

## 'Include women journalists in policy-making level'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women journalists should be included in policy-making level in the media organisations to recognise their full dignity as professionals. Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeti Ara Safiya Choudhury said yesterday.

She also called on the media owners and policymakers to change their attitude towards women journalists.

"Women are making their way in almost all professions, contributing a lot to the national economy, but they are not given opportunities to take part in policy-making process," Geeti Ara said while speaking at the second national council of women journalists as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra organised the national

council at the National Press Club in the city in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation. The theme of this year's council is 'Pen is our main tool for establishing women's and human rights'.

"When we started journalism, it was difficult for women to join the reporting team, but now the scenario has changed. Today women are taking interviews and covering all kinds of risky and important events," said Geeti Ara.

She called on women journalists to highlight the struggles of grassroots women and write against social prejudices.

Noorjahan Begum, editor of the 'Begum', called for more reports on early marriage and dowry system.

Nasmin Ara Haq, president of the Kendra, said about 6000

journalists are working in the mass media, but the number of women journalists is only 200.

She demanded that 25 percent of journalists appointed in the media organisation should be women.

Caniz Almas Khan, editor of 'Canvas' magazine, said women journalists are doing the same job as their male counterparts but do not get equal salary and other opportunities.

Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of The News Today, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, Tasmima Hossain, editor of the fortnightly Ananya, Ferdouse Ali, editor of the Purbanchal, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, editor of the Jamini, and Setara Musa, adviser to the Kendra, also spoke.

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra organised the national



Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeti Ara Safiya Choudhury addresses the second national council of women journalists as the chief guest at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## Husband burns wife to death

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cruel husband burnt his pregnant wife to death at Kawla in the city as she did not tolerate his extra-marital affairs.

Sabina, who was pregnant for eight months, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday eight days after she was set on fire by her husband Abdul Hamid, a painter by profession.

The attack on Sabina took place in the early hours of March 8. Hamid was talking to his girlfriend on his mobile phone at around 2:30am. But Sabina could not tolerate it. In a fit of rage, she smashed the cellphone.

At this, her husband flew into a rage. He dragged Sabina out of their house at Madhyapara and took her to a graveyard nearby along with a container of kerosene. He then set fire to her body after dousing her with kerosene.

Lyng on the hospital bed, Sabina had told all this to her mother Jamila Katun.

Local people ran to the graveyard when they heard Sabina screaming and took her to DMCH, said Sabu, a local youth.

But they did not find her husband at that time. Hamid has been at large since then, family sources said.

Hospital sources said more than 95 percent of her body were burnt in the fire.

Jamila Katun filed a case with Dhakha Khan Police Station against Hamid.

## Poster exhibition on urban conservation begins

### DU CORRESPONDENT

A poster exhibition on urban conservation and regeneration titled 'Old but New, New but Old' that brings together one set of posters from the UK and three sets from Bangladesh, began at British Council in the city yesterday.

Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs ABM Abdul Hawa Chowdhury inaugurated the exhibition jointly organised by British Council (BC) Bangladesh and North South University (NSU).

In relation to the development of its economy, legislation and conducive practice have influenced the display on UK posters. On the contrary, Bangladeshi posters represent a few of many such sites that have the merit to be conserved by injecting new life which is being prevented by commerce, legislation, lack of awareness and expertise.

The posters from the UK explore and celebrate the diverse variety of urban regeneration projects that have grown up across the UK. They also feature key urban neighbourhoods, including Gateshead Quays, Birmingham's Bull Ring, Coin Street in London's South Bank and Manchester's Shipping Canal.

The three sets of posters from Bangladesh are on selected heritage buildings in three different sites - Badur Shah Park, Panamnagar and Shankaribazar - with potential for regeneration through conservation.

The first set of posters is on Badur Shah Park, initially known as Victoria Park, originally housed a club for the Europeans living in Dhaka in mid-nineteenth century, and grew as the centre of the colonial city in European style with

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