

Lack of recognition main cause of domestic violence

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at an opinion-sharing meeting pointed out lack of recognition of domestic violence in national life as the main reason behind different forms of domestic abuse.

They also said victims of domestic violence tend to avoid legal actions against the offenders for lack of awareness as well.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the meeting based on its research titled 'Domestic violence: In search of a legal framework' at the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) auditorium in the city yesterday.

Presenting the findings of the research, Advocate Sadrul Hasan Majumdar, project coordinator of BNWLA, said the study reveals that interviewed people defined 'domestic violence' as any kind of physical, mental, verbal or economic violence within domestic

setting. They also identified marital rape, incest and sexual harassment in the family as domestic violence.

The study, assisted by Manusher Jomo, was conducted on 1800 people of nine different category including victims, general people, police, lawyers, doctors and social workers from Comilla, Dharmraj, Barisal, Rajshahi, Kushtia and Madaripur at the union level.

The study says 68 per cent legal experts maintain that the patriarchal society is the main reason of domestic violence while 54 per cent of them consider poverty as the principle cause behind this kind of violence.

Speaking on the occasion, BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali suggested that an easily enforceable law should be passed to resist domestic violence.

Advocate Elina Zubaidy, senior sector specialist, Human Rights and Legal Services, BRAC, also called for a new law saying "Domestic violence should not be dealt

under 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act' as a mindset has been formed that any kind of repression against women has to go under the law."

However, Advocate Monwara Begum, judge of second special tribunal of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, suggested that domestic violence could be dealt under the existing laws.

Advocate Rehana Sultana, member of BNWLA, said some reforms should be brought under the existing laws for domestic violence.

Barrister Sara Hossain emphasised that the accountability of the responsible people should be ensured rather than demanding formulation of new law or amendment of the existing laws.

Among others, members of BNWLA and human rights activists from different organisations also spoke on the occasion.

8 Buet students awarded gold medals

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of eight students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) were awarded gold medals for their outstanding academic performance yesterday.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk gave away the medals to the winners at a ceremony at the central auditorium of the university.

The students of 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 sessions received the awards for achieving the highest CGPA in their departments.

They are Md Raquibul Hossain of department of civil engineering, BSC; Md Ashkur Rahman Jaoher of architecture, B Arch; Imon Chowdhoree of architecture, B Arch; Rajib Saha of chemical engineering, BSC; AKM Monjur Morshed of mechanical engineering, BSC; Ahsan-Ul-Alam of electrical and electronic engineering, BSC; Tasadduq Imam of computer science and engineering, MSC; and Md Moshul Hoque of department of computer science and engineering, MSC.

Of them, Raquibul and Rajib received one more gold medal each for securing the highest CGPA in the faculty of civil engineering and the faculty of engineering respectively.

As Rajib and Tasadduq are now pursuing higher studies abroad, their relatives received the awards on behalf of them.

Expressing his delight at winning two gold medals, Raquibul said his parents have inspired him to achieve such outstanding results. He also expressed gratitude to his teachers.

Raquibul said he will go abroad for higher studies and later join the teaching profession.

Addressing the ceremony, Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk said vocational and technical education in the country should be given priority in order to meet the growing technological demands of the modern world.

The government has taken up initiatives to expand vocational and technical education in the country through setting up more engineering universities to this end, he added.

Buet Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Md Alee Murtaza presided over the ceremony while Prof AM Shafiqullah delivered a welcome speech. Deans of five faculties Prof Dr ASW Kurny, Prof Dr Md Hossain Ali, Prof Dr SM Nazrul Islam, Prof Dr Mohammad Ali Choudhury and Prof Dr Md Shahidul Ameen were also present.

SSC results on D-Net today

For the second time, Development Research Network (D-Net) has taken the initiative to post the SSC results on its website, says a press release.

Results will be available at 4:00pm today. To find out the results, one simply has to log on to www.pallathia.org or www.dnet-bangladesh.org.

Court asks jail authorities to produce Sunny, 6 others July 9

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on arguments of two cases against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny and six others, as Sunny was not produced before the court yesterday.

The two cases under the Arms Act and other one under the Explosives Act were filed with Sabujbagh Police Station on September 9 last year.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed July 9 for the next hearing and directed the jail authorities to produce Sunny and others on that day.

The six other accused are AHM Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27, and Akramul Islam, 23.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five of them on September 8 last year at a house in East Bashabo, which was rented by Sunny to coordinate the August 17 countrywide serial blasts. Law enforcers believe he narrowly escaped arrest at that time.

Cases against Jewel Another Dhaka court could not frame charge against JMB regional commander of Gazipur Enayetullah Jewel in two cases, as the Kashimpur Jail authorities did not produce him before the court yesterday.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Tribunal Tribunal-1 fixed June 27 for the next hearing and directed the authorities concerned to produce Jewel before the court on that day.



Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Dabi Bastobayan Parishad takes out a protest procession from AG office at Segunbagicha in the city yesterday demanding 50 percent dearness allowance.

INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

'Use more clean fuels to save lives'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the existing indoor air pollution (IAP) situation of the country, health and environment experts yesterday suggested use of more clean fuels and improved stoves for cooking to save lives from respiratory disorders and other related diseases.

IAP is the fourth leading risk factor contributing to the burden of disease in the country alongside other developing countries, they said adding that about 5 lakh people die premature and one million people become ill every year due to air pollution in the country.

They were speaking at a national seminar on 'Indoor Air Pollution, Health and Household Energy' jointly organised by World Health Organisation and Department of Public Health Engineering at IDB conference room in the city.

The major factor behind IAP is using biomass fuels like wood, dung and agricultural residues. The smoke from burning biomass fuels release 10 to 100 times more harmful particulate matter and noxious gases compared to clean fuels.

These fuels also have adverse health effects including acute respiratory infection, chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease, low birth weight babies and various cancers associated with tuberculosis and blindness, said Dr Andrew F Trevert, environmental health adviser of WHO.

"The most vulnerable people are women and young children who spend most of the time at home and in the kitchen," he said.

Dr Faruque Parvez of Columbia University in his study showed that there is 8 to 10 times more particulate matters in the air of Dhaka than that of New York.

He said on an average 77 per cent people of the country use biomass as fuels while more than 98 per cent of them use biomass in the rural areas posing a great health risk in the country.

Md Taufiqul Arif, national programme officer of WHO, said the stoves women use produce heavy smoke and release a number of

harmful pollutants, which combined with poor ventilation increases hazardous particles in the kitchen.

He identified better ventilation, replacement of traditional three-stone or shielded open-fire cooking with improved smokeless stoves and use of cleaner fuels as the most important interventions to reduce the risk factors.

Tusher MS Khan, executive engineer of DPHE Training Division, Habibur Rahman, Project Manager of Practical Action, Dr Mujibur Rahman, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine at NIPSOM, Tajul Islam, director of Directorate General and Health Services, Abdul Quader Chaudhury, additional engineer of DPHE, Mainul Haq of Development Policy Group, Dr Susan C Dol's of Columbia University also spoke at the seminar.

REPRESSION OF NEWSMEN

'Make probe reports public'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist union leaders at a discussion yesterday demanded that all reports of investigations into the incidents of repression of newsmen, including the one that took place at the National Press Club on June 21 in 1992, be made public immediately.

They also called on the newsmen to forge a united movement against all forms of repression and to realise their legitimate demands.

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) organised the discussion at the National Press Club to mark the 'Journalist Repression Day'.

Former BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said freedom of the press and right to information are prerequisites for democracy, but the BNP-Jamaat ruling alliance is unleashing repression on journalists from the highest level of the state.

BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul strongly criticised the government for not taking any punitive measure against the persons responsible for the repression against journalists.

BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud, Saiful Islam Talukdar, Barun Bhomik, Shaban Mahmud, Manjure Ahsan Mahmud Mithu, Mahmudur Rahman Khokon, Abul Kalam, Shafiqur Rahman and M Shahjahan Mia also spoke.

Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) also held a discussion at the Khulna Press Club to mark the day, with its Acting President Faiz Ahmed Tony in the chair.

General Secretary of Khulna Awami League Mostafa Rashidi Shuja attended the programme as the chief guest.

Acting President of Khulna Press Club Wadudur Rahman Panna, Executive Editor of Danik Purbanchal Ahmad Ali Khan, Secretary of the Press Club AK Hiri, Joint Secretary General of BFUJ SM Zahid Hossain and General Secretary of KUJ Anwarul Islam Kajal took part in the discussion.

The speakers observed that the incidents of repression against journalists have increased during the rule of the four-party alliance government.



Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) organised a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark the 'Journalist Repression Day'.



Open discussion

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) will hold an open discussion on the rights of the people with disability in the budget. Venue: Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organises a roundtable on 'Setting wage for garment industry and our duty'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'The relevance of refugee laws in Bangladesh' will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Roundtable

Bangabandhu Society will hold a roundtable on 'Free and fair election: A precondition for establishing democracy'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm.

Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of 'First National Door Fair' will be held. Venue: Banchundhara city. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Institute of Apiculture will hold a workshop on sustainable beekeeping. Venue: Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, Farmgate. Time: 11:00am.

Dialogue

The fourth phase of a serial dialogue on 'National Budget 2006-2007: Gender Analysis' organised by Steps Towards Development will be held. Today's topic is local government sector. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Blue for Peace

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: In front of Banchundhara City Shopping Complex. Time: 5:00pm.



President of Nari Sangbadik Kendra Nasimun Ara Huq speaks at a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is economist Dr Atiur Rahman and on her left is Bangladesh Nari Progti Sangha Executive Director Rokeya Kabir.

'More budgetary allocation needed to support women entrepreneurs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gender-sensitive budget and more budgetary allocation for women are a must to encourage women entrepreneurs, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

Robber killed in 'encounter' with police

BNEWS, Chittagong

A robber leader was killed in an 'encounter' between his gang and the police at Nazirhat in Anwara upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mortaza Ali, 34, chief of notorious "Mortaza Bahini," who had been wanted in about 10 criminal cases.

After arresting him at Banskhalhi on Monday night, police took Mortaza to Anwara Police Station for quizzing. Police said when they took him to Nazirhat char area to recover illegal arms and arrest his accomplices, the criminals opened fire on the law enforcers who had to retaliate.

"Mortaza died on the spot after being caught in the line of fire while he tried to escape," said a police source.

Police also seized a firearm and some ammunition from the place of occurrence.

MOVE TO SHIFT KALI MANDIR

Protest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad will stage a rally in front of the National Museum today at 3:00pm protesting the move to shift Ramna Kali Mandir and Anandamoyee Ashram.

They will also submit a memorandum to the prime minister.

District committees of the Parishad will also submit memorandums to the deputy commissioners.

Obituary

Alema Yasmin, wife of Nurul Alam, passed away at Houston, Texas, USA on June 16, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, only son and a host of relatives in US and Bangladesh to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil was held in Dhaka and Jessore on June 18.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions during the period, said Met Office, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	33.6	26.5	73	63
Chittagong	33.0	25.0	76	79
Rajshahi	34.4	26.1	93	97
Khulna	32.6	26.4	79	92
Barisal	33.5	26.3	83	81
Sylhet	33.8	25.8	96	61
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.5	75	88

PM seeks Japan's leading role in construction of Padma Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that Japan would take leading role in the construction of the Padma Bridge, recalling its massive contribution towards major infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

Expressing gratitude to Japan's investment and assistance in major development projects as a single largest developing partner of Bangladesh, she called for Japan's principal role when newly appointed Ambassador Masayuki Inoue made a courtesy call on the PM after his office.

Khaleda said her government would also provide funds and other support in this regard.

She assured that Bangladesh would also provide funds and other support in this regard.

Japan has already conducted a technical feasibility study for construction of the Padma Bridge.

During the meeting, both sides emphasised high level exchange of visits between the two countries to further strengthen the present excellent relations and bilateral cooperation.

The Ambassador informed the prime minister that the Foreign Minister of Japan would visit Bangladesh next month.

Khaleda also hoped that Japan would increase trade, commerce and investment here and also relocate some of its industries, now in Japan and other countries, to Bangladesh availing the investment incentives, business-friendly atmosphere and advantage of cheap labour, which would benefit the two peoples.

Bangladesh completes 3 Polio NIDs

96pc children under 5 vaccinated

Bangladesh has successfully completed three Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) with 96 per cent of children under five being reached through the three rounds, says a press release.

The NIDs on April 16, May 13 and June 11 aim to reach 22 million children under the age of five in a bid to insulate them against the possible resurgence of poliovirus.

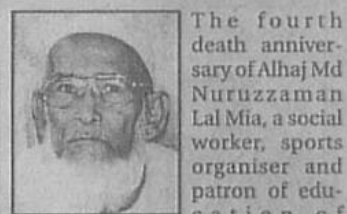
Each NID was followed by a four-day search to ensure that any child who could not make it to an immunization site could be vaccinated.

"This is the first large scale response by a country in line with the newly adopted resolution 1 of the 59th World Health Assembly and it demonstrates the commitment and capacity of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement world class primary healthcare," said Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative to Bangladesh.

The three NIDs were sparked by the confirmation in March this year that a nine-year-old girl from rural Bangladesh had contracted the disease. It is the first case in more than five years.

To combat the re-emergence of the disease, the government along with support from UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) organised the national polio eradication campaign within five weeks of official confirmation of the case.

Death anniversary

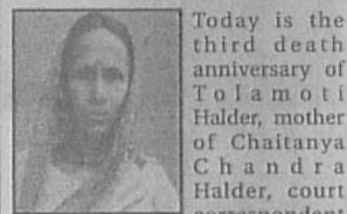


Bhairab, will be observed on June 25, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwan and milad mahfil will be held at his residence and foods will be distributed among the destitute today. Prayers will also be offered at his grave.

Alhaj Md Nuruzzaman Lal Mia Scholarship-2006 will be distributed at the Bhairab Press Club at 10:00am on June 25.

Tolamoti Halder



Today is the third death anniversary of Tolamoti Halder, mother of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent

of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at her village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur under Rajoir upazila in Madaripur district.