

## Report on

# Child Rights Week and National Girl Child Day, 2017

*“Girl’s awakening will bring the country’s development”*



**National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF)**

3/7, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Contact: +8802-9130479, 01713040852

[www.girlchildforum.org](http://www.girlchildforum.org)

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## Introduction

In Bangladesh, 45 percent of the total population consists of children below the age of 18, of whom 47 percent are girls. The future of Bangladesh resides in the future of its girls. The government of Bangladesh has been rightly taken a series of steps such as free girl's education, distributing free textbooks, stipend, and special quotas in the job. According to UNICEF study, 52 percent of girls are married off before they turn 18 and almost 46 percent of girls drop out of secondary school in Bangladesh, which is distressing.

With a view to build mass awareness of the importance of valuing girls, securing their rights, protecting their safety and advocating for policies that improve girls' lives, the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), of which The Hunger Project is a founding member, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), and Bangladesh Shishu Academy jointly celebrated Bangladesh's National Girl Child Day 2017 on the theme "***Girl's awakening will bring the country's development***" on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

NGCAF has taken elaborate programs marking the 'child rights week 2017' with a view to ensuring the security and rights of all children during October 11 – 17, 2017. National Girl Child Day 2017 was celebrated in 346 spots across the country.

NGCAF and MoWCA jointly celebrated the day centrally in Dhaka through a colorful rally. The rally was kicked off at 8.30 am in front of national museum, Shahbag, Dhaka and was ended at the premises of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Dhaka.

Besides rally, Discussion meeting, Prize giving ceremony, Cultural programs, Debate competition, TV talk show, Discloser of Poster, Girl child journal, Community Radio program, Street Drama held on the occasion. Daily Samakal has published a special supplement on the instance.

## Program at National Level

### Celebration of Child Marriage Restraint Day 2017

Bangladesh Government has declared the day **Child Marriage Restraint Day** with a view to create consciousness among people of Bangladesh at national level as well as district and upazilla level in against child marriage according to Child Marriage Restraint act, which was passed on February 27, 2017.



Honorable State Minister **Ms.Meher Afroz Chumki MP** inaugurated the human chain program on the occasion.She calls for guardians for creating mass awareness for ensuring empowerment of girl children in the society.More than 500 participants from different organizations including NGCAF took part in human chain on October 12, 2017 in front of National Shahid Minar.

## Program at National Level

### National Girl Child Day Rally and Discussion Meeting

Honorable State Minister Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki MP inaugurated the grand rally on October 13, 2017 morning as a chief guest while Ms. Nasima Begum, NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Nasima Akter Joly, Secretary, NGCAF were present. More than 1500 participants took part in the rally with colorful banner and festoons. Students, teachers, parents, guardians, development activists, government and non-government officials from different organizations and institutions joined in the festival. Representatives from 26 member organizations and students from different schools and colleges attended in the program.



In inaugural session, Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki MP, Honorable State Minister mentioned in her speech 'Current Government is looking forward to make Bangladesh a middle income country by 2021 and we need to empower our girls and women to make that happen. Side by side, we will have to diminish violence against girl child and create safe and genuine opportunity to grow up our girl child in a right direction.

## Program at National Level

### National Girl Child Day Rally and Discussion Meeting

Attending in the rally participants marched forward chanting slogans and upholding placards, banners and festoons containing message demanding for child rights. Slogans like: The future of Bangladesh resides in the future of its girls; Prevent Child Marriage and Keep Girls in School; We want girl friendly school environment; We need safe route to school for girl child; Save Girl child, Save future generation; Safer girl child, Safer Bangladesh; Educating girls is one of



the most powerful tools to prevent child marriage; Stop Child Marriage; Girls not Brides; Stop Child Labor; Lets ensure education and nutrition for Girl child; Educate

Girls for their better Future; Stop child trafficking today; Stop Girl Child Marriage; Build a Prosperous Country etc. The rally was ended at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy followed by thanks giving and acknowledgment to the concerned participants. After rally, a discussion meeting on the day was held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Eminent literacy and Chairperson of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Ms. Selina Hossain joined the meeting as chief guest and Mr. Mark Pearce, Country Director of Save the Children in Bangladesh have also joined in the ceremony as special guest. Mr. Anjir Liton, Director, Bangladesh Shishu Academy



chair the program while Nasima Akhter Joly, Secretary, NGCAF gave welcome speech in the program. Ms. Shahin Akter Dolly, Vice president, NGCAF was also present in the program as a distinguished discussant.

## Program at National Level

### National Girl Child Day Rally and Discussion Meeting



**Ms. Nasima Akhter Joly** stated in her welcome speech that we should give our girl child space and to create enabling environment to unleash them. We have been working together with the government to stop child marriage and create the opportunities to them for unleashed them”, she emphasized.



**Ms. Selina Hossain** mentioned ‘We have to promote our girl child rights for the development of our society and state. We should give equal concentration to our boy children as well as girl children.



**Mr. Mark Pearce**, Country Director of Save the Children in Bangladesh said that the women of Bangladesh are playing different important roles for the welfare of the country. There are so many women leaders in the country at national level as well as grassroots level. But simultaneously there exist gender-based violence child marriage problems in the society and it needs to end.



**Ms. Shahina Akter Dolly** mentioned that at present the number of girl children in Bangladesh is around 3 crore. The girl children are valuable asset of the country. Let’s invest to our girls for the betterment of our country.

# Program at National Level

## A special Supplementary

A special supplementary published in the National Daily Samakal on 13th October 2017 with by MoWCA and NGCAF with a view to reach out necessary and inspiring messages to more than five lacs people on the occasion. Save the Children supported to publish it. Honorable President Abdul Hamid, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki MP, MoWCA, Secretary Ms. Nasima Begum NDC, MoWCA, Ms. Selina Hossain, Chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Nasima Akhter Joly, Secretary, NGCAF and Mr. Mark Pearce, Country Director, Save the Children provided separate messages on the occasion of National Girl Child Day 2017 in the special supplementary. An article on girl child awakening issue has also published in the supplementary, which was written by Laila Khondokar, Director, Child Rights Governance and Child Protection.

**জাতীয় কন্যাশিশু দিবস ২০১৭**

**কন্যাশিশুর জাগরণ আনবে দেশে উন্নয়ন**

**কন্যাশিশুর জাগরণ : দায়িত্ব নিতে হবে সবাইকে**

**রাষ্ট্রপতি** **শেখ হাসিনা**  
১৩ অক্টোবর ২০১৭

**প্রধানমন্ত্রী** **শেখ হাসিনা**  
১৩ অক্টোবর ২০১৭

**মন্ত্রণালয়** **শেখ হাসিনা**  
১৩ অক্টোবর ২০১৭

**সহযোগিতায়** **মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়**  
**জাতীয় কন্যাশিশু এডভোকেসি ফোরাম ও সেভ দ্য চিলড্রেন**

## Program at National Level

### A special Supplementary

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President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion of National Girl Child Day-2017. They called upon all to come forward to guarantee security of girl children and ensure their equal rights and dignity.

President Abdul Hamid said the girl children of today are the women and mothers of future. "Therefore, it is our responsibility to establish their rights and ensure security for full flourishing of every child," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said she is delighted to know that the Girl Child Day is being observed across the country. The Prime Minister said the government is committed to ensure empowerment of women and girl children as well as stop all sorts of discriminations against them. She said the present government has implemented various programs for the welfare of girl children, including free education, stipend, free textbooks, increasing number of female teachers and raising maternity allowance.

State Minister for Women and Child Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki said the government is working sincerely by giving equal importance on all spheres including education so that boys and girls could be groomed up with world-class quality and the country achieve middle-income status. She added the government has taken various programs including constitution of adolescent clubs and formulating act to stop early marriage for protecting the rights of the girl child.

NGCAF Secretary Nasima Akhter Joly said, "Due to existing male dominated attitudes and in some cases lack of awareness of family heads, girl children are being abused in various ways. We are not able to ensure an enjoyable and friendly environment for our girl children. Sustainable development is not possible without ensuring girl child safety. If girl children get qualitative education, safety and a balanced diet, they will also become self-dependent and self-employed and will be able to contribute to the society and the state. Let us build the social movement against all kinds of child abuse and violence and at the same time let's make sure there is social protection for them."

## Program at National Level

### Discloser of a Journal, and Poster on girl child issue



With a view to reach out organizations, who are working in gender governance issues and Union Parishads of different districts in Bangladesh, in a special segment, a Journal consists of 24 articles on girl child issue. 13 were disclosed in the ceremony. 24 eminent writer, high level government officials, and development activists wrote on girl child issues in the journal.



A colorful poster was disclosed during the event. Posters are distributed in more than 150 unions in Bangladesh. The villagers and community people are getting necessary message through this visual content in especially rural areas.

## Program at National Level

### Special Newsletter ‘Amar Kotha Suno’

A group of Girls was organized as writer, editor of a newsletter named ‘Amar Kotha Suno’ (Listen us). They have written stories and poems on the occasion Girl Child Day. And finally they published it. This is the first time, girls published a newsletter themselves during this very day. Bangladesh Shishu Academy helped this girls group to publish this news letter.

### Art Competition

To build awareness among students especially girls, so that they can bring up themselves with their rights and values; to build awareness among parents, so that they can realize the worth of their girls and to carry out strategic campaigns to establish girl’s rights in the family, society as well as throughout the country, NGCAF and MOWCA organized an Art competition with the financial help of Save the Children.

827 children from different organizations participated



in the art competition on 24th September 2017 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises on the occasion. 13-16 years group competed in the subject ‘demanding same environment for girls and boys to grow up’; Age group (9-12) competed in the subject ‘Flood winning girls’ and Subject was open for the age group (5-8) competitors.

## Program at National Level

### Art Competition

In age group (age 13-16)



Nusrat Jahan Nuha of Botmuli Home Girls High School, Farmgate stood first; Maisha Bari of John Wilson School, Gulshan stood second; Miraj Hossain of Action for Social Development stood third; Tasmim Jannat Soshi of University Laboratory School and College stood forth and Rashedul Islam Babu of Suridh Bangladesh, Ramna stood fifthplace.

## Program at National Level

### Art Competition

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In age group (age 9-12)



Israt Jahan Iffat of Agrani School and College, Azimpur stood first; Fahmida Jahan Orpa of Vikarunnesa Noon School, Azimpur stood second; Sharmin Islam of Hazaribagh School and College, Hazaribagh stood third; Walid Ahmed Sinjon of Shamsul Haque Khan School and College, Demra stood forth; Sumaiya Akhter of Rights and Sight for Children and Rupa Akhter of Vatora Good Neighbors School stood fifth place.

## Program at National Level

### Art Competition

In open age group (age 5-8)



Ahnaf Hasan Adib of Birshrestho Noor Mohammad Public College (Shishu Academy) stood first; Gazi Imam Hossain of Narayanganj Ideal School stood second place; Lamia Akhter of Oporajeyo Bangladesh stood third place; Nishat Limon Sunny of Saleh Kindergarten and Purno Richard Das of Good Neighbors School stood forth and Taki Md. Jaki stood fifth place.

## Program at National Level

### Art Competition

Prizes and certificates were distributed among the winners of competition.



## Program at National Level

### Cultural program

Special moment of the day was colorful cultural program. Girl child from different schools participated in the cultural program. The program was designed with songs, poem recitation, dance and fun.



## Program at National Level

### A series of Debate competition

Debate for Democracy (DFD) has been active in Bangladesh since the mid-1990s. DFD conducts debate all over the country and provides technical assistance to the Govt., non-government, international organizations and other institutions in organizing debate and dialogue on different socio-economic and development issues.



NGCAF and DFD consider debate as an appropriate media of providing right information to the young generations. It helps schools, colleges, universities, debate clubs and other institutions to organize debate programs and competitions.

NGCAF believes that debate can help young women developing their leadership, increasing knowledge and sharpening skills to fight against child marriage in Bangladesh. Debate can bring positive attitude among students and teachers in favor of girl child in the educational institutions. Young viewers everywhere get the opportunity to develop their logic of girl children through young generation debate competition.

## Program at National Level

### A series of Debate competition

NGCAF, Debate for Democracy and Plan International jointly organized a series of debate competition on 14th and 15th October 2017 at 8 no floor of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), Tejgaon, Dhaka. It was a part of the National Girl Child Day celebration. 4 girls' schools took part in the debate competition. Schools are Mojid Jorina Foundation School and College, Sariatpur; Mirpur Cantonment Public School and College; YWCA Girls School and College; Siddeswari Girls College. Debate loving Students participated competition in different subjects like Citizens awareness needed side by side implementation of laws to protect children in the society; Society role is more important to protect girl child in the society; Cause of child marriage basically due to unconscious society role.

The state minister of MoWCA Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki MP, Ms. Nasima Akhter Joly, Secretary, NGCAF were present as special guest. Mr. Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, President of Debate for Democracy moderates the debate program.



## Program at National Level

### TV Talk Show

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NGCAF Secretary Nasima Akhter Joly joined Desh TV talk show discussion to take the opportunity to share National Girl Child Day 2017 issues and NGCAF stands, activities, outcomes, impact of programs with the viewer's nationally and globally. Desh TV arranged two Talk show and RTV arranged one Talk show. The issues were: Child Marriage, Protection of child and sexual harassment.

Other discussants were Dr. Abul Hossain, Project Director, Street Child Rehabilitation Program, MP Kazi Rosy, Advocate Elina Ahmed and Eminent novelist Selina Hossain.

## The Girl Child Day Celebration across the Country

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum was also celebrated the day across the country in 185 Unions, 56 Upazilas, and 25 Districts and in 7 divisions jointly with the Local Administration where more than 1 lac people participated with great enthusiasm through rally, discussion meeting, and different cultural events.

It is also important to mention that Ministry of Women and Children Affairs ordered and requested to all District and Upazila administration with a circulation to observe the National Girl Child Day on 13th October 2017.



### No. of places and schools where NGCD observed in 2017

SL.	Name of region	Union Parisad	Upzila	District	No. of School	Total Observed
1.	Dhaka	0	0	3	12	15
2.	Mymensingh	12	4	3	69	88
3.	Comilla	0	2	1	16	19
4.	Rangpur	9	1	1	20	31
6.	Rajshahi	12	2	2	40	56
7.	Khulna	30	2	2	37	71
8.	Jhinaidah	9	2	2	27	40
9.	Barisal	0	3	4	40	47
10.	Chittagong	1	3	2	5	11
11.	Sylhet	38	1	2	13	54
<b>Total</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>432</b>

## The Girl Child Day Celebration across the Country

### A series of Community Radio Program

Child marriage is a socially embedded phenomenon which is deep rooted in our culture. So to uproot child marriage from the culture it requires a 360 degree approach which will include all its stakeholders and decision makers. Community radio can play vital role in providing information in increasing access to girls education, providing economic opportunity for young women, supporting and up scaling of community program.

To create awareness in against child marriage in the society, NGCAF and Bangladesh Community Radio Association (BCRA) took a series of community radio program with 10 radio stations in the country. The programs were broadcasted from October 10-25, 2017 through Borendra Radio 99.2 FM (Naogaon); Radio Padma 99.2 FM (Rajshahi); Radio Mohananda 98.8 FM (Chapai Nawabganj); Radio Chilmari 99.2 FM (Kurigram); Radio Sarabela 98.8 FM (Gaibandha); Radio Jhinuk 99.2 FM (Jhenaidah); Radio Nolta 99.2 FM (Satkhira); Radio Lokbeter 99.2 FM (Borguna); Radio Naf 99.2 FM (Teknaf); Radio Sagordip 99.2 FM (Hatia). Through radio program, discussants discussed different issues on empowerment of girl child. Local volunteers, girl children, guardians took part in awareness based radio program.

It was found that participants improved their knowledge after attending the community radio program. There is significant increase in the knowledge level regarding the law and consequences of child marriage. Community people enriched their knowledge related to the issue which they are found to be motivated to stop child marriage which is clearly reflected in their answers, while sharing case stories.



## The Girl Child Day Celebration across the Country

### A local Television: Varendra Online TV:

NGCAF has taken a discussion program on Child marriage, Child rights through Varendra TV at 9 -10 PM on October 17, 18, 19, 24 and 31. With a view to connect online viewers. NGCAF arranged discussion program to create awareness in against child marriage and ensure child rights in the society.

Online viewers connected the programs with lot of interests. They put questions and inquiries. On the basis of viewers' question, TV authorities rearranged discussion programs to fulfill the demand of viewers. This interactive method works and NGCAF decided to continue this innovative program in future.

### Street Drama

Street Drama is one of the most popular and widespread forms of drama. It can also be called as 'dance-drama' as it is performed with the help of music and dance also. It is very popular in the grassroots for its simple and creative way of execution.

NGCAF uses this innovative initiative on the occasion to create a healthy and positive atmosphere in favor of girl child in the society. It is one of the most vital tools especially for the youths to tackle with social and political issues in a democratic country like Bangladesh.

NGCAF organized 25 Street Drama in the country.

Area	Program	No of programs
Rajshahi	Ghomvira	2
Rajshahi	Street Drama	3
Mymensingh	Street Drama	3
Jessore	Street Drama, Folk Song	5
Khulna	Street Drama	5
Rangpur	Street Drama	3
Barisal	Street Drama	4
<b>Total:</b>		<b>25</b>

## Media Coverage

News of the program was published in a number of national and local medias. Some of the links of these print and electronic media are given below

### **Daily Observer :**

<http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=100033>

### **Kaler Kantho:**

<http://www.ekalerkantho.com/home/page/2017-10-14/1>

### **Daily Samakal :**

<http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-khobor/article/17102624/%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4>

### **NTV online:**

<http://www.ntvbd.com/bangladesh/159769/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B9-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%A8--%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF>

### **Jago News24**

<https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/356263>

## Media Coverage

### Sylhet : (Kudrat Pasha)

<http://www.kazirbazar.com/?p=111648>

<http://www.sheershakhobor.com/sylhet-news/2017/10/13/%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%be-%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%b6%e0%a7%81%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%87-%e0%a6%b9%e0%a6%ac%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%86%e0%a6%97%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%80-%e0%a6%b8/>

<http://kalniview24.com/2017/10/13/%e0%a6%aa%e0%a7%82%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%ac-%e0%a6%aa%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%97%e0%a6%b2%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%87%e0%a6%89%e0%a6%a8%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%bc%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%9c%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%a4/>

<http://sunamkantha.com/2017/10/15/%e0%a6%9c%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%a4%e0%a7%80%e0%a7%9f%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%b6%e0%a7%81%e0%a6%a6%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%ac%e0%a6%b8-%e0%a6%aa%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%b2/>

<http://sunamkantha.com/2017/10/14/%e0%a6%9c%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%ae%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%b2%e0%a6%97%e0%a6%9e%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%9c%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%be-%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%b6%e0%a7%81-%e0%a6%a6%e0%a6%bf/>

<http://sunamganjerkhobor.com/%e0%a6%9c%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%ae%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%b2%e0%a6%97%e0%a6%9e%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%9c%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%95%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%be-%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%b6%e0%a7%81-%e0%a6%a6%e0%a6%bf/>

[http://www.news71online.com/view\\_details.php?data=local&sn=47682](http://www.news71online.com/view_details.php?data=local&sn=47682)

### Naogaon:

[http://www.news71online.com/view\\_details.php?data=posts&sn=47647#.WeDIevBE5Sk.facebook](http://www.news71online.com/view_details.php?data=posts&sn=47647#.WeDIevBE5Sk.facebook)

# Paper Clippings





The program was concluded with gratitude and appreciation for all participants.

