



Dhaka City Corporation has been digging a lake at the Osmani Udyan in the city after felling many trees.

PHOTO: STAR

# Birth registration law to be implemented in two years

## LGRD minister tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday stressed the need for raising awareness among people for implementation of the newly amended birth registration law in the country. Terming the law passed on December 7, 2004 and amended in 2006 as fundamental right of children, the minister said it would be implemented in two years.

He was speaking as chief guest at a dissemination session titled 'Comparative study of reform of legislation related to birth registration in selected Asian countries-context Bangladesh' jointly organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) and Plan Bangladesh, at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) auditorium in the city.

Presenting a research paper on the occasion, Advocate Farhana Jesmine, a researcher of BNWLA, said "In many developing countries, significant portions of the population do not have proof of identity due to absence of an inclusive and effective birth registration system."

The research conducted in six divisional cities reveals that 72 per cent of the population are well aware about the Birth and Death Registration Act 2004 while 28 per cent are fully unaware of the law.

However, the study also says, none made any birth and death registration under the new law.

A total of 79.3 per cent people said the role of the ward commissioners is crucial in implementing the law, the study reveals.

Speaking as a special guest, Edward Thomas Espy, country director of Plan Bangladesh, said "Passing a law is not enough, rather it should be implemented following specific process to ensure the identity of every individual in future."

The speakers suggested media campaign, coordination at all levels and adequate logistic supports for implementation of the law.

BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali also spoke on the occasion.

DU SOCIAL WELFARE INSTT

# Teachers begin work abstention for removal of director

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday began an indefinite work abstention programme demanding removal of its director.

According to a notice hung on the notice board, 15 out of total 16 teachers will neither take any class nor conduct any examination until the director Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman is removed.

The notice signed by the 15 teachers also said they will not take part in any academic activities protesting the administrative irregularities, corruption and autocratic behaviour of the director.

Earlier on June 3, the teachers issued an ultimatum to the university authorities demanding the removal of Prof Atiq.

They brought against him seven allegations including alleged corruptions, irregularities, autocratic outlook in conducting the institute and different financial anomalies.

Meanwhile, the DU syndicate has formed a six-member probe committee headed by Prof Tazmeri SA Islam to investigate the matter on June 19.

But the teachers at an urgent meeting yesterday decided not to cooperate with the probe committee as long as the director remains in the chair.

Quoting his other colleagues, a senior teacher told The Daily Star that they will not cooperate with the probe committee as the director will try to influence the investigation.

About the teachers' demand for his removal, Prof Atiq said until certain allegation is proved, a director cannot be removed and for that reason the authorities have formed the probe committee.

"Whatever is the decision of the probe committee, I'll comply with it," he said.

Prof Atiq also requested the teachers to hold the ongoing examinations for the sake of the students.

# Uphold highest standard of morality in dispensation of justice

## Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the importance of upholding the highest standard of morality and human welfare in the dispensation of justice.

They also expressed concern that moral values have declined among the people.

Renaissance Foundation for Human Resource Management organised the seminar on 'Dispensation of Justice in the East and the West' in the city.

The speakers said justice means giving everyone their due and it is a birthright, not merely a legal right. They also stressed the need for efficient and effective dispensation of justice as the institutions of justice in the country are going through a difficult time.

Prof Dr Muin-ud-Din Ahmad Khan, former vice-chancellor of Southern University, presented a keynote paper highlighting the historical and doctrinal evidences of justice.

In the West, justice is the right of every human being whereas in the East, justice is due to everybody, he said.

Justice Muhammad Abdur Rauf, Justice AKM Sadeque, Maj. Gen. (ret'd.) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Bir Pratik, former ambassador Ahmed Farid, Barrister Harunur Rashid, Prof Dr Mahbubullah and Forrest E Cookson, an American scholar, took part in the seminar.

SUFIA KAMAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

# Call to promote secular, human values

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday called on all to learn a lesson from the life of poet Sofia Kamal and promote secular and human values in society.

Sofia Kamal, a freedom fighter, poet and long-time women's rights activist, had tried to be a 'perfect human being' during her lifetime by showing tolerance of the views and opinions of others, they said.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the meeting and a cultural function at the Cirdap auditorium in the city to mark the 95th birth anniversary of the poet.

Prof Sanjida Khatun delivered a lecture on 'The role of poet Sofia

Kamal in establishing a society and culture free from communalism and fanaticism'. Presided over by Mahila

## New telephone numbers of American Centre

The existing telephone numbers of the American Centre are going to be changed, says a press release.

The new numbers with caller ID will be effective from tomorrow. The new numbers are 883-7150, 883-7151, 883-7152, 883-7153 and 883-7154.

The American Centre has requested its patrons and contacts to note all new telephone numbers and make necessary changes.

Parishad President Hena Das, the meeting was also addressed by Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam.

Prof Sanjida said Sofia Kamal had devoted her life to promoting human values in family, society and the country.

"Sofia Kamal was a pious woman and she followed the key tenets of her faith -- to show respect to human beings. If we can learn this lesson from her, there would not be any clash among people of different faiths and opinions," she added.

Ayesha Khanam said the poet has inspired them to establish a culture free from communalism.

Later, a cultural programme was held where renowned artists rendered songs and recited

# CARJACKING Court asks jail authorities to produce Paban, Robin on July 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chief Whip's son Aktar Hamid Paban and his close associate Zahirul Islam Robin, arrested on charge of carjacking, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday for a monthly appearance.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan directed the jail authorities to produce them before the court for the next scheduled date on July 19.

Meantime, defence lawyers could not move the bail petition yesterday as they moved it on Monday last that a court rejected.

A Detective Branch team arrested Paban at Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio on June 7.

Three criminals in Motijheel hijacked the vehicle at gunpoint on October 13 last year.

# AL delegation leaves for China

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of opposition Awami League, led by its General Secretary Abdul Jalil, left for China yesterday at the invitation of the Chinese government.

The delegation members are Rehana Jalil, Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanok, General Secretary Mirza Azam, Jahid Ahsan Russell MP, Dr Alauddin Ahmed MP and Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton MP.

The AL delegation is expected to return home on June 28.

During Jalil's absence, party Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader will act as general secretary, party sources said.

# 20 cops killed in Khulna since govt assumes office

## Babar tells Parliament

UNB, Dhaka

Some 20 policemen were killed and 33 others wounded in trouble-torn Khulna division since the alliance government assumed office, Parliament was told yesterday.

State Minister of Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar disclosed the casualty figure in his written reply to Miah Golam Parwar (Jamaat) elected from Khulna-5.

The maximum number of casualties was recorded from Khulna district where 15 policemen were either killed or injured. Khulna was followed by Jhenidah, Satkhira, Kushtia, Bagerhat and other districts.

In reply to Ruhul Kuddus (Jamaat), Babar said the government procured vehicles worth Tk 219, 153423 and modern arms worth Tk 120,7176752 for law enforcers, including Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Of the purchased arms, the

number of various types of weapon is 1,04,363, different kinds of bullet 6688600, teargas shells 67000 and gas grenade 2000.

The vehicles include 474 jeeps, 243 pickups, 94 cars, 59 highway patrol cars, 153 minibuses, 1807 motorcycles, 45 trucks, 12 armoured vehicles, 10 ambulances and 20 yellow taxicabs.

Meanwhile, Babar yesterday told the Parliament that the coalition government issued licenses for 1,274 firearms so far.

The government has also kept all frontier districts, air, sea and land ports and BDR on the alert to stop smuggling of illegal weapons and ammunition into Bangladesh, he added.

Babar was replying to questions from Hafizuddin Ahmed (JP) and Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Anee (BNP).

In response to Hafizuddin, Babar presented a yearly breakup of firearms licenses that showed that the highest number of 524

licenses were issued in 2004 while 329 in 2005.

The type of firearms and the names of recipients of licenses were not, however, mentioned.

On the fight against Islamist militancy, he told the lawmakers that most of the members of the four banned militant outfits were arrested and efforts continued to nab the runaways.

"A core committee was set up at the Home Ministry to combat the militant activities and improve the law-and-order situation," he said.

Besides, temporary checkpoints have been set up at important points to identify the militants and stop-and-search operation against the suspects continued across the country.

Babar informed the House that a committee at the Home Ministry has been formed to monitor the cases and trial process against the militants involved in the serial bombings and suicide bomb attacks, which shook the country recently.



Chittagong Customs and Port Authority auctioned off a lot of cars and imported goods yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



The inaugural ceremony of 'Elite Ranga Chandan Uptan Free Facial Festival-2006' was held at the City Trade Fair at level 7 of Bashundhara City yesterday. Model of Elite Cosmetics Romana and playwright and director Choyonika Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

**citigroup foundation**

## Citigroup Microentrepreneurship Awards

### সিটিগ্রুপ ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা পুরস্কার

যে ৫টি বিভাগে এক ফেরদা বিকেন্দ্রীয় এ পুরস্কার দেয়া হবে তা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

১. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ নতুনশীল উদ্যোগ' - ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ের অধিকার, স্বাধীনতা / উন্নয়ন, ক্ষুদ্র শ্রমিক, পুত্র হস্তশিল্পী উদ্যোগ, উৎসাহিত পুত্র বা উদ্যোগের ধারণা, পুত্রের স্বল্পবয়সী কর্মকাণ্ড
২. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ পুত্র উদ্যোক্তা' - পুত্র হস্তশিল্পী, কোল উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ের অধিকার, উদ্যোগের ক্ষমতা সম্প্রসারণ ও প্রকৃতি, উৎসাহিত পুত্র, নিয়োজিত কর্মীর সংখ্যা
৩. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ মহিলা ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা' - পুত্র হস্তশিল্পী কেন্দ্রীয় উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ের অধিকার, উদ্যোগের ক্ষমতা সম্প্রসারণ ও প্রকৃতি, উৎসাহিত পুত্র, নিয়োজিত কর্মীর সংখ্যা
৪. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়িক কর্মকাণ্ড' - ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ের সংখ্যা, ক্ষুদ্র আকারের ব্যবসা, প্রতিষ্ঠানের অধিকার, প্রতিষ্ঠানের শক্তি, ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোগের স্বাধীনতা অর্জনে প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবদান
৫. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ মালিকানাধীন ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোগ' - কর্মসূচির অধিকার, স্বল্পবয়সী প্রায়শচিত্তের ব্যবসা, স্বল্প বয়সীদের পুত্র, কর্মসূচীর কর্মকাণ্ড, স্থায়ী সম্পদ নির্ভর কর্মকাণ্ড
৬. 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়িক কর্মকাণ্ড' - কর্মসূচির অধিকার, স্বল্পবয়সী প্রায়শচিত্তের ব্যবসা, স্বল্প বয়সীদের পুত্র, কর্মসূচীর কর্মকাণ্ড, স্থায়ী সম্পদ নির্ভর কর্মকাণ্ড

সংগঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠান:

প্রথম পুরস্কার: The Daily Star, Channel 9, Dhaka Television

Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh: Gulshan, Molijheel, Agrabad

পরিচালক: