



Prof. Nazma Chowdhury speaks at a dialogue titled 'Women leadership and the upcoming parliament election' at Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Complex in the city yesterday. On her left is Advocate Salma Ali and on her right is Advocate Fawzia Karim. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association organised the dialogue. (Story on Page 2)

## Form joint economic body to strengthen ties

### President tells Ambassador of Kazakhstan

UNB, DHAKA

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday underscored the need for formation of joint economic commission to strengthen bilateral relations further between Bangladesh and Kazakhstan.

He also stressed the need on bilateral agreement on trade and economic cooperation and cultural exchange programme between the two countries.

He made the remarks when the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Kazakhstan Bakhitbek Shabarbayev presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Iajuddin expressed hope that the existing relationship between two countries would be further deepened in the days to come.

He called upon the Ambassador to lend his efforts to exploit the existing potentials for the betterment of the two countries by boosting bilateral trade between the two countries.

He observed that Kazakhstan could be benefited by importing skilled manpower like engineers, doctors and teachers from Bangladesh.

The president also briefed the Ambassador about the next general elections to be held by December this year.

The Ambassador, who resides in Islamabad, hoped that Bangladesh would be able to hold free, fair neutral general election by December this year.

The envoy expressed his satisfaction over the brotherly relations between the two countries and hoped that the relations would be strengthened further in the days to come.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Mohammad Aminul Karim, Secretary to President's office Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Foreign Secretary Touhid Hosain and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present.

## MUJIBNAGAR DAY OBSERVED

### 'Try war criminals, ban politics of fundamentalists'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The historic Mujibnagar Day was observed at Baidyanathola mango grove in the befitting manner yesterday in Meherpur.

Front-ranking leaders of Awami League (AL) were present at Mujibnagar commemorating the formation of Bangladesh's first government-in-exile on April 17, 1971.

The AL and its front organisations held discussion and oath-taking programmes to mark the day.

Hoisting the national and party flags, the AL leaders placed floral wreaths at the foot of the historic Mujibnagar monument at about 11:00am which was followed by an oath programme here.

Sectors Commanders' Forum (SCF) Chairman Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khondokar, former army chief KM Safiullah and Convener Lt

Gen (Retd) Harun-ur Rashid conducted the oath to uphold the spirit of the liberation war led by.

Later, a discussion was held at Sadar upazila auditorium with Meherpur district AL President Joyal Abedin in the chair.

AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Prof. Abu Sayeed, former minister MA Khaleque and Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Meherpur AL General Secretary Advocate Mijan Ali and district Krishak League President Washim Sazzad Likhon spoke at the discussion.

The AL leaders called upon the countrymen to be organised further as they were in 1971 in the greatest interest of the motherland.

They demanded immediate release of the party chief Sheikh Hasina, trial of war criminals and ban on the politics of fundamentalist groups.

## Facilitate safe migration of female workers

### Speakers urge media

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Participants at a workshop yesterday laid emphasis on the supportive role of media as a proactive force in facilitating the safe migration of female workers.

They also called for more coverage of news concerning migration of female workers in news media highlighting gender equity and rights to female migrants.

Under a project titled 'Proactive Media Instrumental in Safe Female Labour Migration (PROMISE)', the daylong training workshop for journalists was organised by Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) with the support of United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) at Barisal BDS Auditorium.

At the inaugural session K N M Hossainul Haque, manager of MRDI, spoke about various concepts and issues concerning migration of workers.

In the following two sessions, Khandaker Rezwanul Karim, programme manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation, discussed migration process highlighting relevant rules, regulations and the institutions concerned.

He also spoke about various social, economic, cultural and legal issues pertaining to safe female migration.

The participants called for upholding the ethics of journalism and human rights in writing news

stories about female migrant workers.

They also stressed the need for linkage between various news sources related to migration including rights activists, government officials, research organisations, recruiting agencies and NGOs.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, delivered the welcome address and moderated the programme attended by a total of 21 journalists from different national and local dailies, news agencies and electronic media of Barisal division.

Earlier on Wednesday night, MRDI organised a view-exchange meeting of journalists, government officials and NGOs on maximising cooperation between various stakeholders in promoting safe female migration.

Lily Jahan, chair person, Sheikh Rumana, general secretary, and Advocate Sumiya Ahmed, coordinator of Bangladesh Ombudsman Mahila Samik Association (BOMSA), urged the journalists for projecting positive role of female migrant workers.

## Bogra Baishakhi Fair closed after attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A 'Baishakhi Fair' on Edward Park premises in the town was closed down yesterday as it came under attack by a group of people on Wednesday noon.

The district administration in a letter ordered the organisers to close the fair by 5:00 pm yesterday fearing further attacks by Islamist activists.

The fair, organised by the Bogra Theatre on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, was scheduled to end today.

"I have been asked to close the fair as fanatics might attack the fair again," Taifiq Hasan, general secretary of Bogra Theatre, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Wednesday noon, a group of people attacked a puppet show in the fair. But their identity could not be known, said Taifiq.

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**Project Officer - Sylhet**  
(Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme)

The British High Commission seeks the services of a Project Officer for its Sylhet office who will be required to travel to Dhaka periodically. However, for the first month, the incumbent's place of work will be at High Commission's Dhaka office.

The job is of contractual nature, renewable on an annual basis.

### The Role

- Design and monitor projects under the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 'Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation' programme. Also support the colleagues in the fields of public diplomacy, democracy and human rights & governance.
- Provide support to the Head of Section and other members of the High Commission in researching, selecting and developing project proposals (particularly related to Sylhet) and securing fund from relevant UK government streams.
- Monitor and evaluate projects through field visits.
- Contact and network with NGOs, media, government officials, academics, development organizations and other relevant bodies, particularly in Sylhet.
- Acquire, maintain and communicate knowledge of political situation and issues connected with the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme of Sylhet.
- Undertake day-to-day administrative responsibilities associated with the project portfolio and incumbency of the Sylhet office.

### The Qualification & Experience

- A degree from a reputed institution in any discipline, though Development Studies, Political Science, International Relations, Law and related fields may be especially relevant.
- Some experience of project management with NGOs and development agencies will be an advantage.
- Good understanding of Bangladesh's development, economic and political situation.

### The Competencies & Skills

- Project management skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English and Bangla. Ability to communicate in Sylheti would be an advantage.
- A proactive self-starter, able to work with little supervision.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in a team.
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- Remuneration package will be commensurate with the skills and experiences of the applicant.

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