

## JUBILATION ALL AROUND



Students who came out successful in the SSC examinations with flying colours celebrate at their educational institutions across the country yesterday. 1) Viharunnisa Noon School and College, 2) Chittagong Collegiate School, 3) Motijheel Government Boys' High School, 4) Motijheel Ideal School and College, 5) Monipur High School, 6) Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, 7) Motijheel Model High School, 8) Rangpur Cantonment Public School, and 9) Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College. (Story on Pages 1 and 16)

PHOTO: STAR



A rickshaw van puller wades through the stagnant water in the city's Swamibagh area yesterday after the last two days' downpour.

PHOTO: STAR

### 11 criminals of dope gang arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested 11 criminals of a dope gang who used to realise ransom after snatching rickshaws by doping the rickshawpullers in the city.

Police made the arrest two days after Sohrab was caught red handed by patrol police while he was trying to snatch a rickshaw in Palashi area in the city early in the morning on May 24.

Of the arrestees, Shimon Das and Abdur Rahman used to supply sedative tablets, which were used in snacks to make concerned rickshawpullers unconscious during snatching while Abdul Mannan, Rezaul Karim, Swapan, Harun, Nantu Haldar, Sohrab Hossain, Enayet Hossain, Abdul Hanif and Nur Islam would snatch rickshaws by doping the pullers and carry these to the hideout at Keraniganj.

Sub-inspector (S1) Mohammad Faruq Hossain of Shahbag police station told The Daily Star that according to the confessional statement of Sohrab, they arrested them from different parts of the city.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that criminals of the gang remained active in different city areas including Nayabazar, Killarmur, Paltan, Dayangi and in front of High Court and they would realise ransom of Tk 3 to 5 thousand from the concerned rickshaw owners for releasing a rickshaw.

### Reform law to prevent sexual exploitation of children

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said despite efforts to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children, the trend has increased dramatically with cross-border travelling and access to internet and other advanced technologies becoming easier.

There is an urgent need to strengthen law reform, its enforcement and effective global action, they further added.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) jointly organised the seminar on 'Child trade-based sex exploitation: Pilot survey 2008' at the Statistics Bhaban auditorium in the city.

The survey conducted in registered brothels in the divisional districts reveals that there are about one lakh child sex workers in the country.

Their profession begins at a very early age, sometimes even at the age of eight or nine. Among the total number, about 83 percent are girls and nine percent are hijras (hermaphrodites), while eight percent are young boys.

Speaking as the chief guest, Planning Minister AK Khandker said, "Reducing the commercial sexual exploitation of children requires a

positive approach aiming to promote the people's ability to report the incidents and strengthen national jurisdiction and prosecution."

Termining the use of children for sexual purpose hateful crime, the minister said mass awareness is needed.

BBS Director General AYM Ekramul Hoque said it is difficult to locate the child sex workers, as they prefer to maintain secrecy. So, the data about them is incomplete.

The primary cause for these children to get involved in sex trade is abject poverty. Their majority workplaces are in hotels, brothels and streets, he added.

The survey also showed that around 13 percent were victims of trafficking and 22 percent were found to be addicted to at least one form of drug.

These children were also found to be highly affected by sexually transmitted diseases and many are widely abused by clients. Many do not receive any form of medical assistance.

Frank Hagemann, chief of child labour research and policy of ILO/IPEX, Geneva, Md Habib Ullah Majumder, secretary-in-charge of planning division of planning ministry, and Waliul Islam, former secretary of statistics division, also spoke.

### Manju gets bail in narcotics case

Hazari's bail petition rejected in a graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman and former communications minister Anwar Hossain Manju in a narcotics case in which he was earlier awarded five years' imprisonment in absentia.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court rejected the bail petition of former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Joynal Hazari in a graft case in which he was earlier given 10 years' imprisonment in absentia.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order granting bail following an appeal submitted by Manju's lawyers against the conviction.

The High Court had earlier granted bail to Manju in two other cases.

On June 26 of 2007, Manju was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000 in his absence for possessing 21 bottles of contraband liquor at his Dhanmondi residence. He was also sentenced to 27 years' imprisonment in three separate graft cases.

Manju was sent to jail on May 6 when he surrendered before the trial court and sought bail in a graft case. Later, he was shown arrested in the narcotics case.

Manju's lawyers on May 18 filed an appeal with the Sessions Court seeking bail in the case.

**CASE AGAINST HAZARI**  
Judge AK Roy of the Special Judge's Court-2 yesterday passed an order rejecting Hazari's bail which was submitted to the court on May 24 in the case.

His lawyers also submitted a petition for providing him with first class division in jail. After the hearing, the judge directed the jail authorities to provide Hazari with division in jail in accordance with the jail code.

Police produced Hazari before the court from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) under tight security during the yesterday's bail hearing.

On November 27 last year, Hazari was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and fined Tk five lakh in his absence in a case filed against him for amassing wealth of Tk 1.13 crore through illegal means.

He was sent to jail after he surrendered before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Feni on April 15 this year.

### WAR OF LIBERATION

## Record interviews of war crime victims

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Initiatives should be taken to record the interviews of war crime victims to let people know the true history of the liberation war, speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

They also underscored the need for collecting information from as many people as possible and bringing the war criminals to book.

The workshop on 'Concept and practice of transitional

justice' organised by the Liberation War Museum was held at the Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

The discussants stressed holding of public hearing so that war crime victims and witnesses have the opportunity to get psychological relief and share their experience with the masses.

People need to hear from the victims, not just the criminals, they said. This will open doors for detailed analysis of

past events.

The core principle of 'transitional justice' is about confronting past legacies of human rights abuse and atrocity to build a stable, peaceful and democratic future, said Patrick Burgess, Asia Director of International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) who conducted the workshop.

Bangladesh can use the concept of transitional justice, combining trials with truth seeking processes to have an accurate record of past violations and take lessons for the future, he said.

The speakers at the workshop also underscored the need for a truth commission for effective implementation of a hybrid tribunal putting equal emphasis on criminal trial and fact findings.

"It is surprising, but in truth the [war crime] case of Bangladesh is exceptionally unknown internationally," said Patrick Burgess, adding that most people in the European countries have little knowledge about the geno-

cide during the liberation war. Trustee of Liberation War Museum Dr Sarwar Ali, Prof Mizanur Rahman of Dhaka University, War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC) Convener Dr MA Hasan, poet Kazi Rosy and government representatives also spoke at the workshop.



PHOTO: STAR

Patrick Burgess speaks at a workshop at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Shah Alam, Mofidul Haque and Dr Sarwar Ali.

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