

Mozena visits Bharateswari Homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday visited Bharateswari Homes and Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur in Tangail.

Both the institutions belong to the Kumudini Welfare Trust founded by a philanthropist Ranada Prosad Saha also known as RP Saha.

During the visit, the US ambassador observed the educational, cultural and other activities of Bharateswari Homes which was established in 1945.

The students of the institute performed a spectacular display of physical skills for the US ambassador on the institute premises around 11:00am.

Mozena in his speech said he could foresee the bright future of Bangladesh among the students of the institute.

Appreciating the performance, the US Ambassador urged the students to gain much more knowledge in order to make a new Bangladesh also to make a "Sonar Bangla".

Among others, family members of the US ambassador; Razib Prosad Saha, managing director of Kumudini Welfare Trust; Principal Protibha Mutsuddi and Shreemoti Saha, its directors; Dr Dulal Chandra Poddar, director of Kumudini Hospital, and Mahbubul Alam, additional deputy commissioner in Tangail, were present there.

After the display event, Mozena along with others also visited the Kumudini Hospital, Kumudini Nursing School and College, Kumudini Medical College, Ranada Museum and village home of Ranada Prosad Saha.

In the afternoon, the students of the homes and Kumudini Nursing School and College also performed at the cultural programme at Ananda Niketan of Kumudini Complex.



PHOTO: STAR

US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena visits Bharateswari Homes at Mirzapur, Tangail yesterday. Inset, students of the residential educational institution present a display on its premises in his honour.

Mandatory registration of Hindu marriage stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu marriage registration must be made mandatory in the recently passed Hindu Marriage Registration Act, 2012 to protect the rights and ensure the social and financial security of Hindu women, said discussants at a roundtable yesterday.

Movements to end violence against minorities should also be strengthened as women become the worst victims of any form of violence, they viewed.

The roundtable, "Make Hindu marriage registration mandatory", was jointly organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in the daily's office in the capital.

"The amendment is the cry of the Hindu community," said Fazle Rabbi Miah, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry.

When the discussants criticised the government for not issuing a gazette notification after the act was passed in parliament on September 18, Fazle called the law minister over phone and requested to issue the gazette today.

"Registration of birth, marriage and death must be mandatory for all citizens," said former High Court Judge Gour Gopal Saha.

International Crimes Tribunal Prosecutor Advocate Rana Dasgupta said a commission, comprising government officials, citizen bodies and representatives of Hindu communities, should be formed to go through necessary documents and take into account real circumstances to further develop the act.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said Hindu women who become victims of family feuds were deprived of legal assistance for not having marriage documents.

Therefore, marriage registration should be made mandatory to ensure their rights, she said.

Prof Maleka Begum of Department of Sociology and Gender Studies of Central Women's University emphasised on educating and making women self-reliant to prevent violence against them.

Pointing to her study, Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives of Bangladesh, said some 91.3 percent of the respondents, 74.5 percent of whom were women, demanded a system to make marriage registration compulsory. A total of 756 women and 180 men of the Hindu community of nine districts were interviewed for the study.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the roundtable.

RMG'S DUTY-FREE ACCESS TO US TIB worried over status review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concern over the reported initiative by a section of the US lawmakers to review the status of duty-free access of Bangladeshi garments to the US market in the wake of Tazreen factory fire.

TIB called upon the US authorities to act in a responsible manner and refrain from actions that may adversely affect the industry, and further victimise the workers, says a press release.

According to news reports in Bangladeshi and international media, a group of twelve lawmakers asked the US Trade Representative's Office to accelerate review whether Bangladesh should remain part of the Generalised System of Preferences (GPS), through which Bangladeshi readymade garments (RMG) products get duty-free access.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "Responsibility for the tragedy indeed lies here on weak law enforcement, corruption and a desperate game of making quick money."

"Everyone responsible must be brought to justice to prevent such tragedies in the future but nothing in the wake of such tragedies can justify any measure that could restrict duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to the US market."

"While we are equally concerned about the deteriorating working conditions, we call upon the US law-makers and the Government, particularly US Trade Representative's Office, to refrain from any shortsighted, irresponsible and cowardly course," he said.

The deadly fire at the factory in Ashulia killed at least 112 people on November 24.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Abdur Razzak, former minister

for water resources and Awami League leader.

Abdur Razzak Smriti Sangsad will place a wreath at his grave in Banani graveyard of the capital at 10:00am.

A milad and doa mahfil will also be held at Razzak's residence at House-8, Road-76, Gulshan 2.

Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury,

a journalist, language movement hero and poet.

He breathed his last on December 23, 2007.

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