

Implement policy to resist sexual harassment in universities

Demand students and women's rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students and women's rights activists yesterday demanded implementation of a policy to resist sexual harassment of female students in the universities urging all to come forward to help stop recurrence of such incidents in future.

The press conference was organised by Women for Women at the National Press Club in the city.

At the press conference, some students burst into tears expressing their frustration with the decision of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) syndicate to clear Mohammad Sanwar Hossain Sunny, associate professor of the Department of Drama and Dramatics, of sexual harassment

charges on Saturday.

The department had been closed for the last four months owing to students' movement against the sexual assault on four female students by that teacher in April last.

"Will it be possible for us to lodge complaint again if any such abusive incidents occur in future on the campus? asked the JU students, who were involved with the movement, saying, "We have lost our all hopes for justice."

After the declaration of the syndicate's decision, a third-year female student of the same department tried to commit suicide by taking sleeping pill on Saturday night, they added.

The students said as the university authorities did not take any

punitive measures against the teacher, they will not be responsible if he is harassed anywhere.

They also decided to continue the movement until the authorities take any exemplary punishment against Sunny.

President of Women for Women and Professor of the Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University (DU) Mahmuda Islam chaired the press conference.

She said although a policy to resist sexual harassment was formulated and sent to different universities in 2002, the university authorities did not take any step to implement the policy.

Prof Anu Muhammad of the economics department at JU said some teachers are against the

implementation of the policy because they believe it will disclose hundreds of such more incidents.

"The JU syndicate has accepted the policy against sexual harassment in principle but it is not implementing the policy," he added.

The boycotting of classes by the students for four months taking the risk of session jam and other complexities of their life is enough to confirm the occurrence of unwanted incidents, Anu Mohammed said.

Professor Sadeka Halim of sociology department at DU and members of Women for Women Salma Khan and Jahanara Haque also addressed the press conference.



Hundreds of people stand in queues for hours in front of Dhaka GPO every day to take the express mail service (EMS). The photo was taken yesterday.

'BNP has surrendered to govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said BNP not only negotiated with the government but also surrendered to the government.

He was speaking at a protest meeting organised by Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, Dhaka City unit (North) demanding unconditional release of party chief Sheikh Hasina, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok and General Secretary Mirza Azam at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh.

"Meeting of BNP and Jamaat leaders in the jail proves negotiation of BNP with the government and by withdrawing Jarique from the party post, Khaleda admitted that his son was guilty and it proves BNP's surrender to the government," he added.

Pointing towards BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Amu said it is BNP which has made all the negotiations with

the government and the countrymen now understand those.

About the proposed talks between Hasina and Khaleda, he said AL chief should be released unconditionally before holding any kind of talks.

He demanded holding of the parliamentary polls before upazila and other polls.

About the government initiative to create a level-playing field, AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed said such congenial situation is yet to be created.

"One is freed from jail and holding standing committee meetings of her party on the other hand Hasina is not permanently released," he added.

Suranjit Sengupta criticised BNP for making Khaleda its lifetime chairperson, saying the decision would make BNP a more autocratic party.

If one person remains chairperson for life, how can the party become a democratic one and how it can establish democracy in the country? he questioned.

About the proposed talks between Hasina and Khaleda, he said any kind of talks can be held

but few clarifications should be made by Khaleda before that.

"She (Khaleda) should apologise to the people for creating five birthdays in her life and making one on the day of assassination of Bangabandhu," he said, adding, "We did not create any birthday on the day of Zia's murder."

He also criticised the meeting of Delwar, Mojahid and Khaleda in the jail and raised question on the government's move for creating level-playing field for this.

Jubo league leaders declared a series of protest programmes until September 20 and set the day as deadline for the release of Hasina, Nanok and Azam. Otherwise, they would launch a tougher movement.

The Jubo League will hold protest meetings in upazilas on September 16, protest meetings at district headquarters on September 18 and in the capital on September 20.

Presided over by city Jubo League (North) President Abul Bashar, the meeting was also addressed by Jubo League acting General Secretary Majibur Rahman Chowdhury.

'Recover khas land, distribute among landless'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Democratic Left Alliance yesterday expressed concern over the attack on the leaders of Krishak Federation and Krishani Shova by the alleged land grabbers in Barisal.

They also demanded trial of the attackers, says a press release. The leaders said though the landless people only deserve the right to own khas land, in many parts of the country influential people grab the khas land.

The leaders also demanded recovery of the khas land and distribution of the land among the landless.

Coordinator of the alliance Advocate Abdus Salam, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Convener Khalequzzaman Jaiyaf Ganofront leader Tipu Biswas jointly gave the statement.

Two burnt alive in Ctg slum fire

CU CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman and her grandson were burnt alive and 37 thatched houses were gutted in a fire at a slum of city's Mansurabad area Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Abida Khatun, 72, wife of late Ali Mian of Mem Goly of the Mansurabad area and her grandson Iqram Hossain Akash, 07, son of Mohammad Yunus Mian.

Sources said, Abida, the ailing mother of Yunus, and her minor grandson Iqram got trapped during the fire incident at the Yunus Colony of the Mansurabad under Double-mooring Police Station and were burnt alive.

The fire was originated from an earthen oven at around 8.30pm in a house of the Yunus Colony engulfing the adjoining slum houses of Abdur Rahman and Yusuf Colonies in the wink of an eye, sources added.

A total of 37 houses were reduced to ashes in the fire and damages in it were estimated worth about Tk 8 lakh.

Eight fire-fighting units from three different fire stations of the city rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after a two-hours effort.

Later, the firemen recovered the bodies and handed them over to the Double-mooring Police Station.

Saudi road crash kills four Bangladeshis

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Four Bangladeshis expatriates, including two siblings, were killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

The tragic deaths of two brothers -- Abu Kalam Fakir, 55, and Abdul Kader Fakir, 50, -- cast a shadow of grief over the villagers of Mirakandi under Madaripur Sadar upazila.

Sources said two other Bangladeshis were also killed in the same incident.

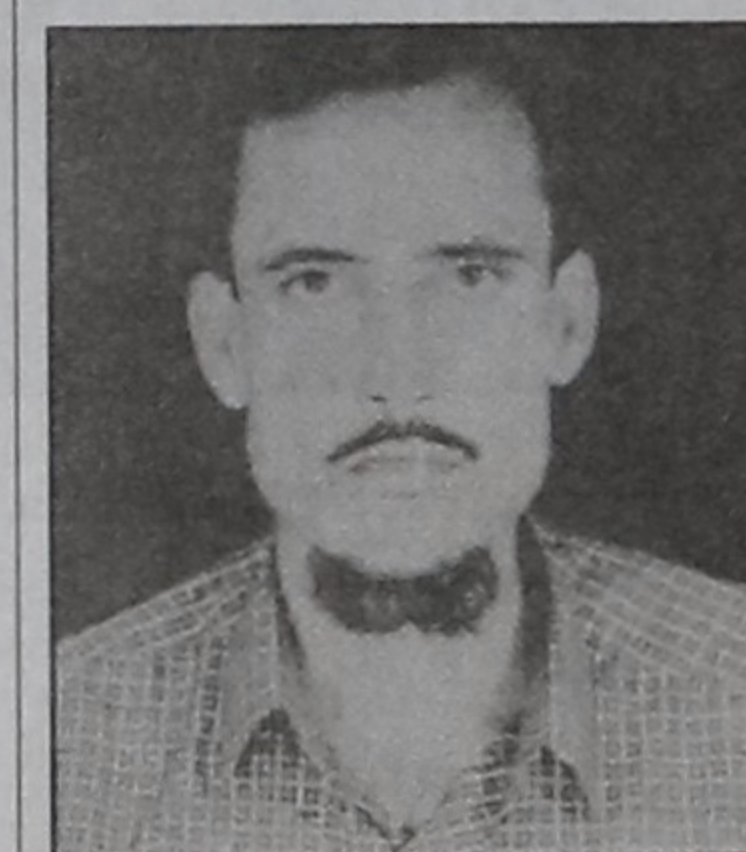
Family members of the

deceased said Kader had been living in Saudi Arabia for 13 years last while Kalam for six years.

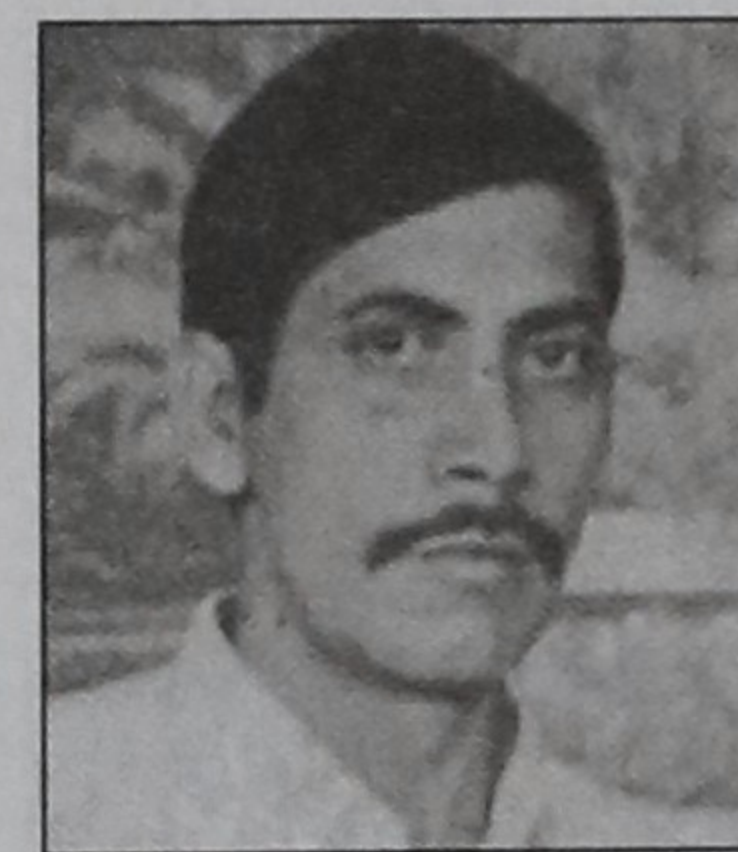
Monachhef Molla, son-in-law of Kalam, said the siblings and two other Bangladeshis were killed on the spot in a head-on collision between a private car and a truck at a place in between Riyadh and Al-Khamiz.

They were returning Al-Khamiz by the private car at the end of their hajj, he added.

Family members said the siblings were scheduled to return home during the Eid-ul-Fitr.



Abu Kalam Fakir



Abdul Kader Fakir

BNP constitution ignored

FROM PAGE 1

of the newly amended RPO, legal experts said BNP either would have to change its NSC decision or would have to amend its constitution after having to register with the EC, if it wanted to stick to the controversial resolution.

Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, a member of the NSC, who proposed on Saturday that Khaleda be given the party's helm for keeps, yesterday said it is true that BNP constitution does not support the resolution.

Before Khaleda 'humbly declined' the opportunity for life yesterday, Tanvir however told reporters, "Khaleda Zia will lead the party on her election to the post of chairperson. If she is not elected to the post, then the party constitution will be amended to empower her to lead the party."

Another Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed however claimed that the meeting did not take any decision empowering Khaleda to be the chief of the party for life.

The party's constitution empowers its chief to control, supervise and coordinate all its activities.

The party chief presides over meetings of the national council, national executive committee, and the national standing committee, and if necessary she or he may delegate the responsibilities to other members.

The NSC does not have any jurisdiction to appoint anyone as the BNP chairperson without an election by a national council, let alone for life, even a national council cannot elect anybody to lead the party for life since it is mandated to elect a chairperson only for two years.

The national council is formed

with central and grassroots level delegates from across the country.

But in a move that made the nation cringe, the NSC of BNP on Saturday at a meeting with Khaleda in the chair unanimously decided that she would lead the party for life, although her mandate as the chairperson had expired over eight years ago.

The NSC's decision triggered widespread criticism, and political observers termed the decision as extremely undemocratic and rather feudal, which would strengthen dictatorship in the party as its constitution empowers its chief to run the organisation unilaterally, with the power to dissolve committees at will.

According to the party's constitution, the chairperson nominates all 15 members of the NSC with herself or himself as its chief.

The NSC being the highest policymaking forum, it formulates the policies and programmes of the party, explains the party's declarations, constitution and other organisational rules if necessary, and controls and supervises the activities of the national executive committee and other committees nominated by the chairperson.

The NSC also has the power to reconsider all punitive actions taken against the members. But the meeting taking the decision must be convened and presided over by the party chairperson.

IS KHALEDA CURRENTLY A LEGITIMATE CHAIRPERSON?

Khaleda Zia, who was released on Thursday from detention, in fact lost legitimacy to be at the party's helm when her mandate as the chairperson expired over eight years ago, according to the BNP constitution.

KFC's secret menu still on safe custody

METRO DESK

Decades old KFC secret menu is still in safe custody.

Recently a rumour spread around that the menu's secret has come out leading to the removal of Colonel Harland Sanders' handwritten recipe of 11 herbs and spices from safekeeping in KFC's corporate offices for the first time in decades.

The temporary relocation is allowing KFC to revamp security around a yellowing sheet of paper that contains one of the country's most famous corporate secrets.

The brand's top executive admitted his nerves were all over despite the tight security he lined up for the operation. "I don't want to be the president who loses the recipe," KFC President Roger Eaton said. "Imagine how terrifying that would be."

So important is the 68-year-old concoction that coats the chain's original recipe chicken that only two company executives at any time have access to it. The company refuses to release their name or title, and it uses multiple suppliers who produce and blend the ingredients but know only a part of the entire contents, says a press release.

Louisville-based KFC, part of the fast-food company Yum Brands Inc hired off-duty police officers and private security guards to whisk the document away to an undisclosed location in an armoured car. The recipe will be slid into a briefcase and handcuffed to security expert Bo Dietl for the ride. "There's no way anybody could get this recipe," said Dietl, a former New York City police detective. Sanders developed the formula in 1940 at his tiny restaurant in south-eastern Kentucky and used it to launch the KFC chain in the early 1950s. He died in 1980, but his likeness is still central to KFC's marketing.

'Withdraw restriction on trade unionism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Samrak Karmachari Sangram Parishad at a press conference yesterday demanded withdrawal of restriction on trade unionism, says a press release.

They also demanded the garments owners to pay arrears wages by 15th Ramadan and salary of current month including Eid bonus by September 25.

BCL cadres beat up student at JU

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) cadres yesterday beat up a student at Jahangirnagar University (JU) for organising movement against Sanwar Hossain Sunny.

BCL cadres attacked Faysal Rahman Kishore, a student of English department, in front of social science faculty at 7.15pm with pipes and sticks, leaving Kishore seriously injured.

Kishore was drafting an application to send to the president to form a taskforce to look into the allegation against the teacher.

Check admission papers carefully US embassy suggests interested students

METRO DESK

Robert Wells Dreesen, consul, Embassy of the United States of America, yesterday called upon the interested students planning to study in the United States to carefully check all basic admission papers and relevant documents for avoiding running the risk of being refused by the authorities concerned.

He was speaking at a programme at International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) as a part of graduate students' outreach programme highlighting different components and requirements for admission as well as to obtain visa for pursuing higher education in US.

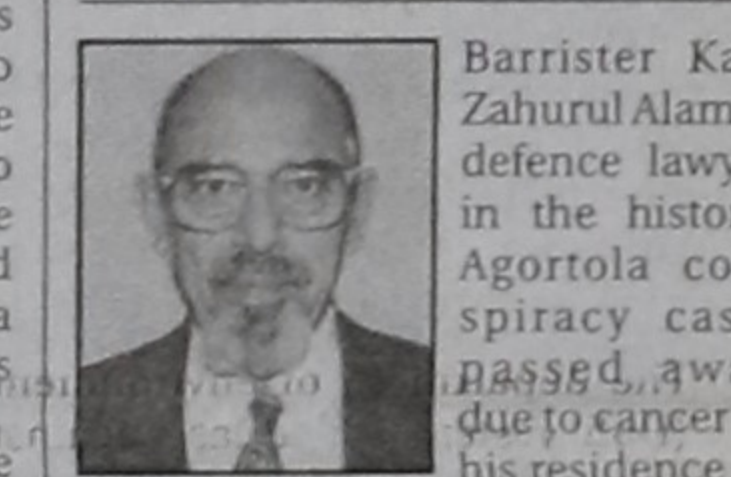
Students of various programmes and departments of IUBAT attended the function organised with the help of American Centre in Bangladesh.

Briefing the students, Dreesen detailed out basic requirements, various aspect of financial assistance with special reference to TOEFL, GMAT, GRE test and curriculum.

Answering to questions raised by the students in various matters relating to admission and visa procedure, he was of the opinion that due to lack of seriousness in sorting out documents many genuine candidates are flopped on every occasion.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Barrister Kazi Zahurul Alam, a defence lawyer in the historic Agorola conspiracy case, passed away due to cancer at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 73, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and four children and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His kulkhwan will be held after Asr prayers on Thursday at his Lalmatia residence in the city.

Alhaj Saidur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Saidur Rahman, father of Women Awami League leader Faridunnaher Laily, passed away due to old age complications at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 96, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and seven daughters. He was buried at this family grave in Noakhali.

Halima Begum

METRO DESK

Halima Begum, wife of late Khan Shahab Abdul Halim Khan of Tangail, passed away at Delta Medical Hospital in the city on September 1 at the age of 68, says a press release.

She left behind her nine children and was buried in Tangail town.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna



Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Abdul Gani Hazari, one of the leading journalists of his time and literature.

After completing higher education in Calcutta University he started his career in journalism.

Abdul Gani joined as the trustee of director in Eastern News Trust Pakistan in 1950. He worked as the managing editor of Pakistan Observer. He also worked at the daily Azad as an administrator.

His literary works are Samannay Dhan, Surzer Sheere and Jagrata Pradip etc. He also translated many books of English literature into Bangla.

Gani achieved awards from many local and foreign organisations for his contribution in literature and journalism. He also achieved Bangla Academy Award in 1972.

Nitun Kundu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Nitun Kundu, a noted sculptor, freedom fighter and business entrepreneur, says a press release.

He died in 2006 at a city hospital following a heart attack at the age of 71.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting will be held at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in the city at 3.30pm. Noted artists, writers and his admirers will discuss in the programme on his contribution to the nation. Prof Anisuzzaman will chair the programme.

Nitun Kundu added a new dimension to the fine arts movement in Bangladesh in 1960s.

His famous works are 'Shabash Bangladesh' on Rajshahi University campus, Saarc Fountain at Karwan Bazar, the fountain in front of the High Court, and Sampan at Chittagong Airport.

He earned the Ekushey Padak and The Daily Star-DHL best entrepreneur award.

Masuda Sultana Ranu

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Masuda Sultana Ranu, wife of artist Alauddin Ahmad, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quirankhwan will be held at her Banani grave and milad mahfil will be held at her Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers.

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

BIJOY TV GRAFT CASE HC refuses to hear Ctg mayor's bail petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A HC bench yesterday refused to hear a bail petition filed by detained mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the Bijo TV graft case due to its overburdened by other cases.

As Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday moved the bail petition for hearing, a vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Farid Ahmed said, "This bench is overburdened with earlier fixed matters. So, we are unable to entertain this application."

Advocate Hari Sadhan Deb Brahman, a counsel for Mohiuddin, yesterday told The Daily Star that earlier on August 28, an HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad dropped the same petition from its case docket without showing any reason and verbally asked the petitioner's counsels to move the application before a bench of the HC during the vacation.

He further said Mohiuddin got bail in 13 cases out of total 14 cases against him, adding, "If he is

granted bail in the Bijo TV case, there will not be any legal bar to his release from jail."

Sources said that Mohiuddin's lawyers led by Dr Kamal Hossain on August 31 met the chief justice (CJ) and requested him to give powers to another HC bench for hearing this bail petition.

The CJ granted their request and gave powers to the HC bench of Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Farid Ahmed to hear the regular matters including Mohiuddin's petition.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Kotwali Police Station in Chittagong on May 27 last year against Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Imtiaz Hossain and CCC Chief Engineer Mokhter on charges of launching Bijo TV without prior government permission.

The charge sheet was submitted on November 22 last year in which it was alleged that the trio drew Tk 1.78 crore from the corporation fund in four phases and used Tk 1,69,67,960 from the amount in the name of launching the private channel.

The case remains pending in the Divisional Special Judge Court in Chittagong.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK



Alif Ahmed Zubair, a six-year-old boy, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

Doctors have suggested his relatives to send him abroad for better treatment.

But his father Md Zia Hannan, a private service holder, is unable to bear the high cost of his treatment.

So he has appealed to well-off people of the society for financial assistance to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Account No SB 13221090003369, Prime Bank Ltd, Banani Branch, Dhaka-1213.

Interested persons can also contact at 01817649700.

Md Faridul Islam



Md Faridul Islam, 36, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

He hails from Bellkhoria village under Charchate Police Station of Rajshahi district.

Faridul is now at Padma General Hospital to receive chemotherapy under Prof Dr Jalilur Rahman.

Doctors have suggested that he should be sent to Singapore immediately for better treatment.

His family has already spent Tk 5 lakh and is now quite unable to bear his treatment cost.

So they have appealed to well-to-do section of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to SB No 12100011796, Sonali Bank, Gulshan New North Circle Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact at 01711192953.

Birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 89th birth anniversary of Dr Malika Al-Raji, an educationist and founder of Dr Malika College, Dhaka, says a press release.

She is also the founder of Muslim Girls High School and College in Mymensingh.

On the occasion, a discussion and milad-mahfil will be held at Dr Malika College, Dhaka at 12:00noon.

Relatives, admirers and students of the college are requested to attend the programme.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 22.6 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Dhaka	34.0	24.6	89	63
Chittagong	31.8	25.8	76	83
Rajshahi	34.0	26.5	82	--
Khulna	33.2	26.5	82	77
Barisal	33.3	26.3	83	84
Sylhet	34.5	24.4	77	70
Cox's Bazar	32.6	25.5	83	90