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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Children, rescued and rehabilitated by a non-government organisation, along with experts and rights activists at a discussion titled, "Disadvantaged from a Young Age: Young Journalist Changemakers Urge Action for Vulnerable Children", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

They too deserve a dignified life

Once street children, now students, they question policymakers, experts on rights, justice at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They once roamed the streets with no home to return to. Now, they sit in classrooms and speak up with confidence about the rights and dignity every child deserves.

And yesterday, they took the floor to question policymakers, lawyers, and rights activists about their rights, safety, and future.

Around 15 children, rescued and rehabilitated by the non-government organisation LEEDO, joined a discussion at The Daily Star Centre where they asked sharp, thoughtful questions on issues ranging from legal protection and political exploitation to the right to shelter and education.

The discussion, titled "Disadvantaged from a Young Age: Young Journalist Changemakers Urge Action for Vulnerable Children", brought together government and non-government stakeholders who listened and responded to the young participants' concerns.

The students introduced themselves as "sons and daughters" of LEEDO, a non-

profit NGO that has been working to improve the lives of street-connected children since 2000. All of them are members of a LEEDO initiated "Young Journalist Changemaker" group.

If a street child is harassed by police, where can they go for justice?

There are laws to protect us, but why don't they work in real life?

How to stop people from using children in political programmes?

How the constitution ensures rights of street children?

For instance, Rudra Karmakar, who has completed his schooling with LEEDO's support and is now preparing for university admission, asked whether there was any legal remedy if a street child was

harassed by a police official. "There is no specific provision. But we found in our survey that street children are mostly abused by low-ranking officials, and if they can reach a higher-ranked one, he or she can intervene," said Dr Hasan Reza, associate professor at Indian University's School of Social Work, who joined virtually.

Hasan Ali Musafir, a ninth-grader, expressed concern about the use of street children in political programmes and asked how to act against those who engage children in politics. Arifa Chowdhury Himel, assistant director of the National Legal Aid Services, replied that there is no scope to involve children in any unethical activity, including political programmes.

The National Legal Aid Services provides legal support free of cost, and children are one of the major beneficiary groups. If any child needs legal help, they can visit our offices in all 64 districts," she said.

Another participant, Ayesha Akter, asked Additional

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Nation waiting for polls to move forward
Says Khosru, accuses certain quarters of trying to delay election

UNB, Dhaka

Investment, business activities, and even personal and family decisions across the country have come to a standstill as people await the national election, said BNP senior leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday.

"People now want emancipation from the current situation through the election. Everyone is saying, 'Let the election happen first, then we'll decide,'" he said while speaking at the launch of a book titled Visionary Recommendations for Building an Advanced Nation of the Future at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CANCELLATION OF MUSIC TEACHER POSTS

Udichi holds musical protest

Police obstruct march near Shilpkala Academy



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Udichi Shilpkoshthi organised a musical procession yesterday afternoon to protest the government's decision to cancel the recruitment of music and physical education teachers in primary schools.

The procession, titled "Udichi to Jamuna",

began at 5:00pm from Udichi's central office on Topkhana Road and headed towards the chief adviser's residence, Jamuna.

Before the procession started, Udichi organisers criticised the government's move. Rahman Mofiz, Udichi's assistant general secretary, said, "On the day the July Charter was declared, Professor Yunus said we are

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Ivy gets HC bail in 5 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The High Court yesterday granted bail to former Narayanganj City

Corporation mayor Selina Hayat in five cases, including the one filed over the killing of RMG worker Minarul Islam during the July uprising.

A bench of Justice ASM Abdul Mobin and Justice Md Sagir Hossain delivered the verdict after holding a hearing, said Deputy Attorney General Sultana Akhter Rubi.

Ivy will walk out of jail if the Appellate Division does not stay the HC verdict, said SM Hridoy Rahman, a lawyer for Ivy.

Barrister Sara Hossain also appeared for Ivy during the bail hearing.

Earlier in May, a lower court rejected her bail petition in the case filed

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CHANKHARPUL KILLINGS ICT may begin recording IO's testimony Nov 12

Allows lawyer to withdraw as defence counsel for 15 army officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on November 12 may begin recording the testimony of the investigation officer in the Chankharpul killings case, marking the final phase of the crimes against humanity case linked to last year's July uprising, said ICT prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim yesterday.

Earlier in the day, three witnesses -- a CID forensic expert, a seizure list witness, and special investigation officer Tanvir Hassan Zoha -- testified before ICT-1.

So far, 24 prosecution witnesses have testified in the case that centres on the killing of six protesters in alleged police gunfire at Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

Eight policemen, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman, are accused in the case. Four of the accused are now in custody, while Habibur and three other senior officers remain absconding.

Responding to a question on the army's recent remark that both the ICT Act and the Army Act are "special laws" and the government may choose under which to try the 15

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Polls in Feb, no reason for concern'

Says Asif Nazrul

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi



The government is fully committed to holding the national election in the first half of February and sees "no reason for concern," said Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday.

During his visit to the Legal Aid Office on the Rajshahi court premises, he said, "Political parties often make statements to put pressure on each other or on us. Some concerns are genuine, but those won't be a barrier to the electoral process. There is no second thought regarding that."

He added, "Whatever the political parties say, overall they believe in the electoral system. From the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Conserving heritage of Chattogram

CDA plans to protect 76 historic sites



The iconic Central Railway Building, also known as CRB, in the scenic hilly Tigerpass area of Chattogram city.

FILE PHOTO

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

With its large green dome and tall minaret atop a square brick structure, the Badr Awliya Shrine, built over 700 years ago during the Sultanate period, is among the oldest sites in Chattogram city.

Badr Awliya, a sufi saint, is believed to have arrived here after Sultan Fakhrudin Mubarak Shah's victory in 1338.

The ancient shrine has been listed among 76 heritage sites by the Chattogram Development Authority for conservation and promotion under its upcoming master plan for the city.

The list also includes Deyang Killa in Anwara, a small fort featuring Mughal architectural elements that once served as Chattogram Port's first ship control station.

In earlier times, lamps were lit in the fort to guide ships arriving from the Bay of Bengal. The structure now lies in ruins.

The famous Central Railway Building, located in the scenic hilly area of Tigerpass in the port city, is also on the list.

An analysis of the list shows a wide range of historic structures -- shrines, mosques,

temples, pagodas, churches, monasteries, old houses, railway stations, bridges, and lighthouses -- each telling a part of Chattogram's history from the Sultanate era to the British period.

According to the list, scheduled to be placed for approval within December, there are eight shrines, 17 mosques, eight temples, and two churches -- all over a century old, reflecting the region's history of communal harmony and coexistence.

There are also seven old zamindar houses from the British colonial period, offering insight into the city's social and economic past.

Ahmed Dayem, assistant urban planner at CDA and a member of the survey committee, said, "We selected the sites based on three key criteria -- historic significance, integrity, and context -- as per the same standards followed by the Department of Archaeology in Bangladesh and by heritage conservation bodies worldwide."

"We are making a plan to save these sites for the next generation. Government buildings will be repaired by the departments concerned, and private ones will be protected from demolition. These sites will be included in the City Master Plan 2041," said Abu Isa Ansari, CDA's chief urban planner.

Ansari said different activities are being planned, including the creation of a tourism map and the installation of digital information boards at these sites.

AKM Saifur Rahman, former director of the Department of Archaeology in Chattogram, said these sites, if properly preserved, can make the port city more beautiful and famous while attracting tourists.

Eliza Binte Elahi, a heritage tourist and author, said, "The heritage sites can also create hundreds of jobs and entrepreneurs if this sector is properly developed."

As I wanted to contest the national election from a Dhaka constituency, I have become a voter of the city. I plan to run as an independent candidate. Let's see what happens next.

ADVISER
ASIF MAHMUD
After registering as a voter under Dhaka 10 yesterday