

## Police action on women protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural and women organisations yesterday protested police action and harassment of women during political activities.

They demanded end to all kinds of violence and punishment to the responsible policemen for committing atrocities in the country.

Leaders under the banner of Sammilita Nari Mancha made the comments at a rally at Dowel Chhatter of Dhaka University (DU).

Shirin Akhtar, president of Karmajibi Nari and coordinator of Sammilita Nari Mancha, presided over the rally, while Duta General Secretary Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Golam Quddus, Mahfuza Alam, Dr Wazedul Islam and others spoke at the rally.

Shirin Akhtar said police have been committing repression and harassing women political activists when they are participating in the political activities.

Later, a 12-member representative team met the Inspector General of Police (IGP) at his office and submitted a memorandum.

The IGP Khodabok Chowdhury told the representative team to send specific allegation and evidence on the issue and assured them to take necessary steps.

Shirin said they would continue their movement until their demands are met.

## Formulate nat'l policy on child labour

### Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for formulation of a national policy on child labour immediately with a view to keeping children out of hazardous jobs and providing education for them for a better livelihood.

Over the years much efforts have been taken to eliminate child labour and many programmes were developed in the process, but almost all the efforts have failed due to absence of a concrete national policy, they said.

Ministry of Labour and Employment and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark jointly organised the workshop on 'Formulation of National Labour Policy: Bangladesh Perspective' at Bangladesh Institute of Administrative Management (Biam) auditorium in the city to consult with the stakeholders and to enrich the draft policy prepared recently.

The draft policy aims to eliminate child labour from formal and informal sectors in the long term, the speakers said.

There are 250 million economically active children aged between five and 14 in developing countries and 120 million of them work on full-time basis, said Moinul Kabir, a consultant, while presenting the draft policy.

The child labour in Asia accounts for 60 percent of economically active children, he added.

The speakers recommended arranging quality alternative education for child workers, ensuring community participation and mobilisation and adopting a coordinated strategy involving different stakeholders and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Secretary to the labour and employment ministry Ashfaque Hamid was present as the chief guest and Country Representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Olof Risberg was the special guest.

Joint Secretary Dr Nurun Nabi chaired the session.

## Rab officer, Air Force member commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An officer of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a member of the Air Force allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the city within a span of seven hours.

Mahbub Alam, 35, a sub-inspector (SI) of Rab 11, was found hanging with a muffler from the window grille in a bathroom at his house at Banasree at around 1:30am yesterday.

Relatives suspect that Alam, who had also directed two films, committed suicide due to family feuds.

In another incident, LAC Ariful Islam Arif, 22, of the Air Force allegedly shot himself dead at his office at Kurmitola on Tuesday.

Arif was found lying with bullet injuries in his abdomen on the verandah of the distribution section of Air Force Kurmitola Office at 7:00pm. He was on duty when the incident happened.

He was rushed to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) but the doctors declared him dead.

The motive behind the suicide could not be known.

## Miscreants set fire to train in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Unknown miscreants set fire to two compartments of a train waiting at Khulna station yard last night, 90 minutes before it was scheduled to leave for Dhaka.

There was no passenger in the Sundarban Express during the incident at about 9:00pm. One of the chain of compartments was damaged totally while another partially, railway officials said. They estimated the damage at Tk one crore.

Four units of the Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and extinguished the flame.

Railway officials suspect it might be an act of sabotage by the miscreants. Police were investigating into the incident.

## Hasina discusses political situation with Russian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Gennady P Trotzenko made a courtesy call on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

During an hour-long meeting, they discussed the bilateral relations and current political situation in the country.



## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A distressed woman has sought financial assistance for her treatment as she has been suffering from various complicated diseases for the last six years.

Flora Akter, 30, who hails from Jhalakathi, has a tumour in her abdomen and is suffering from liver and kidney ailments.

One of her kidneys has already been damaged as she could not continue treatment for want of money.

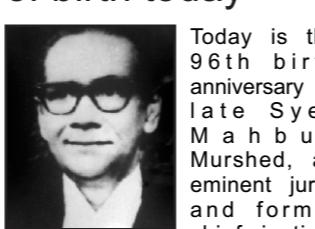
Doctors said she needs proper treatment immediately. Otherwise, the other kidney could also be damaged. But it is not possible for Flora to afford further treatment, which involves a huge amount of money.

Flora, who has lost both her parents, has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Flora Akter, Savings Account No. 34054842, Sonali Bank, Supreme Court Branch, Ramna, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also call at 01199047441 for more information.

## Justice Murshed's 96th anniversary of birth today



Today is the 96th birth anniversary of late Syed Mabub Murshed, an eminent jurist and former chief justice, says a press release.

On this occasion, Qurankhwan and Fatehkhwan will be held at his graveyard at Banani in the city.

Syed Mabub Murshed Memorial Committee will place wreaths at the grave.



Youth held with 135 bombs in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police yesterday arrested a youth with around 135 bombs from a BNP rally at Matiranga upazila of the district.

The youth identified as Kabir, 25, is reportedly a member of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Sources said the bombs might be brought to sabotage the meeting.

The BNP leaders at a rally warned of dire consequences if any leader or activist comes under attack by anyone.

Sources said sporadic violent incidents took place among the activists of BNP, Awami League and LDP in Khagrachhari leaving around 500 people wounded since the caretaker government took office.

Upazila BNP President Abu Yusuf Chowdhury presided over the rally, which was also addressed by Khagrachhari Poutra Chairman Md Jaijal Abedin, District BNP Organising Secretary Mostafizur Rahman Milat, BNP leaders Nazrul Islam, Belayet Hossain, District Jubo Dal President Abdus Salam and General Secretary Saidul Islam Babul.

## Zoological Society AGM postponed

The annual general meeting and symposium of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh scheduled to be held on January 12 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

## Obituary

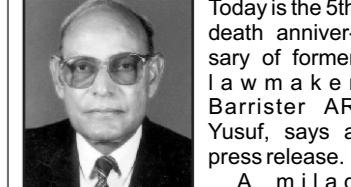
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A W Chowdhury, former additional secretary to public works ministry, passed away due to cardiac arrest at his Uttara residence in the city on January 8, says a press release.

He was buried at a graveyard at Sector No 4 after a nazam-e-janaza at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

His quirkhwan will be held at his Uttara residence tomorrow.

## Death anniversary

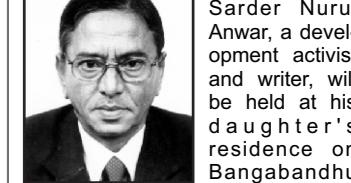


Today is the 5th death anniversary of former Barrister AR Yusuf, says a press release.

A mil Md mahfiz will be held at Banani graveyard and different orphanages.

Relatives and friends have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Quirkhwan



Quirkhwan of Sarder Nurul Anwar, a development activist and writer, will be held at his daughter's residence on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University (BSMRAU) campus in Gazipur after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away on January 8 due to old age ailment at the age of 62.

He left behind his wife, one daughter and two sons.

He was buried at the university graveyard in Gazipur.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Roundtable

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organises a roundtable on gender and law. Venue: Institute's auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

### View exchange

Sammilita Nagorik Andolok will hold a view exchange on obstacles to credible election. Venue: Cirdap. Time: 10:00am.

### Anniversary

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a lecture on 'The role of Bangladesh in the emerging one-world culture' to mark the 55th founding anniversary of the Society. Venue: auditorium of the Society. Time: 4:00pm.

### Blue for peace

Family of former finance minister AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in demanding fair trial of all killings, including that of Kibria. Venue: Opposite to Bashundhara City. Time: 4:00pm.

### Education expo

Conference and Exhibition Management Services organises Education Worldwide Expo 2007, an education fair. Venue: Bashundhara City. Time: 11:00am.



PHOTO: STAR  
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a wayside public meeting in Comilla yesterday as part of her election campaign.

## 1345 women repressed in six months

5 killed in Comilla road crash

UNB, Comilla

At least five people were killed and 15 others injured when a bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Matua in Chittagong upazila early yesterday.

Police and witnesses the Chittagong-bound bus from Rangpur fell into the ditch after colliding with a Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong at about 5:45am, leaving four bus passengers dead on the spot.

One of the injured died on the way to a local hospital while others were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

KERANIGANJ

Witnesses said the accident took place at about 5:45pm when Dhaka-bound bus of Nagar Paribahan and Mawa-bound bus of Baishakhi Paribahan collided head-on and fell into a roadside ditch.

Of the injured, Ritu, 23, Mustafa, 25, and Shafiq, 50, and 13 others were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Police seized the buses while the drivers managed to escape.

## Attack on garment workers condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad yesterday condemned the attack on the workers of Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics Ltd in the city by the outsiders at the instigation of the garment authorities.

At an emergency meeting at its office, the parishad leaders also demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack.

They also demanded compensation for the treatment of the injured workers.

The speakers said instead of paying wages to the workers, the authorities have let loose a reign of terror on them.

They also urged the authorities to pay the wages of the workers and meet their other demands immediately.

The meeting was presided over by parishad Coordinator Shah Atul Islam.

Revolutionary Garment Workers Solidarity and Samajtantrik Sramik Front also expressed shock and condemned the attack on the workers.

They demanded immediate arrest of the hoodlums and owners and compensation for the injured workers.

Meanwhile, President of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim have said instability persists in garment sectors for not implementing the contract signed

between the workers, owners and government.

In a joint statement yesterday, they condemned the attack and repression on the workers at Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics.

The CPB leaders demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack and compensation for the treatment of the injured workers.

They also called for incorporating the demands of the workers with the ongoing political agitation to strengthen it for a free and fair election.

Warm clothes distributed

Bss, Dhaka

Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Air Force Women Welfare Association (BAFWWA) have started distributing warm clothes among the cold-hit poor people in the capital and other places of the country from Tuesdays.

They distributed warm clothes among cold-hit people in the adjoining areas of BAF Base Bashir on Tuesday, said an ISPR press release.

Besides, BAF and BAFWWA have been distributing warm clothes among cold-stricken people living around BAF Base Matiur Rahman area at Jessor, BAF Base Matiur Rahman area at Tangail and at BAF Unit areas of Moulvibazar, Bogra, Shamshernagar and Lalmonirhat.

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