



PHOTO: STAR  
Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) stage a demonstration yesterday protesting the killing of Janmabhumi Editor Humayun Kabir Balu.

### One to die for throwing acid on sister-in-law

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced one person to death for throwing acid on her sister-in-law and a girl.

Judge AHM Mostak Ahmed of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court pronounced the verdict in absence of the convict Uzir Miah.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the date of his arrest or surrender, the judgement said.

Uzir Miah threw acid on his sister-in-law Shahnaz Begum and neighbour Salma of Salehpur village of Savar on October 30, 2003 at about 11:45am.

Salma's father Liakat Ali filed a case with Savar thana alleging that Uzir threw the acid on Shahnaz over family dispute and Salma for refusing his proposal of marriage.

After cross examination of 14 prosecution witnesses, the court gave the verdict.

## A day for street children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a day for the street children to celebrate as they got a rare opportunity to sing, recite poems and perform dance numbers at a colourful gathering yesterday.

As many as 400 distressed children, aged between seven and 13, assembled at the auditorium of Samaj Seba Bhaban at Agargaon to showcase their talents.

The Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD), a non-governmental organisation, brought this opportunity to the poor children. With its 20 centres at different areas of Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Karwan Bazar, the NGO has been working since 2002

for the welfare of the disadvantaged children, providing them with non-formal education and raising awareness.

The programme started at around midday with a song, Amra Pathashishu, Pathe Thikana (we are street children, street is our home), the children sang in a chorus.

The audience was enthralled when the children sang patriotic songs and recited poems and a group performed a dance number.

Along with the invited guests, other street children also enjoyed the programme.

Earlier a discussion session was held, where the children narrated their suffering and struggles for daily livelihood.

"We do not want to live on the streets; the government should do something to provide us with homes," said Fancy, a girl of 10.

"I work as a domestic help in a house at Mirpur where I was often reprimanded and tortured for any of fault," she told this correspondent.

She also said that she came to the function without informing her employer of it.

Ripon, Shahnaz and Sajib also described their struggles and urged all to come forward to help them so that they can grow up as good citizens equipped with education.

The ASD has been implementing the 'Street Children Development Project' involving Tk 70 lakh with the support from the Plan International, Bangladesh, said M Aminur Rahman, project monitoring officer, ASD.

Haider Yakub Wasim, programme support manager, Plan International, and Shihab Uddin Ahmad, chief executive, ASD, also spoke at the discussion.