

## Upgradation of post of asst UZ edn officer recommended

BSS, Dhaka

The Parliament Standing Committee on the Ministry of Establishment yesterday recommended upgradation of the Assistant Upazila Education Officer to first class gazetted officer.

The recommendation was made at the committee's 17th meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad with committee chairman Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul in the chair.

Bakul asked for placing the proposal with the opinion of Primary and Mass Education Ministry in the committee's next meeting for 100 percent upgradation of these officers, it said.

Matters related to Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) Foundation were also discussed at the meeting.

The concerned authorities have been asked to submit necessary information, including appointment in different posts of the organisation to ensure transparency and accountability.

Committee members State Minister for Housing and Works Alamgir Kabir, Muhammad Nurul Huda, Opposition Chief Whip Vice Principal Muhammad Abdus Shahid, AKM Jahangir Hossain, KM Anwarul Islam, Muhammad Ali Zinnah, Jahir Uddin Swapan and Miah Golam Parwar attended the meeting.

State Minister for Finance Shah Muhammad Abul Hossain attended the meeting on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Establishment Secretary Dr Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman and other concerned officials were present.

## Heroin worth Tk 1 cr seized, four arrested

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A team of Department of Narcotic Control (DNC) seized one kilogram of heroin worth about Tk 1 crore along with Tk 40,000 in cash from a house at Rayerbagh under Shyampur Police Station in the city.

They also arrested four people in this connection. The arrestees were identified as Sohrab Hossain alias Babul Miah, 40, Nasima Begum, 35, Sufia Begum, 35, and Shahida Akhter, 35.

The DNC officials said the arrestees are drug peddlers.



Social Action Committee held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, left, and the Prothom Alo took out a procession in the city yesterday to raise awareness about acid violence, right, on the occasion of International Women's Day.



PHOTO: STAR

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OBSERVED

# 'Ensure women's participation in decision-making'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The integration of women into the mainstream and their participation in the decision-making process are a must to eliminate violence against them, said women leaders and NGO representatives yesterday at a programme marking the International Women's Day.

They urged all political parties to incorporate the issue of women's empowerment into their election manifestoes and induct women representatives into their policy-making committees in order to ensure gender equality in all fields.

Around 300 women and girls converged on the Shatayu Angan at Ramna Park in the capital to celebrate the day. Renowned educationists, civil society members and NGOs representatives also joined the

daylong programmes organised by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum.

The programmes included rally, discussion, cultural events and art, essay, debate and quiz competitions. The theme of the day was 'Women in decision-making: Meeting challenges, creating change.'

Speakers at the discussion said the nation cannot achieve development ignoring women who constitute half of the population of the country.

They regretted that men are destroying many lives of women through torturing them physically and mentally.

Renowned economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad called for an end to violence against women for the sake of the country's future.

"Women in our country are still lagging behind in this 21st century. Without women's

participation, no nation can move towards development," he said.

Prof Dr Halima Khatun of Dhaka University called for raising awareness among people to establish women's rights.

Dr Badiul Majumdar, country director of The Hunger Project, urged all to come forward to protect rights of women.

Lawmaker Kazi Shahera Anwara Shammi, Beijing Plus Five Chairman Salma Khan and Prof Latifa Akhand also spoke.

At the programme, noted educationist Rokeya Mannan and Kumudini Welfare Trust Director Srimati Shaha -- both are Rokeya Award recipients -- were honoured with crests.

Care Bangladesh also celebrated the day across the country with a vow to establish women's dignity in society, and recognise their achievements and contributions.

The humanitarian organisation with 47 other NGOs formed a human chain in the city's Manik Mia Avenue in the morning. Several hundred participants took part in the hour-long programme.

Male participants wore white ribbons expressing their solidarity with the theme of women's day. Care Bangladesh's slogan of the day this year is 'Responsible man understands dignity of woman'.

Plan Bangladesh and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum also organised a discussion meeting at the National Press Club auditorium where the speakers stressed the need for women empowerment and equal rights of men and women to ensure sustainable development.

Addressing as the chief guest, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad called for expansion of female education as education is the prerequisite for establishing women's rights.

Former director of Directorate of Women Affairs Nilufar Banu, Director of Plan Bangladesh Edward Thomas Espay, Latifa Akhand, Badiul Alam Majumdar, Zinat Afroj and Nasima Akter Jolly also spoke.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme.

Meanwhile, Nari Unnayan Shakti, a women's organisation, inaugurated a 15-day programme marking the International Women's Day with a colourful procession at Kuril in the city yesterday.

The programme includes discussions, rallies and cultural events, which will be held at different parts of the country.

## MOU SIGNED

# 100 Bangladeshis to study, work for a year in Australia

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Australia yesterday struck a deal under which 100 university students from Bangladesh can visit Australia to study and work for one year.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed by visiting Australian Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Amanda Vanstone and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar at his ministry. Bangladesh is the first country in South Asia and fourth in the world after Chilly, Iran and Thailand to enter into such protocol named Work and Holiday.

Under the arrangement, Australian University students will also enjoy the similar facilities of working holiday on reciprocal basis.

According to a provision, a student will not be able to work for more than three months under one employer.

Officials here said government agencies will recruit students for such programme, which will come into force in a few months.

"If it works well, the programme

might be extended," said one official, adding that a guideline will be formulated for recruiting the eligible students.

Presently, some 7,000 Bangladeshi students are studying in Australia.

Besides, 25,000 Bangladeshi-origin immigrants live in the continental country.

Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Ashraf-ud-Dowla and Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Douglas Foskett were present at the meeting that was capped with the signing of the deal.

## 1,311 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,311 people on various charges from different parts of the country in last 12 hours ending at 6:00am tomorrow.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also recovered 10 fire-arms, and 30 bullets.



PHOTO: PID

Australia's Immigration Minister Amada Vanstone calls on State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment Maj (retd.) Md Quamrul Islam at the Secretariat in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Air Marshal (retd.) Asghar Khan, former Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan, gives a talk on 'South Asian Security and Cooperation' at the BLISS auditorium in the city yesterday. The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BLISS) organised the event.

## Solo art exhibition of Japanese artist begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day solo art exhibition of Japanese artist Kuroda Akihito begins tomorrow at Teacher-student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University (DU).

Akihito, who has no institutional education on art, sketched about 100 portraits of Bangladeshi people during his one month stay in the country, as he came here on February 8 responding to an invitation of a professor of the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.

Prof SMA Faiz, Vice Chancellor of DU will inaugurate the exhibition at 10:00am on the day.

Kuroda Akihito informed the newsmen about the exhibition at a press conference at DU yesterday.