

Reform police act to make cops popular

Prof Muzaffer tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday said decentralisation of power in police administration and reform in the existing police act should be considered in reforming Bangladesh police and making them popular.

Speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable on 'Reforming Bangladesh police', the TIB chief suggested appointing an ombudsman for police and creating six posts of inspector generals (IGs) for six divisional headquarters.

"We should concentrate more on our internal security than external and for that we need to make the police more effective and efficient. Decentralisation of power in the police administration can ensure effectiveness of police and make the security force more popular," he added.

The roundtable was organised by Department of Criminology and Police Science of Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University at the conference room of Development Studies department at Dhaka University (DU).

The TIB chairman said infrastructure in the police stations is also very poor and called for providing more facilities for the police administration and changes in their salary structure to make the force corruption free.

"The police should be made pro-people force and they should be given quality education by modern-

ising the police staff college and even they could be sent abroad for higher training," Prof Muzaffer added.

He also called for removing all kinds of political interference in the police administration and reducing responsibilities from their shoulders.

Quoting a research report, Dr Ferdous Jahan, associate prof of Public Administration department at DU said Rab personnel have become most popular in the country than police, because the elite force gets more facilities than those of the police.

Prof Mahfuzul Islam Khandaker of the department of Criminal Justice at Kutztown University in the US suggested conducting total reforms in politics, society and economy of

the country.

He further said police should be sent abroad for higher training and capacity building as they lack proper education. He also suggested for reviewing the salary structure of police and urged the government for getting rid of 'crossfire' culture.

Former inspector general of police Muhammad Nurul Huda called for reviewing and reforming the existing police act and changing the salary structure of police.

Associate prof Muhammad Bin Kashem of Sociology department at National University, NSI Director Muhammad Nazibul Islam and Prof KAM Saaduddin also spoke at the meeting which was moderated by Brac University Prof Imdadul Haque.

'Form special tribunal to try war criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of Awami League, yesterday took out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding formation of a special tribunal for the trial of war criminals.

BCL (Tafsir-Shamsul) Kendriyo Sangsad leaders brought out the procession from in front of the Madhu's Canteen at noon as the part of its continuous programmes demanding arrest of the Jamaat-Shibir cadres who assaulted freedom

fighter Sheikh Mohammed Ali Aman.

They also held a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla where President of the organisation Hossain Ahmed Tafsir, General Secretary Md Shamsul Islam and Vice President Yunusur Rahman took part in it, says a press conference.

Student leaders at the rally said the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir cadres in collaboration with some vested national and international quarters have spread their influence in the country for more than 37 years of its independence.

UK supports plan to hold JS polls in Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visiting British junior minister yesterday said Britain supports the government in their efforts to hold elections in December.

British Undersecretary for Transport Jim Fitzpatrick made the comment after calling on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury at the foreign ministry.

"Notwithstanding some constitutional and protocol difficulties, we will do what we can to ensure that elections take place," said Fitzpatrick.

He said Britain supports the government's progress in preparing for free, fair and credible elections in December.

Fitzpatrick declined to reveal Britain's position on holding the elections under a state of emergency, saying he has no doubt the general elections would be free, fair and credible like Monday's polls.

He said a number of issues would have to be and can be resolved before December.

The minister lauded the completion of the electoral roll with photos of 80 million voters, saying it is a "phenomenal achievement" that is duly admired in Britain.

Condition of Anwar Zahid critical

UNB, Dhaka

Veteran journalist Anwar Zahid is lying in critical condition in United Hospital in the city.

"He is clinically dead," attending physician said yesterday afternoon.

"He is on life support." Suffering from acute kidney problems and other diseases Anwar Zahid was admitted to the United Hospital on Wednesday.

MOUNT MAKALU Mountaineers leave for India to join expedition

UNB, Dhaka

Two Bangladeshi mountaineers left for India yesterday to join a team of Indian mountaineers for an expedition training to scale Mount Makalu, one of the tough and risky mountain peaks in the Himalayan range.

Preparatory to the Makalu expedition, Sajal Khaled and Nishat

Mazumder of Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMT) will first embark on a training expedition to Gangtari Mountain in northern India, BMT sources said.

The 27,865 feet Mount Makalu is the fifth highest peak in the world.

The pyramid-shaped Mount Makalu lay only 22 kilometres from Mount Everest and is situated between the frontiers of Nepal and Tibet.

The Makalu peak is very difficult to access because of hostile and rocky terrain and icy cold blizzards. After a series of painstaking but futile expeditions, Mount Makalu was first conquered by two French mountaineers in 1955.

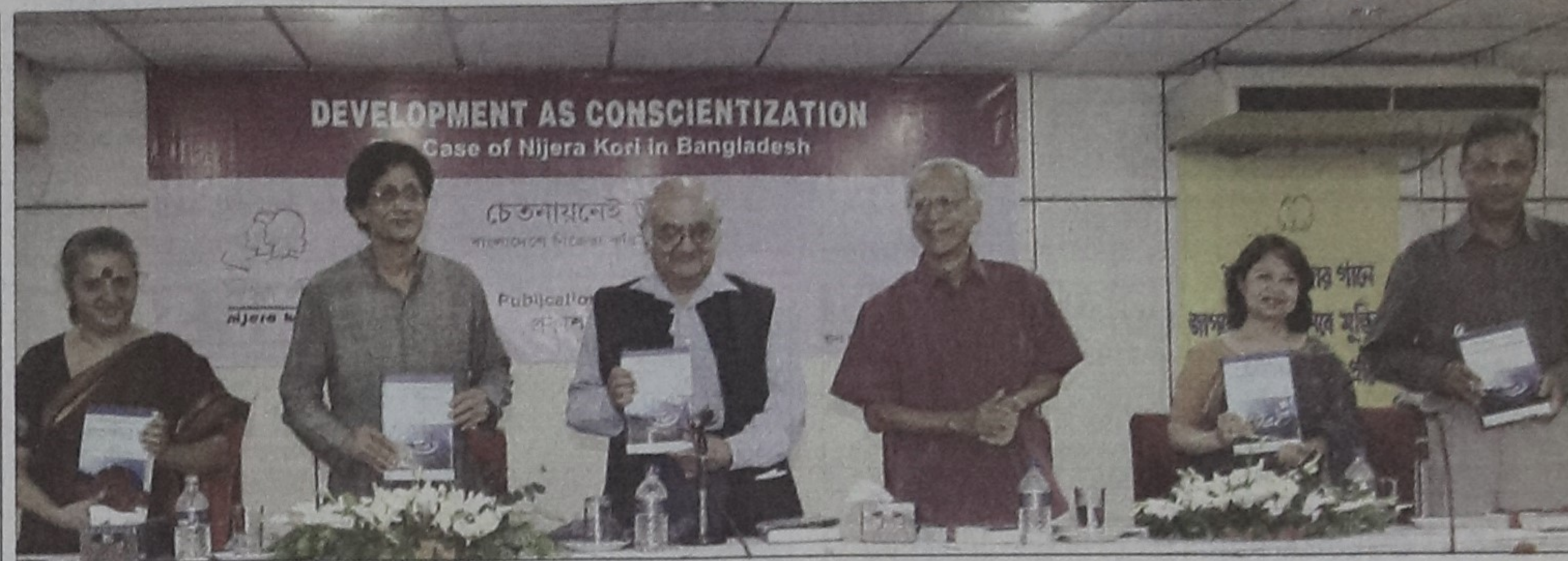
United News of Bangladesh (UNB) is the local sponsor of the two-member BMT team to help them join the Indo-Bangladesh Makalu expedition.

Enam-Ul Haq, the founder of BMT, said, "It will be a great opportunity for the young Bangladeshi mountaineers to take part in the Makalu expedition... This will earn them world fame in the field of mountaineering."

"We feel proud that our mountaineers are going to take this great challenge of scaling Mount Makalu. To live in a land that is below the sea level and aspire to climb one of the highest mountains is indeed a mighty achievement," said Enayetullah Khan, chairman of BMT.

The Bangladeshi team was invited to join the Makalu expedition by the world famous Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, founded by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay who with Sir Edmund Hillary had for the first time conquered Mount Everest in 1953.

BMT has expressed its goodwill for Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Indian Defence Ministry, Bangladesh Foreign Ministry and UNB for giving the opportunity to the Bangladeshi mountaineers to join the Makalu expedition.



Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Development as Conscientization: The case of Nijera Kori in Bangladesh' at its publication ceremony at the Academy for Planning and Development in the city yesterday. From left are Khushi Kabir, Prof Abul Barakat, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Anisur Rahman, Dr Rounaq Jahan and Lt Gen (ret) Harun-ar-Rashid.

Research book on development launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a research book titled 'Development as Conscientization: The case of Nijera Kori in Bangladesh' was held at the Academy for Planning and Development in the city yesterday.

The book written by Prof Abul Barkat, Prof Sadeka Halim, Avijit Poddar, Asmar Osman and Badiuzzaman would be very useful for development activists, students and people involved in the development process, speakers at the function said.

Prof Anisur Rahman, Dr Rounaq Jahan, Dr Hameeda Hossain, Lt Gen (ret) Harun-ar-Rashid and Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, spoke at the ceremony chaired by Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Nijera Kori organised the event.

Presenting the key aspects of the book, Prof Abul Barkat said conscientization refers to a learning process which identifies social, political and economical disparities as well as shows a path of learning-based approach to overcoming disparities.

He also said they rejected the definition of development set up by the mainstream economists.

Per capita income can never be an actual indicator of development, he said, adding that real human development is a pro-independence process, which includes political, economic and social independence, assurance of transparency and security.

Prof Barkat said they conducted the research in 16 villages under four upazilas in the three divisions - Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna.

Strengthen democracy to face external threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for strengthening foundation of democracy to face external threats to our country.

Sovereignty and independence of our country would not exist if we fail to strengthen our democracy, they added.

Titled 'Killing incidents by BSF in Bangladesh border areas,' the discussion was organised by Forum for the Silent Majority at the National Press Club in the city.

Addressing as the chief guest, former chief justice and chief adviser to a caretaker government Latifur Rahman said in the age of globalisation, all the problems should be solved through discussions. Nothing can be done though creating pressure.

Pointing at the governments of India and Bangladesh, Latifur Rahman said, "We hope that two elected governments (of the two countries) will take bold steps to solve the problems related to border and other issues."

"If we cannot organise ourselves, we will not be able to sustain in future," he added.

Former chief election commissioner (CEC) MA Rouf said, many countries want to 'play' with Bangladesh, but Bangladesh will have to realise which is better for its

own policy. He further said days of keeping silence are over, now we will have to practise tit for tat policy, adding, "We will have to be vocal regarding border issues. The present government cannot play a strong role as they are not elected one."

"We will not remain silence any more, we will not tolerate if any of our people are killed," the ex-CEC said.

About the recent city corporation and municipal elections, Rouf said the Election Commission has the authority to hold local body elections.

Former director general of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen (ret) ALM Fazlur Rahman, also convener of Nirdolio Jono Andolon, strongly criticised India for its 'aggressive' attitude towards Bangladesh.

"We will have to resist India taking the help of our other neighbouring countries," he said, adding that there is no country in the world that can defeat us.

Editor of the Amar Desh Amanullah Kabir said city corporation elections and the results will not be acceptable as the government does not have any right to hold local body election and as the election was held under the state of emergency.

Body of Al Amin arrives in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of Al Amin, who went to the Maldives in quest of fortune, was sent home on Wednesday, nine days after his death, said sources at Bangladesh High Commission in Male.

"After much efforts we could send the body to his family by Thai Air which reached Dhaka at 12.00noon," an official of the high commission told The Daily Star through an e-mail yesterday.

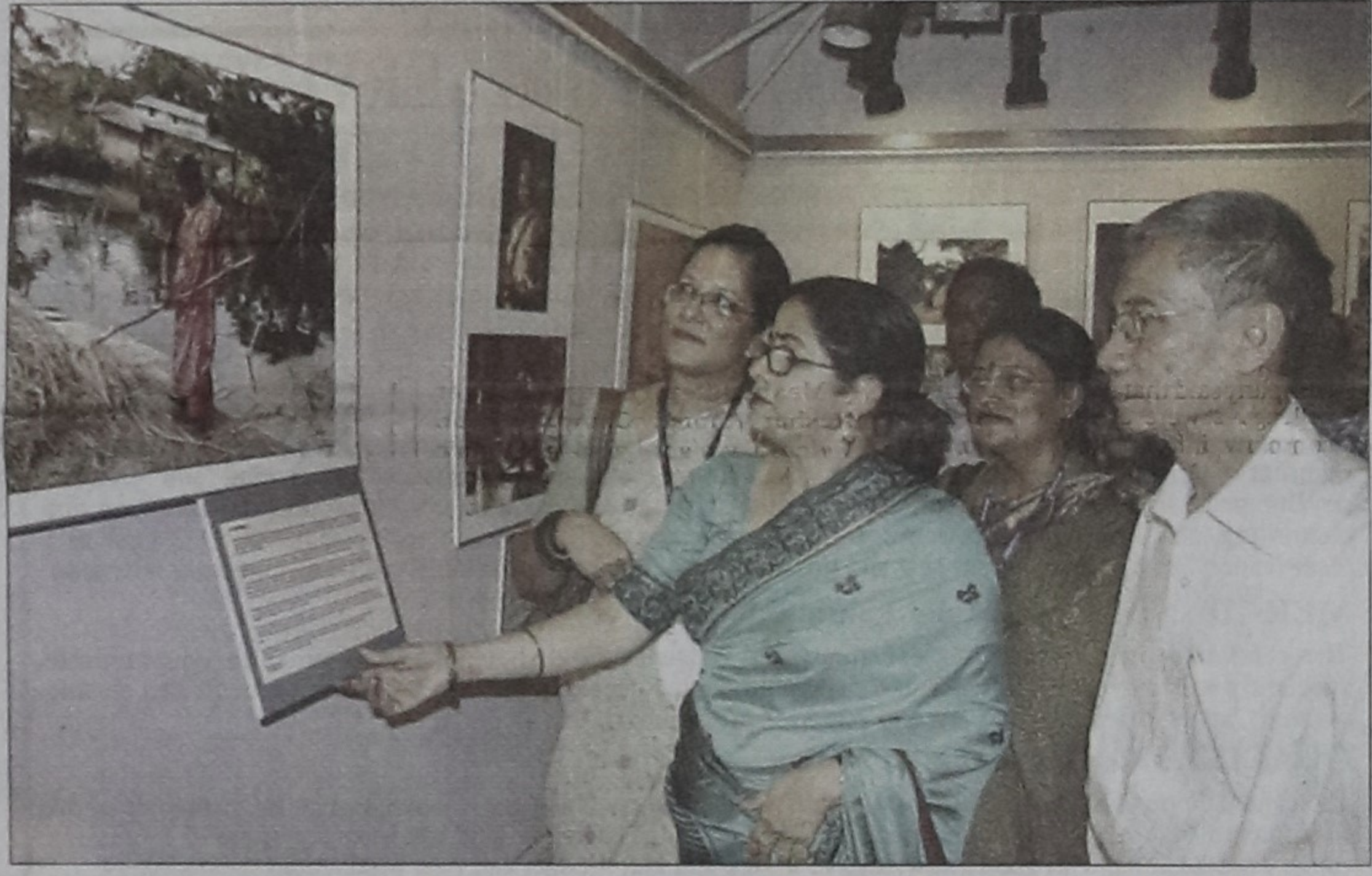
"We have suggested Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training to make an arrangement for a postmortem of the body," he added.

The official said sending of Al Amin's body was delayed as it was not mentioned in his service contract who will take back his body if he dies.

Al Amin, an 18-year-old boy, killed himself out of frustration on July 25 as he was not given the job assured by his middleman five months ago.

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Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury admires a photograph at an exhibition on 'Indigenous women in Bangladesh' at Drik Gallery yesterday. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, extreme right, and Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh Farah Kabir, extreme left, are also seen. ActionAid Bangladesh and Map organised the exhibition.

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