

1127 women fall victim to violence in 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A total of 1,127 women fell victim to violence for various reasons in three months from January to March this year, said Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum at a meeting yesterday.

media reports.
The opinion sharing meeting was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the city.
Masuda, an activist of Parishad, said they received 60 complaints out of which 36 victims were provided with legal aids while 15 cases resolved through arbitration during this period.

Of them, 137 were tortured over dowry, 108 over property and 135 over conjugal feuds, she said citing

SALIMULLAH HALL Striking off 'Muslim' from its name illegal

UNB, Dhaka

Salimullah Muslim Hall, the oldest students' dormitory of Dhaka University, got back its original name after three decades.

The High Court yesterday declared illegal striking off 'Muslim' from its name.

The division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Joynal Abedin and Justice Sharifuddin Chaklader gave the verdict upon a writ challenging the DU syndicate decision of deleting the word Muslim in 1972.

The syndicate had taken the decision in the context of secular concept of the Constitution adopted by Bangladesh soon after independence. The decision was implemented under the University Ordinance of 1973.

Raqibuddin Ahmed, a retired secretary of the Shipping Corporation and former resident student of the Salimullah Muslim Hall filed the writ last year.

Faruque's family allege political vengeance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed's family yesterday alleged the government arrested Faruque after implicating him in false cases out of political vengeance.

They demanded immediate release of Faruque and withdrawal

of the cases against him and his colleagues at Proshika, one of the largest non-governmental organisations in Bangladesh that employs about 9,000 people and has over one crore beneficiaries.

They vowed to continue their movement for his release till the last drop of their blood.

"The government is harassing Proshika and Faruque by bringing baseless charges against them since it took office and blocked Proshika funds used for poverty alleviation," Faruque's wife Shahana Ahmed told reporters yesterday at Dhaka Reporters' Unity office in the capital.

Faruque's son Qazi Rubayet Ahmed, daughter Rifat Jabin Banni, brother Selim Ahmed, a retired colonel, and some Proshika staff attended the press.

The National Security Intelligence arrested Faruque from near the High Court on May 22.

Shahana said inquiry committees by Bureau of NGO Affairs, Bureau of Anti-corruption and Prime Minister's Office probed Proshika affairs for over a year, but they could not prove any allegations.

Even the donor agencies at a meeting with the finance minister and the Bureau of NGO Affairs on February 25 rejected government reports on Proshika as 'baseless' and 'politically motivated', she added.

Rubayet denied his father's having any links with main opposition Awami League. "Rather, my father filed a case against the AL government on charges of its evicting slum dwellers from the city," he said to a questioner.

He claimed the government is hostile to Proshika because it spoke out against what he said were the government misdeeds.

Rifat Jabin alleged jail authorities refused to let her meet Faruque when she had gone to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday morning. "The jail authorities told me that 'the high command' ordered them not to allow any of the family members to meet my father," she said.

Proshika staff Manjunnahar said some sacked Proshika employees are conspiring to destroy Proshika.

Arrest condemned

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday condemned the arrest of Qazi Faruque.

In a statement, the ADAB said the alliance government has arrested him to fulfil its political vindictiveness.

In another statement, the CPB said the ill political motive of the government has been exposed as charges were framed after his arrest.

It also demanded immediate release of Proshika chief along with other staff.



Shahana Ahmed, wife of Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed, speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity Office yesterday.