

Females' age for marriage debate creating awareness Says Meher Afroz Chumki STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing debate regarding a female's minimum age for marriage has the positive effect of creating awareness of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki yesterday.

"People are getting to know about the act due to the debate about whether the minimum age should be 16 or 18. But, we will do what is right," she told the fifth national conference of Bikoshito Nari Network, a platform of women's leaders established by The Hunger Project-Bangladesh, at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the capital.

Aspirants FROM PAGE 5 Our Rangpur correspondent reports, such candidates under the banner of "General Students" formed a human chain before Rangpur Press Club yesterday noon demanding cancellation of the decision.

Int'l IMPACT confce begins in Savar

Aiming to protect environment, reduce diseases, prevent disability

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

With the theme "Protecting Environment, Reducing Diseases, Preventing Disability", a three-day "7th International Federation of Impact Organisations Conference" began at Brac Centre for Development Management in Savar yesterday.

Anwarul Amin, chairman of the Board of Trustees of IMPACT Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), was in the chair. Around 43 delegates from over 10 countries including the United Kingdom, Nepal, India, Switzerland, Cambodia, Norway and Philippines are participating in the conference.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered the 4th Sir John Wilson Lecture as the guest speaker at the inaugural session of the conference organised biennially to share and learn from experiences.

Following Sir John Wilson's presentation of the Leeds Castle Declaration to the UN General Assembly, United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organisation and UNICEF jointly established IMPACT in late 1982 with the aim that no one should become needlessly disabled by diseases, lack of knowledge, or shortage of medical services.

Worldwide 14 IMPACT Foundations were formed, autonomous bodies registered in their respective countries but sharing common goals.

IFB came into existence in 1993, a non-government organisation, offering healthcare services to underprivileged communities for prevention and cure of avoidable disablement in rural Bangladesh. It offers comprehensive community based healthcare services through a floating hospital, "Jibon Tari" and two more on land in Chuadanga and Meherpur districts.

Kevin McGrath, chairman of the organisations; IFB founder trustee Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, IFB Director Dr Hasib Mahmud and IMPACT Foundation UK Chief Executive Judi Stagg also spoke.

Nanak calls Khaleda's remarks on Rab seditious

Threatens her with arrest if she conspires to 'destabilise' country STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League joint general secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday described BNP chief Khaleda Zia's remarks on the disbandment of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) as seditious.

"Khaleda Zia undermined the country through seeking international community's help for disbanding Rab. Besides Khaleda's remarks were undemocratic and irrelevant," he told a press briefing at party Chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office.

In her Tuesday's address in Kishoreganj, Khaleda reiterated her demand for abolition of Rab and urged the international community not to provide training and arms or ammunition to police and Rab.

Cautioning the ex-PM against any conspiracy, Nanak said, "The government is committed to ensuring peace, security and progress of the people... If Khaleda Zia tries to destabilise the country, she would be arrested, if required."

HC rejects bail of

FROM PAGE 5 against Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Sobhan Shah Alam.

Leaving the country in 2007 and returning in mid-2014, Apu has been in jail since June

Illegal

FROM PAGE 3 BCL sources said the faction led by Amit Kumar Basu and Suman Mamun, vice president and joint general secretary respectively of the recently dissolved BCL CU unit committee, was in fighting with the group of Jalal Ahmed and Ariful Islam, office secretary and organising secretary respectively of the same committee.

Both are trying to establish domination on the campus to grab as many posts as they can in CU BCL's upcoming committee, the sources said. They said Amit-led group was ousted from the campus eight months ago after it failed to maintain its sway in the face of opposition from Jalal and his followers. In the meantime, the factions have clashed several times.

Favouritism violation of

FROM PAGE 3 by appointing BCL and Jubo League men.

Fakhrul alleged that government jobs were unavailable for those without recommendations and those who were not BCL members.

"Before providing jobs, the government sees if the candidate or the family members

are involved with BNP," he said, adding that those found involved were rejected.

Fakhrul also lambasted Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad for accusing Ziaur Rahman, in Chittagong on Wednesday, of destroying the spirit of the Liberation War after coming into office despite Zia being a freedom fighter.

SC stays HC bail to

FROM PAGE 3 peaceful movement for spreading Islamic values, investigators learned during interrogations.

Yesterday, Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, one bench member, observed that the issue concerning the rise of militancy in Bangladesh must be dealt dispassionately and without leniency.

"While my heart bleeds to see a son of

one of my former brothers before us as an accused...we cannot ignore the question of the state's security," he said, adding that the state's security must be protected at all costs.

These people (militants) are bent on destroying our country and assassinating our leaders, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and other VVIPs and important individuals, he added.

Accused leading protests!

FROM PAGE 3 library objecting to Tanmoy's presence. Mamun told The Daily Star that Tanmoy on Tuesday threatened him with dire consequences after he protested the latter's directive on two activists not to follow Mamun.

Tanmoy refuted the allegations. Police said no complaint had been filed over Wednesday's assault.

evening and died at Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said Nasiruddin, executive officer of ACSR. She could never tell anything about her parents' address, he added.

Girl dies in fall trying to

FROM PAGE 5

dead over the past few years. Joy, also PM's IT affairs adviser, directed BCL men to launch a "Clean Campus and Safe Campus" campaign at all educational institutions of the country from December 1 to 7.

BCL General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam said BCL had punished 632 activists and leaders in the last three years.

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