

49pc children

FROM PAGE 1

The students surveyed said they were either "being bullied or disturbed online" or "being bullied by the same person both online and offline" or they had actually engaged in the act of bullying others using the advantage of anonymity over the internet.

The study revealed that 70 percent in Malaysia, 67 percent in Thailand and 61 percent in Bangladesh would not send explicit messages, also known as "sexting".

Around 60 percent of pupils in Bangladesh said they felt capable of resolving any negative experience, whether alone or by consulting parents and teachers.

Of the total number of internet users here, 80 percent are male and only 20 percent female. The male-female users ration in Malaysia is 50:50 and in Thailand 72:28.

"Since both teachers and parents play an important role in supporting students to use the internet safely, closer collaboration between schools and families can lead to a more holistic approach," said Ola Jo Tandere, head of social responsibility of Telenor Group.

In a release, he also said that as a leader in mobile telecommunications, Telenor is dedicated to increasing internet safety for all, with a particular emphasis on youths.

Telenor expressed the hope that the findings will emphasize the importance of positive parent and teacher guidance for young students using the internet and that digital resilience can be strengthened through regular conversations and advice to children.

Feelyvision

FROM PAGE 16

This "tactile TV" will help broadcasters create programmes that "capture the audience's full attention and immerse them in a multisensory world," according to Dr Marianna Obrist, Reader in Interaction Design at Sussex, whose Computer Human Interaction lab is leading the research.

The team is working with Ultrahaptics, a Bristol start-up which has developed technology that uses ultrasound to enable users to receive "tactile feedback" projected on to their bare hands, without needing to wear gloves.

The technology uses ultrasound to project sensations through the air and directly onto the user, pinpointing areas of the hand that could be stimulated to evoke different emotions.

Projecting a pattern of ultrasound beams on to your hand can create the tactile sensations of raindrops on your palm.

The researchers found that "short, sharp bursts of air to the area around the thumb, index finger and middle part of the palm generate excitement. Slow and moderate stimulation of the outer palm and the area around the little finger create sad feelings."

In the same way that a film soundtrack heightens emotion and anticipation of action to come, Dr Obrist believes touch sensations can be used, ultimately along with taste and smell, to enhance the viewing experience.

"Take a programme like (househunting show) Escape To The Country. If you couldn't travel there, what would the feeling be like to actually be in the countryside - we could bring that sensation to the living room," Dr Obrist said.

Children find

FROM PAGE 3

Marketing manager of Dhaka Comics Rabiul Awal said Bangladeshi comics are gaining popularity among locals. "It is not very far when we will be able to compete with Marvel and Diamonds," he added.

Meanwhile, to inspire children and teenagers with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's teachings and principles and to introduce him to the children, the Centre for Research and Information (CRI) has published graphic novel series on his autobiography.

The second episode of the novel will be launched on Saturday during the fair's Shishu Prohor (children's hour). Earlier in March last year, the first episode was launched.

110 new books arrived at the fair on the ninth day.

Show love

FROM PAGE 3

James and bands like Joler Gaan and Shironamhin will perform.

The mayor said 15,000 dustbins would be set at the city's different points within this year.

Around 5,000 more dustbins would be set up within few years, he said, replying to a query.

Afzal Hossain, an actor and a managing partner of Matra, urged every citizen to change their habit of dumping waste here and there. Channel-i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor said everyone wanted to see Dhaka as a beautiful city.

It was brave of him

FROM PAGE 1

He was filed against The Daily Star editor by Chhatra League leaders in Laxmipur and Khulna for "publishing without verification reports on Sheikh Hasina based on information provided by the DGFJ after the 1/11 political change-over".

Asked about the government's view on the defamation cases, Inu told BBC Bangla, "The government did not file any case. The cases were filed by individuals. The government has not made any statement on this matter."

If those, who gave in to pressure and did something unethical, later admit their mistakes and offer apology, it would be a courageous thing to do.

"From that perspective, I am praising Mahfuz Anam for his courageous comment," he added.

BBC then drew his attention to the fact that not only The Daily Star but also many other newspapers had carried news without verification at that time.

Asked if the government would take any action against the DGFJ officials who provided the information, Inu said if a government official breaks the rules of secrecy, it is a punishable offence. But if a government official speaks on any other issue [that doesn't involve the rules of secrecy], it can be verified.

"But I don't know whether they [government officials] had said such things or not."

Enquired further, the minister said, "Suppose you think about something which could be defamatory. But it will not have any impact until you express it or make it public. And responsibility falls on the editor who publishes it."

He, however, said it can be investigated who supplied the information and how.

"The scope of work of intelligence agencies could be looked into. We can set a new method of work for them," he added.

As BBC mentioned that the video clips of those interrogated by military detectives

can be found on the internet, and the leaders who gave information against Hasina are still in the ruling party, the minister said, "Yes, they are in the ruling party. And they have lied against the prime minister and also made defamatory remarks."

"If the question of trial arises and any incident of defamation had taken place, everyone [involved] is triable. Why should Mahfuz Anam be the only

person?"

Asked if the government would take any initiative to hold trial, he said the government is not thinking about the matter right now.

The minister outright rejected the allegation that moves are being made to harass the editors who criticise the government.

"No, this allegation is not true. The government did not force Mahfuz Anam to make that comment; he said on his own that he was involved in this type of undesirable incidents during the quasi-military rule. So the reactions and discussions that are going on in this respect are good for democracy."

BBC also talked to media personality Muhammad Jahangir, News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed and Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh on the issue.

Jahangir said some people are demanding trial and punishment of Mahfuz Anam and also his resignation for running the reports supplied by the DGFJ (the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence). But no one is talking about trial of the then chief of the DGFJ, who prepared and supplied the reports.

"Nobody is demanding his [the then DGFJ chief] trial."

What is more interesting is that no one is demanding trial of those who were the key players behind 1/11, he said.

Jahangir also said as far as he knew the Awami League government did not file any case against any of those people though it has been in power for quite long.

Reazuddin Ahmed said there is an attempt to "implicate Mahfuz Anam politically".

Taposh, one of the seven lawmakers who criticised the newspaper and its editor at the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday, said Mahfuz Anam didn't verify the reports provided by the DGFJ. He published those and "hatched a conspiracy" to banish Sheikh Hasina from politics.

He deserves to be punished, said Taposh.

Asked why they are not saying anything about the officials who provided the information, he said it is an administrative matter.

"As far as I know, action was taken against the officials involved in it. But action could not be taken against many others as they left the country," he added.

Delay, lobbying mark

FROM PAGE 16

gave it 72 hours to remove the illegal built basement floor. It has structures and an electric sub-station occupying the first basement floor, which too was designated for parking.

Furthermore, the bank authorities occupied the pedestrian passages with decorative concrete structures beyond their property line and set up an ATM booth, where it should be a free passage for vehicles' entry into and exit from the basement car park.

The bank officials began another spell of lobbying with the magistrate.

"I gave you a day's time but you did nothing and there is no scope for a mobile court to walk away from such a massive violation," said Hamid, calling upon the team to start knocking down all the illegal structures.

Interestingly, the other officials appeared hesitant and confused to carry out the order.

Resolute Hamid was seen struggling to get it done single-handedly.

Meanwhile, Sawdagor Mustafizur Rahman, a joint secretary and presently a Rajuk director for development control in Gulshan, was seen talking to the bank's chief engineer.

At one point, Mustafizur went to Hamid and this reporter overheard him saying, "Do you still intend to go ahead?"

"Yes," Hamid answered firmly. The eviction team then started demolishing illegal structures in the basement car park.

And finally, the bulldozer roared to dismantle the decorative structure on the pedestrian passage.

Adiluzzaman said the mobile court fined the bank Tk 5 lakh and

gave it 72 hours to remove the illegal structures on the ground floor, including the ATM booth.

"As to the illegal basement floor, we will place the plan to building construction (BC) committee, seeking cancellation of the plan and declaration of the building illegal," he said.

The court later fined owner of another building next to it Tk 2 lakh for running a shoe shop and a restaurant on the ground floor, where there was approval for a lounge, and gave the owner 72 hours to remove those.

It also fined a restaurant Tk 2 lakh for setting up a coffee shop on a car park and gave it 72 hours to remove the shop, said Adiluzzaman.

A Rajuk taskforce launched the eviction drive simultaneously in Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Uttara on January 18 in a bid to recover car parks and remove illegal access ramps built occupying footpaths and roads.

In Uttara, a Rajuk team yesterday partially demolished illegal structures occupying car parks of six buildings along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in sector-4 and -6, said Executive Magistrate Khandokar Zakir Hossain, who led the mobile court for the drive.

Another Rajuk team in Dhanmondi penalised Labaid Hospital Tk 2 lakh for setting up stores in two basement car parks. It also fined another building owner Tk 50,000 for occupying the ground floor with a computer showroom, said Nasir Uddin, the magistrate of the mobile court.

'Bosnian Serb general dies in Hague jail'

AFP, Belgrade

Top Bosnian Serb general Zdravko Tolimir has died in jail at The Hague where he was serving a life sentence for genocide in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Serbian media reported yesterday.

Once considered the right-hand man of Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic, Tolimir was sentenced to life in 2012 by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), for his role in crimes committed on a "massive scale" during the 1990s Bosnian war.

Tolimir, aged 67, died on Monday

evening at the UN war crimes tribunal detention facility at The Hague, the president of the national council for cooperation with the tribunal, Rasim Ljajic, told state-run RTS television.

His wife Nada Tolimir told the Kurir newspaper that she learned of his death late on Monday night.

"He was ill but the idiots did not allow him to come here and get treatment at home. I was surprised by the news," the former general's wife was quoted as saying.

The ICTY appeals chamber had in April last year upheld Tolimir's life sentence for genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes.

IS widow charged over US hostage death

AFP, Washington

The widow of late Islamic State group financial leader Abu Sayyaf was charged Monday for her alleged role in the death of US aid worker Kayla Mueller last year.

Nisreen Assad Ibrahim Bahar, a 25-year-old known as Umm Sayyaf, was accused of conspiring to provide support to the violent extremists, forcibly detaining Mueller and other captives in the couple's homes, where she was sexually assaulted by IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Bahar acknowledged that Baghdadi "owned" Mueller during her captivity at the Sayyaf residences, describing "owning" as equivalent to slavery, federal prosecutors said.

IS fighters claimed that Mueller, who was kidnapped in the Syrian city of Aleppo in August 2013, was killed in a February 2015 coalition air strike that buried her in rubble.

US officials say the circumstances of her death remain unclear. She was 26.

Abu Sayyaf was killed in May 2015 in a rare US commando raid inside war-torn Syria.

Bahar was captured during the operation, and US forces also rescued a young woman from the Yazidi minority and seized a stash of firearms, the complaint recalled.

Mueller and other female "captives" were at various times handcuffed, held in locked rooms and given orders on a daily basis with respect to their activities, movements and liberty," according to a complaint filed in US District Court in Virginia.

"While in captivity, Kayla Jean Mueller was sexually abused by Baghdadi, who forced her to have sex with him," it added.

Citizens get

FROM PAGE 16

department floated at least 90 percent of its tenders by following the e-GP or e-tendering system and 100 percent would be implemented by 2016 to ensure transparency in floating and receiving tenders," he said.

He informed the House that the government formed 19 inspection teams at the LGED headquarters-level to ensure quality development works.

Additional chief engineer at the divisional level and superintendent engineers at 14 zones would submit their inspection reports on implementation of the development projects in future, added the minister.

Besides, the ministry formed 22 teams for monitoring the development programmes. The ministry usually takes necessary measures on the basis of the inspection reports, said Mosharrar.

He went on saying that over one crore poor people of 22 lakh families across the country are being benefited from the "One House One Farm Project".

BASIC Bank

FROM PAGE 1

more than Tk 5,000 crore.

In its inspections in 2012-13, Bangladesh Bank too had found his complicity in the embezzlement. The irregularities that it identified include no verification of loan-seekers' credit-worthiness, absence of the KYC (Know Your Customer) procedures and approving loans to defaulters.

After long investigations, the ACC in September last year filed cases against several BASIC officials.

However, neither Bacchu, who is believed to be at the centre of the scam, nor any of the then board members was accused in any of the cases.

SI harassed

FROM PAGE 16

around 3:00pm on January 31 while she was on way to a bookstore on Nurjahan Road.

The policemen confined the ASA University student to an electronics shop in Mohammadpur and harassed her for about 45 minutes, accusing her of being a yaba peddler.

Later, the victim filed a case against the cops with the Fourth Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression.

Tribunal Judge Md Salehuddin Ahmed on February 1 ordered CMM Hafizur to conduct a probe into the incident and submit the report within seven working days.

The CMM tasked the metropolitan magistrate with the investigation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they found that Ratan talked to the girl on the street unnecessarily.

But the complaint that the girl was taken to a shop was found to be not true because the shop owner said "no such incident took place in his shop", added Biplob.

If found guilty of sexual harassment, an accused might face a minimum three-year jail term and the maximum is seven years.

Pakistan summons Bangladesh envoy in Islamabad

Demands 'due courtesies' for its mission staffers in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan has lodged a formal protest with Bangladesh over the recent detention of a Press Wing staffer of its embassy in Dhaka.

The additional foreign secretary of Pakistan summoned Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad Suhrah Hossain on Monday afternoon and requested Dhaka to ensure due courtesies and privileges for all Pakistani diplomats and officials living in Bangladesh.

"Pakistan extends all due courtesies and privileges to the members of the diplomatic community stationed in Pakistan and expects Bangladesh to do the same," diplomatic sources quoted the Pakistani officials as saying in the meeting.

Though the Pakistani side raised the issue of its mission staffer's detention in Dhaka and termed it "illegal", it said Pakistan was positive about maintaining good relations with Bangladesh, according to diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Islamabad.

Suhrah Hossain, in his report sent to the foreign ministry in Dhaka following the meeting, stated the Pakistani officials were positive towards reducing the ongoing diplomatic tension between the two countries.

However, a senior foreign ministry official yesterday said that the summons of the Bangladesh high commissioner was "retaliation" to that of Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Shuja Alam on February 2, a day after a staffer of the Bangladesh mission in Islamabad had been detained allegedly by plainclothesmen for nearly seven hours.

On the day, Dhaka handed over "a strongly worded note", protesting the February 1 detention of Jahangir Hossain, personal officer at the press wing of the Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad.

It happened hours after Pakistan High Commission staffer Abrar Ahmed Khan was detained by police in Dhaka.

Star editor sued

FROM PAGE 1

sedition charge for publishing the reports in 2007.

Chowdhury Mahmudunnabi Sohel, president of the Laxmipur district BCL, filed a Tk 50-crore defamation suit with the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Farzana Akhter.

After recording Sohel's statement, the judge asked him to submit The Daily Star reports published in 2007, but did not set any specific date for this, the plaintiff's lawyer told our Noakhali correspondent.

The court would make further decisions after receiving necessary documents, he added.

Laxmipur district BCL General Secretary Rakib Hossain Lotus and three other leaders of the unit have been made witnesses in the case.

Talking to reporters, Sohel said that he claimed the compensation because the "DGFJ-fed reports" tarnished the image of BCL's organisational chief Sheikh Hasina.

However, Hasina is in no way part of the organisation and it's the BCL president who is the organisational chief of the student body, according to its constitution.

The Awami League has seven associate organisations but the BCL is not among those. The student body was dropped from the list through an AL council in 2009.

The other case was filed by Mushfiqur Rahman Sagar, general secretary of Khulna district BCL. He demanded Taka 1 crore in compensa-

tion from Mahfuz Anam.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Khulna fixed March 3 for next hearing.

The court also ordered the officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station to submit on March 1 a report on the charges brought against the accused, Sagar's lawyer Md Shah Alam told our Khulna correspondent.

During a talk-show aired live on a private TV channel on February 3, Mahfuz Anam made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgement in publishing a few reports that the newspaper could not independently verify during the last caretaker government's tenure.

BASIC Bank

FROM PAGE 1

Bacchu-led board for the irregularities in granting loans amounting to more than Tk 5,000 crore.

In its inspections in 2012-13, Bangladesh Bank too had found his complicity in the embezzlement. The irregularities that it identified include no verification of loan-seekers' credit-worthiness, absence of the KYC (Know Your Customer) procedures and approving loans to defaulters.

After long investigations, the ACC in September last year filed cases against several BASIC Bank officials.

However, neither Bacchu, who is believed to be at the centre of the scam, nor any of the then board members was accused in any of the cases.

Dozens hurt

FROM PAGE 16

conduct in a public place, among other offences.

"We will consider charging the arrested persons for participating in a riot," Lo said. This carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

'FISHBALL REVOLUTION' The battles, which broke out after officials tried to move illegal food sellers, have been dubbed the "fishball revolution" on social media, after a popular street dish often consumed at Lunar New Year.

Demonsrators, including members of radical "localist" groups -- which stress Hong Kong's separate identity from the mainland -- tried to defend the hawkers, whom they say add to the festive atmosphere.

Reports said one of those arrested was Edward Leung, a "localist" candidate for an upcoming by-election on February 28.

Hong Kong leader Leung Chun-ying said the government "strongly condemns such violent acts".

"There was a riot in Mongkok in the early hours of today," the chief executive told reporters. "A few hundred (people) attacked police officers and media."

The standoff, which began overnight, lasted into the morning, with the city's subway operator shuttering the local station.

At least four journalists were also injured, one of whom was hit on the head by a brick thrown by rioters, the Hong Kong Journalists Association

said in a statement on its Facebook page.

TVB news footage showed protesters harassing and attacking the cameraman who sustained injuries to his hand.

The so-called "localists" want to restrict Beijing's influence in the city, which was a British colony until its return to China in 1997. Some even want an independent Hong Kong.

The clashes come with tensions high and concerns that the city's freedoms are being eroded by authoritarian China.

There is particular concern at the fate of five Hong Kong based-booksellers who are believed detained in mainland China after disappearing last year.

One of them vanished from Hong Kong, fuelling concern he had been abducted by mainland law enforcers who have no right to operate in the city.

Mongkok, on the city's Kowloon peninsula, was the scene of some of the worst violence during the 79-day "Occupy" pro-democracy street protests in late 2014.

Girl killed

FROM PAGE 16

Parishad member of the village, said the girl was returning home alone with her sister-in-law's house at Dakkhin Sapleza village around 7:30am.

The criminals raped her in a paddy field halfway home and choked her to death, he added.

Walid Hossain, superintendent of police of the district, said, "We have arrested Syed Kazi as the victim's sister saw him near the spot. After interrogation we might be able to learn how many people were involved in the incident."

The body was sent to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five errant

FROM PAGE 16

in the incident.

Earlier, five policemen of Shah Ali Police Station were suspended and OC Shahin was withdrawn from the station.