

23 YEARS OF KALPANA CHAKMA ABDUCTION

At least apologise for your failure: activists to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rights activists at a discussion yesterday demanded that the government identify and punish the abductors of Kalpana Chakma, and unveil the long-standing mystery over disappearance of the ethnic minority community leader.

They also called upon the authorities to apologise for the incident and acknowledge that they have failed to rescue her.

Hill Women's Federation and Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network organised the discussion at WVA auditorium in Dhaka's Dhanmondi, marking 23rd anniversary of Kalpana's abduction.

On June 12, 1996, a group of armed miscreants abducted the minority leader from her house in Baghaichari upazila of Rangamati. Her family members, who were present there, alleged that some people identifying as members of security and law enforcement agencies were involved with the incident.

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said Kalpana, beyond her identity of an ethnic minority leader, has become an icon of protest for women.

"The way the then Pakistan treated

Bangladeshi people [before independence], now we -- Bengalis -- are treating a group of people [ethnic minorities] the same. Nothing can be more shameful and pathetic," said Sultana.

The co-chairperson of Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission alleged that a segment of the ruling quarter has lost the ability to judge what is right and fair, and that is why human rights are being violated.

"Perhaps, we are progressing in terms of development... But are we becoming civilised?" Sultana questioned.

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong said the state is responsible for failing to find out what happened with Kalpana in 23 years.

"If the government fails to rescue her, at least it can apologise [at the parliament] that she couldn't be traced," said Sanjeeb.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir said, "The abduction of Kalpana has been investigated about 39 times so far, but the culprits are yet to be identified." It is quite ridiculous as the abductors "are almost certain", she added.

Lawmaker Lutfun Nesa Khan and Hill Women's Federation President Monira Tripura, also spoke at the event.



Five-month-old Arifa may not have a roof over her head, but her mother is making her best effort to take care of her ailing baby. Marjina, who came to Dhaka after losing her home to river erosion, now lives on the footpath and sells vegetables at Karwan Bazar. She has put a mosquito net over Arifa who has been suffering from fever for five days, and bought some medicine. The photo was taken at Panthapath yesterday.

CORRUPTION CASES DURING CARETAKER GOVT'S TENURE

Only four appeals disposed of by HC in four years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Only four appeals out of the 27 corruption cases filed during the regime of military-backed caretaker government have been disposed of by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court (SC) in around four years after the apex court overturned acquittals of the accused.

Between January 2014 and June 2015, the Appellate Division of the SC scrapped the acquittals of 35 people -- mostly politicians and their family

members -- and ordered the HC to expeditiously rehear their appeals against lower courts' verdicts.

It is taking long to dispose of the appeals for many reasons, including the accused moving separate review petitions before the SC, Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this paper yesterday.

"Besides, the relevant benches are overburdened and a number of them have been reconstituted. In some cases, documents crucial to hearing

were not produced before the court in time," he said.

The HC has so far reheard and settled the appeals of former relief and disaster management minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former BNP minister Nazmul Huda, and former BNP lawmakers engineer Monjurul Ahsan Munshi and Hafiz Ibrahim in separate graft cases.

It acquitted Maya and Munshi of the charges, commuted jail terms for Huda to four years from seven, and

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ERADICATING CHILD LABOUR Bangladesh made major efforts: ILO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made major efforts to address child labour in recent years, ILO Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen said yesterday.

Decent work for all cannot be achieved without the elimination of child labour, the ILO country chief also said in a press release marking World Day Against Child Labour 2019. "It is important to continue providing good basic education, skills and address safe work for youth."

He stressed on the combination of legislative regulation, progressive labour market and youth employment policy, access to social protection programmes

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Women outlive men in Bangladesh: BBS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gain in life expectancy is higher among women (73.8 years) than men (70.8 years), said the report titled "Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2018". It was published yesterday at Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) auditorium in the city's Agargaon area.

According to the report, life expectancy at birth in the country has increased to 72.3 years in 2018 up from 72 years in 2017.

The latest report said that the total population of the country as of January 1, 2019 stood at 165.57 million, with 82.87 million men and 82.70 million women.

The report said the crude birth rate (CBR), the simplest measure of fertility, was estimated at 18.3 per thousand in 2018, which was 18.5 the previous year. The CBR fell from 18.9 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2018.

The crude death rate (CDR) declined from 5.2 in 2014 to 5.0 in 2018 while infant mortality rate (IMR) recorded a moderate fall from 24 per thousand live births in 2017 to 22 per thousand live births in 2018.

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President Abdul Hamid presents medal to one of the winners of the National Children's Award Competition at Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday.

Don't engage children in unhealthy competition

President urges guardians

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged guardians not to impose anything on their children and refrain them from engaging in unhealthy competition as it hinders their natural development.

"Don't push your children into bad competition. Don't run after GPA-5 or Golden GPA. Give them the opportunity to learn from nature and groom them as human beings with values. You will see that they will become invaluable resources for the nation."

The president said this while addressing the closing ceremony of National Children Competition 2019 organised by Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) on its premises.

He also urged children to practice patriotism and be imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and independence.

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Advertisement for Uttara Bank's 36th Annual General Meeting. The text is in Bengali and mentions the meeting was held on Wednesday at Dhaka, presided over by Chairman Mr. Azharul Islam.

184 killed in accidents over 11 days

Nirapad Sarak Chai report claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 184 people were killed and 332 injured in road accidents over 11 days during Eid rush this year, according to Nirapad Sarak Chai.

The casualties happened in 127 road crashes between May 29 and June 8, the organisation working for road safety said through a press release. It prepared the report based on news published in several media outlets.

The organisation said the number of casualties is less than that of last year and people's Eid journey was relatively comfortable this year.

It said 45 motorcycles, 44 buses, 16 trucks, four covered vans, eight minibuses, four cars and other vehicles were involved in the accidents.

Meanwhile, a newly formed passengers' welfare

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Samsung TV advertisement featuring a large image of a Samsung TV displaying a cricket match. Text in Bengali promotes Samsung TV's features and offers. Below the TV are several product models listed with their prices and features.

DHAKA TODAY section listing various events: Musical Event (Gaan er Jhorona Toly), Performance (Open Mic at Jatra Biroti), Match Screening (World Cup Fiesta with Pizza), and Practice Session (English Speaking Club).