

# Alleged harassment of DU student Probe body finds no evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fact-finding committee of Dhaka University has found no evidence to support the allegation against Associate Professor Mesbah Kamal of the history department. The five-member committee headed by Treasurer Prof. Syed Rashedul Hasan submitted its report to the vice-chancellor yesterday. The university authorities formed the committee after reports were published in some newspapers alleging that the teacher physically harassed a female student of sociology department at his office room on November 25. In its report, the committee said there is no evidence of sexual

harassment. The teacher only slapped the girl, it added. However, the report said, the behaviour of the teacher is not becoming of a teacher and not acceptable for congenial academic atmosphere. It would affect the normal relationship between the teachers and students, the committee said. Also, the way the students registered their protest against the teacher following the incident was not acceptable, the committee added. Meanwhile, the campus sources said the university authority in the next syndicate meeting would take necessary steps against the teacher for his misbehaviour with the female student.

# Help create awareness against AIDS Minister urges journalists

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khondker Mosharrar Hossain yesterday called upon the news to help create mass awareness to prevent the deadly disease AIDS. The minister made the call as the chief guest at a discussion organised by 'National Media Committee on AIDS' at the National Press Club on 'The Role of Media in Protection of AIDS' on the occasion of 'The World's AIDS Day'. Secretary of Health Ministry Muhammad Fazlur Rahman and Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS Amanullah Khabir participated in the discussion while Additional Director General of Health Directorate and President of the committee Prof. Moniruzzaman was in the chair. Chairman of Technical Committee of the National AIDS

Committee Maj. Gen. Dr. ASM Motiur Rahman and Dr. Abdus Selim presented key-note paper on the topic. Urging the people to lead their life in light with religious and social values to protect themselves from the deadly disease, Dr. Mosharrar has said social, religious and family values have to be sharpened which are now threatened with the influence of the alien culture. The health secretary said the present government took several pragmatic efforts to protect the people from the AIDS. An AIDS policy was also adopted, he added.

# HC vacation bench constituted

BSS, Dhaka

The chief justice yesterday constituted a vacation bench of the High Court for the period from December 4 to December 9. Justice Goura Gopal Shah will hear and dispose of the urgent matters during the vacation period on December 4, December 8 and December 9 at court room number 10 of the annex building of the Supreme Court from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

# Khaleque's detention illegal: HC

UNB, Dhaka

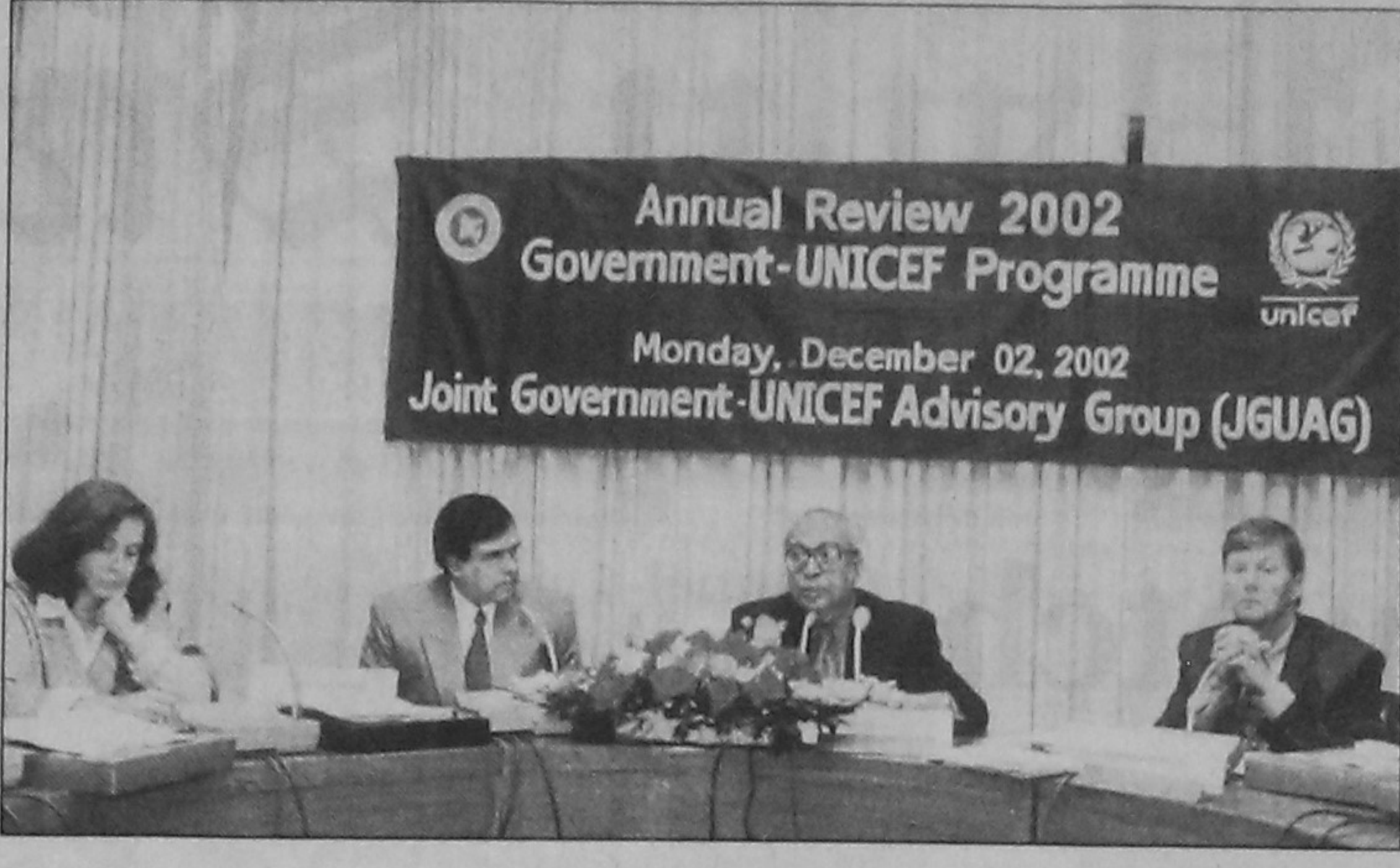
The High Court yesterday declared illegal the detention of Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP of Awami League turning down the grounds for detention as "vague and indefinite". The court ordered release of Talukder, if he is not wanted in any other case. The division bench comprising Justice Hamidul Huq and Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury delivered the verdict after hearing both sides. Talukder, former state minister for Relief and Disaster Management, was arrested on November 1 from his Khulna residence. Later, he was detained under the Special Powers Act. Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru appeared for Talukder.

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Planning Commission Member Dr Shah Mohammad Farid speaks at the Joint Government-UNICEF Advisory Group (JGUAG) annual review meeting held in the city yesterday. UNICEF Representative Morten Giersing and ERD Joint Secretary Kamrul Hasan are also seen.

# UNICEF identifies five priority areas

UNB, Dhaka

UNICEF has set five key priority areas of their medium term strategic plan that will set the future course of their programme implementation. The areas are -- girls' education, integrated early childhood development, immunisation, protection of children and women and combating HIV/AIDS. UNICEF officials briefed the government about the strategies at the Joint Government-UNICEF Advisory Group (JGUAG) annual review meeting at the Planning Commission yesterday. Planning Commission Member Dr Shah Mohammad Farid chaired the meeting while UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing addressed it. The meeting observed that Government-UNICEF programmes of cooperation for children and women in Bangladesh made significant progress and achievements in 2002. The financial implementation rate of these programmes was more than 78 per cent in spite of a range of constraints and challenges, the meeting was told. Dr Farid reiterated Bangladesh's full support to UNICEF assisted programmes and thanked UNICEF for its consistent support to the country. Morten Giersing stressed the need to address some of the constraints that have been identified by various programmes for impeding desired effect. The review brought 15 national project directors to report progress of activities in UNICEF's five areas of cooperation with the government of Bangladesh.

# Lailatul Qadr observed

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Lailatul Qadr was observed all over the country last night. The Lailatul Qadr, or the night of power, is considered better than a thousand nights as the holy Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) on this night. Muslim devotees will offer 'nafal' prayers the whole night seeking blessings of Almighty Allah for the wellbeing of the countrymen as well as the Muslim Ummah. President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have greeted the countrymen on the occasion of the holy Lailatul Qadr. In a message, the president said on the holy night, the Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) for the mankind and this night gives the Muslims an opportunity to seek blessings and pardon of the Almighty. He also wished wellbeing of the countrymen.

# Govt to accelerate dev programmes in CHT

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government is committed to accelerating its development programmes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region as elsewhere across the country. "We want to see the CHT as a developed region like other parts of the country," he told journalists after the first Cabinet Committee meeting that reviewed a security risk assessment report on the three hill districts -- Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari -- prepared by a Joint Survey Mission. LGRD and Cooperatives Min-

# Police baton-charge Mohila League procession in city

UNB, Dhaka

Police yesterday charged baton to disperse a procession of Bangladesh Jubo Mohila League that was brought out to protest the alleged 'propaganda' against opposition leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina. Witnesses and Awami League sources said at least 10 activists of Jubo Mohila League including Nazma Akhter, Prof Apu Ukil, Sabina Akhter Tuhin, Jesmin Akhter Baby and Shilpi were injured in the mele. The Jubo Mohila leaders and workers who brought out the procession from the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at about 11:30am were marching towards the High Court area to hold a rally. Police obstructed them at Palatan crossing and charged baton without any provocation, party sources alleged. After the incident, Mohila League activists held an instant rally with party convenor Nazma Akhter in the chair, Apu Ukil and Sabina Akhter Tuhin spoke at the rally and condemned the police action.

# Comprehensive plan to make Dhaka mega city underway Govt holds mid-term review meet with WB supervisory mission

BSS, Dhaka

A comprehensive plan is underway for expansion of the capital city Dhaka in the near future, Communication Minister Nazmul Huda said here yesterday. "The government has already discussed the matter with the World Bank to implement the comprehensive expansion plan to convert Dhaka city into a mega city," he said adding, the Bank has agreed to extend cooperation to implement the present govern-

ment's plan.

He was talking to a group of journalists at this office after holding a mid-term review meeting with the supervisory mission of WB led by Navid A Koraiyshi. The review meeting dwelt on the progress of implementation of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) financed by the WB. Tk 1200 crore project is being implemented for building road communication network infrastructure for city expansion. The meeting was attended by State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed, secretary of the ministry Syed Rezaul Hayat, senior officials and representatives from the ministries of local government, finance, home, housing and public works, and communications. Besides, representatives from planning commission, economic relation division, Dhaka City Corporation, police headquarters, RAJUK, DICB, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, BRITA, IMED, and DUTP were also present at the meeting. The Communication Minister said the hindrances to construction of modern bus terminals at Gabtoli, Mohakhali and Saidabad have been removed. Work on these would start soon, he added. Nazmul Huda said the meeting also discussed the feasibility for construction of a fly over at Jatra-bari and decided to undertake a project in this regard.

He also expressed the hope of completing the DUTP within the stipulated time. The minister said the WB mission expressed satisfaction at the overall progress of the project. The mission also praised the courageous steps of the government to remove the two-stroke three wheelers from the streets of the capital. They also welcomed the decision on removing rickshaw from Mirpur Road from December 15 this year. The WB also underscored the need for infrastructural development of the streets in some specific zones in the capital for safe plying of rickshaws. The WB Supervisory Mission representatives hailed the government policy to encourage the private investment in the transport sector. It also showed interest to extend cooperation to improve the institutional efficiency of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority. The meeting also emphasised on completion of Mohakhali fly-over and improved management of 79 traffic crossings in the city.

# WTC to be set up on railway land in Ctg

BSS, Dhaka

A World Trade Centre (WTC) will be established on railway land in Chittagong to raise internal revenue of Bangladesh Railway (BR). A special meeting of Bangladesh Railway Authority (BRA) held at the Rail Bhavan yesterday with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda in the chair approved a proposal in principle to this end. State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, BR Director General M Ataur Rahman and BRA members attended the meeting. The meeting underlined the importance of increasing the revenue of BR making optimum commercial use of its untapped lands in different parts of the country. Narrating the progress of implementation of DUTP during the immediate past government, the minister said the project virtually turned into a dead one but it was saved due to efficient management by the present government.

# British HC closed Dec 5

BSS, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka will remain closed to the public on December 5 on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, a High Commission press release said yesterday. The High Commission's offices in Chittagong and Sylhet will also remain closed on the day.



Police intercept a procession of the Jubo League at Tophkana intersection in the city yesterday when it was protesting 'false propaganda' against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

# HC grants bail to Janakantha reporter

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to journalist To-fail Ahmed of daily Janakantha and issued a rule asking the government to show cause why the petitioner should not be enlarged on permanent bail in connection with the case relating to two foreign journalists of the British Channel-4 who came to Bangladesh concealing their identity. A division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Siddiqui Rahman Miah passed the order upon a petition moved before the court. It was reported that the arrested foreign journalists had meetings with Tofail Ahmed, the Cox's Bazar reporter of daily Janakantha. A criminal case was lodged with Motijheel thana on November 25 on alleged anti-state activities of the two foreign journalists and their local associates. Advocate Subrata Chowdhury moved the petition on behalf of Tofail Ahmed while deputy attorney general Sheikh Abdul Awal stood for the state.

# Indian FM condoles deaths in Gaibandha

BSS, Dhaka

Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha has expressed his deep shock at the deaths in tragic stampede in Gaibandha. "I am deeply grieved at this tragedy in which several poor people have lost their lives," he said in a message to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, an official handout said here last night. The Indian Foreign Minister conveyed his "deepest condolences" to Morshed Khan and to the bereaved families.

# FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The first death anniversary of Begum Ashraf Jahan Mahjabeen, wife of Kazi M. Sakhawatullah who died on Lailatul Quader of Ramzan last year, will be held on Tuesday December 3 after Asar prayer at her New Bailey road residence. Her family members will be pleased and grateful to friends, relatives and her associates for participation in the Milad and prayers for her salvation.

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The Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha staged a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's statement abroad.