



Holding lighted candles, participants vow to resist acid violence at a function at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. The event was organised by Acid Survivors' Foundation, Prothom Alo and Campaign to Work with Men and Boys Network on the occasion of International Women's Day today.

## UPCOMING DCC ELECTION 'Murder of 2 political leaders an act of pre-poll violence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The aspirations of becoming candidates in the upcoming Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) election might be the cause of recent murders of both the BNP and Swachhshabak League leaders in the city, sources said.

Dhanmondi thana unit BNP leader Mostofa Zaman Shibli, 35, and Motijheel thana unit Swachhshabak League vice-president Kawsar Ali, 35, were gunned down by their rivals on Wednesday and Tuesday.

Harun-ur-Rashid, husband of the sister of slain Shibli, said, "Shibli was taking preparations to become a commissioner candidate of Ward No 48."

"As Shibli wanted to be a candidate, his rivals might have killed him," said Harun-ur-Rashid.

Sources said former BNP leader Harun Chowdhury is the present commissioner of Ward No 48.

As he has joined the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) led by Firdaus Ahmad Quarishi, Shibli, who was also the general secretary of the party's Ward No 48 unit, had thought himself of a commissioner candidate.

Shibli served five and a half months jail term in connection with the August Violence on the

campus recently.

However, the other sources said the criminals of his rival group might have killed Shibli.

Earlier the criminals killed his brother Abdus Sattar two years ago and another brother Yunus was killed in crossfire with Rapid Action Battalion, police said.

Termining it a political murder, Kazi Mainul Hossain, sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station and the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star, "We have been looking into the matter. We want to ascertain whether Shibli's murder is linked to the DCC election or not."

Shibli was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near his Jigatala residence at around 8:00pm on Wednesday.

Earlier on Tuesday, the assailants shot dead Kawsar Ali, vice-president of Motijheel thana unit of Swachhshabak League at Shahjahanpur.

Kawsar was also the owner of Ali Enterprise, a generator shop at north Shahjahanpur.

A gang of criminals spread bullets on Kawsar when he was on his way to a local mosque to say Zohr prayers at around 1:00pm.

Kawsar's wife Shahina Begum and sister Dolly Begum said anony-

mous callers had been threatening over cell phone to kill Kawsar for the last one week.

Kawsar's friend Mohidul Islam Lablu said Kawsar was always against local drug peddlers and muggers.

He suspects that the muggers or drug peddlers might have hand in the killing.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sub-Inspector Zillur Rahman of Motijheel Police Station, who is also the IO of the case, suspects that Kawsar might have been killed due to an internal feud.

The IO said Kawsar had a desire to contest the DCC election as commissioner candidate from Ward No 34.

"We have detained one Arif Khan Rana from Malibagh area. After grilling him, we might be sure of the cause behind the murder," he added.

Sources said present Ward Commissioner Mirza Khokan had been hiding since the nine/eleven. It is impossible for him to take part in the election, as he has been sentenced to prison term in several cases for several years.

Local sources said in presence of Mirza Khokan, none dared to take part in the election against him.

## 3 get Radhuni Kirtimoti Sanmanona

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of the International Women's Day, Radhuni Kirtimoti Sanmanona 2007 was awarded yesterday.

Three women received the award for their significant contribution to the society at a function at the Expo Centre of Bashundhara City.

The recipients are Angela Gomes (social development), Dr Hosne Ara (small entrepreneurship) and Munni Saha (journalism).

Each awardee received a crest and Tk 50,000 in cash.

Square Consumer Products Limited and its brand Radhuni organised the function. Channel i was the media partner of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said days are not very far when men and women of this country will go hand in hand with equal dignity.

Shamokal Editor Abed Khan said such initiative of the Square would encourage the women.

Managing Director of Square Consumer Products Limited Anjan Chowdhury, Manabzamin Editor Matiu Rahman Chowdhury and artiste Dilara Zaman were present at the award giving ceremony.

Meanwhile, the women and gender studies department of Dhaka University will organise a poster competition to mark the International Women's Day today.

The poster competition titled 'Nohi Samanya Nari' (Not a mere woman) will take place in front of the arts building.

Prior to the exhibition, a procession will be brought out.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz will lead the procession which will parade the campus.

Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Sultana Kamal will be present as chief guest at the prize-giving ceremony.

## Ship breaking sector yet to get govt patronisation

Experts tell programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ship breaking could be a booming sector in future if the sector gets proper government patronisation, said the experts at a programme in the city yesterday.

They said although 90 percent raw materials of the re-rolling mills in the country comes from ship breaking yards, the sector yet to get proper government patronisation.

The two-day programme including lectures and seminars has ended at the Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (Buet). Organised by the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering of Buet, the programme was participated by the teachers of the department and a seven-member Japanese delegation led by Prof Yoichi Sumi of Yokohama National University.

Prof Khabirul Haque Chowdhury, head of naval architecture and marine engineering department, said the Japanese delegates in co-operation with the Buet teachers will conduct a survey

which will ultimately help government formulate a guideline for the ship breaking yards.

"The survey will also help undertake proper safety measures for the workers and improvement of the existing facilities," said Dr Mir Tareque Ali, associate professor of the department while talking to The Daily Star.

He said Bangladesh is still the number one ship breaking country, although the number of ship breaking yards now stands at 20 from 60 around 10 years back.



Recipients of Radhuni Kirtimoti Sanmanona 2007 pose for photograph with the guests at the award giving ceremony at Bashundhara City yesterday.

## Special briefing for labour attaches from March 23

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has said all heads of labour wings in countries hosting Bangladeshi contractual labour have been asked to come to Dhaka for a special briefing between March 23 to 25.

Iftekhar who is also in charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment said during their stay in Dhaka the 12 labour attaches and secretaries will attend an intensive orientation workshop.

The adviser will address them on the government's new eight-point agenda to streamline the manpower market abroad. They will also interact with the officials of the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry and the recruiting agents.

The workshop is being organised by the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry in collaboration with International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The officials will also be instructed to streamline their wings to bring close more in line with the said objectives.

Last year, a record number of 832,000 Bangladeshi workers found employment abroad. The remittance received exceeded \$ US 6.5 billion which is also a record, said a press release yesterday.

However, he said there have been complaints of exploitation and problems faced by many of them. The ministry has asked the missions to report regularly on the subject assigning "top priority to welfare."

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সমান তালে কাজ করে

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আমরা সবাই পুরুষ ও  
নারী সহকর্মীরা একে  
অন্যের মতামত ও  
অনুভূতিকে গুরুত্ব দেই

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