

## Integrate us as part of society

### Acid survivors appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The acid survivors have made a fervent appeal to all to integrate them as a part of the society instead of ostracizing them.

The appeal was made by a group of young acid survivors at the end of the performance of a drama titled Aina (mirror) at the inauguration of a charity photo exhibition at Hotel Sheraton organised by Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) yesterday.

"My mother died of stroke as she could not bear the suffering I was subjected to by acid violence," said a survivor Azad, who is now working with the ASF as an interneer.

While narrating his trauma, Azad said he has been running after justice for last one year but the case is yet to be disposed of though acid throwing is a non-bailable crime for which the government vows speedy trial within 90 days.

It is hard to avail justice where police tamper with charge sheet taking bribe and court officials are too influenced by money, Azad added.

Acid violence is a worst form of violence against women that manifests gender disparity, said Royal Netherlands Ambassador Kees Beemsterboer, adding that social isolation torments the acid



Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) organises a charity photo exhibition at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

victims most.

"Being a signatory to many international conventions as well as enacting many laws against violence against women, there is discrepancy between the signing and the enforcement of law in Bangladesh," said the Dutch Ambassador.

"Please accept the acid survivors as an integral part of the society,"

appealed the ASF Chairperson Advocate Sigma Huda.

She said an effective control on the import and use of acid is still absent.

Around 75 renowned photographers and photojournalists have made generous contribution with more than 350 photographs for the exhibition that will not only raise fund

for treatment and rehabilitation of the acid survivors but also create awareness about acid violence, said the ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman.

The 3-day exhibition at Sheraton will run till August 27 from 10:00am to 9:00pm daily.

The charity price of each photograph is Tk 6,000.

The second phase of the exhibition will open at Sonargaon Hotel on September 2 while the third phase at Spectra Convention Centre on September 8.

Established in 1999, the ASF provides medical treatment, legal aid and social rehabilitation support to the survivors.

Though the ASF had sent a few acid victims abroad for reconstructive medical surgery, it has by now got its own well-equipped 40-bed hospital exclusively for acid victims at Banani.

It makes arrangement for hospitalisation of acid victim within 48 hours of notification and accommodation of those without any shelter at its shelter home Thikana.

General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Trevor McDonald and President of JCI Bangladesh Safina Rahman also avowed their continued support for the acid victims on the occasion co-sponsored by Bangla Link, Nascom, Tack Training, Intelab, Kodak, Express One, North South University and Linkers.

## Sherpur Polytech principal, 19 others assaulted by JCD cadres

BDNEWS, Sherpur

At least 20 people, including the principal, teachers and students of Sherpur Polytechnic Institute, were injured in an attack allegedly by Chhatra Dal cadres yesterday.

Witnesses said a band of 15 to 20 armed JCD men stormed into the room of the principal of the institute at about 11:30am and asked him why the plaque inscribed with the name of whip Jahed Ali Chowdhury, minister in charge of Sherpur district, had been removed.

At one stage, they became violent and assaulted the principal. The JCD men also beat up some teachers and students who came forward to save the principal.

Four of the injured students were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.

On information, police rushed to the campus and brought the situation under control.

On removing the plaque, the principal said it was taken away temporarily to carry out digging there.

## HC vacation benches constituted

BSS, Dhaka

The Chief Justice yesterday constituted several vacation benches for hearing and disposing of important cases of the High Court Division when the Supreme Court goes to vacation from September 3 to October 16, an official handout said.

The two-member bench comprising justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Mohammad Fazlur Rahman will sit at the division bench at courtroom number one at the annex building of the Supreme Court.

Justice Najmun Ara Sultana and Justice Syed Abu Kawshar Mohammad Dabirunwan will sit at courtroom number 13.

Justice Sharif Uddin Chakladar and Justice Qamrul Islam Siddiqi will sit at courtroom number 22.

Justice Sheikh Rezwana Ali and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal will sit at courtroom number 34.

Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Justice Nirmalendu Dhar will sit at courtroom number eight.

Justice Mashuk Hossain Ahmed and Justice Mohammad Emdadul Haque will sit at courtroom number 23 while Justice Khandakar Musa Khaled will sit at a single bench at courtroom number 20.

## Pirates kidnap 26 fishermen in Bay

UNB, Barguna

Armed pirates swooped on seven fishing trawlers in the Bay on Tuesday night and kidnapped 26 fishermen.

According to the Trawler Owners and Fishermen Association, a gang of 20 attacked the seven trawlers near the fairway buoy in the Sundarbans. They fired blank shots, beat up the fishermen and abducted 26 of them.

The pirates demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh from the relatives of each of the kidnapped fishermen for their release.

## Roundtable on serial bomb blasts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communism organises a roundtable discussion today in the city comprising all the progressive pro-liberation forces on what should be done at this crisis period of the country following the August 17 nationwide serial bomb blasts.

The discussion will be held at 4:00pm at Shaheed Tajul Islam auditorium at Moni Sing-Forhad Trust Bhaban at Purana Palatan in the city, says a press release.

## National Media Survey findings released

Sirius Marketing & Social Research Limited, one of the largest market research companies, has released the findings of the National Media Survey 2005, says a press release.

This research is a detailed study on the media usage and habits of individuals across different demographic groups of society. A total of 13,166 households across 146 locations in divisional headquarters, towns, thanas and villages were surveyed during the research.

The findings are available in the form of a customized and user-friendly software and users can view the results from different perspectives.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain discusses a point with Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon at a discussion at the Engineers' Institute Auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Resist activities of fanatics

### Dr Kamal urges progressive political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said those who are doing politics in the name of religion must be resisted for the greater interest of the country.

The progressive political parties and the common people should come forward to resist the activities of the fanatics who want to establish their ideology through bomb and grenade attacks, he said.

A vested quarter is doing politics in the name of religion to create a division among the countrymen, said Dr Kamal at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League to mark the first anniversary of August 21 grenade

attack on an Awami League rally.

The eminent lawyer also called for unity among the progressive political parties to save the country from the grip of fanatics.

Expressing concern over the prevailing situation in the educational institutions, he called on the government to ensure congenial atmosphere in public universities.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the August 21 grenade attack was aimed at killing Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina and frontline AL leaders.

He said the perpetrators of last year's grenade attack and the masterminds of August 17 country-wide serial bomb blasts belong to

the same evil force.

The 14-party will resist any conspiracy by the anti-liberation forces, the AL leader asserted.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the August 21 carnage was not an isolated incident, rather it was part of a design to eliminate pro-liberation forces.

The country is now facing the threat of extremism as the government has turned a blind eye to the activities of the bigots, he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu said the recent serial bomb blasts were designed by the government as it is now afraid of the unity of pro-liberation political parties.

"It appears that the Jamaat-Islami, not the BNP, is now running the state affairs," he added.

Presided over by Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok, the discussion was also addressed by AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader and Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbubey Alam.

## 'Women still repressed from family to workplace'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday said women are still repressed in all spheres of life from family to workplace.

They said empowerment of women can only bring an end to their repression and that's why they are demanding direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament.

The rally was organised by Sammilita Nari Samaj, a women's rights organisation, in observance of the Women's Repression Resistance Day in the city.

"We are observing the day since 1995 to mark the killing of Yeasmin after rape by police personnel in Dinajpur, said Arifa Akhter Anu, a leader of the organisation.

Ten years have passed but the repression on women is still going on in different ways, she added.

Rokeya Rafique Baby said, "We are observing the day as black day as we observe March 25 as dark episode in the history of our country."

"We will continue our agitation unless we have the right to join parliament through direct election," she added.

Condemning the Wednesday's simultaneous countrywide bomb blasts the women leaders said the extremist groups, who never want women's empowerment, are responsible for the attacks.

Terming the blasts as a hindrance to progress they demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

Mahmuda Imam, Afroza Haque Shima, and Shima Das Shimu also spoke at the rally.

Yeasmin, a 14-year-old girl was brutally killed after sexually abused on August 24.

## GCE O' level results today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The GCE 'O' level results will be published across the world, including Bangladesh today.

The results will be available on the website of bilingual national news agency

www.bdnews24.com.

About 2500 students took part in the exam from Bangladesh in June this year, a British Council source in the city said. The number of examinees in the January session was 2300.

## 5 HC judges appointed

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has appointed five additional judges of the High Court Division as judges of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court.

The appointments were made according to the Article 95 (1) of the Constitution, an official handout said yesterday.

The newly-appointed judges are Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, Justice M Miftah Uddin Chowdhury, Justice AKM Asaduzzaman, Justice M Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Jubair Rahman Chowdhury.

The appointments will come into effect from the date of taking oath by the judges, the handout added.

## Jubo Dal leader stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of hoodlums beat up and stabbed a Jubo Dal leader at Shialbari, Mirpur, in the city on Tuesday.

Mashiur Rahman Liton, 25, publicity secretary of Ward-7 Jubo Dal, was returning home at around noon when the gang attacked him at Shialbari Mor. With stab injuries in his right leg, Liton was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Local people said that the Awami League activists might have attacked Liton as he allegedly had the police arrest local AL leaders and activists.

## DILAPIDATED CU ARTS FACULTY BUILDING 7-day agitation begins Aug 27

CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Chittagong University Communication and Journalism Department will launch a seven-day agitation along with the students and employees on August 27 demanding immediate renovation of the dilapidated arts faculty building.

The agitation programme includes wearing black badges for three days and boycott of classes on September 1.

The academic committee of the department announced the agitation programme yesterday as per the decision of the Monday's meeting held at the department office.

The teachers, students and employees will submit separate memorandums to Vice-Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury on August 4 and the arts faculty dean on August 30.

A silent possession will be brought out on the campus on the day.

Chairman of Communication and Journalism Department Ali Asgar Chowdhury said they had to announce the agitation as taking classes in the building has become very risky.

We will go for tougher programme if the authorities do not take measures for the renovation of the building immediately, he added.



Former health secretary Syed Alamgir Faruk Choudhury speaks at a roundtable discussion on "Ways to Make Community Clinics Operational" at The Daily Star office yesterday. The Daily Star and the NGO Network for Public Private Partnership jointly organised the roundtable. (Story on Page 16)

## Verdict in case against Rab men deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again adjourned the verdict of the robbery case against four members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their two sources.

The court on August 18 adjourned the delivery of verdict for the first time and fixed yesterday as the next date, but Metropolitan Magistrate Towfiqul Alam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 re-fixed the date, saying the judgement was not prepared.

The case was filed accusing Sergeant Atiqur Rahman, Sergeant Waliullah, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Rafiqul Islam,

Constable Khorshed Alam and their two sources Mofizur Rahman alias Babul and Masud Mridha for robbing Tk 7.8 lakh from a cattle trader in the city's Mirpur area on March 23.

Of them, ASI Rafiqul Islam and Masud Mridha have been absconding while the remaining four were earlier arrested.

Sergeant Atiqur Rahman and five others went to the Mirpur residence of Ratan Ali, the complainant in the case, at about 12:20pm on March 23. Identifying themselves as Rab-4 members, they robbed Tk 7.8 lakh from Ratan's house.

Of the six, five managed to

escape in two CNG-run three-wheelers waiting outside, but Sergeant Atiq was held by the locals.

Later, following leads obtained from Atiq, a joint team of the police and Rab arrested Waliullah and Khorshed Alam. They recovered Tk 2,45,500 from Waliullah and Tk 10,000 from Khorshed Alam.

Ratan Ali filed a case with the Mirpur Police Station under the Speedy Trial (Law and Disruption) Act the same day, accusing the six people.

Investigation officer (IO) AKM Nahidul Islam of Rab-1 on April 2 pressed charges against the four Rab members and their two sources.

The IO, also assistant superintendent of police (ASP), submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka.

RICKSHAW-PULLER KILLING

## Arrest of culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rickshaw Van Malik Sramik Sangram Parishad, an association for rickshaw-van owners and workers, yesterday formed a human chain at Muktangon in the city demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Rabiul Islam.

Rabiul, a rickshaw-puller was killed in the August 17 bomb blast in Chapainababganj.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits and immediate rehabilitation of the victim's family as the family members are living in a very poor condition.

They urged the government to take necessary steps to crack down on the criminals and take stern action against them.



## Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are expected at places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and moderate heavy to heavy falls over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishurdi and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:38am 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       | 30.5                   | 27.0 | 87                     | 82      |
| Chittagong  | 28.2                   | 24.5 | 95                     | 95      |
| Rajshahi    | 32.5                   | 26.5 | 93                     | 96      |
| Khulna      | 32.0                   | 27.5 | 92                     | --      |
| Barisal     | 30.0                   | 26.3 | 96                     | --      |
| Sylhet      | 30.2                   | 25.6 | 83                     | 97      |
| Cox's Bazar | 28.5                   | 25.6 | 100                    | 95      |