

CULTURE OF PEACE

UN unanimously adopts flagship resolution of Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has unanimously adopted Bangladesh's flagship resolution on the "Culture of Peace".

While introducing the resolution in the general assembly, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Ambassador Rabab Fatima on Wednesday called upon the UN member states and all relevant stakeholders to spread the message of "Culture of Peace" to overcome the challenges posed by Covid-19.

The resolution was first adopted on September 13, 1999, during the first tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Since then, Bangladesh has been facilitating this resolution at the assembly every year and also convening a high-level forum in this regard in the general assembly.

This year's high-level forum, held on September 10, focused on the theme: "The Culture of Peace: Change our world for the better in the age of Covid-19".

The forum recognised its relevance in

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When Arif got out of the house yesterday, he did not know yesterday was International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Like any other day, he set out for the streets of Kakrail, precariously going from car to car in his wheelchair to ask for money. He used to work as a porter, but lost his ability to walk after a train accident. Since then, he has had to further risk his life every day, depending on people's kindness to earn his bread.

PHOTO: PRAEIR DAS

Women still lag behind in decision-making: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Majority of rural women feel that although they can participate in more economic activities than before, they have very little decision-making power regarding their income, said a report commissioned by Manusher Jonno Foundation.

It said women reported that they do not earn as they work as "family labour" in food production activities.

The most concerning part is that only 15 percent of women are involved in wage and salary employment in the agricultural sector, it added.

Findings of the report "Recognition of Women's Role in Agriculture" were disclosed during a policy dialogue and dissemination programme held virtually yesterday.

The research is in line with MJF's campaign "Equality through Dignity." A team of researchers from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) led by Prof Ismat Ara Begum conducted the research.

The team used "Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey" (BIHS) 2015 and labour force surveys of different years as data sets.

Besides, they held five focus group discussions in three upazilas (Sadar, Trishal, Phulpur) of Mymensingh, along with 10 key informant interviews.

According to the report, of the country's about 5.67 crore workforce, some 47.6 percent are involved in agricultural activities.

Of those involved in agricultural activities, about 64.8 percent are women.

However, in most cases, women are not the land owners. As a result, instead of taking on a care-giving role, women have been seen working in lands, said the report.

The report recommended that adequate attention should be given for human resource development of women in rural areas of Bangladesh.

Besides, opportunities for completing higher education should be followed by provision of employment for rural women.

It suggested that establishment of agro-processing plants, commercial

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GOLDEN MONIR'S CORRUPTION SAGA

Case finally making headway after 8yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight years ago, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a corruption case against Monir Hossain alias 'Golden Monir' for amassing wealth illegally but the trial did not see any progress.

Meantime, Monir continued to amass more wealth until Rab arrested him last month. After the arrest, he was headlined for amassing illegal wealth of over Tk 1,000 crore.

On March 13, 2012, the ACC filed a graft case against him for amassing wealth illegally. In the investigation, which was approved yesterday, it was found Monir amassed about Tk 3.1 crore illegally between 1989 and 2009.

"There was not much headway in the case. Monir filed writ at the High Court and the case was stayed," sources said.

The ACC began probe after the HC lifted the stay. But the case's progress stumbled once again as the charge of investigation kept being handed over from one officer to another.

At last ACC's Deputy Director Mosharof Hossain Mridha was assigned to investigate the case about one-and-a-half years ago.

Source said to dodge investigation, Monir in his wealth statement in 2009 claimed of getting Tk 1.61 crore as gift from different persons.

"It's a baseless claim. He actually did not get the money as gift rather he accumulated it illegally," he said.

Besides, the investigation officer found another illegal wealth worth Tk 1.5 crore possessed by Monir.

Completing the probe, the investigation officer submitted his report and got approval from the commission yesterday.

Monir was arrested by Rab during a drive last month, with 600 tola (about 7 kilograms) of gold ornaments, Tk 1.09 crore in cash and five SUVs. According to the law enforcement agency, Monir amassed wealth worth over Tk 1,050 crore through forging Rajuk documents, gold smuggling and other crimes, and owns at least 200

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ABRAR MURDER

22 accused file no-confidence petition against tribunal judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two accused persons in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) student Abrar Fahad murder case, now in jail, yesterday brought a no-confidence petition against the judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka.

The defence lawyers for the accused submitted a petition saying that the judge recorded statements of the prosecution witnesses in accordance with the law, but he did not record their statements properly while cross-examining the witnesses.

So they apprehend that they would not get justice from the tribunal, the defence lawyers also stated in their petition.

They will submit an application with the High Court for transfer of the case, they added.

The prosecution opposed it saying that the defence submitted such petition only to hamper the trial.

After hearing both sides, Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman fixed December 6 for hearing on the petition.

The same tribunal on September 15 framed charges

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'A violation of human rights'

Says NHRC body about victim's family waiting two years for autopsy report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A probe committee of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) termed the occurrence of a victim's family having to wait two years to get an autopsy report a violation of human rights. This issue is related to the case where both kidneys of a 55-year-old woman were removed allegedly during a surgery by doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU).

Visiting Dhaka Medical College's forensic department yesterday, NHRC

Director (complaints and Inquiry) Al-Mahmud Faizul Kabir said victim Rawshan Ara's body was sent there on November 3, 2018 for autopsy, and the autopsy report was sent to Shahbagh Police Station on November 7 this year.

"It's not normal... We talked to Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of the forensic department, who told us that there was no requisition from police. We are investigating why police did not take the autopsy report for such a long time, and why the forensic

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Supporting the less-fortunate, in loving memory of Samia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Days before she would attend her graduation ceremony at Dhaka University, Samia Sarwar's life was cut short at the age of 24 as a speedy bus crashed into her car on August 24, 2018.

Samia was a compassionate, empathetic person throughout her life, reminisce her friends and family. In her loving memory, her family have launched a campaign by the Samia Sarwar Foundation with the help of LaunchGood UK, and initially plan to raise £5,000 [around Tk 5.66 lakh] to support 100 families in the slums of Dhaka amid the global pandemic.

"Each family will get a one-time

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CASE AGAINST PROTHOM ALO EDITOR

Guarantee right to fair trial: Amnesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday tweeted in support of Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, calling for a fair trial in the case filed over the accidental death of a school student.

"The editor of Prothom Alo and 8 others accused in a case of alleged criminal negligence must have their right to a fair trial guaranteed. The authorities must also ensure that the case is not used as a pretext to further restrict the right to freedom of expression," said the tweet by Amnesty International South Asia.

On November 12, a Dhaka court indicted Matiur Rahman and eight others in the case filed over the death of Dhaka Residential Model College student Naimul Abrar Rahat.

On November 1 last year, Abrar, a ninth-grader, was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo, when he accidentally touched a live wire.

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TORCHING OF BUSES

SC upholds anticipatory bail of 65 BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that granted anticipatory bail to 65 BNP leaders and activists including Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and Ishraque Hossain in seven cases filed for torching buses in Dhaka on November 12.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed seven petitions filed by the state seeking stay on the orders.

Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath represented the state while lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal appeared for the accused BNP leaders and activists during

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A MESS THAT NEVER SEEMS TO UNTANGLE... Not so long ago, DSCC mayor vowed an overhead cable-free city by December and started drives against this eyesore. However, the city corporation had to backtrack as cable operators threatened internet shutdown as they said they weren't given enough time or any other alternative. Judging by this photograph of a man standing on a ladder and trying to untangle this mess of cables in front of Agrani Bank in Dilkusha area yesterday, it becomes quite apparent that even a good initiative without proper planning can fall short.

MINI BYTES



2020 - Not the best year for Apple

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Hot water - that's probably the perfect way to describe Apple's current situation. Mediocre stock market performance, slower sales, bribery scandal, Battery-gate, Watergate - the company has been knee-deep in legal and financial troubles this year.

Let's start with the one that might have impacted most users: The Battery-gate. It all started in 2017 when users of iPhone, Apple's most sold product, experiencing significant slowdowns in the older devices once Apple rolled out a newer update of their operating systems. When confronted, Apple agreed to say that it was a deliberate attempt to make sure that older iPhones such as iPhone 6S did not unexpectedly shutdown from excessive processor performance. iPhone users, however, were not pleased with Apple's explanation. As a hail marry to save face, Apple issued a public apology and offered discounts on battery replacement for ageing devices. Despite all these, the matter went to court and Apple had to pay half a billion dollars in fine. From this amount, every affected iPhone user got \$25 in refunds. The matter did not end there - Apple was bombarded with lawsuits in nearly 3 dozen states in the US and also in Europe for such deceptive practices. All of those have been lost by Apple and industry analysts predict more are to come on its way.

The most recent lawsuit that Apple lost in European courts are due to its water-resistance claims. Apple in its marketing materials claimed that iPhone 8 through iPhone 11 can survive four metres deep for up to 30 minutes. But independent tests

simulating real-life scenario debunked those claims of Apple. To make things even worse, Apple does not provide warranty coverage due to water coverage on those devices. For such fabricated claims, Apple was fined \$12 Million.

Now let's look at the bribery charges: Apple's head of global security Thomas Moyer was charged for bribing in the form of (\$75,000 worth of) iPads to the Santa Clara Sheriff's county for obtaining conceal carry permit of firearms. Apple's internal investigation however did not Moyer guilty of anything. After conducting an investigation for nearly two years, the District-Attorney filed charges against two police officers and Apple's Moyer.

To top all these, Apple is seeing a sluggish sales performance of its newest iPhone 12. May touted that this slow in sales performance is due to Apple's newest phone not offering anything ground-breaking. In social media, the phone has already been ridiculed for the uncanny similarity between the six-year older iPhone's design and not packing any charger or even cables. In the Chinese market, the phone's sales performance was even lower than Apple's own conservative projections.

These all probably are the reason why in early November, when \$430 Billion of Apple market cap was whipped out. The good news for Apple is that some of it have been recovered by now. With the new M1 Silicon Processor-based Apple's MacBook products showing promising performance, Wall Street analysts believe that in 2021, Apple is going to bounce back and reinstate itself in the market as the reigning king.