

Equal participation of women must in all sectors

JS Speaker tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Equal participation of women must be ensured in socio-economical, political and cultural activities to achieve the expected development of the country, said Abdul Hamid, Speaker of the parliament, yesterday.

Terming violence against women a social disease, he said necessary steps must be taken to make every woman aware of her rights and provide them with sufficient legal and economical security to end violence against women.

Hamid was addressing the inaugural session of 16-day long activism and token oath for eliminating violence against women, jointly organised at the South Plaza of the parliament by the government, the parliament and the UN agencies in Bangladesh. The activism started yesterday will go on across the country until December 11.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury stressed the need for ensuring women's access to information in order to stop gender-based violence.

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UN Resident Coordinator Neal Walker said it is impossible to turn Bangladesh into a country of people with middle-income unless violence against women is eliminated.

The Speaker also administered an oath-taking ceremony where around one and a half dozen lawmakers, UN officials and development partners vowed not to commit violence against women and to protest the offence.

UNFPA Country Representative Arthur Erken and Spanish Ambassador Luis Tejada Chacon, among others, also spoke at the function.

Besides, different organisations, including Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Brac, We Can Alliance to End Domestic Violence (an alliance of 550 NGOs), Steps Towards Development, and Dhaka Development Forum, will hold series of programmes for the campaign.

At a press conference in Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad leaders claimed that a total of 4,854 incidents of violence against women had occurred in Bangladesh from January to October this year, said a press release.

10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL CASES 24 hand grenades went missing

Prosecution witness tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twenty four hand grenades, present on the seizure list, were found missing when the 10-truck arms were being handed over to Chittagong Cantonment on April 3, 2004, the day after the seizure, said a prosecution witness yesterday.

As per the list, the arms to magazine ratio should have been 1:4. But 32 magazines were found having no corresponding arms. The witness stole the eight missing arms, accused the defence.

The witness, Ahadur Rahman, plaintiff of the 10-truck arms haul cases and the one to make the list, denied the allegation while being cross-examined before the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 Judge SM Mojibur Rahman in Chittagong.

The counsel of accused former National Security Intelligence director general Brig Gen (retd) Abdur Rahim also accused Ahadur of stealing two submachine guns and a magazine by keeping those off the list.

Ahadur, formerly an officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, denied the allegation. He also said he had not mentioned Rahim's name in his earlier statement "due to the pressure of the then situation".

Two cases were filed -- one for smuggling firearms and the other under the arms act -- a day after the seizure at a jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd in Chittagong.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS' RETIREMENT AGE Cabinet okays increase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to increase the job retirement age of the freedom fighters from 59 to 60 years.

The service age for freedom-fighter public servants was increased by two years to 59 on February 3, 2010.

Later in December, President Zillur Rahman promulgated an ordinance to make effective the cabinet decision of increasing the retirement age of all public servants by two years to 59.

The cabinet yesterday also approved the final draft of "Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Control) (Amendment) Act-2012" doubling the fine for smoking in public places.

The fine now stands at Tk 100 for smoking in public places. Besides, tobacco companies would have to pay Tk 1 lakh fine for advertising tobacco products.

It also approved in principle "Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Act-2012" aiming to ensure food safety.

Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, cabinet secretary, briefed reporters after the meeting.

RU official beats up law dept teacher

RU CORRESPONDENT

An official of Rajshahi University along with some unidentified persons severely beat up a teacher of the university over a trivial matter on Sunday evening.

The injured teacher, who is an associate professor of the law and justice department, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. He was hit by bricks in the head and needed five stitches to his wounds.

Afsar Ali, deputy director of finance and accounts section of the university, along with about 7-8 others, attacked the victim in front of the teachers' quarters in Paschim Para on the campus, as Afsar said, the teacher intentionally damaged 50 tomato plants in Afsar's vegetable patch in front of the quarters some days ago.

Afsar admitted making the attack and called the teacher "crazy", saying that the teacher had hurled abuse at him [Afsar] when he protested the incident.

The teacher denied the allegations of Afsar.

Protesting the incident, over a hundred students of the law and justice department staged demonstration in front of the residence of the vice chancellor on Sunday night and demanded immediate arrest of Afsar Ali.

Proctor Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria assured the agitating students of taking punitive action against the official after investigation.

Road crashes kill four, injure one

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and another injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Jamalpur, Brahmanbaria and Magura on Sunday and yesterday.

The deceased was Sajib, 3, son of Anisur Rahman of the village.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports, a warden of Netrakona district jail was killed and a habilder injured as a microbus rammed their motorbike on Netrakona-Mymensingh road at Challisha Bazar in the sadar upazila on Sunday.

The deceased was Mominul Islam, 32, of Sherpur town.

The jail sources said the microbus hit their Mymensingh-bound motorbike in the area around 3:30pm, killing Mominul instantly and injuring the other.

Injured Sohag Mia was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reports, a boy died as CNG-run auto-rickshaw ran

The deceased Aminul Islam, 17, son of Rezaul Karim of Ashuganj village, was a student of Ashuganj Sarkarkhana College. Aminul was rushed to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where he was declared dead.

UNB from Magura reports, bicyclist Mashru Rahman, 55, of Satyapur in sadar upazila, died as a bus ran him over on Jessore-Magura highway at Sitampur in the upazila on Sunday noon.

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UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following position. For detailed Terms of Reference, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

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Last date of receiving applications: 6 December 2012

Applications with CV and a completed P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources, UNICEF-Bangladesh, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000. Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

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