



**Mamun still remains missing after two years**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years have elapsed since Enamul Haque Md Al Mamun, 52, a government official, went missing, but his family members could not find out his whereabouts until yesterday.

The family members said they still could not find Mamun because of lack of cooperation from the police.

Mamun, chief assistance of BTTB (now BTCL), Mohakali wireless transmission region, went out of his home at Indira Road in Farmgate on August 10 2006 for a morning walk but has not returned home as yet.

In a press release, the family members alleged that although they had filed general diaries with Tejgaon Police Station more than once, the police did not take any effective measures to find out Mamun. Indifferent attitude of the police has also disappointed them, they added.

Many people have also tried to cheat the family members during their efforts to search for Mamun, the family members said, adding that they asked for police action against the frauds, but to no avail.

Mamun is the eldest son of late Lt AM Ataul Haque, a freedom fighter and acting chief of Bangladesh Navy after independence.

His mother Begum Fazilatunnesa and other family members, who are eagerly waiting for his return, have requested those knowing his whereabouts to call at 9130656 or 01711177609.

**JP demands safe return of Monju from abroad**

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party (Monju) yesterday demanded the government to clear ways for return from abroad of its chairman Anwar Hossain Monju.

Convicted and sentenced in absentia to jail for five years in liquor case Monju is living in USA.

The JP presidium meeting at its central office reviewed social-political situation prevailing in the country. It demanded that the government should remove all confusions and uncertainty about holding the parliamentary election pledged by the end of the year.

The meeting decided to observe the National Mourning Day on August 15 in a befitting manner.

Sadek Siddiqui, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Mofizul Hoque Bebu and Amena Bari were among those attended the meeting, which was presided over by Abdur Rahim.

**Vishnu statue seized in Dinajpur**

UNB, Dinajpur

Police yesterday seized a statue of touchstone from Sonapara village of Ghoraghata upazila, about 20km from the border, before it was smuggled out to India.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the village. Sensing trouble the smugglers threw the statue of Hindu god Vishnu, weighing 9 kgs, into a pond. Police recovered it at 4:00pm.

**Death anniversary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Syed Matiur Rahman, a veteran journalist and a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 4:00pm at his residence (89/2/9, RK Mission Road) in the city.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

**Alhaj Nehal Uddin**

The sixth death anniversary of Alhaj Nehal Uddin Ahmed, a retired deputy finance controller of army finance, was observed yesterday, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil was arranged at his village home at Tarua in Brahmanbaria.

## SPOUSAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Physical healthcare costs 4.1pc of GDP

Says CPD study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cost of physical healthcare related to spousal violence against women alone amounts to 4.1 percent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product), according to a study report of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The CPD conducted the study among 200 victims of violence in 12 districts.

It said that some 1.81 crore women fall victim to such violence a year, which costs Tk 13,187 crore in terms of healthcare expenditure.

A total of 174 respondents said they had to spend Tk 3.55 lakh for housing and refuge.

Also, 188 of them had to spend Tk 1.98 lakh on shalish or arbitration and Tk 5.85 lakh on food and travel while receiving service in the family courts, the study said.

"Forty-three victims who wanted to take legal action had to pay Tk 2.18 lakh in bribes to the police, with each victim paying Tk 5,084 on an average," Fahmidah said.

The study also said 41 victims had to spend Tk 7 lakh in fees for court and lawyers.

The CPD study calculated the direct cost of treatment, housing and refuge or displacement, social service, civil legal service, criminal justice and lost income of the victims who sought assistance from four rights organisations -- Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury was present as the chief guest while CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the dialogue.

Stressing the need to increase the allocation for combating spousal violence, CPD recommended that access to government services, including one-stop service centres, especially cells in police stations for domestic violence and temporary shelters, should be encouraged and enhanced.

"Making the people aware of the government services should be an integral part of the government

efforts at the grassroots level," Fahmidah said, adding that the government should facilitate easy access to legal aid for the NGOs and other organisations helping victims of spousal violence.

Stressing the need to formulate an anti-domestic violence law, the CPD said such a law would act as a deterrent for violence and also help women receive justice quickly, thereby reducing the cost of spousal violence.

"We are now examining a draft law against domestic violence. Besides, we're also working to include the domestic violence issue in primary textbooks to make the students aware about it," Adviser Rasheda Choudhury said.

The government has also taken an initiative to strengthen the monitoring system and curb domestic violence, she added.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Kotwali zone Babul Akther said they raided the hostels of the institute in the afternoon in search of the outsiders.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Rehman Sobhan urged the civil society organisations to persuade the politicians to include the issue in their agenda.

Leaders of women and rights organisations and NGOs also took part in the discussion.



Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury speaks at a dialogue on 'Domestic Violence in Bangladesh: Cost Estimates and Measures to Address the Attendant Problems' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right are Prof Rehman Sobhan and Sultana Kamal and on her left is Swiss Ambassador Dora Rapold.

## 12-pt package programme taken for Sylhet dev

Says Iftekhar

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said the government has announced a 12-point package programme for the overall development of the greater Sylhet.

He said the announcement was made at the meeting of the council of advisers held in Sylhet with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin in the chair on July 21 last.

The foreign adviser said this while addressing the annual general meeting-2007 of Jalalabad Association, Dhaka at Biman auditorium as the chief guest.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury

addressed the meeting as special guest while president of Jalalabad Association Syed Abdul Muktedar was in the chair.

Former lawmaker Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, former foreign secretary Syed Muazzem Ali, former finance secretary Siddiqui Rahman Choudhury, former commerce secretary Suhel Chowdhury, former president of the Association Abdul Malek, among others, addressed the meeting.

He said the people of Sylhet, who participated in the War of Liberation in 1971, should be recognised for their sacrifice and contribution in war.

Rasheda K Choudhury said

education should be given top priority for Sylhet as people of the region are lagging behind in education.

In this respect, she said, "We have to build social movement to educate our children to ensure their better future."

Referring to a few social indices

Rasheda said the cases of early marriage, child mortality and maternal mortality are very high in the Sylhet region. She laid stress on the need for taking concerted efforts for removing these problems in the greater interest of people of this region.

Mentioning the rich cultural

past of Sylhet she said the government has taken a decision to set up Hasan Raja Academy in Sunamganj.

The other speakers said the Bangladeshi expatriates are keeping significant contribution in the country's economy by sending huge remittances.

They said necessary training

including catering and hospitality services is needed to make skilled human resources, which would help explore employment opportunities at home and abroad.

They said Jalalabad Association

will provide such training to the interested people.

Siddique Rahman said, "We

have to identify the problems of the Sylhet, which are the main hindrances of the socio-economic development of the region."

He said the association could

play an important role in identifying the problems of the region and make recommendations to resolve those.

He said works of some of the programmes under the package will be started very soon and rest of the programmes will start step by step.

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## JCD-Shibir clash at Ctg Polytech Instt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least five students were injured at Chittagong Polytechnic Institute yesterday in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Of the injured, two students loyal to Shibir -- Osman and Saiful -- were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Sources said the clash ensued when some JCD activists locked into an altercation with some Shibir activists on the campus at around 1:00pm over tearing down of result sheets of the admission test on a notice board.

The institute sources said the results of the admission test in the institute were published yesterday and the three-day admission process also started on the same day.

Later, JCD activists made an attack on some Shibir supporters that resulted in a clash between the two student wings at around 2:00pm.

Kotwali police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police said both the organisations were trying to get some loyal applicants admitted to the institute through influencing the admission process.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Kotwali zone Babul Akther said they raided the hostels of the institute in the afternoon in search of the outsiders.

Stressing the need to remove the social acceptance of domestic violence, she asked the media to play a significant role in raising mass awareness about it.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Rehman Sobhan urged the civil society organisations to persuade the politicians to include the issue in their agenda.

Leaders of women and rights organisations and NGOs also took part in the discussion.



A 17-day art exhibition of 19 eminent artists begins at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. (From left) Museum trustee Rabiu Husain, trustee Asaduzzaman Noor, artist Quayum Chowdhury, trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and artist Maniruzzaman look at the artworks at the exhibition that will remain open from 10:00am to 7:00pm everyday.

## 1,000MW loadshedding on holiday

UNB, Dhaka

The country smarted from around 1,000 megawatt loadshedding in power supply during peak hours yesterday, the weekly holiday, as years of neglect has held down electricity generation.

People's sufferings due to irregular power supply were further stoked up by a hot and humid weather caused by a low over the Bay.