

'Give women entrepreneurs equal opportunities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite multifarious hurdles, women entrepreneurs in the country have come a long way to achieve self-reliance by dint of their hard struggles, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar on 'Problems and prospects of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh' was organised jointly by the University Women's Federation College and Women Entrepreneurs Association in the city.

The male-dominated society has limited the prospects of women entrepreneurship, said Prof. Razia Begum of Dhaka University in her keynote paper.

She said the obstacles, the women entrepreneurs are facing, include lack of access to viable credit facilities and awareness of other support services.



PHOTO: STAR

University Women's Federation College and Women Entrepreneurs Association (WEA) co-organised a seminar, Problems and Prospects of Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, in the city yesterday. From left to right are Prof. Razia Begum of Dhaka University, WEA President Rokia Afzal Rahman and State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon.

Pallabi teacher murder

Four placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four persons arrested in connection with the incident of burning to death of a female teacher of Pallabi, were placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Pallabi police produced the four arrestees - Mojibur Rahman, 30, Mohammad Roni, 20, Shafiqul Islam alias Shafiq, 29 and Aminul Islam alias Amin, 26 - before the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 3:00 pm with a prayer for a seven-day remand for interrogation.

In the prayer, police said evidences show that the arrestees are involved in the brutal incident. So they should be remanded to gather more information about the incident.

The defence lawyers submitted petitions for cancellation of the remand prayer.

After hearing both the sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Khondaker Fatema Begum rejected the prayer for cancellation of the remand prayer and placed them on a two-day remand.

Meanwhile, the same court placed Abul Kalam Azad and Shafiqul Islam alias Pintu on a one-day fresh remand for interrogation yesterday. They were produced before the court on completion of a three-day remand and sought a seven-day further remand. The investigation officer of the case is interrogating two other youths Selim and Abul Kashem arrested in connection with the incident.

Fatema Khatun Kohinor, 26, was burnt to death after rape by some unidentified youths of Pallabi on March 11.

Victim's mother Almida

Khatun filed a case with Pallabi Police Station accusing six youths under the Women and Childrens Repression Prevention Act 2000.

Domestic help tortured at Pallabi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly tortured her domestic help at her Pallabi residence on Tuesday.

The domestic help Hasina Akther, 12, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe injuries yesterday morning.

Shorna of section-12 at Pallabi asked Hasina to prepare tea for her on Tuesday noon. As soon as Hasina served tea, Shorna got furious and started beating her on the pretext of brewing the tea strong.

Hasina was rushed to the DMCH yesterday morning as her condition deteriorated. Her body bore marks of injuries.

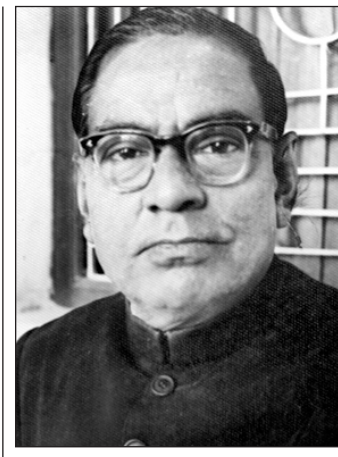
A case was filed with Pallabi thana under Women and Childrens Repression Prevention Act following a written complaint by the victim.



WVA executives

Ruby Rahman and Prof. Monowara Islam were elected president and general secretary of Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) for the year 2004-2005 recently, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice presidents: Anisa Huq, Fouzia Haque and Hajera Alam, Treasurer: Khaleda Sabet, Joint Secretary: Monira Helal and Joint Treasurer: Sultana Gazil Haq.



Abul Mansur's 25th death anniversary today

The 25th death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and statesman of the sub-continent, will be observed today, says a press release.

The Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Committee has organised a doha mahfil at Dhaka and Mymensingh on the occasion.

One of the greatest satirist of Bengali literature, Abul Mansur Ahmad was also a renowned politician, lawyer and a very powerful journalist.

He was the editor of Daily Krishak, Nabajug and Ittehad in undivided Bengal and a pioneer in progressive journalism.

A very successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad was the provincial education minister in the United Front Cabinet under Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and the central commerce and industries minister of the Awami League government of prime minister Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy. He was known for his strong stand in matters of interest of the then East Bengal.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include great satires such as Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliverer Safar Nama and Food Conference. His works also include great writings on social and political history of Bengal. He has two autobiographical writings -- Atma Katha (About myself) and Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachar (50 years of politics as I have seen it).

Abul Mansur Ahmad always propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the forties, fifties and sixties. His contribution towards opposition movement in the early days of Pakistan was extremely significant.

He wrote about the language issue from early forties and contributed to the Language Movement as the editor of Ittehad.

He was the author of the election manifesto of the Jukta Front (a grand coalition of the three giants of our politics -- Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Moulana Bhashani and Shaheed Suhrawardy) in 1954 election through which Muslim League was ousted from power. The 21-point programme (Ekush Dafa) was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bengalis of the then eastern part of Pakistan.

The Bangla Academy has recently published three volumes of Abul Mansur's collected works. Three more volumes are under print.

One of the greatest political personalities of Bangladesh, Abul Mansur Ahmad combined rare talents in three distinct fields -- politics, journalism and literary writings.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sultan Mahmud, a spiritual leader and president of Darud Sharif Prachar Sangstha, died of old-age complications at a city clinic here on Tuesday at the age of 60.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Mahmud, who hailed from Muhuripara in Agrabad, was living in Jamal Khan area. The devotees visited him regularly to listen to his sermons.

He was laid to rest at the graveyard of Hazrat Miskin Shah (R) Shrine after a namaz-e-janaza on Tuesday night.

Krishna Pada Bhowmik

Sree Krishna Pada Bhowmik, father of Prof. Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, general secretary of Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad, passed away at his residence at Mirzanagar village in Begumganj of Noakhali yesterday at the age of 88, says a press release.

A social worker, he is survived by his wife, one son and two grandchildren.

The Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad have expressed condolence at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Lutfu Hossain

Lutfu Hossain, a social worker and mother of Dilruba Begum, retired regional director of Bangladesh Betar, died on March 15 at the age of 73, says a press release.

She is survived by eight daughters, two sons and a number of grandchildren.

Her qulshwani will be held at her Gulshan residence after Maghrib prayers today.

CID asked to take over trader Selim murder case

Monitoring cell discusses 9 sensitive cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been asked to take over Rezaul Karim Selim murder case and open a probe with top priority as the businessmen have been agitating in protest at the failure to arrest the killers of their fellow trader.

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar gave the directive at the 36th review meeting of the monitoring cell on sensitive cases yesterday.

He also reprimanded Kotowali police for their inaction and not filing any case in connection with abduction and killing of Rezaul Karim Selim, a wristwatch trader.

The meeting was told that Selim was abducted and killed over a business dispute but the accused influenced the police not to file any case. He was abducted from Kotowali thana area. Two of his business partners went into hiding after the killing.

The victim's family did not give any clue to the police for fear of reprisals, meetings sources said.

Prior to the meeting held at the home ministry's conference room, Home Minister Ataf Hossain Choudhury called the CID investigators to his office and asked them to arrest the attackers of prominent writer Humayun Azad immediately.

The review meeting also discussed the incident of attack on Humayun Azad.

Investigation officials told the monitoring cell that they would question Azad as soon as he recovers, sources said.

A total of nine sensational cases came up for discussion. Two new cases -- killing of Dhanamondi Sporting Club president Khairul Anwar Piaru and abduction and killing of Fatema Khatun Kohinor at Pallabi -- were listed as sensational cases yesterday.

"We have examined a number of cases and instructed the investigators to submit chargesheet soon,"

1532 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,532 people, including three listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered 11 firearms, two other weapons and 26 bullets and filed eight cases against 11 people under the Arms Act.



PHOTO: STAR

Representatives of traders' associations of the old part of the city held a meeting at Nawabpur Chistya Electronics Market yesterday protesting killings, robberies and extortion in the area. They also decided to keep all shops closed

Construction of bridge over Dhaleswari soon

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said construction of the 6th Bangladesh-China friendship bridge over the Dhaleswari river at Mokhterpur in Munshiganj will start soon.

Huda said this when Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi and a high-powered Chinese delegation met him at his ministry in the city.

He said the government plans to name the bridge, to be constructed with Chinese financial assistance of 110 million US dollars, after Atish Dipankar, a great philosopher and educationist of this sub-continent.

Huda sought Chinese government's cooperation in development of Ramu-Ukiya-Teknaf highway, construction of a road-cum-rail bridge over the Naaf river and procurement of some portable steel bridges to strengthen inter-district road communication network.

He thanked the Chinese government for its great contribution in construction of five major road bridges -- Gabkhan Bridge, Sambhuganj Bridge, Korotoa Bridge, Mohananda Bridge and Buriganga Bridge.