

20 children were killed, 30 raped every month in 2016

Says BSAF report
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The violence against children remains far from being "normal" as an average of 20 children were killed and over 30 were reportedly raped every month in 2016, said a report. Monitoring 10 newspapers, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) prepared the report titled "State of Child Rights in Bangladesh 2016", which was published at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. Out of 265 children killed in 2016, 64 children were murdered by their own parents.

Expressing concern over the child killings by parents, National Human Rights Commission Chairman (NHRC) Kazi Reazul Hoque blamed the social unrest, a lack of family bonding and crisis between the parents for the incidents. Talking about the government's role, the speakers criticised the proposed Child Marriage Prevention Act 2016,

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Work goes on in full swing for the country's first ever digitalised passenger shade next to the capital's Airport Road near the Cantonment area. The 135ft stop area will also feature LED displays making people aware of road safety among others. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

EC FORMATION Mosharraf threatens movement if people's hopes not reflected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday threatened to take to the streets if the "search committee" and the Election Commission are not formed "as per people's hopes and aspirations."

"We're waiting to see what the president [Abdul Hamid] does. Once the search committee is formed we'll understand whether it's Awami League's [search committee] or people's [search committee]," Mosharraf said at a discussion organised by the Doctor's Organisation of Bangladesh, a pro-BNP platform of physicians, at Jatiya Press Club, marking BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's 81st birth anniversary.

Replying to a query, Mosharraf said they are showing patience as they want to send a message to all at home and abroad that their party is interested in resolving political crisis through a democratic way.

Maksuda loses battle for life

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Maksuda Begum, a divorcee for almost 20 years, had struggled to survive by fighting against her fate.

Unfortunately, she was defeated in her struggle without getting proper treatment outside her motherland. The 35-year old migrant died at a hospital in Beirut of Lebanon on Monday morning.

Some of her fellow Bangladeshi migrants in Lebanon alleged that she died for lack of timely treatment and negligence of the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut, which the embassy officials denied.

In the last five months before her death, Maksuda was so sick that she could not move anywhere. "She had two tumors in her stomach. She was also suffering from kidney complications for several months," Masud Rana, a fellow migrant, told The Daily Star over the phone from Lebanon on Monday.

In 2012, Maksuda left the country and joined a Lebanese family in Beirut as a domestic help. She worked there for two years.

But her miseries started when the family cancelled her contract and left her helpless. After the cancellation, she became undocumented in the Middle Eastern country.

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A sick and tired Maksuda Begum seeking help at the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut before her death around three months ago.

President should be polls-time govt chief

Khelafat Andolon proposes Abdul Hamid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khelafat Andolon yesterday proposed President Abdul Hamid to become the chief of all-party polls-time government for the sake of holding a free, fair and participatory general election.

The Islamist party said this while holding a dialogue with the president at Bangabhaban on formation of the new election commission.

"We have proposed the president to form an all-party polls-time government... The polls time administration will assist the EC to hold the next parliamentary election," its secretary general Ahmed Abdul Kader told reporters after the hour-long meeting. He led a 12-member delegation.

This is the first time any political party urged the president to become the chief of polls-time interim administration.

On formation of the next EC, Khelafat Andolon, a component in the BNP-led 20-party alliance, proposed to formulate a law in line with the constitution.

"If it is not possible to enact the law, in that case, we have recommended that the president forms a five-member search committee headed by a retired chief justice on consultation with the political parties to form the EC," he said.

It also proposed to include a non-partisan Islamic scholar and a woman as election commissioners.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, another component in the alliance, also held an hour-long dialogue with the president on the same issue, its vice-president Abdur Rob Yusufi told reporters.

Tenure of the present EC will expire in February.

Nine jailed for embezzling Tk 75.57 lakh of Agrani Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong Court yesterday sentenced nine fugitives, including two former Agrani Bank officials and a businessman, to five years' rigorous imprisonment for embezzling Tk 75.57 lakh of the bank in 1988.

It also fined the nine Tk 8.39 lakh each, in default, to suffer six more months in jail.

The convicts are former Agrani Bank manager of Khatunganj branch Ansarul Haque, its former cash in-charge Abdur Sukur, and proprietor of M/S Nur Traders Abdur Nur, Swapan Kumar Ghosh, Jamal Uddin, Korban Ali, Md Azizur Rahman, Md Shahidur Rahman and Md Hossain.

Direct votes for district councils

Wants SHUIAN stressing amendment to law
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should revise the electoral system and some legal provisions to make the district council bodies truly effective and functional, claimed Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (SHUIAN).

If the district council electoral system and some other provisions of the District Council (Amendment) Act, 2016 are not amended, the councils would turn ineffective and worthless, it said.

SHUIAN, a citizens' platform advocating good governance, came up with the claim at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

Only the elected representatives of different local government bodies cast their votes to elect a chairman -- 15 general and five women members in reserved seats in each district council -- according to the act.

The elected representatives include chairmen and members of the union parishads; chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazila parishads and mayors and councillors of municipalities and city corporations.

"We want a change in the electoral system... the district council should be constituted through direct votes of people instead of elected representatives of different

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Hamid slams pvt universities for failure

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday slammed the private universities for their failure to ensure the quality of education as it has now become a tool of making money.

"Alongside public universities, many private universities are built in the country for providing higher education. But, many students cannot afford to study in these universities. There're also questions about the facilities and standards of education in some of the private universities," he told the first convocation of National University in the capital.

Business gets priority in these private universities rather than education, said Hamid adding that students are also forced to go to private tutors or coaching centres.

He said most of the colleges under National University have no adequate teachers and infrastructures for providing quality education. Hamid called upon the NU authorities to modernise its curricula.

Newly elected mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation, Selina Hayat Ivy, pays a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday. Ivy, the ruling Awami League candidate, won a landslide victory to retake the mayoral office in the December 22 NCC polls.

PHOTO: PID

