i Metropolitan i

Dhaka Day by Day Agony of Even

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 dilferent areas of Dhaka city. The arrests were nade 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 lawenforcing agency captured even more than 'that' number just the week before, says another

report. The point here may sound hollow to many for a lot of words have been churned out in print and lots of promises made to upgrade this society (social norms in this country are very much Dhaka-based) for women to live in without being harassed or pestered but to no effect at all. On the contrary, what is happening at Dhaka's street in public places, marketplaces and in and around the educational institutions is an unrelenting onslaught of teasing of girls and women. Those who argue, saying that majority of the women don't always lead emotionally healthy lives even in their own fami

lies, don't consider the at upsetting events outside the houses usually originate from those

very houses. Apart from the sc hool and college 'gates' almost every alley of the city has a small stationery shop - more I lke a tea stall - where

the teasing messiahs gossip away their date, subtly puting pressure on wom-en's minds of the muhalla. These young men with 20/20 eye-sight never miss any chance of making uncharitable and often milgar co-

mments on a passing lone girl/woman. Now, what these eve-teasers, nor mally do? To say it pointedly, in the social supermarket lage", 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 du-

patta of a girl riding a rickshaw. This is really fright tening, no less than people are afraid of muggers. Requesting anonymity, a Dhak: a University student says: "The only place I fo und free of this evil is the boundary of my de partment; we even become victims of dirty w brds inside the university

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

LDF to nationalise Conference on 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 Dagnobhuiyan thana, said a press release.

Khaleguzzaman 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

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

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.

Nari Samaj concerned at delay in trial of Yasmin killing

According to her, one Lucky, 10, was deflowered by

railway police at Kamalapur in

the capital on March 29, Arati

Rani by police inspector Idris

Mahmud in Bagerhat on April

17 and a nine-year-old girl,

Renu, in Dinajpur on May 24.
Referring to the sensational
Yasmin killing in Dinajpur on

August 24 last year. Sigma Huda urged the next govern-

ment to be elected through

June 12 election to introduce

a system which will eliminate

administrative complexities to

bring the accused police and

other government officials un-

der CrPC if they perpetrated

taker government to issue a

directive to expedite the trial

of Yasmin rape and murder.

She also demanded adminis-

trative action against such police officials who try to save

their fellow colleagues accused

of women repression by raising

political parties contesting

June 12 poll to take effective

programmes against women

repression instead of only

Nari Samaj as well as all

women of the country, Sigma

Huda also called upon the peo-

ple not to elect "war criminals"

and those who repress women.

FEJB discussion

on political parties'

environment issue

onmental Journalists of

Bangladesh (FEJB) organised

an open discussion on the en-

vironmental agenda of political

parties today marking the

World Environment Day, re-

environment and BNP leader

Gayeswar Chandra Roy. Awami

League election steering

committee co-chairperson and

former ESCAP executive secre-

tary S A M S Kibria. Gono For-

um leader Barrister Viquarul

Islam Chowdhury. left alliance

steering committee member

Saiful Hoq and Jamaat-e-

Islami election spokesman

Barrister Abdur Razzak will

highlight their respective

parties environmental agenda

at the discussion to be held at

Osmani auditorium today at

11:45 am under the auspices

Anam will act as moderator

while FEJB chairman Ahmed

Nure Alam will preside and

Daily Star Editor Mahfuz

general secretary

of Ministry of Environment.

Former state minister for

ports BSS.

The Forum has of Envir-

On behalf of the Sammilita

It also urged all democratic

illogical statements.

making commitments.

Nari Samaj urged the care-

any repression on women.

Sammilita 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

"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

The Nari Samaj leaders said, following the Yasmin case, similar incidents were reported from Dhaka, Chudanga, Bhairab, 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

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 elec-

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 Sammilita Nari Samaj accused police constable Abdus Salam of killing Niharu, a maid servant, in Habiganj district.

They, quoting press re-ports, 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

Addressing the newsmen. Sigma Huda brought a number of allegations of women repression by police personnel all over the country. We are concerned and annoved 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

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, craftsmen-ship, as well as intermingling of numerous ideas an philoso-

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 न्यामनिमा। निर्विष्ठातः वृक्ष-निश्चतन्त ফলে প্রকৃতির ভারসাম্য বদলে যাতে। ঝড়, ঝঞুা, খরা আর প্লাবনে দেশ আজ বিপর্যন্ত। একটি দেশের ২৫% বনভূমি থাকা আবশ্যক হলেও আমরা তা আজ বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবসে আমরা নতুন করে অঙ্গীকার নিই ব্যাপক বনায়নের

সরকারের দেশব্যাপী বনায়ন কর্মসূচীর সাথে একাত্ম হয়ে বিটিসি গত ১৫ বছর ধরে বনায়নের লক্ষ্যে ২ কোটির অধিক চারা রোপণ কিংবা বিনামূল্যে বিতরণ করেছে। এ বছরও বিটিসি ৩০ লক্ষ চারা বিভরণের পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেছে। বিনামূল্যে চারা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় পরামর্শের জন্য বিটিসি-র কুটিয়া, ঝিনাইদহ, আল্লার দরগাহ, মেহেরপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ ও লামা কেন্দ্রে যোগাযোগ কব্ৰুন

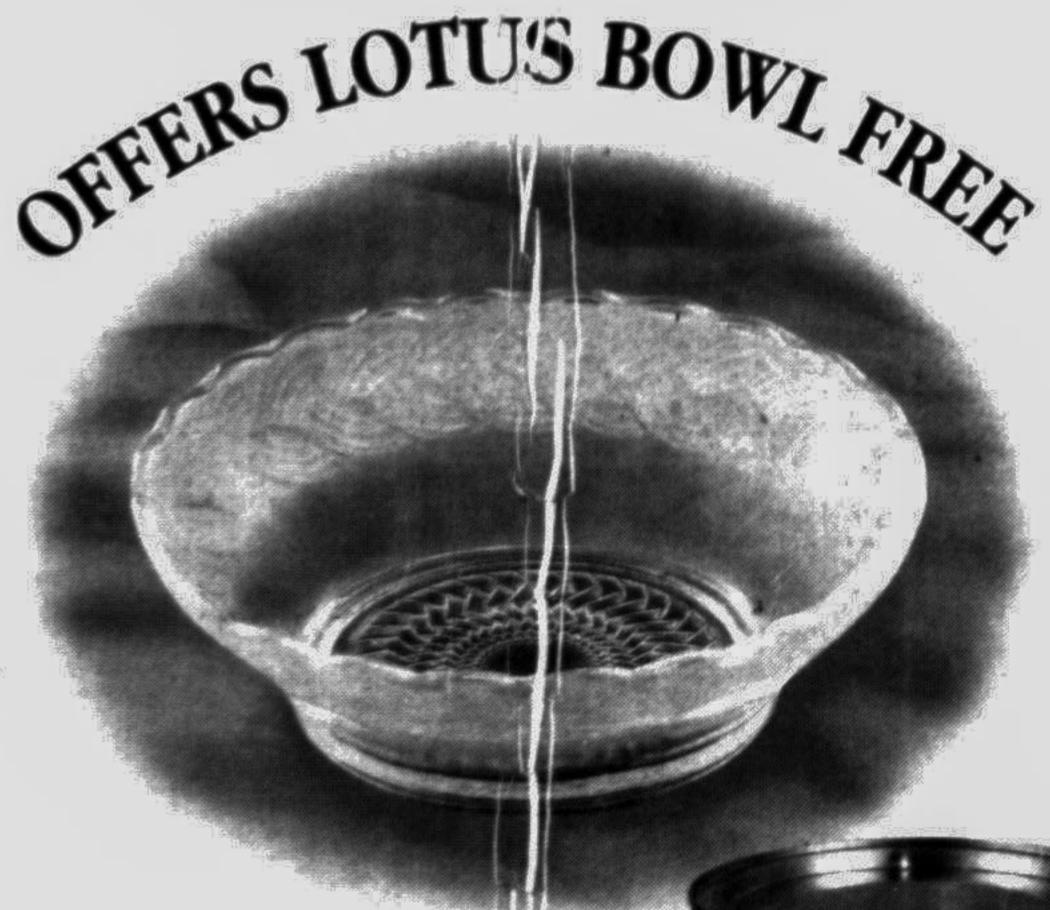
একবার ভেবে দেখবেন, আমরা প্রত্যেকে যদি একটি করে গাছ লাগাই, তবে এক বছরে ১২ কোটি গাছ লাগানো হয়ে যাবে। এখনই সময়। আপনি আপনার সহায়তার হাত বাড়িয়ে দিন। আমরা তো রয়েছিই।



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