

International Women's Day 2018

Celebrated by
National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF)



“Time is Now : To change the lives of Rural and Urban Women” -keeping this slogan ahead, The International Women's day 2018 was being celebrated by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) with great energy and enthusiasm. The celebration was held on 9th March 2018 and consisted of a series of events including a rally, discussion session followed by an award giving ceremony and a cultural program.





The series of events started at 9:00 a.m. with a rally from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the University of Dhaka to Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Rests of the program were held in the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium starting from 10 a.m. on the same day.

The rally was inaugurated by Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki, MP, Respected State Minister of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh. Around 1,000 people from total 36 organizations participated in the rally with placards, banners etc. in hands.

The discussion session was started with an introductory speech of Ms. Nasima Akhter Joly, the secretary of National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) and chaired by Shaheen Akhter Dolly, Vice President of NGCAF and Chief Executive of Narimaity. Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki, MP, Respected State Minister of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh was the chief guest and Ms. Kazi Rozi, MP, People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Special Guest of the session.



In the discussion Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki, MP said, “Bangladesh is developing day by day and women are also partners of this development”. She also mentioned, “Half of the population is women and among them half are girl children, so girl children are our assets.” Addressing the parents, honorable state minister urged, “Dream about your girl children. They will definitely fulfill your dreams”.

She gave a brief description of the steps that are being implemented by the government in the welfare

of women and girls. She said, "The rate of child marriage is much lower now than the past. This has been possible because apart from the government, several non-government organizations are also working to stop child marriage. Besides, our girl children are now more aware than ever." She concluded her speech with the expectation to stop child marriage and said, "We don't want to see an under-aged child to get married and carry another child at a very early age."

Ms. Kazi Rozi, MP quoted, "Children are not just only children. They are lot more than that. Today's children will grow up as tomorrow's responsible citizens." She also said, "Our girl children will be the next woman or mother. So girl children are the assets. They are the future of the country." She also mentioned, "Our women are in every sector of the country. But women have to come forward more. They need to make themselves worthy and efficient." Addressing the women and girl children she emphasized and said, "You are the strength, you are the energy". She concluded her speech with an excellent poem she wrote about live of girl children.

In the introductory speech, Ms. Nasima Akhter Joly, the secretary of NGCAF said, "If we want to change the life of women, then the life of girl children need to be changed. This is because the journey of a woman's life begins when she is a child. Therefore, girl children's education, health and nutritional rights must be ensured and the existing patriarchal attitude should be eliminated."

In her speech Mr. Shahin Akhter Dolly said, "Although our women are improving in different fields, they are still victims of various tortures. We cannot accept this torture on women." She also mentioned, "A society go forward only if men and women work together and improve themselves simultaneously."

Dr. Mehtab Khanam, Chairman, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University of Dhaka



and Ms. Nazma Akhter, Producer, Sonali Din, ATN Bangla, were honored for excellent contributions in their own sectors.

After the memento was given, in her speech, Dr. Mehtab Khanam put light on how important the mental health is and suggested every woman to be cautious about not only their physical health but also their mental health as well. On the other hand, Ms. Nazma Akhter emphasized on the necessity of education in a woman's life and set example of her own life.

In the same program, a beautiful poster on International Women's Day – 2018 and a special publication



titled "Narir Kotha -13" were inaugurated. It was about the success story of 24 women leaders from the grass-root level who, in spite of facing hundreds of adversities, had changed their destiny themselves and became partners in development. They were part of the "Unleashed Women's Network" program. Through the program a group of women leader has been



created, who has changed their situations themselves. At the same time, they continued to work independently to reduce the violence and ongoing discrimination against women. The stories published in "Narir Kotha -13" were a proof of their efforts and success.



After the discussion session, a cultural program was organized where children from different schools performed. The session ends with a prize giving ceremony.

