



Awami League leader and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor reads from the writings of Nurjahan Murshid at a function at Shaukat Osman auditorium in the city yesterday. The function was organised to mark the 83rd birth anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid.

'Take stern action against food adulteration syndicate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stern legal action should be taken against the syndicate making a huge profit from adulterated foods, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They also observed that there is no inclusive act or law in the country to fully protect the rights of the consumers.

Bangladesh Resources Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) organised the seminar on 'Safe food and food security: A fair deal for customer, consumer and producer' at Chhayanat Bhaban in the city ahead of the World Environment Day to be observed today.

Speaking as the chief guest, Khusi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said the law enforcers are

conducting drives against corrupt people every day, but "how do the corrupt business syndicate remain out of this drive"?

Abul Khayer, a reporter of the Ittefaq, who was honoured for his series stories on 'Adulterated food', said that a criminal can kill a person, but this syndicate is killing a nation.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) said there is no law to safeguard the rights of consumers in the country.

Sometimes there are inconsistencies in laws and policies, she added. Giving an example, she said the National Fisheries Policy has prohibited the introduction of invasive fish, but there is no mention of it in the fisheries law.

According to the law, only genu-

ine fishermen can take up a lease on water bodies, but the contradiction is that the lease money was fixed at Tk 5 lakh, she said, adding that how the genuine fishermen, who are mostly poor and underprivileged, could pay such a huge amount.

Sharing their experiences, several farmers said they have lost their rights to seeds and food varieties.

Farhat Jahan of ActionAid Bangladesh said there is an international conspiracy to eliminate local food varieties.

Abu Naser Khan of Paribesh Bachao Andolon also spoke on the occasion, while Pavel Partha, researcher, BARCIK, delivered the keynote speech.



Farhat Jahan of ActionAid Bangladesh addresses a seminar at Chhayanat Bhaban in the city yesterday. On her right are Abu Naser Khan, Khusi Kabir and Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

Housewife killed after rape in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was raped and slaughtered by her boyfriend and domestic help in the city yesterday.

Domestic help Majnu Miah, 18, was caught by the locals when he tried to dump the body at Dhaka Udyan Housing in Mohammadpur, police said.

The slaughtered housewife was identified as Farjana Jahan Shashi, 21, wife of engineer Hasnat Reza of East Kazipara in Kafrul and student of first year honours student of Home Economics College.

Majnu said the incident occurred at around 10:00am when Shashi's friend Shajib entered the flat.

At that time, only Majnu and Shashi were present in the flat and her husband was in the office.

Majnu said Shashi went to bathroom after talking briefly to Shajib at their drawing room.

While Shashi was in the bathroom, Shajib proposed to Majnu for raping Shashi. Majnu readily agreed to the proposal.

When Shashi came out of the bathroom, both Shajib and Majnu raped her forcibly.

After raping, Shajib brought a knife and a boti (curbed knife) and started cutting Shashi's throat and legs.

Majnu said Shashi died immediately on the spot and her mutilated body was kept inside a sack and a polyethylene bag.

Then they decided to dispose of the body at Dhaka Udyan Housing area and hired two rickshaws.

When Majnu was dumping the body at Dhaka Uddan, locals saw the body and caught him and handed him over to Kafrul Police Station.

Shajib, who was sitting in another rickshaw, fled the scene when locals caught Majnu.

Police visited the place of the crime with Majnu and found bloodstains on the floor.

Police could not catch Shajib as of filing this report.

Majnu is going through further interrogation at the police station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Kafrul police picked up Shashi's husband Hasnat Reza from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue in the evening for interrogation when he went there to see the body of his wife.

Bangladesh to be worst victim of climate change

Dr Kholiquzzaman tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to raise the environmental issue at international forums for getting compensation for the damage caused by climate changes.

They said Bangladesh should form alliance with other Saarc countries and fight jointly for realising compensation for the damages that they are facing due to climate changes.

Bangladesh along with other least developed countries are the main victims of climate change while the developed nations are the main contributors to green house effect, they added.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) in association with INSA (Imagine A New South Asia) at the National Press Club in the city to mark the World Environment Day 2007.

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Economic Association and a Lead Author of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Working Group-2, Advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser to caretaker government, Prof KB Sajjadur Rashed, MH Siddiqui and Brigadier General (retd)



Sultana Kamal, former adviser to caretaker government, speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

Shahedul Anam Khan spoke on the occasion.

In his keynote presentation, Kholiquzzaman said Bangladesh will be the worst victim of climate change and it will face a loss of 30 percent food grain production by the middle of the century.

He said the country will also face

a temperature rise of around 2 degree Celsius in the coming decades, and the sea level is likely to rise by around 45 degree centimetre.

As result of these changes, he said a vast coastal areas of the country will face permanent salinity

and the inhabitants will lose their residence.

The speakers called for immediate initiative to reduce the impact of climate change.

They also suggested inclusion of the issue in all national-level discussions and set a framework to overcome the disaster.

Woman stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was stabbed at her residence at Uttar Jatrabari in the city last night by an extortionist, police said.

Sohel, a former employee of a drug store of the victim, stabbed Parveen Begum, 32, when she refused to pay him toll, said her 13-year-old son Sajib, who was at home during the incident. Local people caught Sohel, 18, red-handed with knife when she cried for help, and handed him over to the police.

Parveen was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition with eight stab injuries in her body.

A case was filed with Jatrabari Police Station in this regard.

DU Syndicate meets today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The issues of 52 first classes in one department at Dhaka University (DU) and 92 fake students are likely to figure in today's meeting of the Syndicate, the highest decision-making body of the university.

As a probe committee formed to investigate the unusual incident of 52 first classes at political science department, submitted its report recently, the Syndicate might try to reach a decision on the issue, sources said.

The fourth report of another probe committee on fake admission will also be produced before the meeting.

In the report, the committee mentioned identifying 92 fake students, mostly in the Department of International Relations. It also found out that two consultancy firms are involved in the admission forgery.

The committee has, so far, detected a total of 168 fake students enrolled at different departments in the social sciences and arts faculties and at a few institutes.

6 held at Ruet

RU CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces arrested five students and an outsider during their raids on different student halls of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) on Sunday night.

They also recovered many electric circuits and equipments during the three-hour raids which were carried out after being tipped-off that the students have stored huge bombs in their dormitories, campus sources said.

The arrestees are Muhammad Julfiker Ahmed, GM Motiur Rahman, Sajib Hossain, Faisal Ahmed, Sadikul Islam and an outsider Salim Hossain.

Officer-in-Charge Ferdous Ahmed of Motiher Police Station yesterday said they were arrested for interrogation as five powerful bombs were recovered from the Ruet campus and dormitories recently.