

# Govt must protect adolescent girls

Save the Children workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must focus on ensuring social protection for adolescent girls for sustainable development of the country, said discussants at a workshop yesterday.

Save the Children organised the workshop titled "More Investment in Social Protection for Adolescent Girls-Bridging the Policy Gap" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Social protection means protecting adolescent girls from child marriage, dropping out of schools, poverty and sexual and physical exploitation; and improving their health and nutrition, said speakers.

Addressing the function, Women and Children Affairs Secretary Tariq-ul-Islam said currently there are no government programmes targeting protection of adolescent girls.

"We have a plan to provide financial support to around 7,000 girls under the VDG (vulnerable group development) programme," he informed.

Besides, special focus will be given on adolescent girls' health and nutrition, he said.

Country Director of Population Council, Bangladesh Ubaidur Rob said around four lakh incidents of child marriage occur in the country every year.

These girls who marry early give birth to underweight babies amidst high neonatal and maternal mortality risks, he viewed.

Hagar Russ, director of Child Rights Governance (CRG) of Save the Children, Bangladesh said the country's progress depends on adolescent girls, and so they should get priority in different public policies and programmes.

Presenting a paper, Suralini Fernando, CRG officer, said poverty reduction, improved health and nutrition, and ending child marriage are the key components of social protection of girls.

Around three dozen representatives from different child rights organisations attended the workshop and placed recommendations to this end.

The suggestions include-upgrading stipend programme for girls up to higher secondary level, involving religious leaders in adolescent girls' protection programme and sufficient government allocation for them.

## WVA Meena Bazar in capital on Saturday

CITY DESK

WVA International Meena Bazar will be held on Saturday at Banani Chairman Bari Field Road 1 in the capital.

Entry cards will be available at Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) office at house-405/A, road-27, Dhanmondi as well as at the entrance gate on Saturday.

The WVA organises the fair every year to raise funds for its charitable projects.

## Govt busy hiding

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cost of the Sardarbans," said noted columnist and writer Syed Abul Maksud.

Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin said the shipping and environment ministries were protecting the interests of businesses and indirectly assisting to destroy the forest.

Meanwhile, over 100 students of Rajshahi University formed a human chain on the campus, accusing the government of failing to assess the impact of the spillage even after 10 days and urging necessary steps to save the Sundarbans.

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**Suralini Fernando, officer at Child Rights Governance (CRG) of Save the Children, addresses the workshop "More Investment in Social Protection for Adolescent Girls-Bridging the Policy Gap" organised by the children's rights organisation at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

## BCL creates

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rallies and use of megaphones.

The ban order states that appropriate punitive measures will be taken against the perpetrators by law enforcers, who were asked by the RU authorities to enforce law and order on the campus since 2009.

The procession was stopped by the proctorial body and cops at Tuktikati Chhattar within some 15 minutes after commencing around 12:30pm.

Police had not entertained his request to arrest the perpetrators, rather had showed them the way out, Prof Tarikul Hasan told The Daily Star, adding that he had informed the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) commissioner of the matter.

RMP Commissioner Md Shamsuddin asked talking to the officer-in-charge (OC). Motihar Police Station OC Alamgir Hossain said the perpetrators fled before they reached the spot.

Leading the procession, Vice President Rashedul Islam Ranju said it was over the demand for a new executive committee's formation.

## Top criminal

FROM PAGE 3  
gunned down Sattar, former president of ward no 48 of Jubo Dal, on Sunday near his residence at Tannery intersection of the area.

Earlier, Bulu had been arrested in the case.

## FLAT TO-LET

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## ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয়

গাজীপুর কেনাবাটি মোটক ৩ বিল্ডিং ৮ তলা ৬০,০০০ বর্গফুট জাপানী মেশিনারীজ সম্পর্ক চালু অবস্থায় ১টি নেট ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয় হবে। ০১৩৬৫৫৮৮,০১৯০৭১২৪৩০

## ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয়

আলমিয়ায় ১০০% রঙনীমূর্তী সহ শ্রেড ফ্যাক্টরী ৫০ শতাংশ জমি ও গ্যাস সংযোগ সহ বিক্রয় হবে। যোগাযোগ: # ০১১১-৮০২৫৬০

## Vacancy Announcement

Heifer International Bangladesh is an International Development Organization dedicated to working with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth by providing Livestock, Training, Education and other resources to help poor families to become self-reliant. Heifer International Bangladesh invites application for dynamic and qualified candidates for the position of **Training Manager**.

Please visit our website for more information: <http://heiferbangladesh.org/get-involved/jobs-opportunities>

Last date of submission of the application: January 01, 2015

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Abducted boy's body found in septic tank

Five held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police yesterday recovered the body of a boy from a septic tank in Sharifpur area of Gazipur a day after his abduction.

They also arrested five persons -- Zakir Hossain, Saker Hossain, Pappu, Sajid and Jewel -- in connection.

On Wednesday, Jakir with his associates took Sajedur Rahman, 10 from his house for playing football, said police.

Later, one Faisal demanded Tk 40,000 as ransom from Sajedur's father over the phone which he failed to pay.

The abductors kept Sajedur tied in the septic tank where he died inhaling toxic gas, said police.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

SM Belayet Ali Khan alias Abu Sahan, former Kawkhali Sadar Union Parishad chairman, died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday. He was 78.

Former Kawkhali upazila-unit president of Jatiya Party, he left behind his wife and a daughter.

## CHTC for

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government punish the culprits and give compensation and security to the victims.

The CHTC said the government must rehabilitate the affected people and ensure safety and security of all indigenous people of Naniarh and other areas in CHT.

Its statement said, "Many of these attacks can be traced back to disputes over land conflicts. The CHTC and other stakeholders have repeatedly requested the government to amend the Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 and make the land commission functional."

The CHTC said the government must rehabilitate the affected people and ensure safety and security of all indigenous people of Naniarh and other areas in CHT.

Convocation speaker Dr A Majeed Khan, also IUB founder president, urged all to stop discriminating between public and private universities.

IUB Trustee Board Chairman Rashed Chowdhury, IUB Founding Trust Chairman Saiful Rahman, and its Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman also spoke.

A total of 1,163 students received degrees. Five of them got the Chancellor's Gold Medals and 83 received special accolades for their academic achievements. Maesa Ayesha, an English student, was the valedictorian.

The minister also urged the private universities to be reasonable in fixing all their charges including admission and tuition fees, considering the socio-economic context of the people.

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