

'Honest leadership a must to free country from hunger'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal yesterday stressed the need for honest and transparent leadership to build a hunger- and poverty-free Bangladesh.

"We have been dreaming for a prosperous and affluent Bangladesh since our liberation war. But we are far away from the goal. Only transparent and honest national leadership can carry us to that end," she said.

Sultana was addressing a discussion organised by Kochi Kanchar Mela at its auditorium in the city on the occasion of the 98th birth anniversary of noted poet Sufia Kamal, also the ex-adviser's mother.

"Till now hundreds of children die in the country suffering from malnutrition and absence of proper treatment. I urge the government and policy makers to take necessary steps to protect child deaths," she added.

She hoped that the government would put its best efforts to meet people's dream for establishing a society where equal justice would be ensured for all and no discrimination further be existed.

The former adviser called on the children to nurture good thinking and sustain

honest ideology and avoid all kinds of evil deeds.

Speaking as the special guest, Harun-or-Rashid of Sector Commanders' Forum demanded trial of war criminals and urged the government not to make any mistake in the process of bringing the criminals to book.

He also called on the guardians to guide their children properly and make them patriotic.

Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled, director of the organisation, presided over the meeting which was also addressed by poet Sufia Kamal's son Sajed Kamal and daughter Sayeda Kamal, among others.

Acid attacker now threatens victim's family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahajuddin Mia, who threw acid on the face of his wife Rebeka on May 28, is now threatening to attack his daughter and son-in-law with acid as they refused to withdraw the case filed against him.

Shahajuddin threw acid on his wife as she refused to give him money for gambling in which he lost almost everything he owned.

Rebeka lost her right eyesight due to acid burn and the condition of her left eye is also not good, threatening her to full blindness.

Shahajuddin, who divorced her wife as she refused to give him money for gambling, is now saying that he is ready to live with Rebeka if the case against him is withdrawn.

Sangita, eldest daughter of Rebeka, refused to withdraw the case which had irked Shahajuddin who threatened to throw acid on her and her husband's face also.

Rebeka told this correspondent that Shahajuddin had threatened her eldest daughter over phone for three times.

Naimul Bashar, investigation officer of the case, has said he did not get any complaint about such threats.

Meanwhile, manpower agent Kader, who is also accused in the case, paid back on June 16 Tk 30,000 instead of Tk 60,000 which he had taken from Rebeka for sending her to Lebanon.

Kader, who returned the money through his associate Idris, said Rebeka has to pay Tk 30,000 compensation as her visa has already been prepared by the agent.

World Refugee Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is World Refugee Day. The day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe in a befitting manner.

This year the theme of the day is 'Real People, Real Needs'.

To mark the day, Neeti Gobeshona Kendra, a non-government research centre, will organise a discussion today at its Panthapath office in the city.



PHOTO: STAR
An excavator of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) removes a huge pile of sand from the river Turag at Aminbazar yesterday as its drive against illegal establishments continues. (Story on Page 16)



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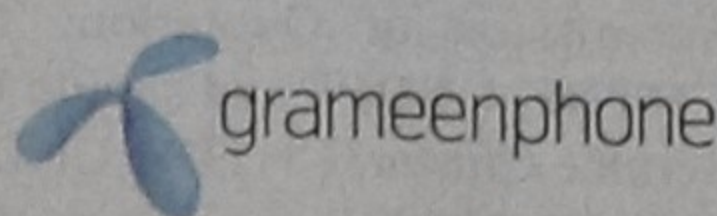


PHOTO: STAR
Plumes of smoke rise as a fire broke out at Intraco Sweaters Ltd factory at Gonokbari in Savar yesterday. (Inset) Firefighters spray water to extinguish the blaze. (Story on Page 1)

24 injured in mob-police clash in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

At least 24 people, including two Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members and a TV cameraman, were injured in a clash between the police and a mob, who were demanding uninterrupted power supply, at Jinjira Monu Bepari Dhal on Thursday night.

Witnesses said several thousand people from Kalindi, Jinjira, Aganagar and Subadda unions attacked Jinjira 33kv Power Station at about 10:30pm following frequent power outages.

On receiving information, the police and Rab members rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control.

But the unruly mob also attacked the law enforcers, triggering a clash.

A chase and counter chase took place, leaving 24 people, including a cameraman of ETV, injured.

They mob also put up barricade on Jinjira-Nawabganj road and damaged 18 vehicles and 10 rickshaws.

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