

## What's on today . . .

**Seminar:** A 2-day seminar on 'democracy, rule of law and accountability' will begin. Organisers: National Legal Aid Network and Gono Shahajya Sangstha. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**Film premiere:** The premier show of a documentary film, 'Rahima: A victim of systematic violence' will be held. Organisers: Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association. Goethe Institute Dhaka and United Network Limited. Venue: Goethe Institute, House: 10, Rd: 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm. The show will be followed by a personal appearance by Rahima, the film's main character, and a panel discussion.

**Art exhibition:** A weeklong art exhibition of five young artists will begin. Venue: Zainul Art Gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 5:30 PM. Noted artist Mohammad Kibria will inaugurate. Noted artist Rafiqun Nabi will be the special guest. The exhibition will remain open from 12 am to 8 pm everyday till May 16.

**Course inaugural:** A month-long training course on 'social marketing and communication' will be inaugurated. Organiser: Rapport Bangladesh Ltd. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

### Training course begins

The 7th Judicial Administration Training course for Additional District and Session Judges began at the Old High Court Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

### Jamaat rally today

City Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a rally at Paltan Maidan today at 5 pm demanding annulment of the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

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## THE GREGORIAN ASSOCIATION

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Thursday: 14th May, 1998

Venue: BCIC Auditorium, Dilkusha C.A. Dhaka-1000

Time: 6:45 P.M.

Registration Required (Within 12th May 1998)

Contact Persons:

Gm. S. Azam, Tel: 9551413,  
Gm. Munadir Islam, Tel: 818151, 819254, Gm. B.M. Banik, Tel: 9554117, 9552702  
Gm. Ashfaqur Ahmed, Tel: 9550396, 9557286  
Gm. Uzair Afzal, Tel: 506431, 509519, Gm. Wasif Ali, Tel: 842705



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**Space is Limited** Mr. Golam Kabir  
Consultant

DCCI Business Advisory Service (5th Floor)  
DCCI Building, 65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000  
Phone: 9550074, 9550104 Fax: 9567149



Students of Eden Women's University College enjoying a ride on a merry-go-round at a Baishakhi Mela organised by the teachers' association on the college premises in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 200 fetus being killed everyday in city clinics

# 'Rate of abortion in the name of MR has increased manifold'

At least 200 fetus are being killed every day in different city clinics in the name of 'so called' Menstruation Regularisation (MR), according to sources of different clinics.

Talking to UNB, a doctor on condition of anonymity said the rate of abortion in the name of MR has increased manifold in the city clinics.

About 500 clinics have been sprouted in the city areas to perform MR, many are unauthorised and without having any graduated doctors and necessary equipment.

These clinics, in the guise of maternity clinics or nursing homes, charge high amount of money from the patients.

When contacted manager of a clinic told UNB that they charge minimum Tk 1,500 from a patient and the charge varies depending on the types of patients.

However, competent sources said the clinics take whatever amount they can snatch from the troubled women, mostly from low-income families, young students and housewives.

Menstruation Regularisation is a legal process in Bangladesh when MR cycle of a woman is regularised, in case of any disorder, through some

minor operation. MR is also done within six-week of pregnancy of a woman.

However, abortion is strictly prohibited by law in Bangladesh.

Doctors said MR after 8-week of pregnancy is risky. After 10-week Dilatation and Curettage (D&C) is done as different organs of a baby have developed by that time. These are allowed only when life of a patient is become risky if those are not performed.

But what is going on in most of the clinics is illegal abortion, informed sources said.

He said these clinics engaged a section of men and women to collect patients for their clinics. Some give newspaper advertisements to attract patients.

Another source said the reason behind the brisk clinic business by the clinics lies with increasing number of pre-marital pregnancy and desertion of the women by their male partners.

A city clinic source said in many cases they were allured to do abortion by offering high amount of money. Sometimes, on humanitarian ground, they perform the job as having a child before marriage is unthinkable in our society.

A clinic in Mohammadpur area in the city alone performed 6,375 MRs last year.

Dr Sharmin, an associate professor of Bangladesh Medical College, said if MR is done beyond 8 weeks of pregnancy, the patient may lose her ability to conceive.

She said the patients of MR and D&C are advised to do post-check up, but they hardly do so resulting in various complications in future.

"In many cases the victims lose their productivity and even die due to untimely MR performed by non-medical personnel and without following proper medical procedure," she added.

Replying to a query a clinic owner said they have to pay police, local mastans and health officials to run their clinics.

When contacted, Deputy Police Commissioner of Detective Branch Syed Bazul Karim admitted the existence of such clinics and said without getting specific allegation they can not take action against anybody.

Detailed survey is necessary to detect whether these clinics are run properly with adequate doctors, nurses and necessary equipment or not, he said.

## Concern at BUET situation

The members of '61 Club', the alumni association of engineering graduates of 1961, have expressed deep concern at the academic disruption in BUET, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the Club noted with regret that the academic excellence in the field of engineering and technology is being seriously undermined by increasing politicisation.

It called upon all concerned to restore the desired academic autonomy through an amicable and immediate resolution of the problem.

## Team leaves for Geneva to attend health confce

A four-member delegation led by Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf left for Geneva Friday to join the World Health conference, reports UNB.

The delegation includes Director General to Health Department Prof AK Nurul Anwar, Director to National Eye Institute Prof Sayeed Modasser Ali and Professor of Dhaka Medical College Rizla Sultana.

They will represent the 51st conference to be held May 11 to 16.

After the conference, the minister will take part in a course on London School and Health Economics Project.

## No bar in Constitution for armed forces members to seek legal redress'

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Kamal Hossain, an internationally reputed constitutional expert, has said 'there is no bar in the Bangladesh Constitution for members of the armed forces to seek legal redress'.

He was addressing a roundtable discussion on 'Constitution of Bangladesh Fundamental Rights and Disciplinary Laws: An Academic Introspection', organised by 23rd September Smriti Sangsad, at the CIRDA auditorium in the city yesterday.

"Every citizen of the country has right of access to the law under Article 31 of the Constitution," said Dr Hossain, adding that Article 45 restricts the right in the cases of members of the security forces.

Dr Hossain, however, said Article 45 of the Constitution is not a total bar on rights. The provisions of the Constitution relating to fundamental rights will not be applicable to disciplinary laws relating to members of the security forces, he said.

But, he added, the provisions in the disciplinary laws should be limited to the purpose of ensuring proper discharge of duties by members of the armed forces or the maintenance of discipline in the forces.

Dr Hossain said that the laws of the armed forces could not be challenged in court, but the action under the laws could be challenged in the highest court of the country.

In a keynote paper, Major General (rt'd) S M Ibrahim said there was no clear provision in the Constitution or in other laws of the land providing redress for members of the armed forces for violation of any provision of the Army Regulations.

In his paper, Ibrahim questioned whether the provisions of the Constitution, which

guarantees the right of protection of law, was also applicable to members of the security forces.

Referring to the provision of the government's power to retire an armed forces member without assigning any reason, Ibrahim said there was no mechanism to monitor whether the proper procedure was followed in case of termination of a particular member.

If someone comes to know of the fact that due procedure was not followed, there is no clear directive in the law as to what redress he could get for violation of the procedure.

He said that Article 45 could put a restriction on going to the court for a redress. Again Article 134, which says that a member of the armed forces serve at the pleasure of the president, can be a bar to have legal recourse.

General Ibrahim emphasised on finding a way out to avoid miscarriage of justice because of non-application of the Army Act or rules. "The question is relevant as members of the security forces have been making attempts to redress their grievances by going to the High Court Division on various occasions, he added.

The roundtable discussion was attended, among others, by Dr Zahir, Major General (rt'd) Shafiqullah, A K Khondkar, Lt General (rt'd) Nasim, Maj General (rt'd) Samad, Ajoy Roy, Colonel Shaukat Ali, advocate Gaziul Haq, advocate Golam Mahbub, advocate Sigma Huda, Prof Kabir Chowdhury. Smriti Sangsad convenor Noorjahan Delwar presided.

The Smriti Sangsad has been formed with relatives of the 12 army officers sentenced to death by a court martial for the killing of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30, 1981.

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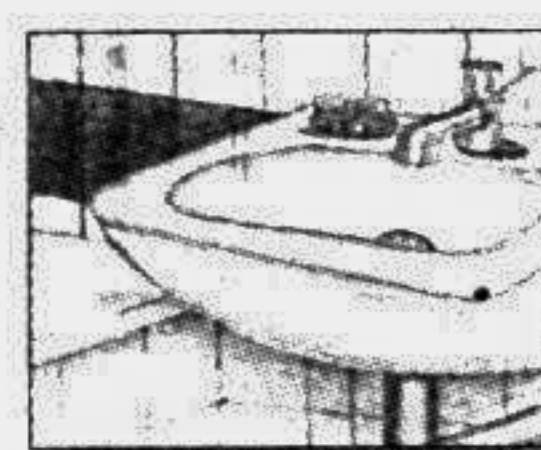
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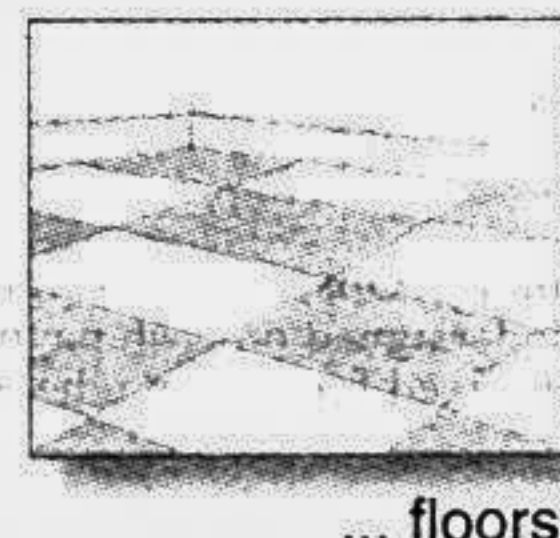
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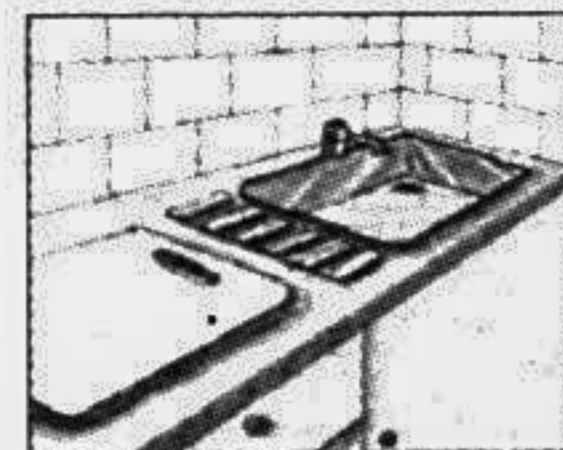
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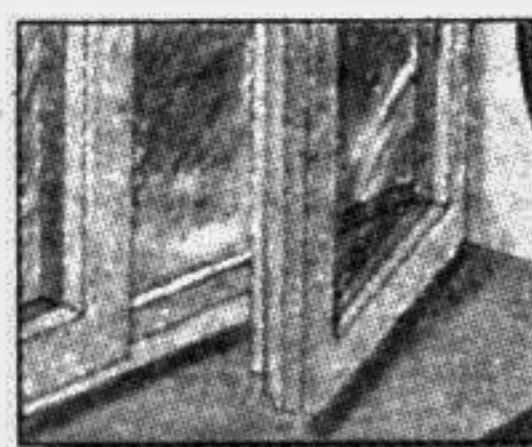
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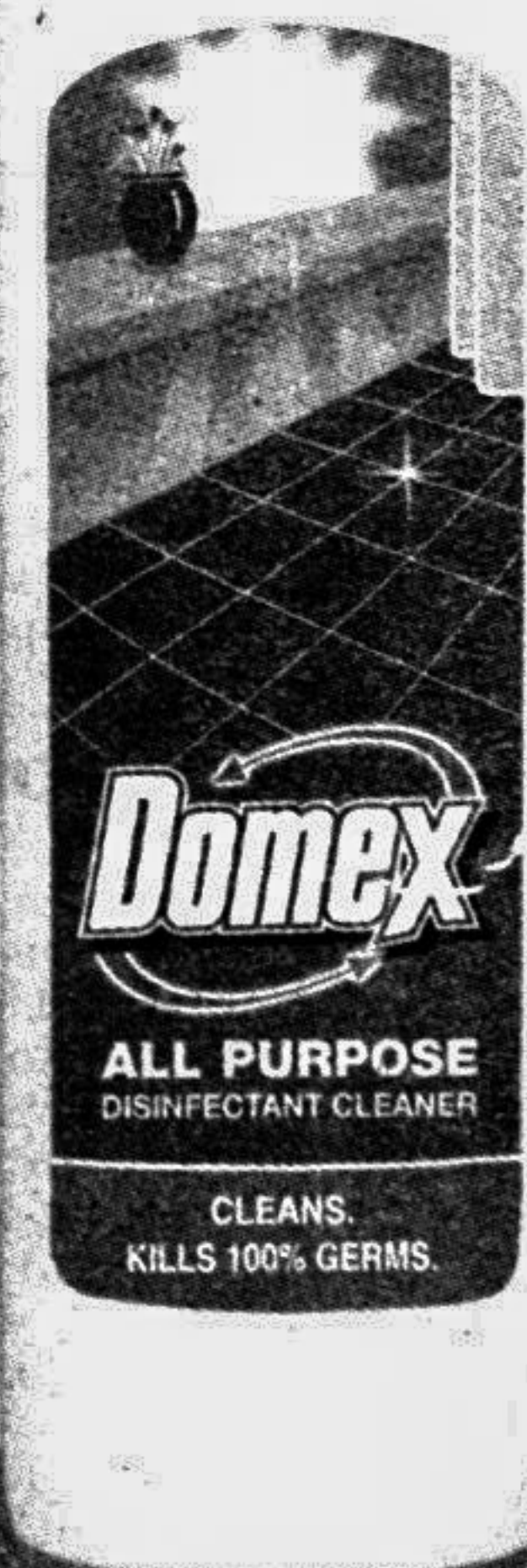


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