

## US Congressmen seek support for women varsity in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Twenty-three members of the US Congress have urged the US government to provide support for the Asian University for Women to be set up in Bangladesh.

Led by chairman of Bangladesh Caucus in the US Congress Joseph Crowley, the Congress members put forward the request to their government through the subcommittee on Foreign Operations, said a PID handout in the city yesterday.

In their memorandum to the subcommittee, the US legislators said, "We need a core group of women in every country who understand world issues, a cadre of people who can be leaders on the basis of demonstrated merit and who can contribute to the creation of good governance and management and help advance the agenda for social and economic development in the region."

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk said the support by such a large number of American con-

gressmen and congresswomen demonstrated in a powerful way the logic and timeliness of Bangladesh government's initiative to set up the university.

After assuming power, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia announced that a university, 'Asian University for Women', would be set up in Bogra.

Meanwhile, former first lady of Denmark and Danish Environment Minister and member of the European Parliament Lone Dybkjaer has proposed that the European Parliament take necessary steps to provide support to the Asian University for Women.

An international committee of experts headed by Prof Henry Rosovsky, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard University, is working on the project.

Muneer Sattar, a prominent banker of Bangladesh origin, has pledged to provide one million US dollars for the university, the handout said.



Activists of Committee for Burmese Refugees and Opposition Groups (BROG) shout slogans against the military ruler of Myanmar during a demonstration in the city yesterday. Burmese living in Bangladesh took part in the demonstration with anti-military ruler posters and cut-outs of General Saw Maung to mark the 14th anniversary of military rule.

## Jail Killing Case Nasim cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former home minister and Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim, the 14th prosecution witness in the Jail Killing Case, was cross-examined for about two hours in the special court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa adjourned the hearing till 10:30 am today.

Mohammad Nasim, son of captain M Mansur Ali, one of the four national leaders killed in jail, told the court that Shah Moazzem Hossain went to his maternal uncle's house and he had a hot ex-

change of words with him (Shah Moazzem) after the assassination of Bangabandhu.

The witness told the court that his statement was recorded by the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case on April 18, 1998.

Four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Capt M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Special public prosecutors -- Anisul Haq and Kamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Haji Nazrul Islam, Abdul Majid Munshi, ABM Sharuddin Khan Mukul, Mohammad Hanif, Arshadul Haq and Sohel Mallik for the accused.

Four of the 21 accused in the Jail Killing Case, now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail, were produced before the court during the hearing.

They are Taher Uddin Thakur, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda.

Four other accused KM Obaidur Rahman, MP, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Maj (ret'd) Khairuzaman, now on bail, were also present in the court during the hearing.

## PM orders release of women, children in jail without trial

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed quick arrangements for release of women and children detained in jails without trial as well as without specific charges.

She declared the amnesty for such women detainees while presiding over the third meeting of the National Council for Women Development in the PMO complex.

Addressing the meeting, Khaleda also called for updating the existing discriminatory women laws to uphold women's equal rights as stipulated in the country's constitution.

She stressed the need for adopting new programmes for the welfare of women and children alongside carrying out ongoing programmes properly.

Calling for involving the women in development activities, she asked the ministries concerned to impart vocational

training to women living in various shelter homes for making them self-reliant.

The objective of National Council for Women Development is to ensure overall improvement of the status of womenfolk engaging them in national development process. It also aims to establish gender equality of women.

Women repression and prevention activities, the Acid Throwing Prevention Act 2002 and the Acid Control Act 2002, present position of the welfare fund for repressed and distressed women and children also came up for discussion.

The meeting was told that so far some 409 repressed women had got assistance from the fund.

It also discussed about shelter homes for repressed women, setting up of more such centres, and daycare centre for children of working women. In this respect, the meeting was told that there are 18 daycare centres and the number would have to be increased.

The government hopes that private sector will come forward in setting up more daycare centres.

Removal of disparity between men and women in getting pension in order to serve the interests of their children was also discussed in the meeting and concerned ministries were asked to submit reports in this regard.

Earlier, in her introductory speech, Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque presented various steps and programmes so far taken by her ministry for the welfare and development of women, especially the repressed women.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister MK Anwar, Information Minister Tariqul Islam, Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj, Food Minister Abdullah Al No-man, Water Resources Minister LK Siddiqui, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Educa-

tion Minister Dr Osman Faruque, and Prime Minister's Advisor on Primary and Mass Education Jahanara Bergum were present.

## Anti-dengue march in Narayanganj

BSS, Narayanganj

Several hundred school children yesterday staged a colourful street march here to create mass awareness about the scourge of dengue.

Organised by Pathar Kuchi Shishu Kishore Nirjatan Prothoradh Sangstha, the procession was joined by cultural activists and representatives of different NGO's and socio-cultural organisations.

With colourful banners and mosquito nets, the children passed through Chashara, Dailpatty, Tanbazar, S M Maleh Road, Fall Pally and sprayed insecticides at road-side ditches and possible mosquito breeding grounds.

Earlier, a rally was held at Amlapara Girls High School.

Nurul Islam Sardar, adviser of the organisation, Syeduzaman Syed, joint convener, Narayanganj district Jubo Dal and Jamal Uddin Kalu, convener, Narayanganj sadar thana BNP led the procession.

Civil Surgeon office sources said one person has so far died of dengue fever in the district during last two months.

## 'Vested quarters vitiate BUTE environment over Sony killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Engineers of Bangladesh (AEB) and a section of former students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at a press conference on Tuesday alleged that some vested quarters were plotting to vitiate the environment of BUET by capitalising on the 'Sony killing' incident.

However, when asked regarding the identity of the conspirators the organisers remained tight-lipped.

They also alleged that those conspirators had compelled the BUET students to engage in destructive activities on the campus, which led to the indefinite closure of the university for a second time after its reopening on August 12.

Shafiqul Alam Talukdar, general secretary of the AEB, read out a written statement at the press conference held at the National Press Club.

The written statement mentioned some 'so called' intellectuals and professionals of the country who allegedly, instead of advising the BUET authorities on solving the problem, provoked the students to go for a movement.

Speaking at the press conference, Minister for Water Resources and President of AEB, LK Siddiqui said the former BUET students are saddened at these incidents at BUET and demand exemplary punishment to the culprits.

The AEB and the former students urged all concerned including teachers, students and guardians to play responsible roles in

restoring the peaceful atmosphere at BUET.

They also urged the BUET authorities to meet the logical demands of the BUET students.

Among others, Kamrul Islam Siddiqui, Reazul Islam, Rakibul Islam Talukdar and MA Hannan were present at the press conference.

On June 8, BUET student Sa-bequn Nahar Sony was killed in a gunfight between two factions of the Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) following a dispute over tender bidding.

## TB Hospital doc crushes under wheels of train

UNB, Dhaka

A physician of TB Hospital at Chankharpul was crushed under the wheels of a train at Mohakhali here Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Dr Abu Taleb, 45. He hailed from Rajapur village in sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj district.

His body remained unidentified until police sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday morning.

Doctors at the hospital found an ID card in his pocket and sent a message to his family members at doctors quarter in Mohakhali who later identified Dr Taleb.

Quoting witnesses, police said Dr Taleb met the tragic end of his life while crossing the rail line.

## Body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a middle-aged man from roadside in the city's Nikunja residential area, Badda, yesterday.

The identity of the man could not be known immediately.

SI Abu Sayeed recovered the body at about 5:30 am yesterday and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

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Candidates have to attend the interview first, if necessary they have to sit for the written test.

- Principal

## Boycott of LCBA continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing boycott programme of Labour Court Bar Association (LCBA) continues as the government did not take any step to comply with LCBA demands including removal of Justice Abdul Mannan of Labour Appellate Tribunal, said a press release yesterday.

A meeting of LCBA observed that no hearing could be made in the Labour Appellate Tribunal in last six months as the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs did not take any steps to

meet the long-standing demands of LCBA, the press release added.

The meeting strongly denounced the government's delay in taking any appropriate and realistic step in line with High Court rule nisi issued on August 27 asking the government and the Labour Appellate Tribunal why the activities of the tribunal would not be resumed within two months.

LCBA vowed that it would continue the boycott programme until the contractual appointment of Justice Abdul Mannan is cancelled, said the press release.

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