

# 'Formulate law to ensure rights of physically challenged people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of Upazila Disabled People's Development Committee (UDPDC) yesterday called on the government to formulate a new law in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

At a press conference, they said the government enacted

the National Disability Welfare Act, 2001 but it does not ensure the rights of the physically challenged people.

According to the act, every district should have a Disability Welfare Committee, with the deputy commissioner as its chair, but the committees are totally ineffective, they added.

The government should make the committees active

by inducing the UDPDC members into the committees, they said.

They also said the registration of the people with disability is yet to begin in most upazilas.

UDPDC, a programme run by the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in 40 upazilas, organised the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters

Unity (DRU) auditorium. Manusher Jonno Foundation funds the programme.

Reading out the keynote paper, Sumi Rani Gour, president of Muktagachha UDPDC, said only four percent of children with disabilities have got the scope to enroll in schools. Social discrimination is the main obstacle to their education at school.

"We want a uniform pri-

mary education in every school and introduction of special education for physically challenged children," she said.

She also placed several demands including stipend for the children with disabilities, increased budget allocation for their healthcare and physiotherapy units at upazila and district sadar hospitals for them.

SM Ali Hasnain Fatme, project coordinator of MJF-CRP, Khalilur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Borura upazila UDPDC, Sakhina Akhter and Sharifa Akhter of CRP were also present.



(Clockwise from top) Members of an investigation committee led by Lt Gen Mohammad Jahangir Alam Choudhury inspect a burnt-out car at the BDR headquarters in the city yesterday. BDR members without uniforms wait in a queue before entering the BDR headquarters to report back. Army men search a BDR member as he came to the BDR headquarters to report back.

PHOTO: STAR

## DEATH OF MINOR GIRL Arrest of rapist, killer demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed concern over the death of a minor girl after falling victim of rape and demanded immediate arrest of the criminal.

The daily Sangbad yesterday ran a report that a girl aged about 12 of Kumudganj village in Netrakona was raped by Jewel, 25, son of the owner of their house Alauddin Master.

Though the incident took place on February 21, an influential group of the village tried to hide it through creating pressure on the family. Even the girl was not taken to the doctor that finally leads to her death on February 26.

In a statement, Mahila Parishad leaders expressed concern over the death and demanded arrest of the criminals and security of the family members the victim.

A case was filed with Purbadhala Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Control Act accusing Jewel and two others.



Cadet College Blog holds a candlelight vigil in front of a BDR gate in the city yesterday in memory of the army officers killed in the mutiny.

PHOTO: STAR

## BDR MUTINY

# Call to form special tribunal to try killers, accomplices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, socio-cultural and rights organisations yesterday continued to condemn the killings of the army officers at BDR headquarters in the city and also demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the killings.

They expressed profound shock at the killings and also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of the officers and conveyed deepest sympathies to their bereaved family members.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission demanded formation of a special tribunal for trying the killers and their accomplices within 30 days.

It also urged the government to change the name of BDR immediately due to the mutiny in the force. At the same time, it suggested relocating the BDR headquarters outside the city.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad held a condolence meeting at the Central

Shaheed Minar and later brought out a mourning procession that marched through different street in the city.

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Dujal) formed a human chain in front of Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus demanding trial of the killers of the army officers.

East West University and North South University held doa mahfils and also formed human chains on their respective campuses to condemn the massacre of valiant army officers and innocent bystanders at the scene of the mutiny.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Debate Bangladesh, Human Rights Review Society, Bangabandhu Research Centre, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Scout and Guide Fellowship, Bangladesh

Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association, Muktiyoddho Smriti Raksha Parishad and Bangladesh Prathamik Shikkhak Samity condemned the killings.

## Rtn Zaker elected Dist Governor nominee

METRO DESK

Rotarian AHM Zaker MPH of Rotary Club of Dhaka Premier and also chief executive officer of RAK Pharmaceuticals was elected District Governor Nominee for Rotary year 2011-12 of Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh, says a press release.

The nomination was made at Rotary District Conference 2009 held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre recently.



Gulshan Club arranged special prayers on the club premises in the city on Monday seeking eternal peace for the departed souls of army officers killed during the BDR mutiny at the BDR headquarters. Club President Faizul Islam Selim and members of the executive committee joined the special prayers.

## Citizenship (amend) bill passed

Local govt bills placed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the citizenship (amendment) bill while four more bills were replaced yesterday.

The House passed the bill ratifying the Citizenship (amendment) Ordinance 2008 promulgated by the caretaker government to address the gender discrimination issue in the act.

The four other bills are Local Government (city corporation) Bill 2009, Local Government (municipality) Bill 2009, Sylhet Metropolitan Police Bill 2009 and Barisal Metropolitan Police Bill 2009.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam placed the local government bills while Home Minister Sahara Khatun placed the police bills.

All the bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committees concerned for scrutiny.

The immediate past caretaker government promulgated two ordinances on the two local government institutions, repealing the previous laws on them.

The caretaker government also promulgated two other ordinances to set up metropolitan police authority in Sylhet and Barisal cities.

But the effectiveness of the ordinances ceased to have effect on February 25, as they were not ratified in parliament within the timeframe.

So, new bills were placed in parliament for enactment of laws in line with these ordinances. Most of the provisions of the ordinances were proposed in the bills.

## PSC recommends action against 192 officers

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Public Service Commission led by its Chairman Dr Saadat Husain yesterday called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban and explained to him various features of PSC's Annual Report 2008 that contains their actions and examinations for government cadre jobs.

The president was also informed that disciplinary action was recommended against 192 officers in 201 cases during the period.

In the light of the PSC report,

submitted to the President on March 1, the chairman apprised the president of the "procedures of conducting tests and examinations for selection of suitable candidates for appointment to the service of the Republic".

The commission took 70 examinations with 170,577 candidates participating in 2008.

"The results of 29 examinations, out of 70, have already been published and recommendations made for appointment of successful candidates," the chairman said.

Zillur expressed his satisfaction at the activities of PSC.

**We Mourn**

We are shocked at the recent carnage at the BDR Headquarter, and strongly condemn the barbaric killings of Army Officers. We mourn at the loss of one of our alumni brother Col. Kudrat Ilahi Rahman Shafiq MBA (24th Batch). We empathize with the bereaved families on their irreparable losses. We pray to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

As symbols of solidarity with the mourning nation, we have cancelled our annual picnic, and arranged for a condolence meeting & Doa Mahfil which will be held at IBA on the 10th March (Tuesday) 2009 at 4:00 PM.



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Edexcel May/June '09 'O' & 'A' Level Exams Registration

In response to the tragic events of the last week that have shocked and saddened the nation, the British Council has agreed with Edexcel to extend the deadline for May/June 2009 registration to allow all students to complete their registration without penalty.

The deadline for registration with the British Council will therefore be from **5th March to 16th March 2009**.

Register online!!!

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