

Join fight against graft

Speakers urge youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the young generation to play a more effective role in the anti-corruption movement.

The dynamic role of the young generation will encourage others to join the fight against corruption, they added.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the roundtable on 'The role of youth in anti-corruption movement' at Proshika Human Resources Development Centre at Koitta in Manikganj.

A total of 200 members from Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups

in 13 universities and colleges in Dhaka metropolitan area took part in the event.

Delivering the welcome speech, Executive Director of TIB Dr Iftekharuzzaman said corruption must be eliminated to ensure development of the country.

He also stressed the need for political will and a social movement to curb corruption.

Litterateur Selina Hossain said youths are the driving force behind the country-wide anti-corruption drive. They can build a new Bangladesh by stamping out corruption.

She also said the youths played a vital

role in all the movements in 1952, 1966, 1969 and 1971. They sacrificed their lives for the country's independence.

Akku Chowdhury, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said the freedom fighters dreamt of a corruption-free Bangladesh, but their dream still remains unfulfilled.

Journalist and writer Anisul Haque called on the youths to be enlightened, which will help make the country free from corruption.

University and college teachers also spoke at the roundtable.

At the programme, YES members took an oath to build a corruption-free Bangladesh.



(Left) Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Selina Hossain, Anisul Haque and Akku Chowdhury take part in a roundtable on 'The role of youth in anti-corruption movement' at Proshika Human Resources Development Centre at Koitta in Manikganj yesterday. (Right) Members of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) take oath to build a corruption-free Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

15pc block allocation in dev budget demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Khetmojur Union demanded 15 percent block allocation in development budget for employment generation and development of the rural workers.

Leaders of the union made the demand yesterday at the extended meeting of its central committee. They also urged the government to continue the '100 Day Employment Guarantee Scheme' and to eliminate corruption from the employment scheme.

Abdus Sattar, a veteran leader of the union, presided over the meeting. General secretary of the union Saiful Haque, Nasiruddin Ahmed Nasu, Dr Moslehuddin, Shahiduzzaman Lal Mia, Rafiqul Islam Lucky, Mokhlisur Rahman, Abdus Salam, Saifuddin Talukder, and Khalilur Rahman, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Bomb-like objects found on BM College campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rab and police recovered seven bomb-like objects from Barisal BM College campus and surrounding areas yesterday, just a day before the scheduled freshers' reception.

Rab said they have recovered five bomb-like objects wrapped in red tape and wire from Sobhan Miar Pole area near the college campus in the morning.

Besides, morning joggers noticed seven bomb-like objects at Zero point inside the college campus.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered two of those. Witnesses said someone removed five of the bombs before the police reached at the spot.

Rab and police officials told The Daily Star that the packets contained marbles, sulphur and wire, which are used to make bombs.

However, the schedule of the freshers' reception remains unchanged.

Protect rights of sexual minorities

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day workshop on 'Gender, sexuality and rights' began in the city yesterday with a call to protect rights of sexual minorities.

It has been organised by the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS at the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at Brac University.

Funded by Realising Rights and International Women's Health Coalition, New York the workshop is being participated by academics, researchers, NGO professionals, students, rights activists and representatives of minority sexuality groups.

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, associate professor of JPGSPH and coordinator of Realising Rights in Bangladesh, said the objective of the workshop is to define the concepts of gender, sexuality and sexual rights.

"Open discussion on anything related to gender and sexuality is regarded as a taboo in general in our society. Sexual minorities such as homosexuals, hermaphrodites, transgenders (hijras) and sexworkers do not have a platform to speak about their issues," she added.

Mahrugh Mohiuddin, lecturer of JPGSPH, said it is necessary to create visibility and acceptance for sexual minorities.

The workshop is a ground-work towards creating a space for them, he added.

It also focuses on creating link among various profession-

als, activists and academics who work on this issue.

Another aim of the workshop is to advocate tolerance, development and activism on issues related to gender, sexuality, and sexual rights, in addition to promoting further social awareness.

Dr Anwar Islam, director of the JPGSPH, delivered the welcome speech while Pramada Menon, founder of Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) in Delhi, facilitated the workshop.

Dr Dina Siddiqi, visiting scholar at the Centre for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, New York University also spoke.

Prof Jalil made Begum Rokeya University VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Prof Dr Abdul Jalil Miah of chemistry department of Rajshahi University was appointed vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur.

President Zillur Rahman who is the chancellor of the university appointed Prof Jalil on Thursday.

Prof Jalil Miah is the second vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University. He will join at the university tomorrow.



PHOTO: STAR

Club Excel forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday marking the World Asthma Day.

10 injured in attack over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least ten people, including four of a family, were injured in an attack by their rivals over a land dispute at Dholakhal in the old part of the city yesterday.

Of the injured, Shamsuddin, 60, his wife Kohinur Begum, 43, son Mohammad Zia, 27, and daughter Shamsun Nahar, 30, received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Zia told The Daily Star that a gang of seven or eight miscreants led by his cousins Selim and Nadim attacked him with iron rods and sticks at his shop on the ground floor of a tyre market at Dholakhal around 11:00am.

"As Zia raised an alarm, his family members residing on the first floor of the market came to his rescue but received injuries in the attack, he said.

Kohinur Begum said her husband had a long-standing dispute with his brothers and sisters over the building housing the market.

Tech school to be set up in each upazila

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government is planning to establish technical school in each upazila to develop skilled workforce.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said this at a workshop at a city hotel yesterday.

Bangladesh Technical Education Board Chairman Prof Abul Kashem presided over the programme. Director General of Directorate of Technical Education Dr Nitai Chandra Sutradhar presented the keynote paper.

Emphasising on vocational training the minister said education must be designed in such a way that the students can be self-employed. Bangladeshi workers must equip themselves with variety of skills to compete with others for foreign employment, he added.

Officials of education ministry, ministry of foreign employment, ministry of textiles, BGMEA, BKMEA, and FBCCI participated at the workshop.

Bangladeshi shot dead in South Africa

UNB, Blantyre

A Bangladeshi trader was shot dead in Johannesburg, South Africa, early hours of Friday.

Abdur Rahim Babul, 30, hailed from Khasirband village of Blantibar upazila was shot dead by a gang of extortionists while he was returning to his residence from the shop at about 2:00am Friday, victim's father Rahmat Ali told UNB.

He said Rahim had gone to Johannesburg 18 months ago and was running a shop. Extortionists often forced him to pay tolls. He was shot dead as he refused to pay them toll on Friday.

Arrangements are being made to bring back home the body of Rahim for burial in his ancestral graveyard.

Fruit vendor strangled in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fruit vendor was strangled in the port city yesterday.

He was identified as Helal Uddin, 31, son of Osman Gani.

Police found the body lying on a bed in his rented house owned by one Jafar Sawdagor at Rafik Siddique bi-lane of Batali Road under Kotwali Police Station at around 12:30pm.

Police suspected victim's wife Hosne Ara as the killer as she along with their seven-year-old son Naim remained absconding since morning.

Putul Begum, a neighbour and stepister of Hosne Ara, said she saw the door of one-room house locked from outside when she woke up at around 8:00am.

Quoting locals Sub-Inspector (SI) Shahabuddin said Hosne Ara was married to one Mubin before she married Helal around eight years ago and she had three children in that family.

Putul and other neighbours said the poor couple used to get involved in altercations in every night over family matters.

Shahabuddin said there was no major mark of injury in the body.

He suspected that the victim might have been strangled.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Banaj Kumar Mazumder visited the spot while police sent the body to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

Police also started raiding different city areas in search of Hosne Ara.

Train derails in Ishwardi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An inter-city train derailed on Dhaka-Khulna rail line at Baghail point of Ishwardi upazila yesterday.

Eight bogies of the 'Chitra Express' derailed from the line, injuring some 8 to 10 passengers.

A four-member committee was formed headed by divisional railway official Shahidul Islam for investigating the reason behind the accident.

Asim Kumar Talukdar, divisional railway manager (DRM), said over 600 passengers were travelling in the train. They were shifted to another train at Ishwardi Bypass station after the incident, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Children paint pictures of birds at a migratory bird fair at the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University yesterday. Bangladesh Bird Club, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, zoology department of Dhaka University, Bangladesh Bird Preservation Society, Bangladesh Wildlife Society, Bangladesh Scouts and the Department of Forest jointly organised the two-day fair that ended yesterday.

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Start process without further delay

Shahriar Kabir tells C'nawabganj meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The government must hold the trial of war criminals as the anti-liberation forces are still active hatching conspiracy against the country.

This was stated by Shahriar Kabir, president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, a forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals, in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

"Evaluate sincerity, skill and pro-liberation ideology over the political identity while engaging lawyers and investigators for the trial which should begin without

any delay," he urged the government.

"If the trial is delayed, the conspiracies will be uncontrollable," he cautioned.

Shahriar was addressing a public meeting at Bir Shrestha Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir Mancha in Chapainawabganj town demanding speedy trial of war criminals.

He said the present government has come to power promising the trial of war criminals, so it has no scope to avoid it.

Shahriar called upon people to boycott Jamaat-e-Islami and the institutions run by the party.

He also urged people to

help government by providing information and evidences against the war criminals.

Elderly freedom fighter Lal Mohammad Lal presided over the meeting where Abdul Wadud Biswas, local lawmaker, was present as chief guest.

General Secretary of Nirmul Committee Chapainawabganj unit Kazi Mamun, lawyer and member of Nagorik Commission for trying war criminals Ziad Al Malum, Convener of Chapainawabganj unit Rofik Hasan Bablu, and Rajshahi committee leader Quamruzzaman also addressed the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Shahriar Kabir addresses a public meeting at Bir Shrestha Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir Mancha in Chapainawabganj town yesterday.

3 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Netrakona and Dinajpur yesterday.

Our correspondent in Brahmanbaria reports: A minor girl was killed and 20 others were injured in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The dead was identified as Fhalani Begum, 8, of Kawtoli village under Sadar upazila.

The accident occurred when she was crossing the road a speeding bus crushed her under its wheels on Bypass Road at Kawtoli point under Brahmanbaria municipality at 9:00am.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria Police Station in this connection.

In another accident, at least 20 people were killed as a bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control near Dharker Bridge under Kasbah upazila at 11:00am yesterday.

The injured were treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Our correspondent in Netrakona adds: A woman was killed in a road accident at Hospital road in Purbadhala upazila in Netrakona yesterday.

The dead was identified as Achia Khatun, 60, wife of Akhter Mia of Kaldohor village under Purbadhala upazila.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a

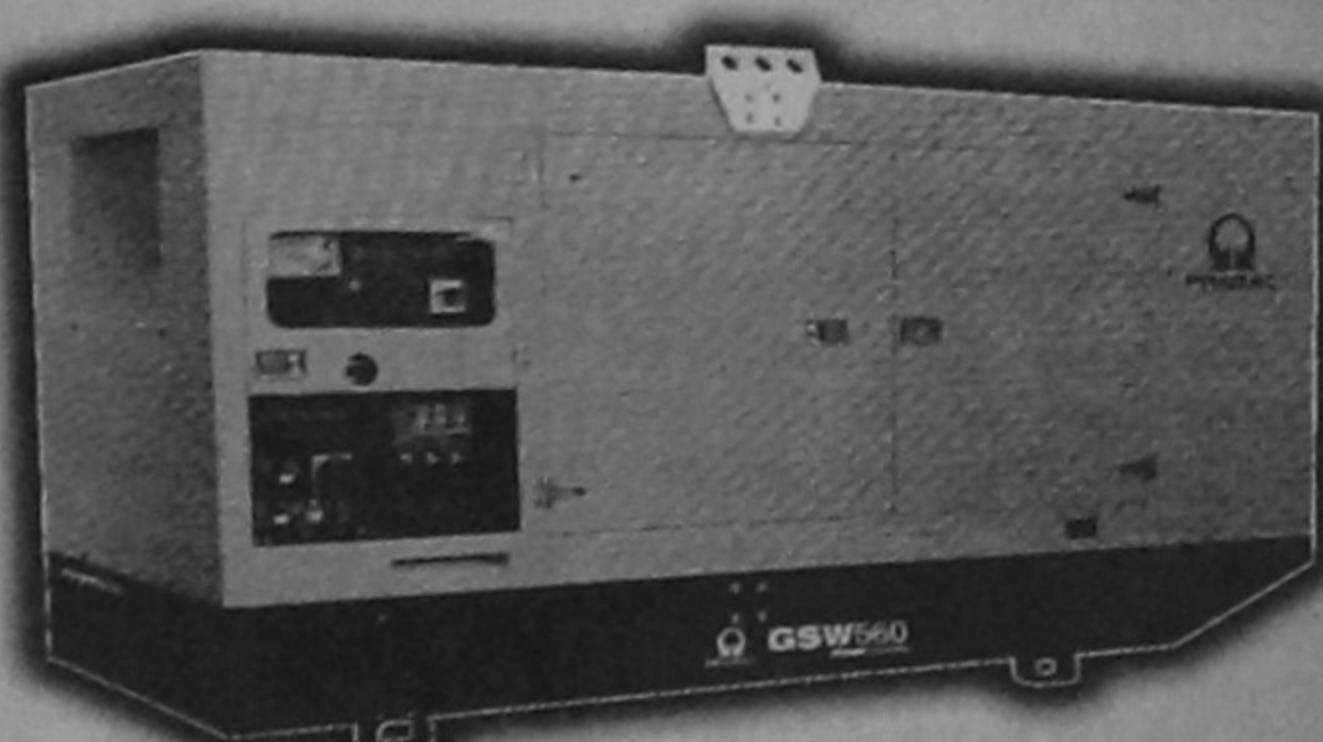
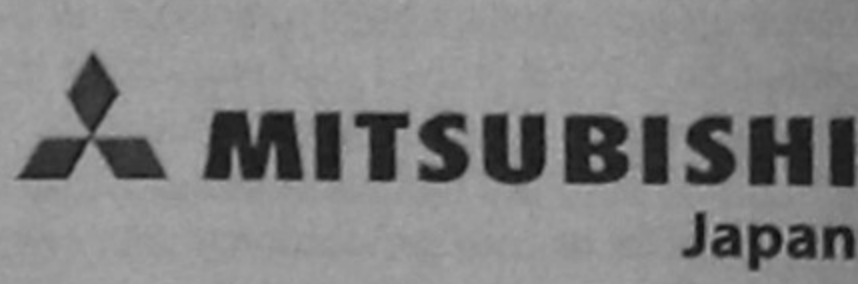
motorbike hit her from behind at 10:00am, leaving her dead on the spot.

A case was filed with Purbadhala Police Station in this connection.

Our correspondent in Dinajpur adds: One person was killed and another injured in a road accident in Dinajpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Azizul Islam, 42, of Sobura village under Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck and a three-wheeler collided head-on in front of Dinajpur Palli Bidyut Samity at Uttar Goshaipur village at 6:30pm leaving Azizul dead on the spot.



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