

'Establish separate court for quick disposal of acid attack cases'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called for formulation of rules and guidelines on sending women workers abroad.

They also demanded establishment of a separate court for quick disposal of acid attack cases.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised the third stakeholders' meeting in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation at the LGED Auditorium in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper, BSEHR Executive Director Alena

Khan said the government agencies should formulate rules and regulations to ensure security of women workers and to properly enforce laws against acid attacks.

She said the government should either directly supervise the sending of women workers abroad or keep private recruiting agencies under tight monitoring.

Stressing the need for forming an 'Acid case monitoring cell', she also called for setting up 'one-stop crisis centres' at all government hospitals for the victims of acid attacks.

She also called on journalists to have greater understanding of the law



PHOTO: STAR

Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim speaks at a stakeholders' meeting organised by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights at LGED Bhaban in the city yesterday. On his right is Alena Khan and on his left is Rina Roy.

SCUFFLE WITH TIGER

Family members see Mujibar as hero

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of people yesterday thronged Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) to see Mujibar Rahman Sheikh, who was injured in a scuffle with a Royal Bengal Tiger at Dhaka Zoo on Friday.

The tiger attacked Mujibar, who entered the cage to provide food, before getting out of the cage and roaming the zoo premises for about half an hour.

Family members of Mujibar now see him as a hero. "He has fought with the tiger. We are grateful that Allah saved his life," Mujibar's wife Rina Begum told The Daily Star.

"I came to see him as I could not believe that any human being can

save his life fighting against a tiger," said Anwar Hossain, a resident of Jatrabari.

Mujibar, 40, an employee of an animal food supply contractor at the zoo, who narrowly survived the attack, is now out of danger, hospital sources said.

"We have sent Mujib's blood sample to Mohakhali Infectious Disease Hospital to diagnose whether he got any infection from the tiger," a doctor said.

The zoo authorities said the tiger came out of the cage because Mujibar and three other staffs of the zoo did not take proper security measures before providing food to the tiger.

According to the victim, they opened the gate of the first cage

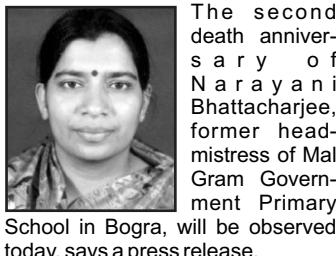
because they did not notice the tiger into it.

Sanjoy, the 24-year-old tiger who was born at Dhaka Zoo, managed to come out of its cage at about 1:30 pm on Friday when its food supplier opened the cage to provide meat.

However, a rescue team made the big cat unconscious using tranquiliser gun and then carried it back to the cage. It took 14 people and a net to catch the animal.

Following the incident, the zoo authorities suspended two staffs of the zoo — Mohammed Ratan and Abdul Khaled — and issued show cause notice on Ratan Kumar Mandal, a zoo officer.

Narayani Bhattacharjee



The second death anniversary of Narayani Bhattacharjee, former headmistress of Mal Gram Government Primary School in Bogra, will be observed today, says a press release.

Road crashes kill one, injure 25

STAR REPORT

One person was killed and 25 were injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Narail yesterday and on Friday night.

A correspondent from Comilla adds: An unidentified passer-by was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Barpara area in Daudkandi upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Friday night.

Police and local people said, a passenger bus ran over a man aged about 30 when he was crossing the road at about 8:30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police sent the body to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

UNB from Narail adds: A Jessor-bound bus from Kalna met with an accident in the outskirts of the town yesterday evening, leaving 25 passengers injured.

Survivors said the bus skidded off the road and plunged into a ditch at Dhopakholia at 7:15pm.

The Fire Brigade and locals rescued the passengers. The injured were admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

Obituary

Bss, Dhaka

ABM Mahbubur Rahman, a former air commodore of Bangladesh Air Force, passed away due to a heart attack at a hospital in Maryland, USA on Friday at the age of 82.

Mahbubur Rahman joined Pakistan Air Force as a signal engineer after having graduation in electronics from the Bengal Engineering University of India.

Rahman, a close friend of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was appointed the first chief of technical staff of Bangladesh Air Force, with the status of an air commodore in 1973 on his return from Pakistan.

He withstood inhuman torture in Pakistani jail during the liberation war. He was arrested by Pakistani military ruler at the very beginning of Liberation War for his intimate relations with Sheikh Mujib. At one stage, he was brought to Dhaka Cantonment and then sent to Karachi to face court martial at a time Bangladesh attained independence.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places likely over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 12.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:34am 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	28.3	17.6	69	48
Chittagong	31.6	18.2	86	72
Rajshahi	27.0	15.5	85	51
Khulna	28.2	17.5	85	74
Barisal	28.6	16.4	80	77
Sylhet	30.3	16.6	64	46
Cox's Bazar	30.8	19.2	71	61

Makhan's death anniversary observed

Bss, Dhaka

The 13th death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter Abdul Kuddus Makhan was observed yesterday in Dhaka and at his village home in Murail under Brahmanbaria district.

Makhan died on February 10, 1994 when he was undergoing treatment in Florida, USA, according to a press release.

One of the leaders of "Swadhin Bangla Kendro Chhatra Sangram Parishad", Makhan was born on July 1, 1947 at Murail in Brahmanbaria. He was also a central figure who organised the war of independence in 1971.

On his remembrance, a doa mahfil and qurankhwani was arranged at Shaheed Muktijoddha and intellectual graveyard at Mirpur in the city in the morning.

Separate mild mahfils were also organised in the afternoon in his Gulshan residence and at the village home in Brahmanbaria.



Baroness Pola Uddin of Bethnal Green and Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham, call on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, at Sudha Sadan and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, at her Banani office in the city yesterday. British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury was present at the meetings.



Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam takes over as Navy Chief

Bss, Dhaka

Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam took over as the Chief of the Naval Staff yesterday.

He replaced Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan who went on retirement on completion of his tenure.

A handing-taking over ceremony was held at the naval headquarters in the morning, said an ISPR press release.

New Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam formally took over the command of Bangladesh Navy from outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan by signing handing taking over book.

Earlier, outgoing Navy Chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan placed wreaths at Shikha Anirban and Naripokha shared experiences at the meeting.

On his arrival at the headquarters, a smart Naval contingent presented a guard of honour to the outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff. He took salute and inspected the guard.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Ijazuddin Ahmed will welcome and congratulate newly appointed Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam at the armed forces division today.

Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam took over as the Chief of the Naval Staff yesterday.

Farmers lay siege to DC's office for fertiliser in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

More than one thousand farmers staged a sit-in in front of the deputy commissioner's (DCs) office here yesterday demanding fertiliser.

Failing to procure fertiliser from the dealers, the agitating farmers went to the DC's office in a procession and demonstrated there.

The farmers withdrew the programme after the DC assured them of taking necessary measures to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser.

Sources said the dealers have withdrawn 3,762 tons of fertiliser against the demand for 10,165 tons in February.

Preparations for observing Amar Ekushey reviewed

Bss, Dhaka

A meeting of the Central Coordination Committee on Observance of Ekushey was held at Dhaka University administrative building in the city yesterday.

The committee was constituted at Dhaka University on observance of Amar Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day. Coordinator of the committee Prof Sadruddin presided.

The committee reviewed various measures undertaken by its sub-committees and took some decisions.

It has requested all concerned not to paste any poster, picture and banner on the freshly whitewashed walls in the DU areas for upholding the solemnity of Amar Ekushey.

"We're against any blasphemy law and will continue our struggle against such move," he said promising to build Bangladesh as a country where there will be no violation of human rights.

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Political commitment a must for full ratification of CEDAW

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political commitment is a must for full ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the only bill of rights for women adopted in 1979, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

There are no women in Election Commission and National Board of Revenue, she cited as examples.

Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, pointed out that increasing the number of reserved seats for women in parliament will not ensure their equal political right, it is rather a 'positive discrimination'.

About the government's excuse of 'Shariah Law' with regard to the ratification of article 16 (c), the speakers argued that Bangladesh is not an Islamic Republic and here all other matters are dealt according to civil law.

The daylong workshop on CEDAW for journalists was jointly organised by women and gender studies department of Dhaka University, Women For Women (WFW) and Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra at the National Press Club in the city.

Embassy of the Netherlands funded the programme.

While explaining the key concept of CEDAW, Prof Mahmuda Islam, president of WFW, said the convention was adopted over two decades ago but there was no significant positive changes in the condition of women as of today.

Bangladesh is yet to ratify article 2 that puts the government under an obligation to abolish all discriminatory laws against women, she

added.

Highlighting the importance of CEDAW as the most important among the seven conventions on human rights, Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said there is a provision of monitoring system in it under which a country is bound to give reports on the condition of its women's rights after every two and five years respectively.

Nasim Ara Huq, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, Prof Najma Siddiqui and Prof Dr Nazmunnissa Mahtab of women and gender studies department, Zakia K Hassan, development activist, and Nilufar Banu, general secretary of WFW, also spoke on the occasion.



A daylong workshop on CEDAW for journalists was held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Prof Mahmuda Islam, journalist Nasim Ara Huq, Ayesha Khanom, Prof Dr Nazmunnissa Mahtab and Nilufar Banu.

I'm against AL deal with Khelafat: Inu

UNB, Dhaka

JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu, also a 14-party alliance leader, yesterday said the 5-point agreement between Awami League (AL) and Khelafat Majlis needs to be scrapped as he said it would destroy the country's communal harmony.

"I'm against the AL's 5-point deal as I think this agreement will destroy the communal harmony in Bangladesh and split the nation," Inu told a discussion meeting in the city.

The discussion titled 'Blasphemy Law and Teachings of Islam' was organised by Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat marking its 83rd Salana Jalsa at its Bakshi Bazar central office.