

Only bigger budget for women won't work

Researchers, academics tell discussion, laying importance on specific work plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The increase in the budgetary allocation for women's empowerment will not bring any fruit unless the government adopts women-related policies and chart specific work plans, researchers and academicians said yesterday.

"If the government's idealistic policies are not changed towards women, the increase in allocations in the budget can't bring expected outcomes," said Nazneen

Ahmed, senior research fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

She was addressing a discussion, "National Budget 2014-15: Gender Sensitivity", organised by Steps Towards

Development, an NGO, at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Nazneen said there was currently no information of the achievements of the last few years' gender-responsive budgets. It is necessary to find areas where women can work, and it needs research, she added.

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Chittagong city dons the World Cup colours. The photo was taken at DC hill yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Parents protest 'exorbitant' tuition fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A forum of guardians of English medium school students yesterday called upon the government to prepare an integrated policy for these schools and prevent those from charging "exorbitant" fees.

The "Guardians of English Medium Schools" formed a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, protesting an increase of tuition fees from the upcoming academic session. They said the school authorities had tactically raised the fees in order to make up for the loss incurred due to a High Court injunction on taking readmission fees.

"It's a kind of deceit," said Amina Ratna, parent of two students at European Standard School in Dhanmondi where, she claimed, the monthly tuition fee of a seventh grader had been increased to Tk 7,700 from Tk 5,100.

The guardians said the hike would put them in difficulties. "Once, children from well-off people of the society mostly studied at English medium schools.

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Qaisar set Pak army on pro-liberation man

Victim testifies at war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A victim yesterday testified that the Pakistani army tortured him in Brahmanbaria in 1971 when war crimes accused Syed Mohammad Qaisar identified him as a supporter of independence.

Nayeb Ali, the 19th prosecution witness in Qaisar's case, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Qaisar, his associates and the Pakistani army also looted and torched many houses, including theirs, in and around their village, Islampur, in Bijoynagar of Brahmanbaria.

In mid-Baishakh in 1971, he heard gunshots while in his house. "When I went to a nearby street, I saw Qaisar and his force marching north, chanting 'Pakistan Zindabad', 'Naraye Takbir' along with the Pakistani army and local Peace Committee members," recalled the 73-year-old witness.

"As I greeted [Salam] Qaisar Shaheb, he didn't respond. When I again greeted him, Qaisar Shaheb said 'he is a man of Mujib

[Sheikh Mujibur Rahman]'," said Nayeb.

"Then, a Pakistani army man struck me with the rifle butt and I fell by the roadside. I almost lost consciousness, as other Pakistani army men also tortured me."

Qaisar, a member of HM Ershad's cabinet, faces 16 charges including genocide in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj during the liberation war. The accused, however, pleaded not guilty before court.

After the torture, Qaisar, his force and the occupation army left him and marched eastward before looting their houses and houses of freedom fighter Kazi Kabiruddin of North Kazibari, said Nayeb, who was taken to safety by local people later.

In that evening, Nayeb heard gunshots and saw fume in Madhabpur Bazar, two miles from their house, and at night, he learnt from his neighbour Lal Miah Khan, that Qaisar, his force and the Pakistani army looted and torched 200/250 houses on the

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NON-COMPLIANCE WITH HC VERDICT NU VC, five officials face contempt charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against the vice chancellor of National University and five other officials on the charge of not complying with its last year's verdict over the registration of 38 private teachers training colleges.

In the rule, the court asked the six to explain why contempt proceedings should not be brought and action should not be taken against them for ignoring its directives.

On July 11 last year, the HC scrapped the government decision that cancelled the registration of the 38 training colleges. The court also declared illegal a government circular making it mandatory for college teachers to complete the Bachelor of Education (BEd) programme from the government training colleges.

The six officials are NU VC Prof Harun-Or Rashid, then education secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Fahima Khatun, Law Officer of the Ministry of Education Goutam Kumar, NU Registrar Mollah Mahfuz Al Hossain, and NU College Inspector Anwar Hossain.

Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain came up with the rule after hearing a contempt

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Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Twelve-year-old Shanto Bose has been suffering from congenital heart defect, a defect in the structure of the heart, since he was four months old.

Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a senior consultant at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital's cardiology department, who is treating Shanto, said the boy needs surgery as soon as possible.

Child specialist Dr Nazrul Islam of the hospital diagnosed Shanto with the disease when he was a baby. He suggested Shanto get surgery at the age of 11 or 12.

Shanto's father Sujit Kishore Bose said as per Dr Nazrul's suggestion he contacted National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute, and the doctors there told him the surgery costs Tk 6 lakh. Also, Shanto needs medicine worth Tk 2,500 per month.

But Sujit, who earns a meagre Tk 150 per day working at a hotel in Mymensingh town, cannot afford the surgery. Sujit is

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MJF condemns rape, murder of Marma teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has condemned the gang rape and killing of a Marma school-teacher in Bandarban's Roangchhari upazila on Friday.

In a statement, the rights group yesterday said that after rape, the criminals killed her by pushing her into a ditch. Police have already detained an accused, Rashed Tanchaingya, it said.

U Pru Marma, 24, who taught at a school run by a non-government organisation, was allegedly raped and killed by Rohingyas in Ngarheisatong area, said police.

MJF hoped for a quick trial.

RAILWAY EAST ZONE

9 officials transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The railways ministry has decided to transfer nine top officials of Bangladesh Railway, including the general manger of BR (East Zone).

According to a notification issued by the ministry on June 5, Mohammad Mokbul Ahammed, general manager of BR (East Zone), has been transferred to Rail Bhaban, Dhaka as a project director (reform).

Mokbul was replaced by Md Mozammel Haque, general manger (project) of Rail Bhaban, while Kazi Md Rafiqul Alam, project director (reform) of Rail Bhaban, has been made the general manager (project).

AKM Mahbub-Ul-Alam, chief engineer of BR (East Zone), was transferred to

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Protection of children should be included

Prothom Alo-World Vision Bangladesh roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protecting children from different types of violence and abuse, and providing them with health services should be one of the goals of sustainable development in the post-2015 period, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Development of children is not a "cross-cutting issue", and should be seen as an individual target the country must meet to attain sustainable development, they added.

The roundtable on children's position in formulating post Millennium Development Goals was organised by World Vision Bangladesh and the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the country will not be able to attain sustainable development, even if just one person is excluded from the post-2015 UN development agenda.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, stressed the need to stop child marriage and child labour for children's development.

She pointed out that one of the limitations of the MDGs was that the marginalised population were left out of the agendas.

Stephen K Halder, group director of World Vision Bangladesh, said children do many risky jobs in the city.

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N'GANJ BY-POLL

AL leader quits race on party's order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanganj city Awami League President Anwar Hossain yesterday quit the electoral race to support Jatiya Party candidate Selim Osman in the June 26 Narayanganj-5 by-election.

Anwar made the announcement of withdrawing his candidacy at a press conference at the AL's district headquarters.

The ruling AL did not field any contestant in the election but Anwar applied to contest as an independent candidate. "The Awami League has decided to leave the seat for Jatiya Party. As I am holding a post of a party, I have no way to violate the directives of the party high command," he said.

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Visitors taking a closer look at different plants at a National Tree Fair-2014 stall in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Muhammad Farid Habib presenting "Nou Prodhon Cup" and "Titumir Cup" to a new sailor, Md Sajjad Hossain, during the passing out parade of the Navy's A/2014 batch, for his outstanding performance, on the parade ground at BNS Titumir in Khulna yesterday.

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