

Shroud of shame over most heinous of crimes

Girl child sexually abused at first in family by close relatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl child is sexually abused at first in the family by her close relatives including maternal and paternal uncles, which she is too shy to ever disclose.

Chairperson of the NCBP Salma Khan said this yesterday while speaking at a discussion on "the Rights of the Abused Women in Bangladesh," marking the International Women Repression Resistance Day.

She said scores of girl children in society are being sexually harassed by their close relatives,

which they cannot speak of. However, they are getting conscious and blurting out.

The discussion, organised by the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) and Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity, was held at the Jatiya Press Club.

Sigma Huda, general secretary of the BSEHR, presented the keynote paper while Attorney General AF Hasan Arif and Salma Khan were special guests at the discussion presided over by President of the BSEHR Justice Sultan Hossain Khan.

Executive Director of the BSEHR Masuda Ghauce presented a data showing that a total of 1051 women were victims to repression including rape, acid throwing and dowry in eleven months of this year from while the figure was 735 in 2001.

Sigma Huda in her keynote paper said, "Women of the country are being victim to repression in many ways in the family and at work both physically and mentally."

She recommended laws prescribing compensation for women for falling victims to harassment including acid throwing and rape.

The attorney general said to ensure women rights moral values should be restored in society. Besides, the judges should show more commitment and awareness.

Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said only laws will not be enough to ensure women rights unless there is awareness in society, which is possible through empowerment of women.

Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury urged newspapers not to use the word 'dharshan' (rape) because the word itself creates a bad feeling.

Among others, Advocate Elna Khan and Advocate Touhida Khandakar, also spoke.

BTV earns Tk 9.31 crore in licence fees

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Television earned more than Tk 9.31 crore in licence fees in the current fiscal up to October 2002, while Bangladesh Betar earned over Tk 6.58 lakh during the period.

In a written reply to Prof Joynal Abedin (BNP-Feni) in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, Information Minister Tariqul Islam said the Television earned Tk about 31.17 crore and Betar over Tk 43.29 lakh from license fees in the last fiscal.



Pavements in the Purana Paltan area are now under the control of vendors who are doing brisk business ahead of Eid.



Women and children buy bangles from a vendor in the city yesterday. With the Eid around the corner, female vendors are going door to door to sell their items.

Thai Commission members meet Hasina Concern over HR situation in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Thailand's National Human Rights Commission members and human rights activists yesterday expressed concern over human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Their concern was expressed when a 14-member delegation led by Thailand's Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission Prof Jaran Dita-Apichai met Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in Bangkok yesterday morning, according to a message received here.

Chalida Tajaronsok, Campaign Coordinator of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, a Bangkok-based leading human rights organisation, was present in the meeting.

The delegation members voiced grave concern over deaths of political activists in custody during "Operation Clean Heart" conducted by Bangladesh Army.

Hasina apprised them of violation of human rights in Bangla-

desh since the October 1 parliamentary election, especially after the army deployment.

"In the name of curbing crime, they have arrested thousands of political leaders and workers, including MPs, former ministers and my political secretary," Hasina said.

She discussed with them the reports of various international human rights organisations like Amnesty International, World Organisation Against Torture (WOCT) on "systematic and gross violation" of human rights in Bangladesh.

She also mentioned about the resolution on human rights violation by the European Parliament recently.

US Ambassador hosts Iftar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters and her husband Timothy McMahon hosted an Iftar party for politicians, educationists, journalists, army and civil officials and devotees at the ambassador's residence at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharruf Hossain Shajahan, Awami League leaders Abdul Samad Azad MP and Abdul Jalil MP, Air Chief Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam, Chief of General Staff Major General Ekramul Haq, DGFDF Sadiq Hasan Rumi, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of Dainik Ittefaq Anwar Hossain Monju MP, Editor of Holiday AZM Enayet Ullah Khan and Editor of Manav Zamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury attended the Iftar party.

Prior to the iftar, the participants prayed for peace and prosperity of the country. Former Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal conducted the prayer.

Body of JU teacher Hosne Ara arrives

JU CORRESPONDENT

The body of Hosne Ara Motahar, Associate Professor of Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, was flown home yesterday afternoon from New Delhi.

The university authorities received her body at the Zia International Airport.

Hosne Ara Motahar was killed in a road accident at Kamal in the Hariana State of India at early hours of Friday. She was leading a team of 21 students on a 15-day study tour in India.

Her first namaj-e-janaza was held at JU Tennis Ground after Magrib prayers. JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof M Imamuddin, Treasurer Prof ABM Enayet Hossain, Registrar Mohammad Ali, deans of different faculties, Syndicate members, provosts, teachers, students, officers and employees attended the janaza.

Her second namaj-e-janaza was held yesterday evening in front of her Dhanmondi residence. She will be buried at Azimpur Graveyard today.

Meanwhile, body of Shamim Yasmin Munni, the female student, who succumbed to her injuries on November 22, is likely to arrive on the campus tomorrow.

The critically injured two other students—Deneb Dewan and Nazneen Khan Nurpur who are undergoing treatment at PGI hospital, Chandigarh—are still in coma and doctors declared them clinically dead on Saturday night, sources at the hospital said.

A condolence meeting will be held at JU central auditorium at 10 am today. A mourning will also be brought on the campus.

JU vacation begins tomorrow

BSS, Savar

Jahangirnagar University (JU) will go on a month-long Eid and winter vacation from November 27 to December 26, university sources said.

11-party concerned

BSS, Dhaka

The central working council of the left leaning 11-party alliance yesterday expressed concern as the Speedy Trial Tribunals Bill was passed in the parliament.

The central council termed the Bill as "unconstitutional and contrary to the fundamental rights of the people".

The alliance has urged the people to be vocal against the Bill.

DU decision protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Dhaka University under the banner of 'General Students of DU' staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday protesting a decision of the authorities to hold admission test of the Law Department under Gha (combined) unit instead of Kha (arts) unit.

They also submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor demanding withdrawal of the decision. They also urged the authorities to stick to the previous system.

The memorandum termed the decision 'irrational' and discriminatory to the Madrassah students.

It said that according to the new rule, the students who wish to

take admission to the Department of Law require 50 per cent of a total of 400 marks in Bengali and English in the HSC or equivalent examinations. But for the Madrassah students, the Bengali and English papers have a maximum of 100 marks each. As a result, they would not be able to sit for the admission test of Department of Law under Gha unit, it said.

Prof. Mohammad Asadzaman, Dean of Social Sciences Faculty, told The Daily Star that the university authorities had only decided which departments will come under which units, but not the necessary requirements for students seeking admission under the Gha unit.

বলে ভারত ভ্রমণ রিজার্ভেশন ও টিকিটের জন্য বাংলাদেশে একমাত্র এজেন্ট। অমানিট্রাঙ্গ ইন্টারন্যাশনাল লিঃ

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