



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury speaks at the inaugural ceremony of International Day of the Girl Child held at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday. On her left are UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Dispose of cases without delay: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday urged judges not to adjourn hearings of cases without logical grounds considering the financial suffering of litigants.

People now do not want to approach to courts due to long delays in disposal of cases, he said, adding that the government has taken steps to remove the delay.

He made the remark while speaking as chief guest at a workshop on "Formation of Upazila-Union Legal Aid Committees" at Jagannath-Sohel Smriti Auditorium in Dhaka Judges' Court area.

National Legal Aid Services Organisation and Dhaka District Legal Aid Committee of government and the Brac Human Rights and Legal Aid Programme jointly organised the workshop.

Shafique said the government has amended the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC)

determining time limit for every stage of disposal of any case in order to reduce its long delay.

He also emphasised keeping good relationships between judges and lawyers, saying that the rule of law and democracy will be established, if the judges ensure justice by discharging their duties with honesty and competence.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam criticised the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman, as he recently said that the failure of intelligence agencies and law enforcers is responsible for the attacks on the temples and houses of minorities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

Qamrul said the government is pledge-bound to try and punish the attackers through fair investigation.

Officials concerned of the government and few lower court judges also spoke.

Cultural barriers challenge to stop child marriage

Says state minister Shirin Sharmin

STAR REPORT

Steps to stop child marriage will remain ineffective unless the challenges of traditional and cultural barriers have been overcome, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on Thursday.

She told the inaugural ceremony of the "International Day of the Girl Child" at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, USA.

Pointing out the disadvantages and health hazards associated with early marriages of girls, Dr Shirin said the Bangladesh government has taken various steps and legal measures to prevent child marriage.

"Showing of national identification card or birth certificate has been made compulsory for registration of marriage," she added.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in

his inaugural speech at the programme, said more investment has to be made for the development of girls to achieve development at national and international level.

"Child marriage will eliminate gradually if we give proper opportunity of education to girl child," he said, emphasising empowering girls through educating them.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, UNFPA Executive Director Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Unicef Deputy Executive Director Geeta Rao Gupta, youth activist Gaicha Salmatou Agali from Niger also addressed the programme.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Dr AK Abdul Momen and Deputy-Permanent Representative Mostafizur Rahman were also present at the programme.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS Judicial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some teachers and students of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University yesterday demanded a judicial probe to ensure punishment for attackers of the Buddhists in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

Under the banner of "Save the Archeological Sites" they also formed a human chain in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the capital.

DU professors Sukomal Barua, also the Bangladesh chapter president of World Buddhist Federation, and Mosharraf Hossain; and JU professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, among others, spoke.

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A procession marking International Day for Disaster Reduction was brought out on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday. DU, WorldFish, and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation jointly organised the programme. They also co-hosted a seminar at DU where speakers laid emphasis on a transformative approach to gender to build a disaster-resilient society.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Hasan Raimum Wahab (Rimu), son of Abdul Wahab Miah, says a press release.

Rimu was an instructor at Technical Training Centre, Rajshahi.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Begunbari Jame Masjid at the capital's Tejgaon and in Nilphamari.

Students, friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Lift ban on political activities at RU

Demand left-leaning students

RU CORRESPONDENT

A platform of left-leaning students' organisations at Rajshahi University yesterday demanded lift of a ban on political activities on the campus.

Progotishil Chhatra Jote also put three other demands and threatened to launch a tougher movement if these are not met. Their non-stop movement will begin after Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

The Jote's other demands are withdrawal of police from the campus, resuming of the operation of RU Central Students' Union (Rucus) and Teacher-Student Cultural Centre (TSCC), and exemplary punishment for Assistant Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Abul Hasnat who allegedly beat up supporters of the Jote on Wednesday while they were holding a procession on the campus.

The demands came from a press conference at Tukitaki Chhattar on the campus.

The RU authorities imposed the ban on political activities on the campus on May 12, 2009 after a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir on March 13, 2009, which killed Shibir leader Sharifuzzaman Numani.



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