

Media's role vital in ensuring child rights

Say speakers, 11 journalists win Meena Media Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media should give more importance to reporting on child issues, since journalism can play a vital role in making the country children-friendly, said speakers at Meena Media Awards yesterday.

Renowned journalists and academics also said the award has played a significant role in increasing awareness on child rights. Eleven journalists were honoured with the Unicef Meena Media Awards for reporting on child rights.

The award-giving ceremony was hosted by Unicef Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Unicef started the awards in 2005 after the popular cartoon character Meena.

Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said the powerful reporting that is being honoured demonstrates the vital role that journalists play in bringing child rights to light and holding people in power accountable.

Editor and Publisher of Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman said media houses remain busy on different issues and reports on children and women do not get much attention.

"As journalists, we need to do more reporting on children-related issues to build a better Bangladesh in future," he added.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, in a video message, said this award played a significant role

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Cox's Bazar gears up for PM's rally



UNB, Dhaka

Cox's Bazar is all ready to welcome Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is due to arrive today to address her first public rally there in five years.

The city wore a festive look with welcome arches, banners and festoons as leaders and activists of Cox's Bazar district unit of Awami League were seen busy giving final touches to their preparation yesterday.

The premier will address the rally as the president of the Awami League at Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium. The rally

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'Crisis can also be an opportunity'

Russia-Ukraine war can shift the world towards green energy, say European diplomats

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The current global energy crisis caused by Russia-Ukraine war can turn into an opportunity towards clean and sustainable energy, said European diplomats yesterday.

"The current global energy crisis, largely caused by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, has affected us all. However, in these hard times, we can turn it into an opportunity for a long-term shift towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy and power system," said EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley.

He said this at a discussion on "Green Energy Transition", organised by the Team Europe Initiative at a city hotel. The event brought on board more than 150 people, including representatives from the embassies of Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and development agencies.

Whiteley highlighted the importance of the Team Europe support to green energy transition as part of the EU Global Gateway strategy.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Tröster said

"The current global energy crisis, largely caused by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, has affected us all. However, in these hard times, we can turn it into an opportunity for a long-term shift towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy and power system."

CHARLES WHITELEY
EU Ambassador to Bangladesh

collaboration between Team Europe and Bangladesh will play a pivotal role in a successful green energy transition in Bangladesh.

"Global challenges not only need local actions, but also international collaborations, and broader cooperation," said Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde.

"We need each other now more than ever to make sure that we continue to find ways to push for the green transition. Sustainability is fundamental to our future,

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MURADPUR CEMETERY

Renovation work drags on for 5 years



PHOTO: DIPAN NANDY

DIPAN NANDY

Even after going through the horrific experience of losing a loved one, families who had to bury their deceased relatives at the Muradpur cemetery faced another layer of suffering.

This is because the graveyard gets completely inundated after just a drizzle.

As a result, Dhaka South City Corporation undertook a development project in 2018 to renovate the age-old graveyard.

Since then, the modernisation work has dragged on for five years and the authorities have repeatedly failed to say when it will be completed.

According to DSCC sources, a two-storey building will be constructed on the south side of the cemetery. The ground floor will have a bathing facility for

the deceased. The second floor will host an office room, ablution room, a toilet and the imam's accommodation.

The graveyard ground will be raised through earth filling and the drainage system will be improved significantly. Besides, new boundary walls have already been set up around the graveyard as part of the project.

Visiting the graveyard recently, this correspondent saw workers filling the ground with sand to enhance the drainage capacity.

However, there's a pent up anger among locals, as the facility has been closed for five years with no announcements on when it will be reopened.

Local resident Nazrul Islam said, "All of a sudden, they closed the facility for civilians some five years ago, saying it'll be reopened shortly after renovation. But the work has

been going on at a slow pace since then."

Another local, Fazlur Rahman, said about one-third of the cemetery used to be under knee-deep water when it rained.

"So we were optimistic when the renovation work began, but we had no idea that we had to wait so long," he added.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of DSCC (Zone-5) Saiful Islam Joy said the renovation work of Jurain and Muradpur cemeteries started together in 2018. During the Jurain Cemetery renovation, there was a budget shortfall.

As a result, in the first phase, only the Jurain cemetery was renovated. In the next phase, the work of Muradpur graveyard has started. "A lot of work has already been done. We hope to open this cemetery to public in the next three to four months," he added.

SC grants Haji Salim bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday granted bail to Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim, better known as Haji Salim, in a corruption case, clearing the way for his walk out of jail.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, gave him bail after hearing his leave-to appeal petition challenging a High Court verdict that upheld his 10-year jail sentence in the case.

Salim is now in the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where he has been receiving treatment.

Salim's lawyer Sayeed Ahmed Raza said the apex court granted bail to his client on different grounds including those that there is no document or evidence in support of the charge brought against Salim of accumulating assets beyond known source of income.

ROHINGYA CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE

Unicef seeks \$173.8m for children

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Unicef has appealed for \$173.8 million in 2023 for the children in Bangladesh facing a complex humanitarian situation due to the protracted Rohingya crisis and climate-induced disasters -- such as cyclones, floods, landslides and thunderstorms.

In a statement yesterday, Unicef said five years into the Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh hosts 943,529 Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, including 490,635 children. The refugees rely heavily on international aid and humanitarian assistance. As of August 2022, 26,043 Rohingya refugees had been relocated to Bhasan Char island.

Moreover, more than 8 million people in Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Barishal, Khulna and Chattogram divisions (43 percent of them children) are affected by devastating floods and cyclones every year.

It is predicted that by 2050, one in seven people will be displaced due to climate change, said Unicef.

In June 2022, the northeastern region of Bangladesh suffered the worst flood in 122 years, severely affecting 7.2 million people, including 3.5 million children.

Gas supply to remain shut in parts of Dhaka for 11hrs today

UNB, Dhaka

Gas supply will remain suspended in different parts of Dhaka for 11 hours from 1:00pm today due to emergency works in the pipeline.

According to Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, there will be no gas supply in some areas in the capital including Tejgaon, Mohakhali, Gulshan, Banani, Natunbazar, Badda, and Khilbaritek.

The adjoining areas will experience low pressure in gas supply, said Titas.

It has also regretted for the temporary inconvenience of the consumers during the period.

Prothom Alo gets selected in Google News Initiative's innovation challenge

CITY DESK

Bangla daily Prothom Alo's "Kankhito Khobor Apnar Kachhe" (Desired News With You) project, to address the needs of an untapped yet large rural population in villages and small towns, has been selected for Google News Initiative's (GNI) Innovation Challenge 2022.

Google will now fund and support this project, which will work to serve the interest and necessary news contents to its readers in a more convenient way.

This is the first time a Bangladeshi media outlet has been selected in the Google competition over creativity in news and technology.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said, "We have been publishing regional editions of the print version for over a decade, as part of the responsibility of delivering useful and necessary news, information, analysis, and opinion to our readers."

"In continuation of this, we have a separate initiative to serve local news online ... this project is to deliver the news contents in a more convenient way as per the location and preferences of the readers," he said.



Dengue death toll **258**

Total number of patients **59,196**

1,227 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **57,711**

308 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER
TIMING

DECEMBER 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
5:15	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00	
JAMAT	5:50	1:15	4:00	5:22	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Lilly Nicholls, high commissioner of Canada; Winnie Estrup Petersen, ambassador of Denmark; Shiruzimath Sameer, high commissioner of the Republic of Maldives; Alex Berg von Linde, ambassador of Sweden, and Nathalie Chuard, ambassador of Switzerland, recently met to express solidarity with the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. With a strong commitment to gender equality, the female ambassadors and high commissioners in Dhaka also asked all to join them in the campaign (November 25 to December 10) to end gender-based violence. See related article on Page 8.

PHOTO: COLLECTED