



PHOTO: STAR

Artists of Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad render song at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad organised the function on the occasion of the National Nazrul Song Conference-1411.

416 women, children trafficked out of country in 4 years

Police report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 416 women and children were trafficked out of the country during the last four years. A total of 505 cases were filed accusing 1376 people in this connection. A committee to protect women and children of police headquarters said this in its report. The report was sent to the Home Ministry on Saturday. The report said as many 101 cases were filed against 319 people for trafficking 55 women and children in 2000. Fifty-three victims were rescued and police arrested 116 people for their alleged involvement with the trafficking, the report added. Of them, police gave final report on 23 cases as the charges brought against accused were not proved and submitted charge sheet in

78 cases. A total of 23 people were acquitted of the charges and 52 cases under investigation, the report said. As many as 116 cases were filed against 328 people on charge of trafficking 136 women and children in 2001. Of them, police rescued 54 victims and arrested 123 people in this connection. They gave final report on 30 cases as the allegations were false and submitted charge sheet in 86 cases. A total of 23 people were acquitted of the charges while 62 cases are being investigated. A total of 135 cases were filed against 400 people on charge of trafficking 110 women and children in 2002. Police rescued 58 and arrested 159 people in this regard. Of the cases, police gave final report on 21 as the charges brought against accused were found false and submitted charge sheet

in 114 cases. Of the accused, 18 were acquitted of the charges and 96 under investigation. As many as 136 cases were filed against 298 people on charge of trafficking 103 women and children in 2003. Of them, police rescued 59 and arrested 171 people in this connection. Of the cases, police gave final reports on 25 and submitted charge sheet in 108 cases. Of the accused, 59 were acquitted of the charges while 100 cases under investigation. In the first three months of current

year as many as 17 cases were filed on charge of trafficking 12 women and children. Police rescued eight victims and arrested 12 people in this connection. Police submitted charge sheet in 13 cases and gave final report on two. Two people were acquitted of the charges while six others under investigation, the report added. The home ministry formed the committee on May 28 this year to monitor and investigate cases of women and children trafficking.

NPU observes demand day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Platform for Unity (NPU) held a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of its 17-point demand. The rally was organised by the NPU, a coalition of political parties, civil society groups and intellectuals, to observe its demand day. The 17-point demand include black-money free elections, ban on loan-defaulters from running for public offices, functioning of an independent anti-corruption commission, and ensuring of children, women and minority rights. Addressing the rally, a member of the central convening committee Ajoy Roy said the implementation of their demands is a dire need in the present

context of the country. NPU Member Secretary Abdur Rouf, Abul Kashem and Shamsuddoha also addressed the rally. Later, the NPU brought out a procession.

Over 1000 held

UNB, Dhaka
Police arrested 1,015 people from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday. During the drive, they also recovered seven firearms, six other weapons and 14 bullets and filed eight cases against 10 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh till 6.00pm today. Weather may remain nearly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said. Mild to moderate heat wave over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions may continue, it added. Highest temperature 40.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 25.4 degrees at Rangpur. **The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.** Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.2	28.0	64	53		
Chittagong	34.3	27.3	80	69		
Rajshahi	40.6	27.6	62	42		
Khulna	36.0	28.0	70	62		
Barisal	34.8	27.6	73	65		
Sylhet	35.0	27.2	75	66		
Cox's Bazar	35.0	26.8	72	94		

Ratify Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

BAPA urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called upon the government to ratify the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Member countries of the World Health Organisation adopted the historic treaty in May 2003 to control the use of tobacco that claims five million people each year around the world. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) organised the rally at Shahbagh in the city. The speakers urged the government to formulate laws to control tobacco considering its health hazards for the public. They said smoking in open public places causes health hazards not only for the smokers but also for passive smokers. The speakers said about two lakh hectares of forest land is being destroyed every year because of tobacco cultivation. Besides, excessive use of chemical fertilizer and insecticides for tobacco cultivation decreases fertility of land and causes pollution of water and environment, they



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon formed a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding ratification of the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

add. The speakers said the government should move ahead to formulate tobacco control laws immediately for the greater interest of public health. Presided over by BAPA General Secretary Abu Naser Khan, the rally was addressed by environmentalist Dr Nuruddin and Mihir Biswas. Members of different NGOs including Hunger Project Bangladesh, Hunger Free World, Work for a Better Bangladesh, Green Force, Batikkram Manabkalyan Sangstha, Ubinig, Protyasha and Seba took part in the rally.



BCACP executives

Md. Iqbal Rashedin Tarun and Md. Jannath Salehin have been elected president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Chartered Accountancy Chhatra Parishad (BCACP) for a two years, says a press release. Other office-bearers are: Vice presidents - Mohammad Faruz Hossain, Md. Helal Uddin Chowdhury and Md. Mostak Ahmed Joint-Secretaries Md. Ziaur Rahman Ripon and Delower Hossain, Organising Secretary-Noni Gopal Das Chowdhury, Treasurer-Md. Ekramul Millat, Student, Welfare Secretary-Md. Sazedul Haque Bhuiyan, Publicity Secretary-Md. Kamal Hossain, Cultural Secretary- Md. Masud Ali Khan, Sports Secretary-Md. Masudul Haque Masud. Executive Committee members are Md. Mizanur Rahman, Md. Salim Al-Azad, Md. Saiful Islam, Mohammad Khabir Hossain, Md. Abdus Salam, Mohammad Abul Quyaum, Md. Mijanur Rahman and Md. Kamruzzaman (Shahid).

College students continue agitation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Around 150 second year (honours) students of different colleges affiliated to National University (NU) staged a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to press their demand for punishment to persons responsible for the attack on the demonstrating students on May 5. The students at a press conference on Sunday said that the NU vice-chancellor, proctor, assistant proctors, officials and employees are responsible for the attack. Students continued agitation to press home their five-point demand since April 12. The demands include permission of students under 2001-02 academic session to sit for part-two exam and retake exams only for the subjects failed in part-one exam and reformation of four-year course syllabus on the basis of opinion from the teachers concerned and cancellation of new rules regarding promotion. Their demands also include launching of tutorial and assignment systems in each department and its evaluation in the final exams, publishing of result within three months of the examinations and preparation of question papers and evaluation of answer sheets by the teachers of the affiliated colleges. They also demanded compensation and proper treatment of the injured students. At least 50 students were injured during the attack by the NU employees in front of the vice-chancellor's office on May 5. The students yesterday also threatened tougher programmes if

their demands were not met immediately. They will give an ultimatum to the NU authorities from separate rallies on their respective campus today. Different left-leaning student organisations yesterday brought out separate processions and held rallies on the Dhaka University campus to express solidarity with their demands. They demanded punishment to the culprits responsible for the attack on students. The speakers at the rallies demanded removal of the NU VC. They said the demands of the students under NU affiliated colleges were logical and the authorities should meet those immediately. Progotishil Chhatra Jote, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front held the rallies.



PHOTO: STAR

Second year (Honours) students of different colleges under National University stage sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Obituary

Chowdhury Badruddin, former banker, died at his Dharmondi residence in the city yesterday at the age of 63, says a press release. He left behind his wife, one daughter and one son. He was laid to rest at Azampur graveyard. His qukhwani will be held at his Dharmondi residence at House No-29, Road No-6.

Withdraw 14th amendment bill: Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday called upon the government to withdraw the 14th amendment bill as he said all its five provisions are less important and unnecessary. He said if the bill was passed, it would be the misuse of brute majority of the ruling coalition in parliament. Referring to hanging of portrait of the president and the prime minister in government offices, Ershad said it

could be done by an executive order. Amendment to the constitution is unnecessary, he added. On hand-over charge of the local government administration to bureaucrats between end of the tenure and next election, he said the provision is contrary to the Constitution, which guarantees public representation in all tiers of the administration. About the provision of 45 seats reserved for women in parliament, he said all the women organisations opposed it and except the ruling party, no other political parties did support. The JP chairman said amendment for extension of age-limit of the judges of the Supreme Court is not acceptable as it might influence the next general election. And finally there is no need for amending the Constitution to incorporate a provision of oath taking within three days of the declaration of election results. "No problem arose in the past on this matter," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University teacher Rashed Al Titumir places report on Bangladesh Public Policy Watch-2004 at a consultation meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Two development organisations-Karmajibi Nari and the Innovators-jointly organised the event.

Children's art competition held in city

In observance of the World Asthma Day, a children's painting competition was held at the Islamia Eye Hospital (IEH) in the city on Saturday, says a press release. Nearly 550 children aged between 4 and 12 participated in the competition. Standard Chartered Bank sponsored the painting competition in collaboration with Bangladesh Asthma Association. Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan was present at the opening ceremony as chief guest while Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank David Fletcher and Head Coach of Bangladesh National Cricket Team Dav Whatmore as special guests. Noted Artist Prof Rafiqun Nabi was present as chief judge. IEH Chairman Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani delivered the welcome speech. Chaired by President of Bangladesh Asthma Association Prof Dr Falahuzzaman, the function was also attended by IEH Director General Dr Khan M A Manzur and Dr Md Rashidul Hassan.



Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan inaugurated a children's painting competition to mark the World Asthma Day. The competition was organised by Standard Chartered Bank in association with Bangladesh Asthma Association and Islamia Eye Hospital in the city on Saturday.