

## REPORT ON 'COUNTERING TERRORISM' LAUNCHED

## Call to increase vigilance against terrorism from outside

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday called for greater vigilance against terrorism coming from outside the country.

"There is no known sure and certain cause within the country for terrorism to pose a serious problem. But there is a need for us to be vigilant mainly against terrorism coming from outside," he said at the launching ceremony of a report on 'Countering terrorism in Bangladesh: A strategy paper' by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its auditorium.

"In Bangladesh, so far, we have found our existing laws adequate to deal with the kind of terrorists we faced," he said, adding that "But the fight against terrorism does not necessitate the denial of human rights."

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, who was also

present at the launching ceremony, regretted that Bangladesh had taken a long time to break out of 'denial' but did so when the country was on the brink of a much larger terrorist problem.

He commended the government actions and backed the report's findings.

The report found that radicalised groups are using a 'distorted version of Islam' to justify violence and being fed by the global Islamist agenda, but in Bangladesh, the terrorist threat is exacerbated by political support for terrorism without considering its consequences.

The report proposes four-stand national counter-terrorism strategy, alongside a series of steps to implement the programme, which they said should be implemented by the government over the next two years starting immediately.

The report was authored by a

counter-terrorism core group set up by the BEI, chaired by BEI President Farooq Sobhan, and the members included security experts and government and intelligence officials.

The strategy includes the prevention of terrorism by blocking the process of radicalisation of individuals and groups through long-term programmes to address the 'root causes' of terrorism, and simultaneous improvements in governance.

The madrasa system was said to have no significant links with terrorism, but the report recommended the modernisation of its curriculum as 19 percent of those arrested in connection with terrorism attended the religious schools.

The report proposed that terrorists and those who sponsor them and provide sanctuary should be pursued through an aggressive and coordinated effort by law enforce-

ment and intelligence agencies under a National Security Council or a cabinet committee on national security.

Improving technical capacity of intelligence units and introduction of a NGO accountability system regarding their financial disclosure and auditing systems would help pursue the terrorists, the report said.

The people, key infrastructure and national interests can be protected from terrorist attacks through better control of the border, the report said and recommended immediate signing of extradition treaties with India and Myanmar.

The report also said the government should form an Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements Organisation to face the consequences of any terrorist attacks.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed calls on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Cancer no more a killer disease

## Experts tell roundtable

Cancer is no more a killer disease, said the experts at a roundtable in the city yesterday.

They said cancer does not mean an inevitable death, it can be termed a serious disease, says a press release.

Media can play an important role to disseminate this truth, they added.

The roundtable titled 'Media's role in awareness building on cancer' was jointly organised by Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital and Bangladesh Journalist Forum on Women and Children Affairs (BJFWCA) at the Mission Auditorium.

The discussants said people's idea about cancer in our country is still parochial.

Death from cancer can be

reduced to 50 percent if use of tobacco can be controlled, opined the experts.

Mahbubul Alam, former adviser to caretaker government and editor of The Independent, was the chief guest at the roundtable moderated by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

Poet and essayist Sheikh Nazrul presented the keynote paper. Editor of the Bhorer Kagaj Shyamal Dutta and Deputy Editor of the Samakal Mozammel Hossain Monzo attended the roundtable as special guests.

News Editor of the Jajaidin Humayun Sadeq Chowdhury and City Editor of the Prothom Alo Pronob Saha took part in the discussion.

M Fazlur Rahman, former secre-

tary to the government and managing director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, delivered the address of welcome.

Prof Dr Fazle Elahi, cancer specialist and consultant of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, and Prof Dr Abdul Hye replied various questions of the media personnel.

Pointing to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, the journalists said it should be a patient-friendly hospital.

Arif Hossain, general secretary of BJFWCA and reporter of ATN Bangla, gave the introductory speech.

A good number of journalists, media professionals and representatives from Bangladesh Scouts and civil society were present at the roundtable.

## Poverty issues of ethnic minorities ignored: People's Report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's 38 percent households, which are headed by uneducated parents, have no education at all, revealed a report yesterday.

But the households, where the heads are non-poor persons, have no children without education, it added.

Unnayan Shamannay published the report titled 'People's Report 2004-2005: Bangladesh Environment' at a programme at the National Press Club in the city.

The report said 92 percent of their respondents thought that land productivity has been reduced due to industrial pollution.

Ninety percent slum dwellers do not boil drinking water while, 49 percent of them said the drains of their slums are not cleaned, the report added.

Speaking at the programme Chairman of Unnayan Shamannay Prof Atiur Rahman said poverty and environmental degradation are mutually reinforcing.

Sometimes poverty causes environmental degradation while in other occasion environmental disaster or degradation causes poverty, he added.

Prof Atiur said although different measures are taken to, address issues like rural and urban poverty, policy makers and development agencies have ignored poverty issues of ethnic minorities.

About the poverty pattern in char (river island) areas, he said though

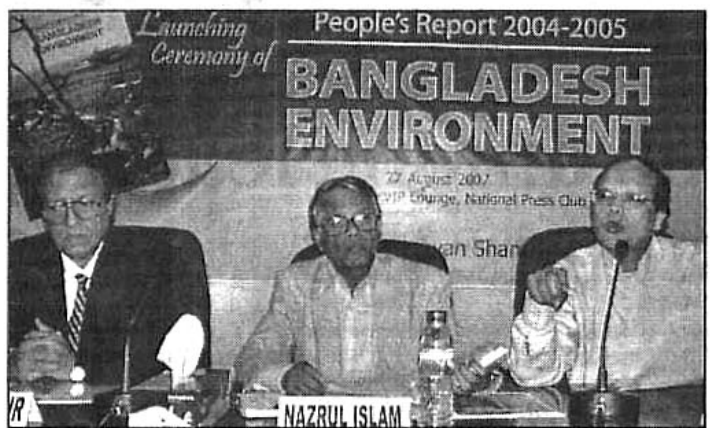


PHOTO: STAR

Chairman of Unnayan Shamannay Prof Atiur Rahman speaks at the launching ceremony of a report titled 'People's Report 2004-2005: Bangladesh Environment' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam and Environment and Forests Secretary AHM Rezaul Kabir.

The average rate of ultra poor in the country is 25 percent, its concentration in the char areas is about 74 percent.

To address the issues of poverty and environmental degradation, Prof Atiur suggested poverty alleviation measures after taking due care of sustainability, encouraging greening of the environment and setting environmental standards for industrialisation.

Addressing the programme, Secretary to environment and forest ministry AHM Rezaul Kabir appreciated the report and said they would consider it as a fact-finding report.

He said through public and private partnership any national problem can be addressed effectively.

To reduce industrial pollution, the government is encouraging entrepreneurs to set up effluent treatment plant in industrial units of the country, he added.

Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof Nazrul Islam chaired the programme which was also addressed by Deputy Country Director of UNDP Larry Maramis and Prof Neaz Ahmed Khan of development studies department at Dhaka University.

## Trader shot, RMG factory executive stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals stabbed an executive of a garment factory at Paltan and shot a businessman at Mirpur in the city on Sunday.

Sources said a gang of four entered the office of Mohammad Alamgir, 34, managing director of Radians Knitting Dyeing Limited, on the 12th floor of City Heart at Naya Paltan and stabbed him indiscriminately.

They also took away a briefcase containing some money and a cellphone, Alamgir told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, unidentified criminals shot Nurul Alam, 40, a businessman in front of his house at Balurmath at Mirpur at around 9:00pm.

## BSF returns body of Bangladeshi cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkita

The body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader, who was gunned down by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on August 22, was returned back to BDR last night after a flag meeting.

Bulbul Mia, 22, son of Tajmahal Mia of village Kaundanga under sadar upazila, was shot at Tarali, a bordering village in 24 Parganas district of West Bengal opposite to Taluigachha, a bordering village under sadar upazila of the district.

BSF men gun down the victim while he along with others was returning home with cattle heads from India. BSF took away the body.



## Aly Zaker's photo exhibition opens today

Balika (The Girl), Aly Zaker's maiden photography exhibition, opens at Art Club at Gulshan in the city at 7:00pm today, says a press release.

Sriya Sharbojya will inaugurate the photography exhibition. The exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm everyday. It will continue until September 3.



## Dialogue

Steps towards Development organises a dialogue titled 'Uniform law for men and women regarding equal right to land'. Venue: Steps towards Development auditorium, 3/4 Block D, Lalmaia. Time: 3:00pm.

## Seminar

Institute of Apparel Research and Technology of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BKMEA) organises a seminar titled 'Impact of removing EU safeguard measure against China (on the knitwear export of Bangladesh and other LDCs after 2007)'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:45am.

## Rotary Dhaka

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30pm.

## GRENAD ATTACK ON UK ENVOY Four cops give depositions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The recording of statements of prosecution witnesses in a case filed in connection with the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury continued in the Speedy Trial Tribunal of Sylhet division for the second day yesterday.

The grenade attack took place at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet after Juma prayers on May 21 in 2004, killing three people and injuring 70 others.

Four policemen, who were on duty at the place of occurrence at that time, gave their depositions yesterday. With them, a total of five witnesses, out of 57, gave their statements in the court.

Statements of some other witnesses will be recorded today and tomorrow, court sources said. On July 31, Additional District & Sessions Judge Ferdous Ahmed framed charges against four accused in the case. Later, the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

The accused are Harkat ul Jihad chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, his brother Mofizur Rahman and Hujj operatives Delwar Hossain Ripon and Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul.

## Foreign adviser greets new Japanese FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has greeted newly appointed Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura. "Bangladesh and Japan have always enjoyed strong and friendly relations. I am confident that these bonds will gain strength and expand in dimension through our mutual cooperation," said the foreign adviser in a message of congratulations yesterday.

Machimura has been appointed to this office in a cabinet reshuffle by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

## 'Release 5 varsity teachers immediately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More professional bodies and youth organisations yesterday demanded an immediate and unconditional release of five teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities who have been arrested by the joint forces.

In a statement, Peshajibi Somonnoy Parishad called on the authorities concerned to release the teachers in no time without imposing any condition and to punish the real culprits.

In another statement, 350 members of the Supreme Court Bar Association said the arrest of five university professors was a deplorable and shocking incident that had tainted the image of the present caretaker government.

The signatories to the statement

urged the government to release the arrested teachers immediately and to ensure that innocent students are not targeted or victimised.

In a separate statement, leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (Students Unity) condemned the incident and said it was a senseless act that would lead the nation to a mass upsurge.

They urged the government to ensure an unconditional release of five teachers and demanded a stop to indiscriminate arrest by police and army officers.

A press release of Bangladesh Awami Juba League said its Chairman Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanok and General Secretary Mirza Azam have expressed their concern over the safety of five teachers and demanded their immediate and unconditional release.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:39am 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	32.5	25.0	87	74
Chittagong	28.9	24.6	91	86
Rajshahi	32.7	126.0	190	77
Khulna	31.5	26.3	88	89
Barisal	30.0	25.6	92	85
Sylhet	31.0	24.9	97	79
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.0	90	92

## Bangla-Pak FS talks tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan will be held in the city tomorrow for a fresh review of the entire range of bilateral affairs as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Reza Mohammad Khan will be in Dhaka tomorrow to lead his country to the 4th round of talks.

Foreign Secretary-in-Charge Touhid Hossain will lead the home side.

When contacted, Touhid told UNB that issues relating to trade, investment, shipping, cultural and educational exchanges would come up for discussion.

"There is no possibility of signing any MoU on this occasion, rather the meeting will review the progress so far made in these areas," he said.

Last Foreign Secretary-level meeting between the two countries was held in Islamabad in August 2005.

## DCC ward commissioner detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces picked up Mujibur Rahman Moju, the commissioner of Ward No. 58 of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), from his Hazaribagh residence in the early hours of yesterday.

A team of the joint forces raided the residence of Moju at Nilambar Saha Road at around 1:00am and took him with them, his wife told The Daily Star.

She also said the team members told her that they would send him back after asking him some questions.

Local people said Moju is one of the close aides to detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

## Obituary

Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury, freedom fighter and president of Jatityabadi Samajantrik Dal (ISD) Laxmipur unit, passed away due to cancer at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He has left behind his wife, one son and five daughters to mourn his death.

ISD leader ASM Abdur Rob, ISD President Prof Mohammad Shafiq and General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan condoned the death of Rafiqul.

## Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Sunil Banarjee, an eminent journalist and writer, says a press release.

Sunil worked as a senior reporter for the now defunct Dainik Bangla and last worked for the daily Janakantha.

## Saiful Islam



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Saiful Islam, freedom fighter and noted social worker, says a press release.

He was also co-founder of Halima Girls' High School at his village at Kanthal at Trishal in Mymensingh.

On this occasion, Quirankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Alhaj Mohamud Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, an eminent educationist at Brahmanbaria, says a press release.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Taj Kurir residence in Nabinagar on Friday.

## Qulhwani



Qulhwani of Syed Nahoum Ali, a freelance financial consultant, will be held at his paternal residence at 44 Park Road, Baridhara, in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Nahoum passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the early hours of Friday at the age of 35.

He left behind his father, a sister and a host of friends, relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Another Qulhwani will be held at the Komorpur Muslim Mission at Faridpur after Asr prayers on Thursday.

## Drowning biggest killer of children

## Says Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey

Children affected by the recent floods are particularly vulnerable and often have to bear long term burdens left by natural disasters, says a study of the United Nations Children's Agency.

It added that 88 percent of the flood related deaths were caused by drowning, the vast majority of these children, says a press release.

In total, 702 people have so far died in these floods of which 619 have drowned. The Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey shows that drowning is the biggest killer of children over the age of one.

"Our major response in any emergency is to save the lives of women and children and that's why we have been concentrating on our efforts as part of a coordinated UN response on providing essential drugs, including paediatric medication which have been funded through the generous support of CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency," says UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Louis-Georges Arsenault.

UNICEF with help from World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners has so far reached approximately 40,000 children between 6 and 36 months and 20,000 pregnant and lactating mothers with the highly nutritious BP5 biscuits.

Another 11,000 children and 5,000 women will be reached in the third round distribution of BP5 biscuits taking the total amount of biscuits distributed to nearly 400 metric ton.

According to the latest ICDDR,B estimates, the percentage of children admitted as diarrhoea patients in the past two weeks has risen by 40 percent.

Also an increasing number of children are affected by the stagnant floodwaters in different parts of the country especially in lower parts in and around Dhaka.

Over 4,000 schools still remain closed while nearly 300 are being used as shelters for flood victims while 44 schools have been totally washed away due to river erosion, disrupting the educational prospects of countless children.

Lessons learnt from previous floods clearly show that malnutrition has immediate and long term effects on children and women.

Studies from 2004 have shown that weak nutrition in children not only exposed them to water-borne diseases long after the floods were over, but also caused long term conditions such as night blindness. Pregnant and lactating mothers also require special nutritional needs.

"Of course we also need to look at the medium and long term effects of an emergency such as a flood and that's when getting children back to school becomes a priority," says Arsenault.

Children under 5 across the country will receive one dose of Vitamin A in the upcoming National Immunisation Day (NID) on October 27 to help fight night blindness and other nutritional deficiencies.

Children of displaced families also require special attention. It is anticipated that some of the displaced families will take longer to return home and rebuild their lives.