

'Cancel work order for secondary textbooks'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association (BBPSA) yesterday formed a human chain in front of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) demanding cancellation of work order for secondary level textbooks.

The association leaders alleged that among the 370 listed publishing houses, the board gave 92 percent of the work to

43 houses, while the rest got only eight percent of the work.

Earlier at a press conference on Friday, the association leaders brought allegation against the board pointing anomalies in the work order for publishing 1.60 crore books.

As part of its agitation pro-gramme, the BBPSA already submitted a memorandum to the NCTB chairman demanding cancellation of the work order.



Chairman of Adcomm Ltd. Geetiara Safiya Choudhury, *middle*, opened an exhibition of exotic sarees designed by Kamrun Nahar, *left*, at the La Galerie in Banani yesterday. Design consultant of Proshika Fabrics Shahana Ahmed, *right*, was present as special guest. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily till November 24.

922 NGOs get FNB membership

BSS, Rajshahi

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) has so far approved membership of 922 non-government organisations.

At a meeting on Monday, the national executive board of the FNB approved the membership of 350 NGOs operating in 50 districts.

Earlier, 572 NGOs got the membership of the FNB, said a press release.

Presided over by FNB Chairman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, the meeting discussed training facilities for smaller organisations, inclusion of NGOs in government committees on khas land at district and upazila levels and food situation in northern districts.

The meeting also formed an advocacy group to facilitate interaction and coordination with the government and the donor community for matters related to the NGO sector.

Members of the group are Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury (BRAC), Rasheda K Choudhury (CAMPE), Kamaluddin Akbar (RDRS), Abul Haseeb Khan (RIC) and Syeda Rizwana Hasan (BELA).

One gets life for killing boy in Pabna

BSS, Rajshahi

The divisional speedy trial tribunal here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for killing a nine-year-old boy.

The boy, Nur Islam Alias Biku, was killed at Char Sujanagar village under Pabna district about two years ago.

The convict, Mojai Kha Alias Amjad, 25, son of Nazimuddin, was also fined Tk 10,000. He will have to suffer six more months of rigorous imprisonment if he fails to pay.

He went into hiding soon after the incident.

Two other accused -- Rakib Kha, 22, and Bakkar Kha 24, -- were acquitted.

Judge AFM Aminul Islam pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

According to the prosecution, the accused called Biku, son of Rajib Ali, out of his house at about 3.00 in the afternoon on May 4, 2000. Then they took him to an unknown place.

His body was recovered from the nearby flood control embankment the next morning.

The victim's father filed a case with Sujangar thana on May 7, 2000, accus-

ing three persons.

Special Public Prosecutor Ketab Uddin appeared for the state while advocates Shah Jahan Mondal and Monwara Begum defended the accused.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka



Mikail is the eldest son of Khaled Shams of Grameen Bank and Nasreen Bahar Shams, associate professor of Dhaka University and a Tagore song exponent.

Miku, who excelled in his profession as an electrical engineer, is survived by his wife Tanzia Shams, a teacher of literature, and a five-year-old son.

His qulkhwani will be held at 'Rima', 10 Eskaton Garden (Opposite Ladies Club) after Asr prayers on Friday.

Gates Foundation gives \$ 10m to Unicef

UNB, Dhaka

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated 10 million US dollar to Unicef to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) that causes death of an estimated 230,000 mothers and babies worldwide a year.

The gift is an extension of the 26 million dollar the Gates Foundation gave in 1999, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Death anniversary



He embraced martyrdom in a battle with the Pakistani forces in Kurigram during the War of Liberation.

A milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his younger brother, Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, at House # 42, Road # 4, Sector # 3, Uttara after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

AT Foyez Uddin Ahmed



He was also a general manager of the BTMC and the BSCIC.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 63 Agamahis Lane after Asr prayers.

Abdul Aziz



Doa mahfil will be held in Dhaka and at his village home at Narayanpur, Brahmanbaria.