# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

## Only a pluralistic society can solve problems of minorities

#### Justice Naimuddin tells confce on cross-border migration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday called for an integrated labour market and developing modalities for freer movement of labour across the borders to address the illegal migration problem.

The cross-border migration problem between India and Bangladesh is multidimensional, they said, adding that India has taken measures to intercept illegal migrants but the Bangladesh government has denied the movement of irregular migrants.

Prof CR Abrar of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper at the conference on 'Crossborder migration and protection of human rights among the close neighbours in South Asia' organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in the city.

Experts from Nepal, India, Pakistan also joined the conference and discussed on different issues such as 'Cross-border movement and legal concerns -- key issues in illegal migration', 'Rising concerns: Current country scenario'. 'Statistical profile of illegal migrants and

their present Status', 'Problem of cross-border illegal trafficking --Role of legal aid organisations', 'Minority protection concerns and quest for cultural freedom and homogenous community living'.

On the issue of minority protection, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed said only a pluralistic society would succeed to solve the problems of the minorities as well as the consequent migration and trafficking.

"The majority must allow active participation of the minority groups in all major affairs of the country, governance in particular. The basis of a pluralistic society is that the majority must respect all religious, cultural, ethnic, racial and linguistic minorities and must treat all minority groups as equal partners," he

On behalf of Legal Aid Services, West Bengal (LASWEB), Dr Satyajit Das Gupta said in the current era of globalisation and in the specific context of the conception of Safta within the broad framework of the Saarc, there is emerging need for rethinking on varied aspects of cross-border migration.

He also suggested initiating

serious deliberations and dialogues on sensitisation of the members of law enforcing agencies

Director of BLAST Taslimur Rahman, Chairman of RMMRU Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, Member of Law Commission Dr Enamul Huq and Dr Kalpana Kannabiran of India also

#### Workshop on painting starts Dec 30

Renowned artist Masuma Khan will conduct a three-month workshop on painting for children aged between 7 to 16 years, says a press release.

The qualifying test will be held on Friday at South Breeze School, Road no11/ A, House no 60,

Interested persons can contact Masuma at 7114638 for detail



Teachers of the non-government primary school stage a demonstration prior to begin fast unto death at the Central

#### Dam gets Nagar Padak-2004 for cancer treatment

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam) has been awarded Dhaka Nagar Padak-2004 for health services, especially for its commendable role in the field of cancer treatment, says a press

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, as chief guest, handed over the award to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dam, at a colourful function vesterday in the auditorium of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The award comprised a gold medal, a crest, a citation and a cheque of Tk 50 thousand, DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka presided over the award-giving ceremony. AHM Abul Kashem, secretary for Local Government Division, attended the function as special guest. Saifuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of DCC, delivered the welcome address.

In the same function, Noor Jahan Beaum, editor of Weekly Beaum, Nirapad Sarak Chai and Wari Club were also awarded Dhaka Nagar Padak in the fields of Literature & Culture, Social Welfare and Sports.



#### Dry weather likely

Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning and mild cold wave may sweep over Rajshahi division and the regions of Kushtia and Jessore during the

Met Office also predicted slight fall in night temperature over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 28.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 9.7 degrees at Rajshahi

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at

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	26.0	14.0	64	54
Chittagong	27.6	15.5	82	72
Rajshahi	25.5	09.7	89	74
Khulna	26.0	13.5	87	74
Barisal	26.2	12.8	91	87
Sylhet	27.1	15.0	78	63
Cox's Bazar	28.0	17.5	75	67



Winners of the Dhaka Nagar Padak-2004 pose for photograph with the guests at the Dhaka City Corporation auditorium yesterday. Sitting from left are DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

#### Convict Thai dies in Gazipur hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wain, a convict citizen of Thailand died of tuberculosis at Gazipur Sadar Hospital at 7:30pm yesterday after he was taken there from Kashimpur Central Jail for treatment.

Kashimpur jail source said Wain son of Chan of Saibori Street, Thana-Byao, District-Saawkaw, Thailand, has been in the jail since April 16, this year.

He was arrested for carrying illegal arms and sentenced for seven vears in iail. Jail authorities are preparing to

send the body to his home A case was filed with the Joidebpur Police Station.

#### Advance rail tickets from Jan 1 on Eid

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway has taken special measures for selling advance tickets for home-bound inter-city train passengers ahead of Eid-ul Azha from Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet station counters.

The five-day special sale will start on January 1. Tickets will be sold everyday from 8:00am to 4:00pm under the supervision of officials given the special assign-

Tickets for January 6 will be sold on January 1. for January 7 on January 2, for January 8 on January 3, for January 9 on January 4 and for January 10 on January 5.

"The tickets sold in advance are not refundable.' Apart from advance tickets

regular tickets will also be sold during the period.

#### Baishakhi TV starts test transmission tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another new private television channel 'Baishakhi Television' will start test transmission tomorrow, savs a press release.

All preparation has already been completed for the test transmission of the TV channel of Baishakhi Media Limited.

director of Baishakhi Television, a news and entertainment TV chan-Shawkat Mahmud is the editor.

KM Shahidullah is the managing

news of the TV channel while Haider Rizvi is the chief executive officer.

#### Bangladeshi wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Towfique Raj, a Bangladeshi, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship, says a press release. He is one of 38 US students who

joined the Gates Scholars from around the world who began their graduate studies at the University of Cambridge in October 2005. As a Gates Scholar, Towfigue is

working toward his doctorate in human genomics at The Department of Genetics, Cambridge University, UK. His research focuses on genetic variation in the human population and its contribution to disease.

In particular, he will be analysing the global patterns of resistance and susceptibility to infectious diseases in the developing world. He is collaborating with world renowned scientists at the Cambridge University.

#### Wage Board finalises questionnaire

A meeting of the Sixth Wage Board for the journalists and others yesterday unanimously finalised the questionnaire to be sent to different newspapers and news agencies and decided to visit the newspaper establishments after January 15.

The meetings held at the Press nstitute of Bangladesh also decided to suggest the government for extension of its tenure by six months.

Wage Board Chairman Justice Mohammad Fazlul Haque presided over the meetin

BSS Chief Editor Gaziul Hasan Khan, Editor Dainik Janapad Syed Mesbah Uddin, BFUJ Secretary General Ruhul Amin Gazi, Assistant Editor Daily Ittefaq Habibur Rahman Milon. President Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers Fazle Imam and Secretary General Mohammad Abul Hashem, President Bangladesh Newspapers Employees Federation Mohammad Matiur Rahman Talukdar and General Secretary Mohammad Khairul Islam



Participants at a roundtable on 'Women and HIV/Aids: What to do' at a city hotel yesterday. The Prothom Alo organised the event.

Women empowerment a must

Sadik of UNDP said men have to

remain more faithful to their partners

also the development agencies

should work to address the problem,

director of Mahila Ainjibi Parishad,

said political leaders should be

more committed to combating

a law to check trafficking in women

and ensure safe migration to pre-

vent the spread of HIV/Aids.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

militant forces

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yes-

terday reiterated the government's

determination to eliminate the

militants have virtually attacked the

very foundation of the country, it is

part of a deep conspiracy," he said.

briefing at the secretariat.

arrested, he said.

"By attacking the judiciary the

He was speaking at a press

The government is taking allout

measures to contain the militant

outfits and a large number of militant

operatives have already been

ing those of the Supreme Court.

ensure their security. Security has

also been tightened on the court

premises as well as the residences

short-term and the long-term plans,

funded by World Bank, for the

security of the judges and the court

The minister also disclosed the

of the judges, he added.

Moudud said 155 judges, includ-

She also called for enactment of

Dr Simin Mahmud of Bangladesh

Institute of Development Studies

(BIDS) said it is also a macro-

economic issue as the disease

diminishes the working capacity of a

Govt firm to eliminate

militants: Moudud

Not only the health workers, but

Advocate Salma Ali, executive

to check spread of HIV/Aids

to reduce the infection rate.

she added.

HIV/Aids effectively

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

it is now a gender issue

attention to this aspect.

Highlighting the vulnerability of

women to HIV/Aids, speakers at a

roundtable yesterday said the

disease is more than a health issue -

The absence of decision-making

power on the part of women in the

home made them more vulnerable

to Aids, they said and called on men

to speak for women and pay more

The socio-economic situation is

also responsible for women falling

victim to the deadly disease, they

said at the roundtable on 'Women

and HIV/Aids: What to do', organ-

ised by the daily Prothom Alo at a

Rokia A Rahman, former advisor

to a caretaker government and

President of Women Entrepreneurs'

Association, said people should be

more concerned about HIV/Aids

and raise awareness to check the

as we are a conservative nation,

Aids could not get easy access to

the country. Like us, neighbouring

country India also believed so, but

now it has the second largest num-

She also called for raising aware-

ness among one and a half crore

women working with different

NGOs, who will help make more

people aware of the deadly disease.

Dr Tasnim Azim of ICDDR. B said

most women are innocent victims of

HIV as their husbands contract the

As the women don't have the

decision-making power, they cannot

make their husbands use condom

or get his blood tested, which even-

tually put the women at risk of con-

Matiur Rahman, editor of the

Prothom Alo, said Bangladesh is

highly vulnerable to Aids as its

neighbouring countries, India and

Myanmar, are seriously affected by

ment of women, Dr Nazmun Sahar

Stressing the need for empower-

infection while living aboard.

tracting the disease, she said.

the disease.

She said, "We have a notion that

spread of the disease.

ber of HIV-positives.'

## Five killed, 45

#### injured in Savar road accidents

BDNEWS, Savar

person long before he or she dies

Stressing the need for breaking

Shahnewaz, president of Durjoy

the taboo about Aids, she said the

issue should be discussed openly.

Nari Sangathan, Selina Khaleq,

president of Mahila Samity, Dilruba

Begum of information ministry,

Shaheen Sultana of Bangladesh

Breast-Feeding Foundation, Mukti

Wahida Banu of STI Aids Network of

Bangladesh, Dr Shirin Haque,

Shirin Akhter of Karmojibi Nari, Dr

Laila Arjumandbanu, Dr AZM

Zahidur Rahman, Md Ali Bhuiyan

and cultural personality Sara Zaker

also took part in the discussion

moderated by Sumana Sharmin,

for judges in 56 districts and new

court buildings in 34 districts will be

constructed under the two long-term

He said short-term plans include

setting up of CCTV and archway at

Supreme Court building, 61 district

courts and Judicial Administration

Training Institute. Besides, bound-

ary walls, sentry boxes, collapsible

gates in 61 district courts are being

Replying to a question, he said

the government is not waiting for the

new law being enacted to put the

bomb terrorists under trial. They can

also be tried under the existing laws.

he said. Eight cases involving the

recent bomb attacks are already

under trial in the speedy tribunal, he

State Minister for Law Shajahan

Omar, Law Secretary Sarder

Alauddin Ahmed and high officials of

the ministry were present at the

pointed out.

set up under the short-term plans.

assistant editor of the Prothom Alo.

of Mukta Akash, actress Mousumi,

At least four people were killed and 25 others injured in a collision between a bus and a truck at Ashulia n Savar yesterday.

The dead were identified as three fish traders -- Subhash Rajbangshi, 27, Kanai Rajbangshi, 26. Monoranian Raibangshi, 32. and truck driver Lokman Hossain.

different clinics and hospitals in

Kaliakoir-Nabinagar road at Ashulia in the early hours. The Sirajganj-bound truck from

Bhagalpur Panpara of Savar municipal area, carrying some fish traders, collided with the bus near Jirani bus stand killing the driver and the three fish traders on the spot. The traders were going to Sirajganj for buying fish.
Of the injured, Niranjan

Rajbangshi, 40, was rushed to Dhaka in a critical condition while Nayan Rajbangshi, 25, admitted to

a local clinic. Police seized the bus, but the driver fled. Meanwhile, an unidentified man

was killed and 20 others were injured when a bus fell into a road roadside ditch near Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in Savar on Monday night. The Aricha-bound bus plunged

into the ditch at about 9:pm, leaving an unidentified passenger, aged about 40, killed on the spot, police

The injured were admitted to a local clinic.

#### Workshop on skill development held in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Centre for Communication, Development and Policy Studies (CCDPS) in association with the British Council Dhaka yesterday organised a two-day workshop on skill development in Chittagong.

The workshop was held at Theatre Institute, Chattagram under a project titled 'Connecting Future Initiatives in Bangladesh'.

Anwarul Azim Arif, vicechancellor of Premier University, inaugurated the workshop as chief

Speaking on the occasion, Arif urged the participants to nurture their skills to find a place in the market-driven society

Abu Naser Rajib, chief executive officer of CCDPS, was the moderator of the inaugural session.

20 students from different disciolines of private and public universi-

ties in Chittagong attended the workshop.

Haroonuzzaman from the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Robaet Ferdous from Dhaka University, Shahidullah

Lipon from Chittagong University and Shamin Ahmed of CCDPS spoke on skill development.

#### Obituary Noted Agriculturist



Prof Azad F M Sharfuddin of the Department of Horticulture at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) passed away due to kidney disease

at Dhaka Renaissance Clinic on December 20 at the age of 56, says a press release He left behind wife, two sons and

one daughter. Prof Sharfuddin joined the Horticulture Department in 1974.

He wrote a number of books and published 40 scientific articles in national and international journals.

Vice Chancellor Dr M Amirul Islam, BAU Teachers' Association and other organisations of the university expressed condolence at his death.

# Include marginalised people in develpment process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to include country's marginalized people into the development process for poverty alleviation.

The civil society has to create awareness among the marginalized community so that they can realise their basic needs as well as their "human needs" particularly their needs for human dignity and social respect, they said at the seminar on 'Representing the missing poor in development"

Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) organised the daylong seminar at the Cirdap auditorium in the city Addressing at the seminar RIB

Chairman Dr Shamsul Bari said if the government does not include marginalized community into development process of the country, the entire progress would not be achieved. He also said the most important

requirement for poverty alleviation is to enhance people's ability to understand their own problems, their strengths, their abilities and the world around them as well as to recognise their friends and foes. RIB Chairman also said the pov-

erty of the marginalized people would not end totally if their so called "basic needs" have been met but their human needs, particularly need for human dignity and social respect and also opportunity to sharpen their brain and seek knowledge themselves are not Renowned designer Bibi Russel

said the tribal community has to feel proud for self-knitting clothes and many other traditional products, which have large local and international market and they can change their lives by making sustainable this heritage.

efforts and face all obstacles jointly. For sustainability of their product they have to create diversification and supply them in time, she said adding



Prof Anisur Rahman speaks at a seminar on 'Participation of the marginalised people in development activities' at the Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

that the educated people among their community has to create awareness about the market value of their prod-Prof Md Anisur Rahman said there

is no existence of marginal people in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) but it will not possible to implement the PRSP without giving attention to the poverty of the marginal

Prof MM Akash said the narginalized people are not the backward people rather they have glorious heritage of production. By developing their products, they

can develop themselves and contribe to the national economy. "We do not need to prescribe them about their own development rather than we have to educate them so that thev can develop themselves by

restoring their own heritage," said Prof He also suggested that cooperatives be formed among the marginalized people so that they can develop themselves by their own

Researcher AKM Maksud presented research findings on Participatory action research to

ties". Kabita Chakma presented "Research on core design of Chakma communities garments industry and development of the financial condition of the women who are working in this industry", Md Mujibur Rahman presented "Pig cultivation for poverty alleviation of Mehtor (sweeper) and Kaora (pig-rearers)", Dewan Akhtar presented "Strategy set-up for poverty alleviation and empowerment of Harijana communities," Hasan Mahmud Khan presented "Condition and sufferings of low cost restaurant and canteen workers-An investigative report". Sharifuzzaman Aga Khan presented "Salt farmer of Bangladesh" at the seminar. Porf Monirul Islam Khan, Dr HKS

human development and establish

rights of Bedes (river gypsy) communi-

Arefeen, Film Director Tareq Masud and Tanvir Mokammel and Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of RIB also spoke at the seminar.

### The injured were admitted to critical condition. The incident took place at