

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN, WOMEN
Formulate laws to execute Saarc convention

Rights activists urge member countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rights activists at a meeting yesterday criticised the Saarc Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution saying that important pertinent issues have been overlooked in it.

"The convention does not clarify the recipient country's accountability in rescue, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration of trafficked women and children," said CWCS President Prof Ishrat Shamim.
The speakers stressed the need for formulation of similar kind of laws and their incorporation in domestic laws of the member countries to ensure trial of the traffickers and others involved in it.

Hassan Siddique of International Labour Organisation (ILO) called for preparing alternative report on the convention, alongside the government report, to inform people about the actual progress and outcome of the convention.
" Bangladesh government signed the ILO Convention in 1985 aiming to stop child labour, but did not take any steps to manage alternatives for those children," he added while talking about child trafficking.

BLUE FOR PEACE
Asma demands fair trial of Kibria killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, yesterday said the investigation into the Kibria murder case was carried out in a way to protect the real killers.
Demanding fair trial, she said the nation will never accept the trial of the case based on the flawed and incomplete investigation.
Addressing the 'Blue for Peace' programme at Motijheel in the city, Asma called on the people of greater Sylhet, including Habiganj, to wage the toughest movement when the proceeding of the case begins at the Speedy Trial Tribunal in Sylhet.
"The soul of my husband would not rest in peace until the masterminds are brought to justice," she said.
She also vowed to continue the peaceful protest programme unless the real killers are punished.
Wearing blue dress, family members of Kibria and members of the civil society took part in the 'Blue for Peace' programme initiated by Asma Kibria.
Employees and officials of different banks and institutes at Motijheel also joined the programme spontaneously.
Kibria, also an Awami League lawmaker, was killed in a grenade attack at Boiddyerbazar in Habiganj on January 27 last year.



Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and members of the civil society line up at Motijheel in the city yesterday as part of the 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding fair trial of the Kibria murder case.

3 JMB cadres on 7 days' remand in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres, arrested from Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur with huge bomb making materials on Tuesday, were placed on seven days' remand yesterday for quizzing.
Sarishabari police produced the three JMB cadres before a first class magistrate's court of Jamalpur with a prayer for 10 days remand while the court granted them seven days' remand, sources said.
According to the confessional statement of JMB cadre Hanif, arrested from Bagerhat on January 24, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from Dhaka arrested Amanullah, 25, son of Abdus Sabur at Aramnagar Bazar in Sarishabari. Rab also recovered huge bomb making materials from his house. Later, the Rab arrested JMB cadre Harun-or-Rashid alias Zafar, 23, son of Abul Hossen, from the same house.
Rab arrested JMB cadre Khorshed Alam Babu, 22, son of Abdul Khalek from Gunarpara village under Kamarabad union following the confessional statements of Amanullah and Zafar.
The JMB cadres and the seized bomb making materials were handed over to Sarishabari Police Station on Wednesday.
Sarishabari police said Amanullah joined JMB after he had passed the SSC examination from the Sarishabari Riazuddin Talukdar High School while Babu joined after Dakhil from the Sarishabari Faiz More Dakhil Madrasa.
The arrestees are being interrogated in Sarishabari Police Station under tight security.

No child to be trafficked from Asia

Says UAE top cop on camel jockeys

PORIMOL PALMA

Children of the Asian and African countries are unlikely to be trafficked to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as camel jockeys since the country formulated stringent laws preventing the use of children as jockeys, an UAE police official said yesterday.
"We have no kids working as camel jockeys as the UAE government banned using children for this purpose about one year back," said Major Ibrahim Hassan Marzouqi, head of juvenile care section of Abu Dhabi police.
The UAE's police official is on an unofficial visit to Dhaka to

inquire about the former camel jockeys who had been repatriated to Bangladesh. At least 164 children returned home since August last year and four are waiting repatriation at a cell in Dubai.
"There is no question of using children as jockeys in the camel races in future as robots have replaced the jockeys," Major Ibrahim told The Daily Star.
The UAE government also formulated a law that prevents foreign nationals earning less than 4,000 Dirham a month from staying in the country with their family members. Most traffickers used to take the children there as parents.

People aged above 18 years and weighing over 45 kilograms will be employed only in camel training, the major who is also facilitating the total repatriation process on the UAE part said.
The UAE had banned using children aged below 18 years and weighing less than 45 kilograms as camel jockeys following international pressures.
The UAE has sent 1034 former camel jockeys to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan and Mauritania and only 24 are waiting repatriation in the deportation cell in Dubai. The UAE government is also paying \$1000 to each of the children as compensation, he added.



Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a meeting with Bangladesh Tarikat Federation at the Eden Complex in the city yesterday.

ACC submits charge sheet against Mayor Mohiuddin

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday submitted charge sheet against Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury for his alleged corruption in leasing out 23 shops at the passengers' shed of Muradpur Bus Terminal in 1997.
ACC Inspector Jahangir Alam submitted the charge sheet (no 26) with Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.
In the charge sheet, it has been stated that the accused leased out 23 shops at the passengers' shed of Muradpur Bus Terminal owned by the CCC without inviting any tender.
It was also stated that the CCC mayor had issued an order for leasing out each of the 23 shops at imaginary prices with an intention to achieve personal gains.
Earlier, a case was filed by now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption on October 13, 2002 against 24 people with Kotwali Police Station under Section 5 (2) of Corruption Prevention Act 1947.
UNB Chittagong correspondent adds: Accused Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury reacted angrily to the submitting of the charge sheet, saying it is politically motivated.
He said the shops were leased out in a proper way and no corruption took place. "The job was done keeping the interest of the CCC intact."
The ACC also submitted three charge sheets against three persons, including former area commander of Chittagong Cantonment and GOC of 24th Infantry Division Major General (Retd) Abu Kaiser Fazul Karim for misappropriation of Tk 1,41,68,000.
ACC Inspector Jahangir Alam submitted the charge sheets with Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

'Nat'l govt a must for meaningful change in governance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday stressed the need for forming a national government with like-minded political parties and persons, even from the BNP, to bring about a meaningful change in the governance.

DEATH OF BEAUTY ROY
Agailjhara OC asked to submit documents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Judge Sheikh Jahangir Hossain of Woman and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal asked the officer-in-charge of Agailjhara Police Station to present all related documents on the death of Beauty Roy by February 20.
Enlightened by a report published in The Daily Star yesterday, the judge asked the public prosecutor to arrange filing of a case in this regard. In his order to the superintendent of police of Barisal, the judge mentioned details of The Daily Star report and said he apprehended that the police had not taken necessary actions.
Beauty was allegedly killed by her in-laws seven months ago as her father failed to pay the dowry of Tk 50,000.

A meaningful change should be brought to the government through a democratic process in order to rid the nation of black money holders, corruption, crimes and militancy, Dr Kamal told reporters after a meeting with Bangladesh Tarikat Federation (BTF).
At the press briefing, BTF Chairman Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari said his party would continue to carry out anti-government movement with the Jatiya Oikya Mancha. A liaison committee was formed to formulate the modalities of the agitation, he said.
Dr Kamal said, "Through the unity of the people, the nation has to get rid of the influence of black money over election, cadre-based politics and militancy."
Bangladesh is a country of honest people, so the honest persons, not the smugglers, drug traffickers and patrons of militancy, should be elected to parliament, he said.
BTF Chairman Najibul Bashar said, "We also agree to the concept of national government."
The BNP-led alliance government must be toppled through the united movement, as the BNP wants to establish anti-liberation forces Jamaat-e-Islami in the country, he said.
He also said many politicians from BNP would join his party.

Corrigendum

In 'Trends', the special supplement on the occasion of The Daily Star's 15th anniversary, there was an error on page 35, regarding Radu.
The corrected script should read: Radu-The Footwear Specialist-was established in Dhaka in 1966 and one of the first and finest establishments in the footwear industry in Bangladesh. Radu was initially established by Mr. Zainul Abedin Wara in the beginning of 20th Century in 1901 in Calcutta and had spread its business in India and Bangladesh. Presently Md. Nasiruddin (youngest son of Mr. Zainul Abedin Wara) is the proprietor of Radu, Baitul Mukarram, Dhaka.
We regret the inconvenience caused.

Outlaws kill 3 in 3 days in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Activists of an outlawed party killed a fisherman in Meherpur early yesterday.
He was murdered when he tried to resist an attempt of killing a night guard of an under construction bridge at Mulakhali in Mujibnagar upazila.
The dead was identified as Nazrul Islam, 36, of Bidyadharpur.
With this killing, the death toll rose to three in last three days since Monday in the district creating panic among the local people.
According to police, armed outlawed cadres went there in search of Zohurul Islam, contractor of the bridge, to realise toll from him. As Zohurul was not on the spot, they confined the night guard Abul Kasem at gunpoint.
As Kasem raised hue and cry for help, fishermen at the nearby lake rushed to the bridge and tried to prevent the outlaws from killing the night guard.
The outlaws then opened fire on Nazrul killing him on the spot and left the scene.
Police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Meherpur General Hospital for autopsy.
A case was filed with Mujibnagar Police Station in this connection.
Earlier on Wednesday, activists of outlawed Pubco Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Red Flag faction killed a rival Janajuddho activist at village Bauptara in Gangni upazila of the district.
The dead was identified as Yunus Ali 35, son of Nawsher Ali of the village.
The killing was a sequel to murdering of one red flag cadre on Monday.
Janajuddho men shot dead a red flag cadre named Hafizur Rahman alias Hafi, 30, son of Patal Mondol of Mirkandi village under Gangni upazila in the district on that day.

48-hr transport strike in greater Ctg from Feb 12

BDNEWS, Ctg

The Chittagong unit of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF) will go for a 48-hour transport strike in greater Chittagong from February 12 to press home its 14-point demand.
"The road administration has almost collapsed due to the tussle between the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Home Affairs and our demands have remained unfulfilled," said Federation President Azizul Haq and its General Secretary Oli Ahmed at a press briefing at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.
Federation leaders said that a two-day strike on December 17 and 18 last year in greater Chittagong was called off following an agreement signed under the auspices of Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman at the Chittagong Circuit House.
"We got no response despite writing to the communications ministry on January 8 and 15 on our justified demands," they alleged.
The federation demands include introduction of luxury coaches on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar and Teknar routes, reinstatement of the sacked transport workers, establishment of full control by BRTA (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority), setting up of separate court and stopping extortion by the highway police.

Central bank on the list of KPI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry has included Bangladesh Bank in the list of Key Point Installations (KPI) which have been brought under the special security arrangement in the wake of security threats in recent times.
The central bank will now be under the close watch of different intelligence agencies such as DGFI, Detective Branch (DB), Special Branch (SB) and the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

Besides, the officers and employees of the central bank will now have to comply with security regulations. An internal notice in this regard was circulated by the bank on February 6.
According to the security regulations, no meetings and rallies are allowed on the premises of the bank or in its surrounding areas without prior permission of the authority.
Also, the employees will have to carry their identity cards in a way so that the ID cards are easily visible.

CPB protests militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday staged demonstration across the country protesting the bomb culture and militant activities.
The CPB leaders held rallies and brought out processions at all upazilas and districts urging people to form countrywide resurrection committee for upholding the spirit of the language movement and liberation war.
At a rally at the city's Muktagong, the party leaders announced that they would take oath at all Shaheed Minars across the country including the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital on February 21 to resist militancy, bomb blasts and communal activities.
CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan urged all progressive forces

to be united against BNP-Jamaat alliance government for safeguarding the sovereignty of the country from the clutch of the militants.
He said Jamaat-e-Islami, coalition partner of the BNP-led four-party alliance government, has direct link with all the militant groups including Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).
Economist Prof MM Akash, CPB leaders Colonel (Retd) SD Ahmed, AN Rasheda, Advocate Ainun Nahar Lipi, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Abdul Malek, Ahsan Habib Lablu and Khan Asaduzzaman also addressed the rally.
Later, a procession was brought that marched different city streets.

Death anniversary



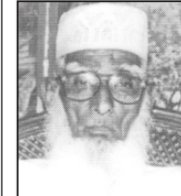
The first death anniversary of Prof Dr Sayyid Fazlul Huq, former president of Bangladesh Cancer Society and the country's first cancer specialist, will be observed today, says a press release.
On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil.

Abeda Khatun



Today is the first death anniversary of M o s a m m a t Abeda Khatun, wife of late M o u l a n a Mobarak Ali and mother of the Daily Bangabani Editor Mostak Mobaraki, says a press release.
On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village home at Putia in Shariatpur.

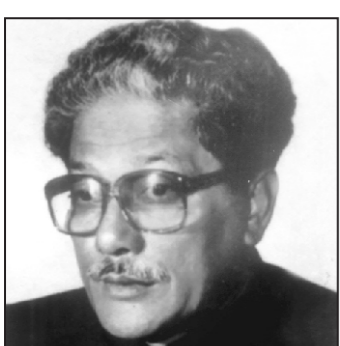
Abdul Mannan Sarkar



Today is the third death anniversary of Alhaj Abdul Mannan Sarkar, father of journalist Golam Nabi, says a press release.
On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa will be held at his home at Shambhupur in Comilla.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

WEATHER TODAY
Dry weather likely
UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.
Light fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast. It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
Highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 12.2 degree Celsius at Srirongal.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Milad for Mizan Chy today

A milad mahfil will be held for salvation of the departed soul of former prime minister and Awami League Advisory Council member Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at his residence at House No # 1/A, Road No # 79 at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.
Relatives, colleagues and admirers are requested to attend the milad.

2 babies die in bridge collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two babies were killed and three others injured in a bridge collapse in Manikganj yesterday.
Police and witnesses said the accident took place when a Singair-bound wood-laden truck from Dhaka was crossing the bailey bridge at Kiting Char area.
The truck plunged into the water killing two babies Sampa, 9, and Zohurul, 3, and injuring three others who were taking bath.
Injured Julekha Begum was rushed to Singair Health Complex and two others were taken to Savar hospital.
Road communications between Dhaka and Singair were snapped.

Pry teachers end fast unto death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers ended their fast-unto-death programme as more hunger strikers fell seriously ill yesterday, the fourth day of the demonstration.
Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association began the hunger strike on February 6 to press home their demands, including 100 percent salary from the government as per the National Pay Scale.
Wearing shrouds, dozens of teachers joined the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city. Three of them became sick on Wednesday.
"We have decided to end the fast-unto-death programme temporarily. But we will launch a tougher move-

ment soon to realise our demands," Association Secretary General Hafizur Rahman told The Daily Star.
The government has totally ignored the issue; it even did not want to discuss the demands with the teachers, he said.
The government has betrayed 10,000 teachers of 3,778 community primary schools by not fulfilling its election pledge to meet the demands of the teachers, he added.
He said a conference of the teachers will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar on April 9 where the next programmes will be announced.
The Association also demanded that the teachers get all kinds of allowances and same opportunities enjoyed by the government primary teachers.

1,409 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,409 people on various charges from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.
During the drive, the law enforcers also recovered 17 firearms, including four revolvers, five guns, three short-guns and two LMGs, and 51 bullets, says an official press release.