

## BANGLADESH ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN LEADERSHIP LAUNCHED

## 33pc reserved seats for women in parliament demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the launch of a new national women's alliance yesterday demanded that 33 percent of seats in parliament be reserved for women and the existing quota system at higher levels of administration and policy-making bodies be reviewed.

More flexible working hours and sexual harassment-free working environment for women should be encouraged, they said, adding that increased awareness at all levels is the precondition to bring about a systematic change in the level of participatory decision-making.

They further said targeted and

appropriate training programmes should be introduced for women leadership.

The speakers said this at the launch of Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership at a city hotel with a view to promoting women's leadership in the government as well as in the civil society.

Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed inaugurated the network as the chief guest.

He said Bangladesh's position is 100 among 128 countries in Gender Equality Index 2007. But it is found that the countries in good position in the index are very egalitarian and have a general consensus in promoting gender equality.

"So, a secular democratic system and a general consensus in promoting gender equality is a must and the newly formed alliance can play an important role in this regard," he said, adding that the alliance should lobby for large share of women in the government and non-government organisations as well as for building a national consensus.

Abed further said that it can also work with the nurse associations, garment workers and political parties for achieving gender equality in every sector.

He highlighted the Brac's initiative in organising the women in the country and their empowerment.

Executive Secretary of the alliance Nasim Firdaus said the alliance, through active participation of its members, hopes to assist in capacity building and skill development of women aspiring to become leaders in their respective professions.

The alliance will work closely with government and political parties to ensure greater numbers of women in leadership roles, she added.

Presenting a keynote paper, Salma Khan, former chairperson of Cedaw, spoke on the existing opportunities and challenges faced by the country's women in reaching decision-making position in the public and private sectors.

Lack of commitment within the government, political parties and private sector entities to establish the goal of gender balance in power structure and decision-making hinders gender equality in the country, she added.

Salma further said that lack of awareness of the constitutional provisions and international obligation to establish substantive equality of women, inefficacy of quotas or reserved seats in legislative bodies and executive committee of political parties, insufficient machineries and strategies for women's access to decision-making position, discriminatory social attitudes and practices and unequal power relations between men and women within the family hinders gender equality.

Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Ayesha Khanam, Dr Zarina Rahman Khan, Taleya Rehman, Prof Ishrat Shamim and Sara Zaker also took part in the programme.



Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed inaugurates the Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership at a city hotel yesterday. On his right are Nasim Firdaus and Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan and on his left is Salma Khan.

27TH BCS ISSUE  
DU team places recommendation to chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka University team of teachers, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, called on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday.

The team, in its nearly one hour's meeting with the chief adviser, placed some recommendations for resolving the problem regarding the 27th BCS examination.

Other members of the team were Prof Ahmed Kamal, Prof Harunur Rashid, Prof Sadru Amin and Prof Borhan Uddin Khan.

Later, talking to the newsmen at his DU office, Prof SMA Faiz said the chief adviser had assured them of a "positive outcome" on the issue on Sunday at the meeting of the council of advisers.

Meanwhile, the 'fast unto death' programme of the unsuccessful candidates of the controversial 27th BCS examinations continued for the 11th day yesterday at the central Shaheed Minar in the city to press home their demands.

The programme began on November 1 as part of a campaign to force the Public Service Commission to reverse its decision and restore the first-phase results of the 27th BCS.

## Contractor shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot a contractor dead while he was sleeping in his bed at Badda in the city yesterday morning.

Locals captured one of the killers armed with a pistol and five bullets when he was trying to flee. They gave him a good beating. Police later rescued the captured person from the wrath of locals.

The deceased land-filling contractor Anwarul Iqbal Apu, 37, of Merul Badda died receiving at least 12 bullets in his chest and abdomen. His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Detained killer Abdus Sattar, 22, of Meradia under Khilgaon Police Station, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody.

Badda police say that feud over sand trade, extortion and the murder of a gang member of Shahjada group could be the reasons behind the killing.

Locals said hearing repeated gunshots they chased the armed criminals and were able to catch one of them. Local sources say that Shahjada group might have had

Apu killed since Apu allegedly had

Liton, a gang member of Shahjada group, murdered three months ago.

Nizamuddin Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said, "The family members of Apu claimed that Shahjada and Apu were close friends since childhood."

Apu's brother-in-law Farid Ahmed, who lives in the flat next to Apu's flat, said, "Hearing repeated gunshots around 9:00am, I ran to his flat and found him lying unconscious. We rushed him to DMCH where doctors on duty declared him dead."

Quoting his mother, Farid said, "Three young men asked her where Apu lived and my mother told them that he lived next door. The men went into the flat as its door was not locked. They fired shots and fled the scene within one or two minutes."

"As far as we know, Apu had no feud with anybody and none demanded toll from him," Farid said.

Apu's wife Shiuli Begum said, "The criminals killed my husband and left while I was in the bathroom and our seven-year-old and three-year-old daughters were in another room."

## Trial of graft case against Ctg mayor begins

UNB, Chittagong

Trial of a corruption case against Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury began in the Divisional Special Judge's court in the port city yesterday.

Mayor Mohiuddin, now out of jail on High Court bail in all of a number of graft cases against him, was not in the dock to stand trial. Two other accused in the case were present.

The now-defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau filed the case against him and two CCC contractors in 2002 for embezzling Tk11.25 lakh in hiring dump trucks.

Judge SM Sulaiman framed charges against them on October 23.

## Saudi embassy issues 40,000 Hajj visas

METRO DESK

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Bangladesh has issued 40,000 Hajj visas as of November 10, says a press release.

The passports with visas have already been handed over to the government Hajj office and private Hajj agencies, it added.



Khasi Students' Union forms a human chain at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding cancellation of the government approval to fell trees at lands that belong to the indigenous people.

## Vintage car exhibition begins in city tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

The Old Car Club and Dhaka Club jointly organise an exhibition of vintage cars on the Dhaka Club premises tomorrow.

Dhaka Club President Sadat Hossain Salim will formally inaugurate the exhibition at 11:00am, says a press release.

The exhibition is being organised to welcome the Himalayan Rally participants, which is coming Bangladesh for the first time. The Volkswagen Club will receive the Himalayan Rally participants tomorrow. Later, Himalayan Rally cars will also be on display.

The vintage cars on display will include a wide variety of automobiles from 1926 to the 1960's.

**কনকর্ড -এর আকর্ষণীয় অফার**

বাহারিয়ার থেকে ১০ মিনিটের পথ  
শহরের মধ্যে আরেকটি শহর

আপনার সন্তান বেড়ে উঠুক  
নির্ভর্য পরিবেশে আর নিশ্চয় আনন্দে....

মাত্র ১৭ লক্ষ টাকায় (এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট)  
বুকিং মানি মাত্র ২৫,০০০/- (এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট)  
মাত্র ২০,০০০/- মাসিক কিস্তিতে (এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট)

কনকর্ড সেটায়, ৪০ উচ্চ মানসিকতার লোকাল, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা-১২১২  
ফোন: ৯৯৯০১৯৮, ৯৮৮০১৮০, ৯৮৮০১৮০, ৯৮৮০১৮০, ০১৯৮-০২২০৭  
০১৯৮-০২২০৮, ০১৯৮-০২২০৯, ০১৯৮-০২২১০, ০১৯৮-০২২১১, ০১৯৮-০২২১২  
০১৯৮-০২২১৩, ০১৯৮-০২২১৪, ০১৯৮-০২২১৫, ০১৯৮-০২২১৬, ০১৯৮-০২২১৭  
০১৯৮-০২২১৮, ০১৯৮-০২২১৯, ০১৯৮-০২২২০, ০১৯৮-০২২২১, ০১৯৮-০২২২২

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Winners of Meena Media Awards 2008 pose for photograph with Unicef Representative Carel de Rooy and the members of the jury board at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

## New law for managing, governing bodies for schools, colleges soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said a new law will be promulgated very soon for the managing committees of high schools and governing bodies of colleges for improving the classroom atmosphere and quality of education.

"We have taken several initiatives with a view to ensuring quality education," said the education adviser at a seminar, adding that a taskforce comprising academicians and officials of bodies concerned has already been formed for improving the curriculum at secondary level.

National Curriculum Textbook

Board (NCTB) and Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDDP) jointly organised the seminar on 'National Curriculum Consultation' at Biam auditorium in the city where participants suggested introducing a unified education system for up to class ten.

Academicians at the seminar said that government should take the responsibility for providing the students with free textbooks from class one to ten while primary education should be extended up to class eight.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, said specialisation like science, commerce or arts group should be

introduced from class eleven instead of class nine since a student who has just completed class eight cannot make his or her choice.

Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mian stressed the need for introducing need-based curriculum so that students can enter the job market easily.

Dr Masir Uddin, chairman of NCTB, presented a keynote paper on education system at the secondary level while SESDDP Acting Project Director Atiar Rahman, ATKM Ismail, additional secretary (development) to education ministry, and Prof Umme Zohra, director of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, were also present.



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