

Safe custody - a horrible place!

UNB, Dhaka

Alisha, a teenage schoolgirl, has many dreams, but her days in 'safe custody' in the Dhaka Central Jail have shattered all her hopes.

"That is a horrible place. Please do something for me so that I can be free," said Alisha Aziz (not her real name) as she moved out to a new house built for her and other women for a better living in protective custody.

The 16-year-old girl was arrested by Gulshan police on April 11 midnight on charge of suspicious movement while driving a car through the posh residential area.

Alisha was put under 'safe custody' in the Dhaka Central Jail following a court judgement, where she had stayed with many other criminals, including two alleged Nepalese women smugglers.

From the Dhaka Central Jail, she was taken on Saturday to a residence in Lalmatia area, recently set up by the government under a project titled 'Safe Custody for Women, Children and Adolescent Girls' run by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Apart from Alisha, some 28 girls, including Urmi, 23, Mukta, 17, Brishti, 16, and a child, were taken to this new prison house, which was inaugurated yesterday. A total of 50 inmates would be accommodated in this safe custody.

Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Zahan Haque inaugurated the safe custody at a ceremony at Lalmatia.

Brishti had been staying in the Dhaka Central Jail since she was arrested four years ago by Narayan-

anganj police from Tanbazar red-light zone. Now, she was ordered into safe custody.

Mukta, a garment worker, was kidnapped from Mirpur by Lito and Mostafa. She fled from their clutches and informed police. Later, police arrested the kidnapers while Mukta was staying in the safe custody following court orders.

Official sources said latest female prison population of all jails in Bangladesh is 1699, double the registered capacity of 897. Among them are 429 convicts, 955 undertrial prisoners, 23 under 'safe custody', 7 detainees and 15 release prisoners.

There were 17 females under the 'safe custody' of Dhaka Jail while one in Comilla, 3 in Rajshahi and 8 in Jessore, according to data updated in March.

Addressing a seminar recently in the capital, the Home Minister himself had admitted that female prisoners confined to different jails were facing acute accommodation problem.

Apart from accommodation crisis, insufficient food supply, poor medical treatment, lack of pure water and sanitation facilities, various contagious diseases, harassment by criminals and even the law-enforcers inside the jail are said to be common problems for the female prisoners.

With the introduction of such safe custody under a pilot project, the women, children and adolescent girls will get safe residence to stay instead of staying with criminals in jail.

The inmates will be provided with clothing, medical and legal supports, and entertainment.

The project authorities will take them to court on the day of hearing and train them on computer, English language and sewing as a measure for their rehabilitation.

Addressing the inaugural function, the minister said: "The female detainees suffer various physical and mental repression in custody and also are affected due to accommodation with the criminals."

Reyad's body arrives today

The body of Reyad Hossain Chowdhury is expected to arrive in the city by a Biman flight at 5.30am today, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Central Jame Mosque after Zohr prayers on the same day and he will be buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Reyad, third son of Shamsuddin Chowdhury and younger brother of Imran Hossain Chowdhury, died of a cardiac arrest in Atlanta, USA, on April 12 at the age of 48.

His body was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on April 18 by a Biman flight, but it could not be brought back home as the flight was postponed due to some technical faults.

Workshop on reforms in civil audit held

A day-long workshop on "To build awareness about recent reforms in civil audit and promote auditor-auditee co-operation" and "Audit Planning" sponsored by the Reforms in Government Audit Project (RIGA) and funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) UK was held on April 20 at the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, says a press release.

Comptroller and Auditor General Md Ahsan Ali Sarkar, was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony while Quamrul Hai, deputy comptroller and auditor general (senior) presided over the business sessions.

Md Motaher Hussain, director general, Foreign Aided Project Directorate and project director (RIGA), Tony Hale, senior international manager (RIGA), Md Ekhlashur Rahman, director, Local and Revenue Audit, Md Afabuzaman, director, Civil Audit, Tyab Monwar Hossain, national consultant, RIGA took part in the deliberations.



Cultural activists staged a silent protest at the Central Shahed Minar in the city yesterday demanding continuation of broadcast by the Ekushey Television.

Dhaka condemns genocide in Palestine

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday strongly condemned the atrocities and genocide committed by Israel in Jenin and other occupied cities of Palestine during the last three weeks.

The Israeli forces massacred the innocent Palestinian civilians including women and children. This is a systematic violation of humanitarian law and human rights in Palestinian territories, a Foreign Ministry press release said.

Bangladesh called upon the international community for an impartial investigation in the mass killing and to bring the persons responsible to justice.

It also demanded that Israel should forthwith withdraw all its forces from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Bangladesh supported the initiative taken by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to send a multinational force to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corp Shaha Zarab lauded Bangladesh's role for the cause of Palestine.

The Ambassador said this when he called on the Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan at his office in the city.

He thanked Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her statement in the parliament condemning the Israeli aggression and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian brethren.

The Foreign Minister said Bangladesh believes in peace and effective dialogue. Condemning the massacres done by the Israeli armed forces recently, he welcomed the latest moves in the UN Security Council including adoption of the resolution 1397 affirming commitment to establish an independent Palestine State.

He also reiterated Bangladesh's unflinching support to the just cause of the Palestinians and their struggle for an independent homeland.

The Dutch team will perform reconstructive surgeries on selected acid burn victims at Monowara Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital till April 28 free of charges. A local Bangladeshi Plastic Surgical team headed by Dr Shafquat H Khundkar will assist the visiting team.

TO-LET Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara By service charge Taka. 1000/- (after finalized) you (Foreigners/Local) may hire a House/office. Total list of Vacant Houses, Flats, Apartments (With/without To-Let Signs/ furnished & telephone) in our record. Ph. 019-360990 (From any Phone)

NOTICE

IN THE FOURTH COURT OF JOINT DIST. JUDGE AT DHAKA. MONEY SUIT NO.7 of 2000

Hotels International Ltd. Owner of and carrying on business in the name and style of The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, 107, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, P.S. Tejgaon, Dhaka-1213

=VS= Plaintiff.

1. Brandon Apparel Group, Inc. Sharif Plaza (5th Floor) 39, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

2. Mr. Tom Cornish, Gain Communications Inc. House No. 494 (Ground Floor) Road No. 32, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206

.....Defendants.

This the above Money Suit has been filed against you by the plaintiff suit for Recovery of Money, suit valued at Tk. 1,89,815.74 (Taka one lac eighty nine thousand eight hundred fifteen and paisa seventy four) only. You are notified to appear in the concerned Court on 28.04.2002 at 10.30 A.M. on or before either in person or through an Attorney failing which the suit would be disposal of exparte.

Given under the seal and signature of the Court.

By Order, signed Sheristadar

CUTA polls tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

With only a day left for the election to the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA), campaign has reached its peak on the university campus.

Three panels -- White, Pink and Blue -- are contesting the election scheduled for tomorrow.

The White panel is backed by the ruling BNP and Jamaat while the Pink belongs to the Awami League and the Blue is supported by its faction.

The candidates and their supporters are now busy with last-minute door-to-door campaign.

Prof. Mohammad of political science and Prof. Mohammad Zafar of marine science are the candi-

dates of White panel for the post of president and general secretary respectively.

The others candidates of the White panel are Prof. Zahid Hossain Shikdar, Assistant Prof. AKM Haroon, Assistant Prof. Monsuruddin Ahmed, Prof. Mohammad Anisul Islam, Prof. Abdur Noor, Prof. A K M Abdul Matin, Prof. Emadul Haq, Prof. Mohammad Kamal Hossain and Assistant Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury.

The Pink panel has selected Prof. Hassanuzzaman Chowdhury of sociology department and Assistant Prof. Mohibul Aziz of Bengali department as its candidates for the post of president and the general secretary respectively.

The other candidates of the Pink panel are Prof. Irshad Kamal Khan, Assistant Prof. Abinash Chandra Mishra, Prof. Rabin-dranath Shil, Prof. Moimul Islam, Prof. Iftekharuddin Chowdhury, Prof. Mohammad Nazim Uddin, A F M Awranghazeb, Prof. Gazi Sha-lauddin and Mohammad Ali Ashraf.

And the candidates from Blue panel for the posts of president and general secretary are Prof. Aslam Bhuiyan of sociology and Assistant Prof. Helal Uddin of accounting respectively.

The other candidates of the Blue panel are Prof. Dev Prasad Pal, Assistant Prof. Mohammad Sahidullah, Prof. Rajit Kumar Chowdhury, Assistant Prof. N H M Abu Bakar, Dr. Mohammad Kamrul Huda, Assistant Prof. A K M Tafzal, Dr. Bikiran Prasad Barua, Dr. Mohit-Ul- Alam, and Prof. Shah Alam.

A total of 557 teachers will cast their votes. The voting will take place at the Science Faculty Gallery No. 1 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Japanese cloth seized in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard, Chittagong Zone, seized a huge quantity of cloth imported illegally from Japan yesterday morning. A patrol team of the Coast Guard in a drive along the coastal areas of Bhatiary and South Kattoli seized the cloth measuring 13 thousand and 440 yards along with a truck and an engine-boat. The price of the cloth was estimated at around Tk. 40 lakh.

Measures are under way to hand over 13 family sources said the authority for legal action.

Quota-free access of RMG to Belarus market sought

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Ambassador of Belarus based in New Delhi, Uladzimir A Sakalouksi, called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday.

They discussed matters of bilateral relations and mutual benefit.

The foreign minister said there is potential scope for developing trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Bangladesh.

He requested the ambassador to extend support for increased import of Bangladeshi products to Belarus, particularly tea, jute, jute goods and readymade garments.

He also sought duty and quota-free access of Bangladesh ready-made garments to Belarus market.

The ambassador assured the foreign minister of his government's full cooperation in this regard. He stressed the need for exchange of business delegation between the two countries.

Habibur Rahman Milon hospitalised

BSS, Dhaka

Former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Senior Assistant Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Habibur Rahman Milon was admitted to Suhrawardy Hospital following heart ailment on Thursday night.

He is now under treatment of Prof. Nazrul Islam at admission ward No. 13, family sources said.

'We want to watch ETV'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned artists, cultural activists, journalists and other professionals staged a silent protest in the city yesterday with the slogan 'We want to watch Ekushey Television'.

Organised by artist Qaiyum Chowdhury, the hour-long demonstration began at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10.00am.

At the end of the programme, Qaiyum Chowdhury expressed thanks to all the participants. He urged all concerned to express their solidarity with this initiative.

Imdad Hossain, Mustafa Monwar, Md. Moniruzzaman, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Rafiqunnabi, Tariq Anam, Benzir Ahmed, Ramendu Majumder, Rahat Khan, Fayeze Ahmed and K. G. Mustafa were among the participants.

Workshop for UAP teachers

University of Asia Pacific (UAP) has begun a training workshop for its young faculty members, says a press release.

Vice-Chancellor A S M Shahjahan inaugurated the workshop on April 20.

The three-hour workshop was conducted by the Rector of the Institute of Childhood Education (ICE) Dr. Khan Md. Sirajul Islam.

Twenty-seven young lecturers and teaching assistants of different departments participated in the workshop.



The Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor yesterday demanding publication of inquiry reports on irregularities and corruption in the university during the tenure of past Awami League government.

Advertisement for 'Bosha Boshai Fashion 2002'. It features a woman in a black and white dress. Text includes 'আয়োজনে ই-বিজ' and 'আমাদের ফ্যাশন'.

Advertisement for 'UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED SALE OF CAR'. It lists several vehicles for sale, including a Mitsubishi Lancer and a Honda Civic, with details on inspection and purchase terms.

Advertisement for 'NEXGEN' language courses. It lists TOEFL, GMAT, GRE, SAT, IELTS, and IBA courses. Contact information for the center is provided.

Advertisement for 'NOTICE' regarding a money suit. It details the case between Hotels International Ltd. and several defendants, including Brandon Apparel Group and Mr. Tom Cornish.

Advertisement for 'ACCPAC DAY' exhibition and demonstration program. It features ACCPAC Accounting Software and lists session times and venue details.

Advertisement for 'St. Joseph Old Boys Association' annual general meeting. It provides details about the meeting, including the agenda and contact information for the general secretary.

Advertisement for 'WANTED' by STANDARD CERAMIC INDUSTRIES LTD. It lists various job positions such as Production Manager, Deputy Manager, and Supervisor, along with their qualifications and experience requirements.

Advertisement for 'SCHOLARSHIPS UNITED WORLD COLLEGES'. It lists various scholarship opportunities for students from Bangladesh, including details on tuition, boarding, and other expenses.