

### Repression on women, children Bill seeking death penalty for offenders introduced

A bill was introduced in Parliament yesterday seeking to provide for stiff punishment, including death penalty, for certain grievous offences against women and children, reports UNB.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury introduced the bill titled 'The Women and Children Repression (Special Provisions) Bill, 1995.'

The bill seeks to provide death penalty for killing a woman or a child by using harmful, poisonous or corrosive substance, raping or gang-raping women and children, and killing a woman for dowry. Under the provisions, the offender will be liable to seven years to life imprisonment for damaging eye or eyesight, head or face, hearing ability, any part of the body of women and children by using harmful, poisonous or corrosive substance. The bill calls for capital punishment for raping or gang-raping. It also says, the offender will be liable to life imprisonment if he tries to kill or injure a woman and a child after raping.

It provides for life imprisonment to anyone found guilty of importing, exporting, buying or selling of a woman for prostitution or illegal sexual acts.

It seeks seven to ten years imprisonment for offenders using a woman for prostitution, for forcible marriage or sexual acts.

The bill also provides for death sentence to anyone found guilty of killing a woman for non-payment of dowry. It says the offender will be given life imprisonment for smuggling or keeping hostage a child.

It says the trial of such offences will be held under a special tribunal to be set up at each district headquarters.

In a statement explaining the aims and objectives of the bill, the Home Minister said cases like women repression and killing have increased because of trafficking in women and children, raping, killing women and children, and non-payment of dowry.

He admitted that these grievous offences have been increasing despite existing laws like the Women Repression Act, the Anti-Dowry Act and the Children's Act.

If the proposed law is enacted, the Home Minister said, it would be possible to take tough measures against the offences relating to repression on women and children. Speedy trial would also be possible to dispose of cases under the Act, he added.

### Environment protection bill adopted

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday adopted two bills including the Bangladesh Environment Protection Bill, 1995, reports BSS.

Moved by Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain, the bill sought to create a legal infrastructure to protect and develop environment and control environmental pollution.

The House also passed the Bangladesh Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1995, piloted by Shipping Minister M K Anwar.

The bill on environment protection makes it mandatory to take environmental clearance from the Director General of the Department of Environment for any new industry or development project except the specified class of industries decided by the government for relaxation from time to time.

Under this law, the government may declare an area 'ecological critical,' if the eco-system of that area is threatened due to environmental degradation. The government by notification could prohibit or restrict some activities in that area with a view to improving the environmental situation.

The bill prohibits plying of any motor vehicle with emits black smoke which is harmful to human health and the environment.

### James P Grant remembered



Star file photo shows James P Grant (extreme right) talking to some children in Manikganj on Feb 5, 1994 during his visit to this country.

By Staff Correspondent

James P Grant's dedication and contributions to the cause of children the world over were recalled at a memorial assembly organised by UNICEF in a city hotel yesterday.

He was the champion of the cause of children, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwar Rahman said in a tribute to James Grant, executive director of the Unicef who died of cancer on January 28, two days after retiring.

His love and compassion for deprived children made him the oldest young man. He showed us how to nurture children and we, in Bangladesh, started work based on his ideals, she added.

Millions of children lived to see adulthood because of him, said A Moyeen Khan, the State Minister for Planning, referring to Grant's commitment to immunisation and oral dehydration therapy (ODT) programmes.

Although he did his greatest work with the Unicef he had always been involved in international development, David N Merrill, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, said of Grant's illustrious career spanning over five decades.

He was not only an international civil servant, he was also a great American. He began his life's work in China (where he was born) in the 40s and made his mark in the USAID, the State Department and the Overseas Development Council, Merrill added.

There will always be a little of James Grant in every healthy Bangladeshi child. He is in every hamlet of this country, Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director, BRAC said, recalling Grant's visit to Bangladesh in February '94. He was a simple man with simple ideas who, through his efforts, infused new and bigger life into the Unicef, Abed recalled.

### Call to intensify agitation for trial of 'war criminals'

By Staff Correspondent  
Leaders of the Nirmul Committee exchanged views with leaders of different student organisations yesterday and called for intensifying the agitation for trial of war criminals including Golam Azam.

The meeting, held at the Bangabandhu Avenue office of the committee, also discussed future programmes including the representatives conference of February 10 and the foundation anniversary of the organisation the following day.

Convener of the Committee Syed Hasan Imam chaired the meeting which was attended by Abdur Razzak, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Nurul Islam Nahid, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

### Biplobi Communist Party leader hacked to death

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: A local leader of Biplobi Communist Party (Haq Group), Abdus Shahid Lal, 30, was hacked to death allegedly by armed cadres of the outlawed Sarbaha Party near Arabur bus stoppage here early today.

Police sources said the miscreants put up barricades on the road near the Arabur bus stoppage at 2-30 am today and took Shahid Lal to a nearby bush where they chopped him into pieces. Lal was returning home from Dhaka.

A case was registered with Jhenidah police but no arrest was made till filing of this report last night.

### LDF protests price-hike

By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) staged a rally and brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials and demanding early elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Hundreds of LDF activists took part in the rally and the procession. The procession was intercepted at the Bangla Motor crossing while it was proceeding towards the Prime Minister's office.

Earlier, the LDF rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club was addressed by Nirmal Sen.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Khalequzzaman, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Hasanul Huq Inu, Mahbulul Huq and Naim Jahangir were present.

### Kazi Zafar

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of Kazi Zafar Ahmed violating a government restriction. The Bureau in its case said the former prime minister and education minister ordered the Text Book Board, Dhaka, to deposit one crore taka in the branch of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) Ltd violating government restriction on depositing money in a non-banking institution like the BCI.

As per the directive, the then chairman of the Text Book Board deposited the said amount to the Bangla Bazar branch of the BCI.

The BCI was shut down on April 28, 1992, and for this reason the Board could not draw the deposited money.

A boy aged about 10 was run over by a bus at Mohakhali in the morning. He also died on the spot.

### 2 killed in city

By DMCH-Correspondent

An engineer and an unidentified boy were killed in road accidents in the city's Kalyanpur and Mahakhali areas yesterday.

Abul Ansari, 45, an engineer, died on the spot when a minibus crushed an autorickshaw at Kalyanpur around 1:00 pm. Ansari was in the autorickshaw.

Police said, the minibus driver fled, leaving behind his vehicle. The autorickshaw driver, whose name could not be known immediately, was seriously injured and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A boy aged about 10 was run over by a bus at Mohakhali in the morning. He also died on the spot.

### Indo-Bangla ties

From Page 1 Col 4

ture in the future to sustain a much larger volume of export to India than is possible at the moment.

They also agreed that to create an enabling atmosphere for promoting exports from Bangladesh, India should immediately remove all tariffs and quantitative restrictions on a list of Bangladesh's principal exports to India, the summary paper given by the CPD said.

It was also mentioned in the paper that special attention was given to the comparative advantage of Bangladesh to enhance exports to the north-eastern regions of India.

### Complete Bangla grammar needed

By Staff Correspondent

Director General of the Bangla Academy Prof Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid has stressed the need for introducing a complete grammar of the Bengali language.

He was addressing a discussion on the occasion of publishing the second edition of the Bengali-English Dictionary by the Bangla Academy at the academy yesterday.

Speakers at the discussion observed that there was no alternative to this dictionary in meeting practical demands, says a press release.

A poetry recitation programme was also held at the 'lekhiakkunja' at the academy yesterday afternoon with Syed Shamsul Haq in the chair.

Rafiq Azad, Humayun Azad, Tariq Suzat, Pradip Mitra and Asad Chowdhury recited poems at the function conducted by Md Nurul Huda and Asad Chowdhury.

Later, the Bangla Academy DG unveiled the cover of Moshon Raihan's newly published poetry book 'Ghatak Noi Premik'.

### 50 kutcha houses gutted in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 5: A devastating fire gutted some 50 kutcha houses including cash and valuable goods at village Kalanpara in sadar than early today, reports UNB.

The fire, originated from a kitchen of a house in the village raged through and quickly spread to the adjacent areas at about 3 am destroying goods and property worth Tk 75 lakh.

Firefighters along with the help of the local people extinguished the fire after an hour.

The Local Government Chairman Samiran Dewan, Deputy Commissioner Md Ismail and Superintendent of Police visited the affected area.

Different social organizations have distributed aid among the fire victims.

### Tk 11300cr loss due to Farakka

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The minister said Bangladesh will continue to raise the issue of water-sharing of international rivers, including the Ganges, at national and international levels until the country's legitimate right over the rivers is established.

He informed the House that the government has constituted a body — the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) — under the Water Resources Ministry to formulate a national water policy.

He, however, said that it is very difficult to formulate any such policy until the shares of international rivers are ensured.

Detailing the present situation of the common and bordering rivers, Majid-ul Huq said India's unilateral withdrawal of water by constructing illegal infrastructures over the common rivers, including the Ganges, resulted in a desertification process in the northern part of Bangladesh.

The environmental balance is also in the process of being destroyed, he said listing the negative impact on the country's landscape and hydrological process due to construction of infrastructures by India.

These are: the raising of the river beds due to siltation, changes of river courses, reduction of land moisture and

### 4 held with drugs

A special squad of the Narcotics Control Department of the Dhaka sub region yesterday seized huge quantity of liquor and several bottles of Phensidyl from three separate raids and arrested four people in these connections, reports UNB.

On a tip-off, the team during their operation at Bagbari in Mirpur thana seized 65 bottles of the banned syrup and arrested three people for possessing the drugs.

In another drive, the squad arrested one person and seized 240 cans of liquor from his possession at Nayabazar in Kotwali thana of the city. The cans were kept inside a microbus.

Cases were filed with respective thanas.

### The Midnight File

#### Bosnian govt, Serbs agree on safe route for civilians

SARAJEVO, Feb 5: Bosnia's Muslim-led government and rebel Serbs agreed Sunday on safe route for civilians in and out of Sarajevo, a government spokesman said. The agreement permits people in government-held parts of the city to cross the airport into the suburb of Butmir. From there, they can go to government-held central Bosnia then on to Croatia and elsewhere, said Hasan Muratovic, reports AP.

#### Algerian leader decapitated

ALGIERS, Feb 5: A leader of Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN) Ahmed Kasmi, has been decapitated, security services said today. Kasmi, a member of the central committee of the FLN — formerly Algeria's sole political party — was abducted Tuesday. Only his head was recovered Thursday in a railway station at Khemis-Milliana, west of Algiers, the evening daily Horizons quoted security services as saying, reports AFP.

### JCD, employees clash in BAU: 15 hurt

MYMENSINGH, Feb 5: Gun shots and crackers rocked the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus today during a clash between students and employees of the university reports UNB.

At least 15 employees and students were injured, five of them seriously in the clash that ensued over the buying of university admission guides at about 11:30 am near the TSC.

Employees Union of the university called an indefinite work stoppage from tomorrow demanding adequate security for their members.

Nearly a dozen rounds of shots were fired and at least 10 crackers exploded during the fight in which the office of the BAU Employees Union was ransacked.

Witnesses and police said the JCD activists reportedly severely beat up admission seeker Badal, son of an employee of the BAU, after he purchased an admission guide brought out by workers of the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Hearing the incident, victims' father working at the administrative building rushed to the spot along with his colleagues and exchanged hot words with the JCD supporters.

At one stage the students had attacked the employees and ransacked the Employees Union office before the clash spread throughout the campus. Newly-elected president of the BAU Employees' Union submitted two notices — one under Section 164 and the other as per Section 147 of the ROP — demanding discussion on the matter.

Some of the members including the law minister raised objections against any discussion on the issue.

Razzak Ali said he had permitted Moni to discuss the issue according to Section 149 of the ROP and Moni took part in the discussion.

The notices under Section 164 were now with the Privilege Committee.

Razzak Ali said he read the HC ruling very carefully.

Abdur Rob Chowdhury also raised some points on the matter.

The Speaker said the matter is very important for the future of democracy and people's aspiration. Considering the importance of the matter, the Chief Justice formed a larger bench to hear it, he noted.

The matter has been discussed in the House for several hours and 'I don't think there is further scope to discuss the issue,' the Speaker said.

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### RUPALI INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. APPRECIATION

The Board of Directors of Rupali Insurance Company Limited wishes to express its heartiest appreciation and gratitude to the investing public who have generously subscribed to the public issue which has been oversubscribed by about 5 (Five) times. This shows the profound respect and trust the company enjoys as a premier insurer of general business in Bangladesh.

With this renewed trust and confidence reposed in the company the Board of Directors is determined and fully committed to provide a much better service to its valued clients in 1995 and the years thereafter.

With the approval of the Board.  
**KHUSHI MOHAN PAUL**  
Company Secretary

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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