

PHOTO OF THE DAY PRABIR DAS



This is not a photo of a migrant family trying to cross an ocean on a makeshift raft to reach safe shores. In fact, this is from Dhaka's Gulshan Lake, where this service is offered at a cheap price. It is mostly availed by those who need to go to Mohakhali from the Karail Bosti area. If it weren't for this, they would have to commute a huge distance on road.

ETHNIC GROUPS IN CHT 44pc women victim of domestic violence: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-four percent women of ethnic minority groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) experience domestic violence at least once in their lifetime, of which 82 percent cases are in the hands of their husbands, a study by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) revealed yesterday.

Among the women, 33 percent faced physical violence, 38 percent experienced mental torture, 19 percent went through economic oppression while 5 percent faced sexual violence, according to the study revealed at Brac Centre in the capital.

Financially insolvent women having no education, those subjected to early marriage and family members of alcohol addicts were the most vulnerable to domestic violence, it said.

Dr Ainoon Naher, a professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, presented the paper, "Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Access to Justice for The Ethnic Women and Girls in CHT" at the event, moderated by MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam.

The study was conducted in March and April last year, on 1,171 women of ethnic groups aged between 19 and 40, including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tanchangya, Mro, Bawm, Khumi and others -- from 26 upazilas of three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts: Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

According to the study, 52 percent of the women surveyed have experienced gender-based-violence in public transports, on the roads or in the public gathering places. Both Bengali and ethnic community men were widely accused in their accounts.

The nature of violence included touching or attempting to touch the body, throwing objects to sensitive parts of the body, sexually indicative languages, suggestive songs and whistling, and standing too close to the body.

The study also revealed that over 45 percent women experienced multiple forms of violence at workplaces and/or at educational institutions, 61 percent felt most vulnerable at marketplaces, 45 percent at crop fields, 6 percent in educational institutions, and 3 percent in offices.

The perpetrators were local goons, influential, colleagues, ex-husbands or unknown persons; according to 70 percent women, the perpetrators came from other ethnic groups than their own.

The study also found that women from ethnic communities only seek remedies through the formal justice system for grave cases, mostly for rape or severe physical torture. According to the women interviewed, only three percent went to court, while 35 percent survivors and their families approached the traditional Adivasi justice system, 28 percent approached Union Parishad, 14 percent sought justice through local/community salish (village arbitration council) and 12 percent through NGOs.

Greater dependence on traditional methods or community, obstacles from within family, sense of insecurity, fear of being dishonoured, inadequate knowledge about service providers and corruption of service providers were the main reasons behind their reluctance in seeking legal help.

"It is very important to change our SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

19th death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan observed



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 19th death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as a public relations officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation from 1968 to 1975, before joining the Dainik Bangla and the Bichitra as general manager.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founder managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in the capacity till his death.

The first English SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Self-publishing author finds publisher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elderly writer, who had been publishing his own books and taking those to stalls at Ekushey book fair for the last 20 years, has finally found a publication house keen on his work.

Noticing the photo of Dr Foyzur Rahman Al-Siddique (86) at the book fair on social media, Tanvir Ahmed Mishuk, Managing Director of mobile financial transaction service Nagad met him and took the initiative to publish his book from Bangla Prokash.

"I have taken the writer's permission to publish his book officially on Monday night," Mishuk said in a press release yesterday.

Bangla Prokash Managing Director M Shariful Alam said the book, titled "Bangalir Joy, Bangalir Berthota" [Success and Failure of Bengalis], will be available from next week at their stall at the fair.

"After reading the book, I realised that it should be presented to a wider section of book lovers," he added.

Meanwhile, retail supershop chain Swapno has decided to sell the book at all its premium outlets, after finding out about Dr Foyzur through social media, its Head of Business Mahadi Faisal said in a press release yesterday.



Many newspapers, including The Daily Star, had published reports on the endeavours of Dr Al-Siddique, a former researcher and scientist of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), after a photo of him standing in front of a stall at the book fair went viral on social media on February 9. The picture showed him going past a book stall carrying three bags, a single book in his hand.

"Failing to find a publication house, I have been printing 150 to 200 copies every year and selling the books at the book fair," said Siddique, also a former director of Nuclear Science Research Institute (NSRI).

Born in 1934 at Nawabganj of Dhaka, Siddique graduated in chemistry from Dhaka University, and received his PhD from Cambridge University, UK.

GRAFT IN GOVT PROJECTS ACC finds top CAAB officials' involvement

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Investigation by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has revealed names of some top officials of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) involved in graft on construction projects.

The officials are: CAAB Chief Engineer Sudhendu Bikash Goswami; Superintendent Engineer AKM Maksudul Islam; executive engineers Shariful Islam, Shahiduzzaman and Mokabbar Ali; and deputy assistant director Kazi Bayezid Ahmed.

ACC yesterday wrote a letter to the CAAB chairman to ensure presence of the six officials at ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters on February 20 and February 23 to face quizzing.

A three-member team led by ACC Director Sayed Iqbal Hossain kicked off the enquiry recently. Two other members are ACC's Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Proddhan and Assistant Director Ataur Rahman Sarkar.

CAAB sources said at least Tk 4.5 crore has been misappropriated from a project adopted for construction of an import cargo canopy.

Wishing to be unnamed, the official said the estimated cost of the project was about Tk 11.5 crore. The work belongs to Division -1 of CAAB, but the work was carried out by division-2, breaching regulations.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER 8yrs on, IGP says probe report 'soon'

STAR REPORT

On the 8th anniversary of the murder of journalist couple Sagar-Runi, Inspector General of Police Javed Patwari yesterday said the probe report in the case will be submitted soon.

"Rab officers are investigating the murder case. They are submitting probe reports following court order, giving their best efforts," he said at a programme yesterday in Barguna.

On Feb 12, 2012, Maasranga Television News Editor Sagar Sarowar and ATN Bangla Senior Reporter Meherun Runi were stabbed to death in their Razabazar flat.

Within hours of the incident, the then home minister Shahara Khatun had promised to catch the culprits within 48 hours.

However, there has been little progress since. On Monday, investigators failed for the 71st time to submit the probe report to a court.

DRU HOLDS RALLY Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday held a protest rally in front of DRU demanding punishment of the killers of Sagar-Runi.

"We will besiege the home ministry on SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Advertisement for Standard Bank Limited featuring a yellow umbrella and stacks of coins. Text includes 'সর্বাধিক লাভে সুরক্ষিত হোক আপনার সঞ্চয়' and 'এমডিএস সার্বজনীন প্রজন্ম ঘরনী বন্ধন লাভপ্ৰাপ্তি মিলেনিয়ার প্রাস কোটিপতি প্রাস'.

Advertisement for medical services including 'পাইলুস, ফিস্টুলা, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, অ্যাপেন্ডিসাইটিস, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি' and 'ইডেন মাল্টি-কেয়ার হস্পিটাল'.

Advertisement for Biman Bangladesh Airlines with the text 'আধুনিকতার ছোঁয়া লেগেছে বিমান-এ, আপনার সহযোগিতায় পৌঁছাবে কাঙ্ক্ষিত লক্ষ্যে' and 'আপনিও হোন এ সাফল্যের গর্বিত অংশীদার'.