



Centre for Policy Dialogue Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, second from right, addresses the inaugural session of the three-day conference titled "Human Rights and Governance: Local and Global Perspective" organised by Manusher Jonno and partners at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is David Wood, head of DFID-Bangladesh and on his right are Manusher Jonno Chairperson Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief Asma Jahangir.

## Extra-judicial killings perpetuate lawlessness, increase terrorism

### Asma Jahangir tells conference on human rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a three-day conference on human rights in the city yesterday denounced extra-judicial killings noting that such killings do not help bringing peace in the society.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference titled "Human Rights and Governance: Local and Global Perspective" they also stressed on concerted efforts by the state, political parties, civil society and non-government organisations to ensure equitable access for the underprivileged segment of the society to human rights and justice through good governance.

Non-government organisation Manusher Jonno (MJ) that works to promote human rights in the society, organised the conference at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management in league with its partner organisations.

Speaking as guest speaker UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief Asma Jahangir referred to violations of human rights in different countries of the world. She particularly focused on extra-judicial killing and violation of human rights in custody.

"Although many believe that extra-judicial killings help mitigate terrorism but it perpetuates lawlessness and increases terrorism," she said, adding that people in power in different countries across the globe had developed an impression that terrorism could be curbed by killing people but "extra-judicial killings can bring no peace and do not help contain terrorism either."

Asma said September 11 has changed the complexion of the world and there is a great worry that human rights remain at the forefront.

She said rule of law and independence of judiciary remains a key factor for human rights.

She also stressed the need for ensuring access of ordinary people to law and justice.

Asma suggested law officers of Saarc countries should deal with human rights issues specially to handle prisoners in member countries.

In her presidential deliberation, Chairperson of MJ Steering Committee Dr Hameeda Hossain also criticised the human rights scenario in the country saying that some people were given black scarf and licensed guns to kill people in cross fire.

"Sometimes back in this country, people started dying in 'heart attacks' and now people are being killed after guns were given to men in black dress," she added.

Dr Hameeda underscored the need for practice of democratic rights saying

"Our voices are silent because we are not practising our democratic rights."

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed attended the function as chief guest while Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), David Wood, head of DFID-Bangladesh, Steve Wallace, Country Director of CARE Bangladesh as special guests.

Shaheen Anam, team leader of Manusher Jonno and Nasima Begum, executive director of Shishu Nilay, a partner organisation of MJ, also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Rehman Sobhan said the government should take steps to eliminate inequality to establish a just society.

He suggested radical changes to ensure equitable access of the distressed people.

"This is a democracy of the elite and it is a crime to be poor in the society," the renowned economist added.

Citing various instances of inequality in a democratic country and influence of the elite, Rehman said elite and affluent take the opportunity while poor are always deprived. He underscored the need for capacity building of the dispossessed persons to compete in a global economy governed by the big corporate bodies.

Moudud Ahmed said Bangladesh has all the preconditions for good governance.

"We have elected government, elected parliament and a constitution good enough to uphold the human rights, free judiciary, free media, active NGOs and vibrant private sector," he added.

Moudud said the issue of human rights is very much related with good governance and it is so wide that we need to pin down the agenda.

He underscored the need for having an integrated approach for human rights.

The minister said the country has achieved some tremendous progress in attaining highest enrolment rate in primary and secondary education in South Asia.

The country has also reduced the child mortality rate and increased life expectancy rate, he added.

Focusing on the country's poverty reduction effort, Moudud said Bangladesh has brought 14 million people above the poverty line during the last 32 years although 50 percent of the population still live below the poverty line.

"Although we have achieved progress in some sectors but still we need to do a lot to eliminate poverty," he added.

Citing examples of improvement in human rights issues, the minister also stressed the need for providing legal aid to mitigate crimes as many people still have no access to law.

He congratulated the Manusher Jonno for its efforts to bring justice and

## Efforts to make army modern to continue: PM

BSS, Gazipur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said here yesterday the government is continuing the programmes for making the Armed Forces time-befitting as its success depends on skilled manpower, strength and ability.

"Our efforts will remain continued in the coming days to build a modern and skilled Army," said Khaleda Zia while addressing the officers and soldiers after witnessing an impressive collective winter training and assault river crossing exercises on the western bank of the river Sitalakkhya at Kapasia Ghat.

She said members of the Army are vigilant sentinels of the independence and sovereignty, and their glorious role in earning the independence is now a part of history.

She lauded the role of the Army in aid of the helpless people during disasters and their contributions to the UN peace-keeping force.

Khaleda said the Army has, meanwhile, earned the confidence of the people through their active

participation along with the civil administration in curbing crimes and recovering illegal arms.

The Army has also brightened the image of the country by participating in the relief and rescue operation in tsunami-battered Sri Lanka and the Maldives, she added.

The 46 Infantry Brigade, the 14 Independent Engineering Brigade and other members of the Army jointly participated in the exercises.

Urging the members of the Army to undergo hard training, she said they have to keep up professional skills and build them more efficient, courageous and hard working.

Earlier, Chief of the Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury and Brigadier General Sheikh Mahfuzul Huq received the Prime Minister at the venue.

### 1,413 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,413 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 48 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Drama**  
Natyadhara, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'Alish Dipankar Sapaar' directed by Alok Basu. Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6.30pm.

**Science fair**  
A three-day science fair and handicrafts exhibition, organised by Siddheswari Girls College, will be inaugurated. Venue: College premises. Time: 11.00am.

**Film show**  
The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Saita'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2.

**Seminar**  
Bangla CAT organises a seminar on Caterpillar products with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 3.30pm.

**Rally**  
Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal in association with Jatiya Mukti Council organises a rally to protest the price hike of daily essentials including fuel. Venue: Muktagong, Ramna. Time: 4.00pm.



Unirend CEO Muneer Ahmed hands over a crest to Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed in the city on January 13.

## Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed honoured

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, an eminent personality, was honoured by Unirend Ltd at a function in the city on January 13, says a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Unirend CEO Muneer Ahmed said it is knowledge that salvages a society and guides a nation to right direction.

A teacher, writer and an eminent TV personality Prof Sayeed has devoted all his energy and efforts to the spread of knowledge, he added.

Munir said the conferring of Magsaysay Award on Prof Sayeed has not only honoured him but also the entire nation.

In his speech, Unirend COO Zulfikar Ahmed said his organisation believes that personality brings changes for the better.

Today Bangladesh can be proud of some great personalities who have been able to achieve international recognition through their contribution in various fields, he added.

Later, Unirend Ltd honoured Prof Sayeed with a commemorative inscription and donated Tk 50,000 for Bishwasahitya Kendra.

## BCDJC function postponed

The function organised by BCDJC to give award in women journalism scheduled to be held on January 18 at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium has been postponed, says a press release.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) deferred it as Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk would not be able to attend the function due to unavoidable circumstances.



## Daily Star Press Union executives

M A Mannan and Zakir Hossain Mollah have been elected president and general secretary respectively of The Daily Star Press Sramik-Karmochari Union for 2005-06, says a press release.

Md Selim has been elected vice-president, Md Raju Ahmed assistant general secretary and Nayer Sultana treasurer.

The five-member executive committee was formed unanimously at a meeting at the daily's office yesterday with outgoing union president Abul Hashem in the chair.

## DCC bulldozes Green Del International School

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) bulldozed the Green Del International School in Gulshan on Saturday evening.

School authorities said some DCC staff with the help of Gulshan police entered the school compound Saturday evening behind the Wonderland Park without serving prior notice to them and destroyed the whole school in a two-hour devastation.

Leasee Zakia Rouf Chowdhury said they took the land on lease three terms for five years each and then two terms more for three years each. Recently, they applied for extending the lease for five more years to the authorities concerned prior to the ending of the existing lease period.

"But, without any notice or information of any kind, DCC staff along with more than 100 police bulldozed the school at the directive of a magistrate," she said adding, the destruction of the school was carried out to realise the interest of an influential vested quarter.

However, DCC Mayor Sadeque

Hossain Khoka said the term of the lease, which was provided on yearly basis, was over 15 days ago.

He said the leasee took the land from DCC to make a nursery there, but they made a school.

"Actually they were not supposed to build the school there," he said.

The corporation was under pressure from different community to recover the land, he added.

"The Gulshan Society requested the city corporation to use the land for community welfare. So we evicted the occupants," the city mayor said.

Zakia also said the DCC has no right to bulldoze the school without prior notice. "Who will take the responsibility of about 300 students of the school? Where will they study now? Which school would admit them?" she questioned.

While bulldozing the school, the DCC men also allegedly took away valuables including air conditioners, refrigerators and other accessories worth around Tk 25 lakh.

The leasee demanded to the

authorities concerned the compensation and reestablishment of the school.

Zakia Rouf Chowdhury alleged that a vested quarter in connivance with some dishonest officials of the DCC was conspiring to grab the land.

Already a signboard dubbing the land as 'Gulshan Park' was raised there but people in the neighbourhood are suspicious about the motive behind the sudden move, some alleging that the land would be later handed over to influential individuals as residential plots.

It has been reported in press in recent weeks that moves were underway to award prime city lands as residential plots to ministers, political leaders and influential people.

In this case, though the lease holder applied well in advance for a fresh extension of the lease period, it remained unclear what prompted the Dhaka City Corporation to rush and evict the leasee in such an unprecedented hurry just within 15 days of expiry of earlier lease period.



Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) bulldozes the Green Del International School in Gulshan on Saturday evening.

## N'GANJ FIRE 18 families get compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Families of 18 fire victims of Sun Knitting and Processing Limited in Narayanganj received Tk 1 lakh each as compensation from the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) yesterday.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury handed over the money at a function here.

Families of four victims Billal Hossain, Ayesha Khatun, Champa and Sufia could not get the compensation as their heirs were not found.

Altaf called for remaining alert so that such tragic incident could not happen in future. He suggested introduction of group insurance for the welfare of the workers.

BKMEA President Fazul Haque said members of the deceased families would be provided with jobs. Besides, the arrears of all workers will be paid, he added.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi division till 6.00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country with light to moderate fog during the morning, met office said.

Highest temperature 27.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:34pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.6	12.0	63	61
Chittagong	26.4	13.1	79	67
Rajshahi	25.4	10.5	77	70
Khulna	26.0	12.0	98	72
Barisal	25.8	10.4	94	90
Sylhet	26.0	11.7	89	52
Cox's Bazar	27.0	14.0	81	65

We seek a world of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

CARE-Bangladesh invites application for the following position based in Dhaka.

### Computer Programmer

**Job Summary:** The incumbent shall be responsible for the overall maintenance, installation, configuration, trouble-shooting, documentation and development of software applications. S/he will develop customized software applications as required and provide training on administration, installation, configuration, usage and backup/recovery process for all such applications. S/he will be required to visit CARE field offices to monitor use of software applications as required.

**Required Qualifications and Competencies:**

- Masters degree, preferably in Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics or relevant subject.
- At least 4 years practical experience in software design and development, maintenance & troubleshooting.
- Training skills on computer applications.
- Excellent skills both in written and verbal communication in English.

**Compensation:** Attractive salary and benefits will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above requirements are requested to drop their CVs along with any sample of recently developed software applications, on CD with brief summary (CV's should be accompanied with cover letter, recent passport size photograph, and names/addresses of two non-relative referees) in the application box placed at the ground floor of CARE-Bangladesh, 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka or mail/post to:

Section Manager, Recruitment, HRD&M Department,  
CARE-Bangladesh, Pragati RPR Centre, 20-21, Kawran Bazar,  
Dhaka, on or before January 29, 2005.

Note: 1) Women are particularly encouraged to apply. 2) Any persuasion will disqualify the candidates. 3) Internal and external applicants shall be treated equally in the entire selection process. 4) Applicants who have relatives in CARE are discouraged from applying. 5) Only short listed candidates shall be invited for the interview. 6) Please write the position applied for at the top right hand corner of the envelope. Visit CARE web-site on: www.carebd.org

লেবুর সুগন্ধে সুরভিত  
গ্লিসারিন ও ময়শ্চারাইজার সমৃদ্ধ

এ্যান্টি-ব্যাকটেরিয়াল  
**লেমন ফ্রেশ**  
হ্যান্ড ওয়াশ

এর ময়শ্চারাইজার তুকে অর্দ্রতার ভারসাম্য বজায় রাখে। গ্লিসারিন ও এ্যান্টি-ব্যাকটেরিয়াল গুণে সমৃদ্ধ বলে ত্বককে খসখসে বা ক্রস্ক হতে দেয় না।

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