



Mother of Simi Banu, a victim of violence against women, speaks at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. The Bangladesh Mohila Parishad organised the event on the occasion of the international fortnight protesting violence against women.

# \$42.2m ADB loan to stop river erosion

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 42.2 million US dollar loan to fund a project to protect the livelihoods of two million people threatened by river-bank erosion in Bangladesh.

ADB's loan comes from its Asian Development Fund, carrying a 32-year term, including a grace period of eight years. Interest is 1.0 per cent per annum during the grace period and 1.5 per cent per annum subsequently.

An ADB source said here that the loan will be used to finance the Jamuna-Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project taken to tackle riverbank erosion, which poses a threat to people's livelihoods in the two ADB-funded flood embankments in the Pabna Irrigation and Rural Development Project (PIRDP) and the Meghna-Dhonaoda Irrigation Project (MDIP).

The executing agency for the project, which is due for completion by end-December 2008, is the Bangladesh Water Development Board. The project aims at stabilising 7.0 km and 4.4 km of river-bank in the PIRDP and MDIP, respectively, by working on critical sections without changing the flow pattern of the river.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be 61.3 million US dollar of which 19.1 million US dollar will be funded by the government.

In addition, the project will carry out institutional strengthening, including capacity development and project management to ensure sustainability of the project impacts, in line with the government's 1999 National Water Policy.

# Work of Eastern Bypass to begin before June, Saifur assures

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said financing would not be a problem to begin work of Eastern Bypass before June next.

"It'll be easy to take decision in this regard after January following the planned mid-term review of the current budget," he told an Iftar party at Sonargaon Hotel.

Saifur said the mid-term review of the budget would facilitate him to think about new projects as some less priority projects may be dropped from the current ADP.

Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet Forum for Development sponsored the Iftar evening. He assured the Forum of solving communication problems between the four eastern greater districts and the capital.

He said he had already talked to relevant ministries about the scheme proposed by the Forum earlier.

"We're heading towards taking up the scheme," he said, adding that the region lacks communication facility compared to its commercial and business significance.

Communication secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat and presidents of the four district associations also spoke on the occasion.

# AL to join next JS session: Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday accused the ruling party of making parliament ineffective and said the government is provoking them not to return to the House.

"The ruling party does not allow us to speak. They do not want us to join the House. However, we will join the next session and continue to record our protest against their misdeeds," he told newsmen soon after the prorogation of parliament.

The Awami League walked out of the House on Monday to protest introduction of the bill for dropping the name of WTO Forum begins

At the invitation of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), Abdul Mannan MP, Chairman of Pacific Asia Travel Association, Bangladesh chapter, will preside over a session of the Fourth International Forum of Parliamentarians and Local Government Representatives being held in the Panama City from November 27 to 29, says a press release.

This forum brings together members of the parliaments and local bodies as well as leading owners and executives from tourist undertakings in both the public and the private sectors from across the world, who are interested in the prospect of tourism development in the 21st century.

Bangbandhu from the national agriculture award and did not return since then. Hamid said they will try their best to stay in the House. But if they fail, they will take a final decision like resignation, he added. "This government is conspiring to make parliament ineffective and destroy democracy."

He protested the valedictory speech given by LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on behalf of the Leader of the House and said Bhuiyan presented some untrue information.

"None should make untrue statement in the House," he said refuting the allegation of Mannan Bhuiyan that the Awami League with an intention to boycott Parliament started walkout from the business advisory committee meetings. Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid was also present at the press briefing.

# Listed criminal arrested in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested a listed criminal from east Madarbari area under the Dabalmooing thana early hours yesterday, a CMP press release said.

The arrested was identified as Mohammad Sawkat, 29, son of late Abdus Satter at Madarbari under the same thana.

# Tremor jolts Chittagong

BSS, Ctg

A light tremor shook the Port City and its adjoining areas at around 1.48 pm yesterday, according to Geophysical Observatory Centre (GOC) here.

The quake, which continued for only 09 seconds, was measured at 3.95 on the Richter Scale. This was the third earthquake that shook the city this month. The epicentre of the quake was located at 73 km from Chittagong.

No damage was reported from any part of the city.

# Abuse of student JCD submits memo to DU vice-chancellor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) along with the workers of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday demanding removal of Mesbah Kamal, a teacher of the history department. They were agitating under the banner of 'Students against repression' on the campus following press reports that a female student was physically harassed by a teacher of the history department.

The agitating students brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus to press home their demand. Meanwhile, additional police were deployed on the campus in the morning amid tense situation. However, no untoward incident took place yesterday.

On Tuesday, a section of newspapers reported that a female student of sociology department was physically harassed by Mesbah Kamal, an associate professor in history department. However, the female student issued a written statement on Wednesday to the university authorities and newspapers, saying that Mesbah Kamal is totally innocent and the reports on physical harassment are false, fabricated and baseless.

To investigate the incident, the Dhaka University authorities has formed a fact-finding committee which started its work yesterday. Convenor of the committee Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan requested the witnesses and others concerned to submit written accounts of the incident to the Proctor's office.

Meanwhile, different student organisations protested the 'false allegation' labelled against Mesbah Kamal.

In separate statements, they said the student wing of the ruling party and the university authorities are conspiring against the teacher as he led the movement over the Shamsunahar hall incident in July this year.

The student organisations include Students' Unity Forum, Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council.

The students who demonstrated on campus in July following the police atrocities in the Shamsunahar Hall also protested the allegation against the teacher.

# Govt to provide legal aid to 258 under-trial prisoners

BSS, Dhaka

The government will provide legal aid to 258 under-trial prisoners who are now staying in different jails in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Jail Reforms at Cabinet room in Bangladesh Secretariat here.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed chaired the meeting attended by Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq, Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahon Haque and Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas.

The meeting was told that a total of 29 under-trial prisoners are now staying in different jails in the country for much longer than the period they would stay there if they were sentenced to the highest punishment for their offences.

On the other hand, 129 prisoners were also staying in different jails for quite a longer period than

that were stipulated as minimum punishment for their offences.

"The government will provide legal aid for such under-trial prisoners for their bail or acquittal from the respective cases," Law Ministry sources said.

The meeting decided to examine the matters whether the children and the juveniles could be brought to book under the existing general laws in view of the growing trend in juvenile delinquency including killing and rape.

The process is underway to establish two correction centres in Rajshahi and Chittagong for the juvenile delinquents under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare, sources said.

Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hossain, Health Secretary Fazlur Rahman, Home Secretary Omar Faruq, Housing and Works Secretary Aminul Rahman, IG Prison Brigadier General Zillur Rahman were present in the meeting.



Garment workers holding children in their lap formed a human chain in front of the BGMEA office in the city yesterday demanding payment of Eid bonus and salary arrears.

# Govt to execute WSSD Plan of Implementation

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury yesterday said government is going to prepare a follow-up national action plan for execution of Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

He was addressing a workshop on Follow-up on World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) organised by The Rio+10 National Network in Bangladesh in collaboration with the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from Danish 92 Group at the National Press Club here.

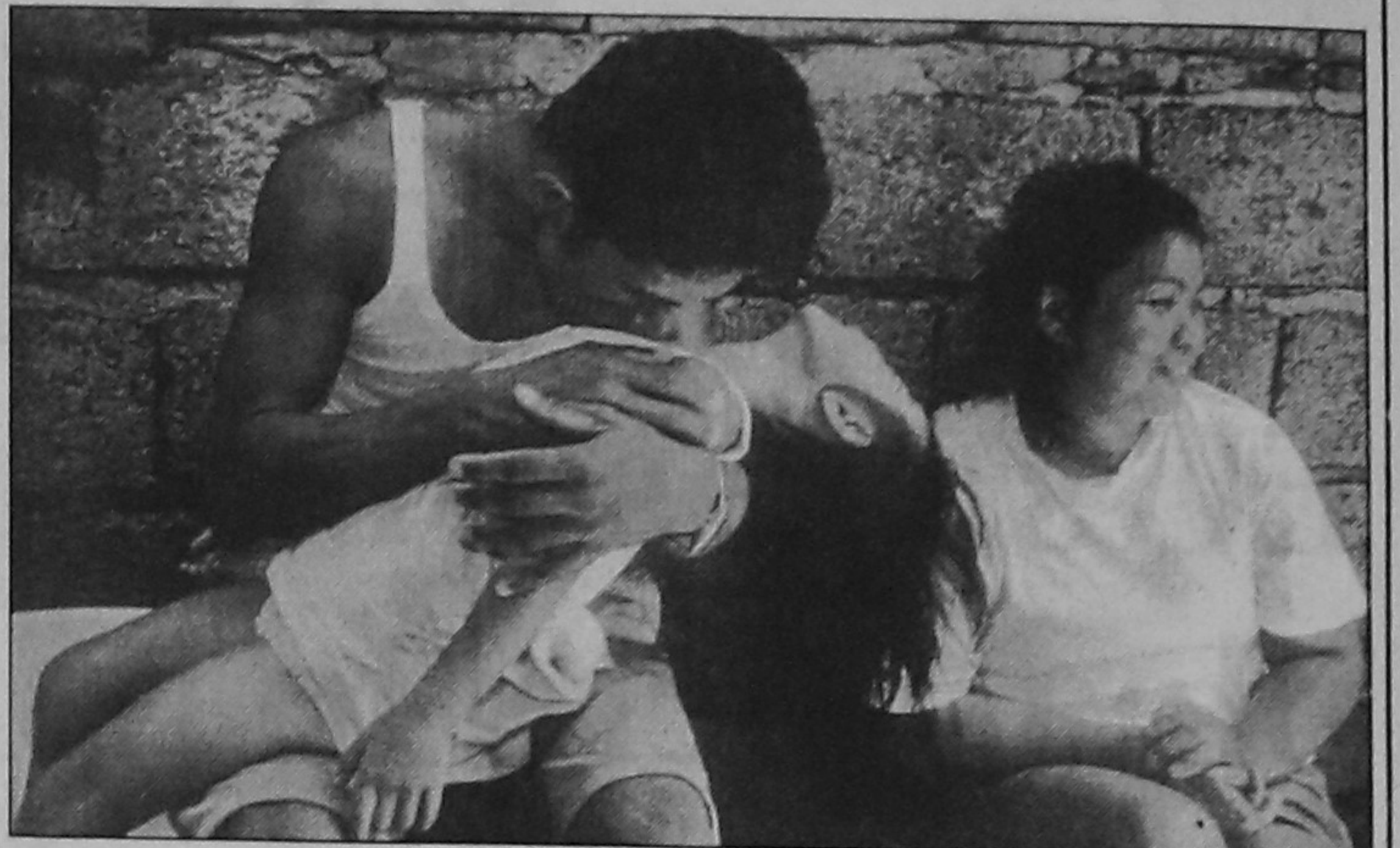
Jafrul said the government is very keen to achieve sustainable development, expand education through providing stipend among the students and has taken various steps to facilitate female education. "We believe, people of our country will get benefit with the successful implementation of these steps. If we want to reduce the number of poor to half of the

present number by 2015, we have to increase our initiative. To this end we need to increase budget allocations," he added.

He said we are now going to prepare our WSSD follow-up action plan as suggested by the Rio+10 National and FEJB at the last two workshops with members of parliament, government officials and Civil Society bodies after the WSSD. We will work together with this strong network for shaping our WSSD Follow-up Action Plan, he added. He also thanked the Danish 92 Group for their support.

Environment and Forest Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, former Environment Secretary and Chairman of Environment and Development Alliance (EDA) Syed Marghub Murshed, Misha Wolsgaard-Iversen, Rio+10 Coordinator of Danish Association for International Cooperation and News Today Editor Rezauddin Ahmed took part in the discussion with FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

# Distressed humanity in frames



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Their eyes express the eagerness for life. Their smiles show nothing of dissimilarities from the people around us.

The gallery at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, now full of unique photographs of people with HIV positive or live with AIDS, illuminates the positive human responses to this global crisis.

'Positive Lives' is an international mobile photo exhibition, organised in the city as a part of the Festival of Photography Chhobi Mela 20, was inaugurated on November 20.

The project is designed to seek practical as well as emotional re-

sponse to the epidemic of HIV and AIDS.

The photographs vividly depict the plight as well as the mental strength of people caring for someone near and dear close to death. The photograph of 74-year old Tomb Macha who lost her son and daughter-in-law to AIDS, substantiates this idea.

Photograph like Hazera and her peer educator sharing jokes at dusk by the Crescent Lake is there revealing a ray of light in the murk. Hazera set up a sex workers' cooperative and fought for better working conditions.

The photos also appear as an emblem of humanity when one contemplates over the photo of a social worker feeding water to a

HIV positive woman found abandoned in the street.

"These pictures tell us not only about the disease but also its impact on the life of the sufferer and his associates," noted Moyo Khan, an undergraduate student.

At least 25 committed photographers from around the world made the project 'Positive Lives' possible.

The organisers believe that these pictures will assist the people to bring an end to the misinformation and prejudice they have regarding HIV or AIDS and will educate them to understand it.

The show will continue till December 15 and the gallery will remain open from 11:00am to 4:00pm daily.

# JU student's body arrives

BSS, Savar

The body of Shamima Yasmin Munni, a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), was flown home yesterday from Kolkata, India.

She was killed in a road accident on Friday last in Hariyana. The JU authorities received her body yesterday noon at Zia International Airport, university sources said.

The body of another victim Hosneyara Begum, an associate professor of JU Archaeology Department, arrived on Monday.

Meanwhile, condition of Deneb Dewan Sumon and Naznin Khan Nupur, who are undergoing treatment at PGI Hospital in Chandigarh, are improving.

# CU programme on Martyred Intellectuals Day, Victory Day

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) authorities have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day and the Victory Day on December 14 and 16 respectively in a befitting manner.

On the Martyred Intellectuals Day, teachers, students, officials and employees of the university will bring out a mourning procession on the campus wearing black badge.

They will also hold a rally and discussion meeting at the intellectual square premises on the campus.

Programmes of the Victory Day include hoisting of national flag, placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, cultural functions and illuminations of different buildings on the campus.

# Multi-storey car parks to be built in city

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the BRTC would construct multi-storey car parks in important commercial areas of Dhaka city to solve the traffic jam problem.

Besides, steps have been taken to buy 200 more Volvo double-deckers from Sweden on soft term, the minister said while addressing a high-level meeting at his ministry on the implementation of the next three years' Rolling Plan for the development of communication network.

The meeting took decisions on the development of traffic signalling system of Bangladesh Railway, construction of new rail stations, renovation and development of old rail stations, development of national and regional highways and construction of bus and truck

terminals and important bridges.

Besides, an important decision was taken to implement the Rolling Plan for improving the standard of BRTC services and developing the institutional efficiency of BRTA.

Under the plan, BRTA offices in different districts will be brought under central computer network and manpower will be recruited to fill up the vacant posts of BRTA.

The communications minister said that the government has given priority to the construction of Padma Bridge to establish direct link between Dhaka and the southwestern zone of the country.

Among others, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Deputy Minister Asadul Habib Dulu and Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Iyete attended the meeting, said an official release.

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 No. 01/PGCB/Sec/2002/1339 Date: November 27, 2002

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 of  
 Closing Date for Submission of Bid  
 for  
 Design-Build and Turnkey Contract for Construction of  
 230kV Khulna-Bheramara-Ishurdi Transmission Line  
 under West Zone Power System Development Project  
 [ADB Loan No. 1884/1885-BAN]

Ref.: 01/PGCB/Sec/2002/737 dated June 18, 2002  
 The closing date for submission of Bids for the above work is hereby extended from December 02, 2002 at 11:00 am BST to December 12, 2002 at 11:00 am BST.

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Applicants (Boys and Girls) along with their guardians are invited Please bring all educational documents including bio-data and photographs for spot assessment.