Ghat Road in the port city yesterday after a truck hit a schoolgirl.



Mamta Zaman passes away

METRO DESK

Noted educator Mamta Zaman, former assistant head teacher of Banani Bidyaniketan, passed away on Monday at a clinic in the capital's Uttara at the age of 68, says a press release.

She was suffering from pneumonia and other complications.

Mamta Zaman is survived by her husband Shamsuzzaman, a noted teacher and retired government official, one daughter, and one son.

She was buried at Banani Graveyard on Monday evening following her namaz-e-janaza at Banani Central Mosque.

Popularly known as Mamta Apa, she had been one of the founding teachers of Banani Bidyaniketan since 1972.

The noted educator was born in Chuadanga in 1944. She graduated in political science from Dhaka University in 1967 and completed her BED from Dhaka Teachers' Training College in 1970.

The qulhwani and a doa mahfil for Mamta Zaman will be held at her Banani residence after Asr prayers on May 18.

Relatives, friends, well-wishers and former students have been requested to attend the programme.

Shanti Lata Das

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Shanti Lata Das, mother of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Dileep Kumar Das, passed away at her son's residence at Motijheel in the capital on Monday night at the age of 81, says a press release.

She left behind her four sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

MONEY LAUNDERING Court accepts charges against Mamun

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance the money-laundering charges against businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun and transferred a corruption case filed against Col (ret) Oli Ahmed to another Dhaka court for its disposal.

Judge Md Zahurul Huq of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order in the money laundering case. During the hearing, Mamun, who is now in jail on various charges, was present in the court.

On April 29, this year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) pressed charges against Mamun, a business partner of BNP's Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, alleging that he had siphoned off 4,18,853 pounds to the UK.

Mamun who remains accused in 13 other cases, has already been convicted and sentenced to 20 years in jail in three cases, two of which were filed for corruption.

Trial of another money-laundering case filed against Mamun and Tarique is going on at the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka.

CASE AGAINST OLI AHMED

The same court yesterday transferred a corruption case filed against President of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, to the Special Judge's Court-2 for its disposal.

During the hearing, Oli was present at the court.

The ACC pressed charges against him on March 19, this year as the charges brought against him were primarily proven.

ACC Deputy Director Golam Mostafa filed the corruption case against Oli with Ramna Police Station on November 28, last year.

Bangladeshi robot to vie in Nasa contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An automated robot created by some Bangladeshi students will battle for championship in Nasa's third annual Lunabotics Mining Competition (LMC) this year.

LMC is a university-level competition designed to engage and retain students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Brac University's School of Engineering and Computer Science invented Chandrobot-2, which has been given life with artificial intelligence.

"It has a very strong and powerful mechanical structure, as it has gained perfection after many trials and errors. Very latest Kinect sensor is used in it for obstacle detection and path planning", said Dr Md Khalilur Rahman, chief adviser of the project.

Last time their Chandrobot earned a lot of accolades but could not win the competition because of some shortcomings. After its remodelling, the Brac University team is now confident of success.

Dr Khalilur Rahman said the robot would earn 500 bonus points, as it was automated, light and able to collect sand samples more than required.

Prof Ainun Nishat, vice chancellor of the university, launched the robot at the institution's Indoor Games Room yesterday.

The competition will be held at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, US, on May 21-26.

The team led by Jonayet Hossain is comprised of three faculty members: Khalilur Rahman, Belal Bhuiyan and Mosaddequr Rahman and 10 students: Mohammad Hasan, Kazi Mohammad, Mashiur Rahman, Sarah Binte Nosair, Fahim Al Hasnaeen, Meem Gazi, Nabil Shaker, Bonny Amin Khan and Khairul Hassan.

Robi sponsored the team to carry on the research programme to invent the lunar excavation device.

Bid to grab school land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Mirpur Shaheed Abu Taleb High School yesterday held a rally and formed a human chain in the capital protesting an alleged attempt of a group of locals to grab the school land.

Students and teachers of the school, located at Mirpur-10, alleged that the group of locals is trying to grab the land showing fake documents.

SM Shahidul Islam Talukder, headmaster of the school, said some local people mutated the land into their name secretly in 2009 and are now trying to grasp the land.

Members of the school managing committee said a group of people filed cases against the president of the committee over land dispute.

They said the school was constructed in 1975 on plot 10B-1/17 in Mirpur-10 and, later, a five-storied building was constructed on the land in 2002 with government finance.

But, a section of locals claimed ownership of the land in 2011, terming it as a parental property, they added.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES Husband-wife mutual respect can end familial violence

Speakers opine at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mutual respect between husband and wife is more important than promulgating laws to end violence against women, said speakers at a discussion on familial violence against women.

Observing the International Day of Families yesterday, the programme was organised under this year's theme 'Ensuring work-family balance' in the capital's Agargaon.

"Our own cultural values and traditions uphold mutual respect between husband and wife and this is sufficient to end all violence and discrimination against women," Social Welfare Ministry Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas said while addressing the programme as the chief guest.

He also thanked the Bangladeshi mothers for sustaining well-balanced families.

The event was jointly organised by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Protecting Human Rights (PHR) programme by Plan Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

Family Violence (prevention and protection) Act 2010 must be successfully implemented to end the existing violence against housewives and working women, said BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali.

The discussants said women, regardless of their professions, must be respected for their contributions to the family and society and granted maternity leave at work so that they could balance their work with family.

Television actor Mir Sabbir particularly focused on women's portrayal in the media, saying, "More constructive media programmes should be produced to show people family values, respect toward women and old parents."

However, these days, foreign television programmes are showing families battling, parents getting divorce or women and their mothers-in-law conflicting, he said.

Deputy Secretary of law and justice division of Law Ministry Mostafizur Rahman, television actress Farzana Chumki, artists Khalid Hassan Mithu and Kanak Chapa Chakma also addressed the programme.



The newly elected office-bearers of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
The Daily Star and UNFPA Bangladesh will organise a roundtable; Venue: the news paper conference room, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
Bhasani Anusary Parishad will arrange a seminar; Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers; Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
Paribesh Bachao Andolon will organise a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Desh Rakkha Andolon will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

STAY ORDER EC in dilemma over DCC election

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) could not yet decide what steps it needs to take following the court stay on the elections to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporations (DCCs) billed for May 24.

"Today, we couldn't reach any decision on the issue. We'll sit in another meeting within 2-3 days to take a decision," Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed told reporters at his office yesterday emerging from a meeting.

The five-member commission led by CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed held the meeting in the afternoon to decide what steps were needed to be taken following the court stay on the DCC polls. EC's Counsel Shaheen Malik and LGRD Secretary Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan were present.

Talking to journalists, the CEC said the EC's counsel asked the commission to allow him some days to deeply think of the legal matters before taking any decision. "So, the decision has to be taken later."

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