



PHOTO: STAR

Dhanmondi Ladies Club organises a Winter Cake Festival and Competition at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex in the city yesterday. The contestants made 18 types of cakes at the festival.

## Kidnapped trader rescued in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday rescued a businessman at Gazipur five days after his abduction from Old Dhaka over business rivalry.

Sayed Hossain, 33, a rexin trader, was abducted from his Bangsal shop in the city on December 18 night.

His younger brother Jahid Hossain filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on December 20. Police arrested two youths the following day and another suspected abductor Faruq on

December 22 in this connection.

According to the confessional statement of Faruq, police recovered Sayeed unconscious in front of a rest house at Salna at National Park in Gazipur.

Police immediately sent him to a clinic at Uttara in the city for treatment.

His family and police said the criminals abducted Sayeed over business rivalry not for ransom.

### 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF PROF YUNUS

## No headway in case due to Shibir link

RU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Muhammad Yunus, professor of the Department of Economics, Rajshahi University and president of Bangabandhu Parishad.

On this day one year ago, he was murdered during morning walk near his house.

The police could not make any headway in the murder case of Prof Yunus allegedly for his killers' links with Islami Chhatra Shibir. All arrested suspects in the case were freed on bail.

The police arrested four suspects, including Sirajus Salekin of Islami Chhatra Shibir. In interrogation, he provided vital information leading towards the identification of murderers. Months later the investigation stalled for unknown reason.

The police quoting eyewitnesses said, five killers led by Jamat loyal Zafar Babu were found to have been responsible for the murder and the charge sheet will be given in the shortest possible time.

RU authorities postponed all classes, examinations and admission tests today to observe the day. Bangabandhu Parishad, Economics department and Progressive Teachers' Alliance took out separate programmes on the occasion.

Progressive Teachers' Association convener Prof Muhammad Nurullah said, 'We will launch tougher movements demanding trial and punishment of Yunus's killers soon.'

Yunus's son, Rashed Zaman Shobon, also teacher of drama and music at the university, and RU senate member Prof Anando Kumar Shaha expressed concern over suspension of the investigation.



## Salim Bhuiyan elected Dhaka Club president

Salim Bhuiyan, a freedom fighter and sports organiser, was elected president of Dhaka Club for 2005-2006 on December 22, says a press release.

He got 726 votes while his nearest rival bagged 276. The election was followed by the annual general meeting.

Other members of the executive committee are Ishtiaque Ahmad, ASM Ali Khabir Chand, Jahangir Shah Badsha, Enamul Hoque, AA Ibrahim (Kaju), Mohd Iftekharuddin Khan (Naushad), Asfarul Islam, Tulu Kalimullah, Ashrafuzzaman Khan (Puton) and Nawzia Islam (Rasha).

## Social movement a must for promoting gender equality

### Women's rights activists tell confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Social movement is a must for mainstreaming gender issues into policy and development programmes with a view to promoting gender equality, said women's rights activists at a national conference yesterday.

They also called for raising awareness at the grassroots level to ensure equal rights for women.

The Gender Trainers' and Activists' Core Group (TCG) of the Steps Towards Development organised the two-day conference at the BIAM auditorium in the city, with the slogan, 'Journey Towards Gender Equality'.

The conference is aimed at making

a common commitment to establishing women rights at every level.

Fifteen rights activists were also honoured at the inaugural session of the conference for their contribution to women's rights movement.

They are President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Hena Das, litterateur Selina Hossain, development expert and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Taherunnessa Abdullah, women rights activists Dr Hameeda Hossain, Salma Khan, Maleka Begum, Prof Nazma Chowdhury, Ayesha Khanam, Shirin Haque and Bela Nabi, Editor of the daily Sangbad Bazur Rahman, President of Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra Dr Quazi Faroque, Project Co-ordinator of Gonoshasthya Kendra Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, Development Affairs

Advisor at Royal Norwegian Embassy Zakia K Hasan and Jhawshan A Rahman.

Speaking on the occasion, Hena Das said women of different classes in the subcontinent have been struggling to establish their rights since the '40s.

They also played an important role in the liberation war, she added.

There should be a system of equal opportunity for men and women in society, where men will show proper respect to women, said Selina Hossain.

The speakers also called for establishing equal inheritance and guardianship rights at every sphere of life.



President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Hena Das lights a candle at the inaugural session of a national conference at the BIAM auditorium in the city yesterday. The Gender Trainers' and Activists' Core Group (TCG) organised the event.

