

Gender-neutral mass media underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gender equity is not only women's issues but a platform where both men and women should work together to fight the patriarchal corporate world, said Dhaka University teacher Kaberi Gayen at a workshop yesterday.

Kaberi Gayen, associate professor of Mass Communication and Journalism department, in her keynote paper criticised gender sensitive commercial advertisements in media for representing negative image of women.

She said despite request in writing to the media houses, only two newspapers--The Daily Star and Prothom Alo--have stopped publishing advertisement on "beauty enhancing products" like "Fair and Lovely."

Kaberi Gayen said women themselves should take initiatives to make the media houses they work women friendly.

She, however, said media houses have to reform their own structure to ensure female representation in policy making level.

Women journalists identified stereotyping attitudes, discrimination in beats, harassment by male colleagues and job insecurity as the reasons behind to discourage them to quit their jobs.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ministry Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury assured of all kinds of help from her side to create a gender neutral environment in media houses.

The Women Affairs Department and Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (BNSK) organised the workshop on the role of mass media in bringing about gender equity held at BIAM auditorium in the capital with BNSK President Nasimun Ara Huq in the chair.

BNSK General Secretary Parvin Sultana Jhuma, Executive Editor of Anannya Magazine Dil Monowara Monu and BNSK Finance Secretary Aktar Jahan Malik also spoke at the workshop.



Journalists and management staff of The Daily Star at a function at its office in the capital yesterday felicitate Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Group Latifur Rahman on his being awarded Business for Peace Award 2012, the highest distinction given by Business for Peace Foundation to a businessperson for outstanding accomplishments in the area of ethical business. An independent committee of Nobel Prize winners in peace and economics selects the recipients for the accolade. Latifur Rahman received the award in the Norwegian capital Oslo on May 7. Last year's recipient of the same award was Ratan Tata of India. PHOTO: STAR

Bangla-India celebration of 'Bidrohi' tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India will jointly celebrate the 90th anniversary of the publication of poem 'Bidrohi' by rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and his 113th birth anniversary tomorrow (Friday).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two-day programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at 10:00am.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad said this at a press briefing at the Press Information Department (PID) yesterday.

Indian Minister for Law and Justice and Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid will attend the programme as the special guest.

An Indian delegation comprising members of parliament, Nazrul experts and artists, will arrive here to join the celebrations.

Trader mugged Tk 7 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and locals caught an alleged mugger after a gang of snatchers took away Tk 7 lakh from a trader in front of Sadarghat Bata signal yesterday afternoon.

Jasimuddin, 35, was caught while he was fleeing along with six others allegedly snatching a bag containing Tk 7 lakh from trader Mohammad Rafique brandishing a knife at around 3.30pm.

Sub-inspector (SI) BM Nazmul Huda of Kotwali police station told this correspondent that Rafique, a trader from Narayanganj, took Tk 7 lakh from his cousin, who is also a trader at Sadarghat market.

The muggers snatched the money from Rafique while he was walking on the sidewalk to hire a vehicle to go to Narayanganj.

Huda said police and locals caught Jasim but could not recover the money.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Decision on Alim's indictment on June 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed June 11 to decide whether it would indict former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam set the date after the prosecution and the defence completed their lengthy arguments over charge framing against Alim.

If the tribunal frames the charges, trial would begin against the three-time lawmaker and former minister with the opening statement from the prosecution. Otherwise, he would be discharged from war crimes charges.

Abdul Alim is facing 74 charges of crimes

against humanity in 28 incidents during the Liberation War. He was present at the courtroom yesterday.

Alim was arrested on March 27, 2011, and has been on conditional bail since March 31 last year. The Tribunal-1 had taken the charges brought against him into cognisance on March 27 this year after the prosecution submitted formal charges against him on March 15 this year.

On April 16, Tribunal-1 transferred three cases including Alim's to Tribunal-2 for quick disposal and the second tribunal started Alim's case proceeding on April 24.

The prosecution alleged that Alim, an influential leader of East Pakistan Conventional Muslim League, formed Peace Committee and Razakar Bahini (two collaborator forces) in Joypurhat in 1971 and committed killings, genocide, rape, looting, arson and other crimes against

humanity in association with the auxiliary forces and the Pakistan army.

The defence claimed that the trial was being held 40 years after the crimes were committed only to "suppress the opposition" and the prosecution brought allegations against Alim but lacked sufficient legal basis and evidence.

During yesterday's arguments, defence counsel Tajul Islam said the Awami League-led government was in power during 1996-2001 but it did not take initiative to hold the trials. He said the prosecution has failed to explain the reasons behind the long delay.

In response to the defence argument, Justice Obaidul Hassan said, "Your [Tajul] client was a minister of the government. Why they [the then government] did not take initiative to hold the trial? You just give the explanation on behalf of your client."

As per the defence documents, Alim was

the textiles minister during 1978-1979 and communication minister during 1979-82.

Tajul pleaded that the tribunal discharges Alim from the charges brought against him.

Placing short argument afterwards Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said the accused committed crimes against humanity as member of the auxiliary force as well as individually during the Liberation War and the trial is to be held for "establishing rule of law and upholding democracy" in the country.

He pleaded the tribunal to frame charge against the accused.

Alim is among four BNP and Jamaat leaders facing crimes against humanity charges at Tribunal-2. The tribunal also issued an arrest warrant against expelled Jamaat member Abdul Kalam Azad who is now at large.

COMING OUT TOMORROW

theSTAR
A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star

This Friday *the Star* traces the remarkable journey of Latifur Rahman, chairman and CEO of Transcom group, and winner of the Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012, and the philosophy and vision behind his struggles, successes and achievements. This issue also focuses on the overdependence of SSC students on private coaching, the effects of insomnia, the conflict between freedom of expression and contempt of court, a satire on the latest film 'The Speed', an interpretation of bizarre names of shops and why Wifi is still not as widespread as it should be.

Taking the Bold Step
Words of the Chairman and CEO of Transcom Group Latifur Rahman
A celebration of ethical business

Ask your Hawker for your Copy

Less informed people deny maritime victory

Says Khurshed Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People lacking in knowledge about maritime laws are trying to portray the maritime verdict as a defeat, Rear Admiral (ret'd) Khurshed Alam, additional secretary to the foreign ministry, said yesterday.

Khurshed Alam, who has long been working relentlessly for gaining more maritime area, said Bangladesh and Myanmar got their share in the Bay of Bengal in accordance with their possession of land along the coastline.

He was addressing a seminar styled "Maritime boundary of Bangladesh and its natural resources", organised by Zoology Department of Jagannath University (JNU) at the university's central auditorium.

Sheikh Mahmudul Hasan, a captain of Bangladesh Navy, called for formulating a maritime policy and strengthening the force with equipment for carrying out research on the sea to reap the benefits of the recent maritime victory.

Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury and Vice Chancellor of JNU Prof Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed, among others, addressed the programme.

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