

'A safe city for women'

Demands Mahila Parishad from next mayors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday said the new Dhaka city mayors, after being elected in the February 1 polls, must work towards making the capital a women-friendly city by ensuring their safety and security.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, the Parishad leaders said women face various forms of violence in their everyday life due to lack of security.

To strengthen security measures, they urged the next city mayors to increase public transport facilities for women, make footpaths clean and pedestrian-friendly and provide sufficient hostel facilities for working women.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Traffic rules are for everyone, unless you are part of this biker gang rallying for the Awami League mayoral candidate -- evident from stickers on the motorcycles. This group was seen blocking an entire road in Segunbagicha yesterday, parading through without helmets.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

42,700 law enforcers to be on polls duty

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is planning to engage some 42,700 law enforcers on election duty, to maintain law and order during the Dhaka city corporations' polls on February 1.

Besides, 172 executive magistrates and 64 judicial magistrates will be deployed on election duty to punish incidents of electoral violence and breaching polls code of conduct in election areas, according to a working paper of a meeting of law enforcing agencies with the EC.

The EC is scheduled to hold the meeting today, where Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and others commissioner are scheduled to speak, attended by top brass of different law enforcement agencies.

According to the working paper, police, Rapid Action Battalion, Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and Border Guard

Bangladesh will be on duty at polling centres, while mobile teams and strike force will be on duty for four days from January 30 to February 2.

EC sources said they are planning to deploy 65 platoons of BGB -- one per two wards -- to act as strike force.

According to EC sources, a platoon of BGB comprise 15 to 25 members. In that account there will be at least 975 BGB members in the capital on duty.

Teams comprising 16 law enforcers will guard each polling station, while teams comprising 18 members will guard polling stations considered vulnerable in Dhaka.

The 16-member team is comprised of four policemen with firearms -- including SI or ASI and three constables, two Ansar members with firearms, and 10 Ansar-VDP members carrying sticks.

As there are 2,468 polling stations in the two corporations -- 1,318 in DNCC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Posthumous kidney transplant in the offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Society of Organ Transplantation and Kidney Foundation will arrange kidney transplantation from brain-dead patients in intensive care units of different hospitals, for the first time in the country, from next Tuesday.

The transplants will continue from January 28 to February 4, as part of their attempt to promote safe and ethical kidney transplantation.

Prof Dr Harun Ur Rashid, founding president and chief consultant of Kidney Foundation, made the announcement in a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"If we could initiate deceased donor organ transplants, dependency on live donors would decrease rapidly," Dr Sheikh Moinul Khokon, coordinator of the programme, told The Daily Star.

Initially, intensive care units at the Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Birdem General Hospital have joined the programme, supported by Bangladesh Renal Association and Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons.

"Many kidney patients in need of transplantation cannot do so due to lack of donors. If deceased organ donation could be initiated, many people would be benefited. It will discourage kidney selling also," Tiny

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Six-member cell to protect women migrant workers

Expats' minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in December last year formed a protection cell for female workers travelling abroad for employments, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad told parliament yesterday.

In a scripted answer, he also said a vigilance task force comprising officials of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry and different agents will oversee fortnightly the process of female migrant workers' going abroad, and report to the secretary of the respective ministry.

Action will be taken in accordance with the report to ensure safety of Bangladeshi female workers abroad -- including in Saudi Arabia, said the minister.

Imran told the House that over 66.3 lakh trained workers were employed abroad in the last 10 years from 2009, who have sent \$153.13 billion in remittance.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, the minister also said a total of 9.2 lakh female workers have gone abroad in the last 28 years since 1991.

The minister said Bangladesh has started sending manpower to different new destinations including Cambodia, Romania, Poland and China.

Replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Salma Islam, he said since 2009, the government has been providing skills development training under 55 trades, through 70 training centres including six institutes of marine technology and 64 technical training centres.

Besides, training is being imparted in five languages including Arabic, Korean, English, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) and Japanese, Imran said.

Setting up shop for Ekushey book fair

Suhrawardy Udyan, Bangla Academy abuzz



Workers set up a pavilion for Amar Ekushey book fair in Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

You can hear the hammering of nails from one end, while canes and sticks are being cut on the other. There are floors being polished, name plaques being installed, and people running around to set up their stalls for Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy premises.

The scale and scope of the fair is larger this year, hence this preparation period is busier, with hundreds of workers setting up stalls. Art directors were seen at the site alongside publishers during a visit on Monday.

There will be 34 pavilions at the fair, which are almost complete, workers said.

"I have been visiting every afternoon to look after the stall instalment work,

as we have to complete it before February 2," said Sharif, publisher of Shobdoshilpo publication.

Aslam, a worker, said he has been setting up book fair stalls for the last 15 years. "I quite like this work... we start in the morning and often work till the evening," he said.

A total of 322 publications are going to participate in the book fair this year. Seeking anonymity, a publisher told this correspondent, "Readers might find it difficult to navigate through so many stalls. They won't be able to browse the entire fair."

Like other years, there will be a zone dedicated for children at Suhrawardy Udyan. "Lekhak Mancha" will be organised for the second time this year as well.

Cop's son missing for four days

Businessman traceless since Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of a police sub-inspector has been missing since Saturday from the capital's Bashabo area.

Mazharul Islam Aronno (13), son of SI Abdul Motalib Bhuiyan of Police Bureau of Investigation, is a seventh grader at Motijheel Model School and College.

Speaking to The Daily Star, SI Motalib said Aronno went out of the family's residence around 10am on Saturday to play with his friends at the nearby Balurmath field.

As he didn't return, the family started to get worried and started looking for him at possible locations, including police stations and hospitals.

Despite being a member of police, Motalib said he does not have many enemies and cannot think of a reason behind Aronno's disappearance. "I am clueless as to what might have happened to my son. We are very worried... His mother is bedridden," he said.

The family filed a general diary in this connection with Shabujbagh Police Station on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Girl found dead at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl from her Dakshinkhan residence in Dhaka early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Suraiya Akter, who used to live with her father and stepmother in Noapara area.

Mosharruf Hossain, sub-inspector of Dakshinkhan Police Station, said the body bore several old and fresh injury marks.

Police have detained stepmother Shibli Begum (26), while her father, Hafizul Islam, fled the scene, the SI added.

Suraiya used to live with Hafizul and his second wife ever since Hafizul divorced her mother, Aziron Begum, around four years ago.

Quoting neighbours, the SI said Hafizul and Shibli used to torture Suraiya often.

The body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsy to determine the cause of death, the police official said.

Aziron filed a case against Hafizul and Shibli with the police station yesterday.

A guiding light for health sector

Speakers say on Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's contribution



Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury speaks at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's enormous contribution to the country's health sector helped flourish many organisations and institutions, which played important roles in further developing the service-oriented sector, said speakers at a memorial programme yesterday.

Beside his direct contributions, Sir Fazle played an instrumental role in shaping various healthcare-related movements and emerged as an avatar whenever they faced crisis, speakers added.

The Bangladesh chapter of People's Health Movement (PHM), a global network of grassroots health activists, arranged the programme at Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GSK) in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Recalling his nearly five-decade visionary journey in the field of development, Gonoshasthaya founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury said Sir Fazle's most significant contribution was in the health sector.

Once, mortality rate due to diarrhoea

was very high in Bangladesh. It was Sir Fazle who waged a movement and reached door-to-door at the grassroots with the concept of preparing oral saline and saved thousands of lives, Zafrullah said.

Zafrullah said they are going to launch an international standard kidney transplant centre at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in June. "Our heartfelt wish is that the centre will be named after Sir Fazle," he said.

Dr Mohib Ullah Khondoker, coordinator of GSK dialysis centre, said Sir Fazle's contribution in launching the centre was significant.

Former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub said despite not being a physician, Sir Fazle understood the country's health sector very well. He said Brac also undertook programmes in this regard, especially related to research and survey on health issues.

Sir Fazle reached out to the voiceless and he did it with generosity, said Prof Rashid.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Twelve hurt in scuffle at Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Staffers of Labaid Hospital and Concord Shopping Mall Owners Association members locked into a clash yesterday in the capital's Dhanmondi, that left some 12 people injured, one of them critically.

The clash ensued around 2:30pm after shopping mall owner's association members obstructed hospital staffers from opening two shops, which Labaid had bought a year back.

The hospital's security in-charge Md Nasir Uddin Taz received severe head injuries and is undergoing treatment at Labaid.

Chowdhury Meher-E-Khuda Dip, public relations officer of Labaid, said the hospital owned four to five shops on the third and fourth floors in the shopping mall.

Yesterday, hospital authorities sent three workers to paint their two shops. But the owner's association president Sanaul Hoque Mir and secretary Mokter Hossain allegedly stopped the workers, slapped them and sent them back, alleged Dip.

"Three top officials of the hospital, including the security in-charge, went to the market to check the issue where 15 to 20 members of the market association were waiting with sticks," said Dip.

As hospital officials

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