



Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and the civil society members form a human chain at Panthapath in the city yesterday as part of 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding fair trial of Kibria murder case.

## Edn Worldwide Expo begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day 'Education Worldwide Expo 2007' began at Bashundhara Expo Centre in the city yesterday with a view to providing education and career-oriented services for students and prospective candidates.

A total of 36 institutions, including private universities, visa-processing centres, fashion designing institutes and local branches of overseas colleges and universities are taking part in the exposition organised by Conference and Exhibition Management Services Ltd. (CEMS).

CEMS Director Shahid Sarwar formally inaugurated the show.

The exposition will provide an opportunity to students as well as others trying to pursue better careers to get more information regarding their interests, the organisers said.

At the fair, students will also be able to enrol at foreign colleges and universities.

The exposition will remain open from 10:00am to 9:00pm everyday. The Daily Star, ATN Bangla and Radio Foorti are the media partners of the event.

IBM Education Services, Northern University Bangladesh, Global Reach-Bangladesh, local affiliated centre of the University of New Castle (USA), Pearl Fashion Institutes, Alliance Francaise, among others, are taking part in the fair.

"I want to go to the United Kingdom for higher studies. So, I came here to know about visa processing and admission procedures," a student said.

The visa processing companies have been offering discounts on their fees to attract visitors, mainly students.

"Nowadays a huge number of students want to go abroad for higher studies as well as in search of a better future. The fair has been arranged so that they can get all kinds of information under a single roof," a CEMS official said.

## '6054 women tortured, killed in 2006'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 6,054 women were reportedly tortured and killed in the last twelve months from January to December 2006 across the country, according to a report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad revealed yesterday.

On the basis of clippings of 12 daily newspapers, it was reported that some 967 women were raped and tortured brutally. Of them, 248 were victims of gang rape and 170 were killed after being raped.

A total of 141 were victims of molestation while 176 were burnt with acid and 71 burnt with fire.

In the mean time, 342 women and children were trafficked and 18 were sold in brothels.

Dowry related violence took life of 274 women while 112 women were tortured by their husband or in-laws, as they could not pay dowry.

A total of 1,086 women and children were killed and 1,118 were tortured

physically within this period.

Police assaulted 150 women while 66 women were victims of fatwa (religious edict) and 41 domestic aides were tortured.

Some 478 women committed suicide during this period, reported Mahila Parishad.

## Boat with fertiliser seized in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard seized a boat with 235 sacks of fertiliser in the port city while being smuggled out on Wednesday.

Coast Guard sources said on information a squad of the force challenged a mechanised boat at the Fishery Ghat at around 6.30pm and seized it with fertiliser worth around Tk 82,250.

The smugglers managed to flee.

## Fish trader killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A fish trader was killed in a road accident yesterday when a Sathkira bound-minibus hit him from behind on Sathkira-Kaliganj road at Gazirhat in Debhata upazila.

The deceased was identified as Banshi Kumar Ghosh, 55, of village Shibtola in Debhata upazila.

Quoting local people, police said the victim came to Gazirhat Bazar to buy fish and while returning home riding a bi-cycle, a minibus hit him from behind killing the man on the spot.

Soon after the incident, agitated people put up barricade on the road disrupting vehicle movement for about two hours demanding arrest of the driver of the bus.

On assurance of police of taking necessary action, they put off the blockade.

## Huda concerned over decision not to monitor polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leader Nazmul Huda yesterday urged the foreign election monitoring groups to reconsider their decisions to refrain from observing the January 22 election in the interest of continuing the democratic and constitutional process in the country.

Expressing concern over the decisions of NDI, IRI, Commonwealth and the European Union not to monitor the election, he said the international community should observe the polls to see whether the voters are really exercising their franchise and the election is being held in a free and fair manner.

In a statement, the former communications minister said those who are taking part in the election are exercising the democratic and constitutional rights.

Huda, senior vice-chairman of BNP, said all major parties had been given full opportunity to participate in the election under non-partisan caretaker government.

The Election Commission or the caretaker government is not any party to the election, he said, adding that so, they cannot influence the election.

Out of eight political parties who had representation in the last parliament, six parties are participating in the election, Huda said.

Although the grand alliance leaders submitted nomination papers, they pulled out of the race after the nomination paper of Jatiya Party chairman HM

## Normalcy returns to Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Normalcy returned to Tejgaon Industrial Area in the city and workers joined their works yesterday, a day after the area witnessed a violent demonstration by garment workers in protest against sudden shutdown of a factory and over the rumour of killing of an employee.

Workers said they resumed work in the morning as they came to know that the closed factory, Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics Ltd, will be reopened and Sayeed, who was presumed to be killed, is alive.

Sayeed's family members said he was safe and staying outside his house as local criminals are threatening him to kill.

The Wednesday's demonstration was sparked off after goons led by Mobarak, a police informant and local criminal, beat up the workers of Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics and confined five injured workers inside the factory on Tuesday, allegedly at the owner's directive.

Meanwhile, a number of workers at the factory demanded punishment to police Sub-Inspector Bari who reportedly barred workers and their relatives to go to a room where five injured workers were kept confined on Tuesday.

They also alleged that they informed Bari soon after the local hoodlums attacked them, but he came to the factory nearly two hours later.

Bari was on patrol duty in the area on that day.

He, however, denied the allegation.

Bari told The Daily Star that he had arrested some people of the owners.

Late on Wednesday night two cases were filed with Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station.

Bari filed one of them in which he accused 30 to 40 unidentified people.

An official of the factory filed the other case accusing some unidentified people.

## 2 JMB men on fresh remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday placed two militants of banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) on seven-day fresh remand.

Police arrested the two, Abdur Rahman Alal alias Fahad and Md Saiful Islam alias Russell, along with a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and detonators at a bus on Rabna bypass in Tangail on December 29.

Detective Branch (DB) police produced the JMB cadres before the first class magistrate's court with a prayer for 15-day fresh remand, but the court granted a seven-day remand.

The two had been on seven-day remand since January 4.

During interrogation, the JMB cadres confessed that they had been executing orders from JMB commanders Hassan and Rakib, DB police sources said.

## Phensidyl seized

UNB, Benapole

Police seized 3,130 bottles of phensidyl from a truck at Ulashi Bazar in Sharsha upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Sharsha police chased the truck on Balunda-Jamtola road. While fleeing the truck fell into roadside ditch.



Leaders and activists of Awami League-led grand alliance shout slogans during a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.



Guests and visitors at a stall at Education Worldwide Expo 2007 that began at Bashundhara City in Dhaka yesterday.

## Illegal lifting of water by washing plant unearthed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here yesterday unearthed illegal lifting of underground water by a washing plant evading tax.

The court in the drive at Panwalapara of the city's Double Mooring area cut off connection of the illegally installed deep tube-well and fined the plant owner Tk 2 lakh.

According to sources, the court found the washing plant dug two deep tube-wells.

The plant was evading WASA tax of Tk 3.5 lakh annually, they added.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury led the drive.

The court directed WASA, Chittagong for further inquiry into the incident and necessary action against the persons responsible.

## US Mission closed on Sunday

US Embassy offices in Dhaka, including the American Centre, Archer K Blood American Centre Library, the student counseling service and the consular section will remain closed on Sunday the Jan 14 on the occasion of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.

American citizens in need of assistance on an emergency basis should contact the embassy duty officer.

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