

# Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Agony of Eve

by Ekram Kabir

If teenage girls and those in their twenties are to stay always alert, while going to and coming back from schools and colleges, to the elements called 'teasers', they are not alone in their fear. Women in their thirties and beyond are equally agonised to a feeling of insecurity.

According to a newspaper report, police last week arrested 149 young men for allegedly teasing school and college-going girls and women in different areas of Dhaka city. The arrests were made during a 'special' drive in front of different schools and colleges of the city. 'One hundred and forty-nine' in just one day! Well, don't feel incredulous by looking at the number, and don't release a sigh of relief, thinking that the city has become teaser-free. The law-enforcing agency captured even more than that number just the week before, says another report.



lies, don't consider that upsetting events outside the houses usually originate from those very houses.

Apart from the school and college 'gates', almost every alley of the city has a small stationery shop — more like a tea stall — where the teasing messiahs gossip away their idle, robbly, putting pressure on women's minds of the mahalla. These young men with 20/20 eye-sight never miss any chance of making uncharitable and often vulgar comments on a passing lone girl/woman.

Now, what these eve-teasers normally do? To say it pointedly, in the social supermarket called the 'global village', they practice their freedom of speech and all-consuming satellite culture. Sometimes deriving fun from the practice goes far beyond, say, to such infringements of individual rights as pulling at the dupatta of a girl riding a rickshaw.

This is really frightening, no less than people are afraid of muggers. Requesting anonymity, a Dhaka University student says: 'The only place I found free of this evil is the boundary of my department, we even become victims of dirty words inside the university buses as well.'

So here is a phobia — the teasing phobia — that victimise only on the merit of sex and age. A sort of social segregation is at work against girls and women. The police have begun a good work and they must keep up it.

### Nari Samaj concerned at delay in trial of Yasmin killing

Sammlita Nari Samaj has expressed strong indignation at the delay in the trial process on the killing of Yasmin, a young woman who was allegedly raped and later killed by a gang of police in Dinajpur on August 24 last year, reports BSS.

'We are gradually becoming more and more concerned, observing the obstacles in the trial process while increased incidents of rape and women oppression by police are being reported from across the country,' the leaders of the forum said in a written statement presented at a press conference in the city on Monday.

They alleged that despite their efforts to accelerate the trial process, administrative complications and reluctant attitude of the authorities concerned are causing delay in the process.

The Nari Samaj leaders said, following the Yasmin case, similar incidents were reported from Dhaka, Chudanga, Bhafrab, Bagerhat and even in Dinajpur. In all the cases people spontaneously came up with protest but the administration stopped them instead by taking repressive measures,' they alleged.

They particularly referred to a case involving a school girl in Bagerhat on May 24 in which she was raped by police at the district police control room.

The forum leaders urged the government to take up stern measures for the immediate trial of the persons responsible for the incident.

The forum regretted that the major political parties had not even protested against the incidents and demanded their active initiatives for the trial of the cases ahead of the elections.

The forum leaders advocate Sigma Huda, Naila Khan, Khushi Kabir, Farida Akhtar, Seema Das, Sanwara Khatun among others spoke at the press conference.

UNB adds: addressing the press conference leaders of the Sammlita Nari Samaj accused police constable Abdus Salam of killing Niharu, a maid servant, in Habiganj district.

They, quoting press reports, said Salam killed Niharu at a police outpost in Madhabpur thana of Habiganj district as she turned down an indecent proposal.

They alleged that high police officials were trying to save Salam by raising irrelevant logic and matter in support of him.

Addressing the newsmen, Sigma Huda brought a number of allegations of women repression by police personnel all over the country. 'We are concerned and annoyed at the incidents.'

### Bangladesh festival in Kathmandu begins today

A week-long festival of Bangladesh Art and Culture begins today in Nepalese capital Kathmandu on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence, reports UNB.

Lila Koirala, Minister for Women and Social Welfare of Nepal, will inaugurate an exhibition on 'Bangladesh Contemporary Art Exhibition,' first

phase of the programme today, at the Nepal Art Council Gallery at Babar Mahal at 5 pm.

Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kathmandu AH Mahmood Ali and Sabir Chowdhury, Director, Shilpakala Academy of Bangladesh will attend the function, said a press release. The exhibition will display

51 recent works of 33 noted artists of Bangladesh. The unifying theme of the exhibition encompasses of all the phases of modern art in Bangladesh and viewers may expect to see a rich variety of explosive styles, craftsmanship, as well as intermingling of numerous ideas and philosophy.

## যত্ন করে লাগালে গাছ তাতেই ভাত তাতেই মাছ



প্রকৃতি আর প্রাণ পরস্পর নির্ভরশীল। সবুজ শ্যামল জীবনের জন্য বৃক্ষ বাস্তব উপলব্ধি। কিন্তু মুছে যাচ্ছে এই সবুজের শ্যামলিমা। নির্বিচারে বৃক্ষ-নিধনের ফলে প্রকৃতির ভারসাম্য বদলে যাচ্ছে। ঝড়, ঝঞ্ঝা, খরা আর প্রাবল্য দেশ আজ বিপর্যস্ত। একটি দেশের ২৫% বনভূমি থাকা আবশ্যিক হলেও আমরা তা নির্বিচারে কমিয়ে এনেছি এক আশঙ্কাজনক পর্যায়ে। তাই আসুন আজ বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবসে আমরা নতুন করে অঙ্গীকার নিই ব্যাপক বনায়নের।

সরকারের দেশব্যাপী বনায়ন কর্মসূচীর সাথে একাত্ম হয়ে বিটিসি পত ১৫ বছর ধরে বনায়নের লক্ষ্যে ২ কোটির অধিক চারা রোপণ কিংবা বিনামূল্যে বিতরণ করেছে। এ বছরও বিটিসি ৩০ লক্ষ চারা বিতরণের পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেছে। বিনামূল্যে চারা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় পরামর্শের জন্য বিটিসি-র কুষ্টিয়া, ঝিনাইদহ, আশুগঞ্জ, মেহেরপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ ও লামা কেন্দ্রে যোগাযোগ করুন।

একবার ভেবে দেখবেন, আমরা প্রত্যেকে যদি একটি করে গাছ লাগাই, তবে এক বছরে ১২ কোটি গাছ লাগানো হয়ে যাবে। এখনই সময়। আপনি আপনার সহায়তার হাত বাড়িয়ে দিন। আমরা তো রয়েছিই।

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### LDF to nationalise medical sector, if voted to power

LDF leader Khalequzzaman Monday said the front, if voted to power, would nationalise the entire medicare system to ensure proper treatment for all irrespective of rich and poor, reports UNB.

The LDF will introduce an identical medicare system and formulate a health policy, he said while addressing meetings at Feni Shaheed Minar and Kamal Ataturk High School premises in Dagnobhuyan thana, said a press release.

Khalequzzaman said the LDF would set up fair price shops and form consumers' association to keep the prices of essential commodities within the reach of the common people.

### Conference on environment

The biennial conference on the titled 'Biodiversity and the Environment' will be held at Fisheries Research Institute in Mymensingh Today reports UNB.

Bangladesh Science Academy President Dr SD Chowdhury will attend the conference as chief guest while Executive Vice President of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council Dr M Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury will be present as special guest.

Organised by Bangladesh Environment Development Association on the occasion of World Environment Day, the conference will be presided over by Director General of Bangladesh Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute Dr M Anwarul Kader Sheikh.

### Need for mass edn stressed

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said mass education is a must for our existence and national development, reports BSS.

Talking to a 37-member delegation of the Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association, who called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday, the President said primary education should be given top most priority as the basis of higher education acting president of the association Shamsul Alam led the delegation.

President Biswas said education opens up new horizons and widens mental make-up for initiating bright career. Planned initiative and continuous efforts are the key to success, he added.

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