

# Dhaka should sign UN convention on refugees

### Says UNHCR official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should immediately sign the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, said United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Dhaka Pia Prytz Phiri yesterday.

"This gives a legal framework and certain rights for the protection of the refugees. This is not emotional, but an obligation," she said while addressing a training programme organised by the UNHCR for the local journalists at a city hotel.

The signing of the convention will also give Bangladesh a weight and good will in the international arena, Phiri said, adding that she is trying to meet the foreign adviser sometimes this month in this regard.

She appreciated Bangladesh's decision allowing involvement of

other UN agencies in the refugee camps at Kutupalong and Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar, enhancing the informal education from class five to class six and constructing new houses for them.

According to UNHCR, around 26000 Rohingya refugees have been living there for the last 15 years.

A total of 236,599 Rohingyas have been repatriated since 1992, when an influx of refugees began from Arakan in Myanmar following religious and political persecutions.

"The refugees in the camps are living in a very deplorable situation, which must be improved," the UNHCR representative told the journalists.

"The best solution for them is returning home, but we, as a humanitarian organisation, must take care while they are in exile," she added.

Right to movement and work

also should be allowed for their empowerment, Phiri said, adding that learning certain skills and languages will also help them for resettlement.

She noted that the government of Canada has already accepted 23 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh and 13 of them reached there last year.

The refugees of many countries however cannot fulfil the requirements of the receiving countries, which have annual quota for accepting refugees, Phiri said. The empowerment of the refugees through education and skills is, therefore, important for their resettlement, she added.

UNHCR Senior Regional Public Information Officer Kitty McKinsey of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and its Bangladesh Deputy Representative (Protection) Francis Teoh conducted the training programme.

## DMCH finally gets four ambulances

UNB, Dhaka

Believe it or not, there hasn't been any ambulance at the country's premier institution of healthcare Dhaka Medical College Hospital since its inception way back in 1946.

Gone are those days now, as the caretaker government provides a cure for the DMCH's chronic problem. Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday approved four ambulances for the country's biggest public hospital.

According to an official, the 1700-bed DMCH has got no ambulance service to bring emergency patients from different areas for saving their life.

It has been learnt that there was no provision of including ambulance in the requirement list of the hospital. Although health ministry allotted four ambulances earlier, the hospital authorities could not operate those for lack of guidelines for operational cost and maintenance of ambulance.

According to Health Ministry sources, initiatives had been taken to provide ambulance to the hospital since 1982, but the efforts "went on in vain" for the legal sophistries.

The matter came to the chief adviser's notice and he took a quick action to heal the ills caused by legal complications as well as a mechanistic view of the law.

## Extortionist arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a notorious criminal at Nilkhet in the city yesterday

The arrestee was identified as Shahadat Hossain Khokon, who allegedly used to extort money from the traders of Nilkhet area.

Khokon's gang hijacked Tk 50 thousand from a trader of Bakushah market two days ago. However, the mob caught Mithu, younger brother of Khokon, and handed him over to Lalbagh Police Station.

Later police arrested Khokon on the charge of mugging yesterday.

It is learnt that Bakushah market traders caught Khokon on January 30 while taking extortion money and handed him over to Nilkhet police.

He came out on bail recently and again began to extort money, traders alleged.

## Schoolboy killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A schoolboy was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Banijhuri Bus Stand area at Ghior in Manikganj yesterday.

The victim, identified as Rubel, son of Abdul Kader of Gilondo village, was a student of class X of Banijhuri Union High School.

Sources said the accident occurred at around 10:00am when the boy was crushed under the wheels of a Paturia-bound speeding bus while he was crossing the road on his way to the school.

However, police could neither seize the bus nor arrest its driver.

## Obituary

Haji Bibi Mariam, mother of Anwar Hossain, an eminent businessman of Comilla, passed away on Thursday at the age of 91, says a press release.

She was buried at their family graveyard at Ghoshnagar near Comilla Cantonment on Friday.

Her qulkhani will be held after Asr prayers today.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Principal Abul Kashem, one of the architects of the Language Movement, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Bangla College in the city at 10:00am today.

Abul Kashem initiated the language movement by forming 'Tamaddun Majlish' just after 17 days into the birth of Pakistan.

He even formed a Sub Committee of Tamaddun Majlish and other committees to fight for establishing Bangla as the state language.

He presided over the first student rally in Dhaka University in 1947. As a member of the law commission, he first proposed Bangla as the state language and as the medium of education, which was later included in the first constitution of Pakistan.

Principal Kashem also played an important role in founding the Bangla Academy and was the founder of Bangla College.

He won Independence Day prize in 1993, Ekushey Padak in 1987, Bangla Academy Award in 1982 and Islami Foundation Award in 1988 in recognition of his contributions.

A dormitory of Bangla College and the road in front of the college is named after him.



PHOTO: STAR

Baridhara Society organises a clean-up campaign in the city yesterday to save Baridhara Lake from pollution.

## CABLE TV SHOW BEGINS IN CITY 'Satellite channels have brought changes to people's life'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Satellite television channels have brought changes to the people's life, and as such further investment should be encouraged in this sector, business leaders said at the inaugural ceremony of the Cable TV Show-2007 yesterday.

They also criticized the Indian cable operators for not transmitting Bangladeshi satellite television channels for their audiences.

"As the Indian cable operators are not transmitting programmes of Bangladeshi satellite channels on some filmy excuses, we have to decide on banning Indian channels," said Mir Nasir Hossain, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), as the chief guest.

Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh (COAB) organised the three-day show at Basundhara City Shopping Mall with a view to promoting their activities and having an

interaction among the satellite audiences, cable operators and satellite channel authorities.

The FBCCI president said that in this era of free market economy, there should not be any double standard regarding business and trade. It is very disappointing that despite having a common language, programmes of our channels are not shown in Kolkata, he added.

Nasir also assured the audience that the FBCCI would take necessary steps so that the government declares this sector as an industry.

While talking about the restriction of Bangladeshi channels in India, a spokesman for the Indian cable TV sector said programmes of Bangladeshi channels are not shown in India due to lack of proper marketing policies.

"Moreover, Indian audiences are not aware of such enjoyable programmes of Bangladeshi channels," said Binod Sancheti, president of Indian Cable TV Equipment

Traders and Manufacturers Association (CTMA).

The major Indian channels have offices and marketing policies here while Bangladeshi channels have no such activities there, said Sancheti while talking to The Daily Star.

Mohammad Ali, first vice-president of FBCCI, SM Anwar Parvez, president of COAB, and its Secretary General Nizam Uddin Masud also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 33 organisations, including representatives of satellite channels, cable operators and cable equipment traders from home and abroad are displaying their services and products at the show.

The show is open for all from 10:00am to 7:00pm daily.

Local satellite channels like ATN Bangla, Channel i, Rtv, ETV, Bangla Vision, Boishakhi, S tv, and foreign channels including Al-Jazeera, ESPN Star Sports and Star India Pvt Ltd are taking part in the show.



PHOTO: STAR

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Mir Nasir Hossain speaks at the inaugural ceremony of the Cable TV Show-2007 at Bashundhara City Hall in the city yesterday. Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh organised the three-day show.

## INVESTIGATIONS OF TERRORISM FBI abused power to get records Report reveals

REUTERS, Washington

The FBI abused its power by illegally using its power by improperly obtaining telephone, financial and other secret records in investigations of terrorism or espionage suspects, the US Justice Department's inspector general said on Friday.

A report by Inspector General Glenn Fine's office sharply criticised the FBI for how, without a court order, it demanded and received records such as customer information from telephone companies, Internet service providers, banks and credit card firms.

"We believe the improper or illegal uses we found involve serious misuses of national security letter authorities," Fine said in releasing the report.

National security letters allow the FBI to compel the release of private information without getting authority from a judge or grand jury. The FBI can get the records but not the content of communications, Justice Department officials said.

Democrats in Congress vowed to investigate the findings in the

report, which came as they stepped up criticism of President George W Bush's administration for weakening protections on civil liberties as part of its war on terrorism.

FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged at a news conference that the report found serious deficiencies.

"I am the person responsible, I am the person accountable and I am committed to ensuring that we correct these deficiencies and live up to these responsibilities," he said, noting the FBI is sworn to uphold privacy protections and civil liberties.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told a privacy rights group that he was upset when learnt the FBI did not have sufficient controls, did not provide adequate training and failed to follow its own policies.

### MISTAKES MADE

"Although I believe the kinds of errors we saw here were due to questionable judgement or lack of attention, not intentional wrongdoing, I want to be very clear: there is

no excuse for the mistakes that have been made and we are going to make things right as quickly as possible," Gonzales said.

The use of national security letters has grown dramatically, mainly as a result of powers granted to the FBI under the USA Patriot Act, an anti-terrorism law that Congress approved after the September 11 attacks.

In investigating abuses of authority, the report found 26 possible violations, including requesting information without adequate authorisation, improper requests under the law and unauthorised collection of telephone or e-mail records.

Of the 26 cases, 22 were the result of FBI errors and four were caused by mistakes by those who received the request for the information, the report said.

In reviewing 77 investigative files in FBI field offices, the report found that 17 of them, or 22 percent, contained one or more possible violations not identified by the field office or reported to FBI headquarters as required.

## Concern over death threat to Adviser Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Sangsad yesterday expressed deep concern over a death threat to liberation war affairs ministry Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin and his family members by certain quarters.

In a joint statement, Sangsad Chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and Secretary General Md Salahuddin Ahmed said freedom fighters of the country welcome Matin's firm stand against the criminals, corrupts, godfathers and black money holders.

The freedom fighters would not tolerate any conspiracy against Matin, the statement added.

They also demanded immediate identification of those involved in issuing the death threat and their exemplary punishment, the release added.

## Youngone to expand factory in CEPZ

UNB, Dhaka

South Korean company Youngone (CEPZ) Limited will expand its 5892 square meter factory area in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

An agreement to this effect has been signed recently between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) and Youngone Limited.

Bepza Member (investment promotion) M Farhan Uddin and Youngone Managing Director CS Sohn signed the lease agreement for their respective sides.

Bepza Executive Chairman Brig. Gen. Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf, Member (finance) AKM Mahabubur Rahman, Secretary M Ali Akbar and General Manager (investment promotion) AZM Azizur Rahman, and Vice President of Youngone Group ASA Noor were, among others, present at the signing ceremony.

Youngone, a 100 percent foreign owned company, will also enhance investment by another \$5 million.

Youngone Group is operating 16 units in the EPZs of Bangladesh.

## Rab nabs four, seizes 276 bottles of Phensidyl

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-5, in separate drives arrested four alleged criminals, including two drug peddlers, and recovered 276 bottles of Phensidyl from different areas Friday night, RAB sources said here yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force conducted a raid on Tungan area under Motihar Police Station in the city and held two young drug-peddlers along with 276 bottles of Phensidyl.

The arrestees were identified as Jibon, 24, son of Insar Ali and Selim, 23, son of Mosharraf Hossain. Both are the residents of the same locality.

In two other separate drives, the elite force picked up two absconding accused from Rangpur and Gaibandha districts. They are Luxmi Chandra Das, 32, and Belal Sarker, 27.

The arrestees along with the seized goods were handed over to the concerned police stations.

## Buet team to contest in ACM ICPC in Tokyo

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has achieved the honour of contesting in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) World Finals for the 10th time, says a press release.

The World Finals of ICPC, the most prestigious contest of computer programming, will be held from March 12 to 16 in Tokyo, Japan.

"BUET xC33d" is the lone group representing Bangladesh among 88 groups of the world selected from 6,099 groups of 1700 universities from 82 countries.

The group, led by Mohammad Tanvir Irfan, lecturer of Computer Science and Engineering Department, consists of Ishtiaq Ahmed, Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman and Sabir Yusuf Sunny.

The same group clinched the second spot in ACM ICPC Asia Regional Contest 2006, Dhaka Site.

## 152 sacks of urea fertiliser seized

### Fake aluminium factory unearthed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge amount of fertiliser in Munshiganj on Friday night.

Rab-11 seized 152 sacks of urea fertiliser from Kathpotti launch terminal in Munshiganj sadar along with a shallow engine boat when the fertiliser was being sent to another district in order to create artificial crisis, police sources said.

However, the dishonest traders managed to flee.

Meanwhile, police unearthed a fake aluminium factory at Simapara village in Srinagar upazila yesterday.

Police said the factory used to manufacture electric wire moulding old electric wire. Raw materials were collected from wire thieves in different areas of the country.

The owner of the factory is Juba Dal leader Monu Kazi, son of BNP leader Kazi Azizul Haque Lebu, police added.

They sealed the factory and seized huge amount of electric wire.

In another incident, police seized date expired medicine from a pharmacy at Baligaon Bazar at Tongibari upazila.

However, owner of the pharmacy Abdur Rob fled away.

## DU signs MoU with Hiroshima University

Dhaka University (DU) and Hiroshima University (HU) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 'Academic and Educational Exchange', says a press release.

Under the MoU, students, teachers, researchers, administrative officers, journals and information would be exchanged between the universities.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and HU President Dr Taizo Muta signed the MoU in the city while DU Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Director of Institute of Education and Research (IER) Prof Iqbal Aziz Muttaki, Prof Hideo Ikeda, Dr Taquya BABA and Norihiko Suzuki were also present.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is also likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and Rajshahi and the lowest of 10.2 degrees at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:11am tomorrow.**

The 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	32.0	16.3	34	45
Chittagong	32.5	17.0	49	58
Rajshahi	32.5	16.7	63	67
Khulna	31.6	20.0	61	48
Barisal	31.1	16.4	54	62
Sylhet	31.8	15.4	54	29
Cox's Bazar	31.6	18.0	46	48