

IUB seminar on AIDS

METRO DESK

A seminar titled 'The status of attention to women and girls in national AIDS responses: A forward agenda for action' was held at the Independent University Bangladesh in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

Prof Omar Rahman, pro-vice chancellor of IUB and executive director of the Centre for Health, Population and Development (CHPD), moderated the seminar.

Dr Kristan Shultz, director of Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), UNAIDS in Geneva, Switzerland, Nazneen Damji, UNFEM head of HIV and AIDS and representative of International Community of Women Living with AIDS (ICW), and Anandi Yuvraj, representative of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator of ICW, Bangkok discussed and gave presentations with graphs showing how female rate on AIDS are increasing.

Dr Kristan pointed out that many women not being only a sex worker but also many wives are suffering for their husbands going to other sex workers.

The main aim of the discussion was to aware the audience about the risk of AIDS, especially among the women and girls and how people can be more aware of the ways to protect them from a deadly disease called AIDS.

The presentation also highlighted an interesting trend with women in HIV/AIDS focusing on the global situation, underlying social and cultural causes, and partnerships and principles of exclusion.

The discussion ended with a question and answer session between the guests and the audience which raised many important questions like how AIDS is a taboo topic in Bangladesh and how people are still not aware of contraceptives which are leading towards this disaster.

Widows fulfil dreams of martyrs

AMENA KHATUN, Back From Rajshahi

When the couple Roy Zohansen and Anita Andersen, on behalf of Swallows Development Society, a Swedish Philanthropic organisation, first came to Thanapara village under Charchat upazila in Rajshahi district in 1973, they found it a devastated place following the liberation war.

With a mission to provide relief to affected people, they came to the village as they heard that the Pakistani occupation forces attacked the village and killed 100 unarmed men in a single day which was the largest wartime atrocity in the district.

While visiting the village they were shocked to see the atrocities and started to distribute relief among the victims, but the villagers wanted their rehabilitation instead of relief as they thought it would help them survive in the long run.

Wazan Bewa was among them who sought assistance from the couple for rehabilitation as she desperately wanted to make her children grow up properly. Her children were her last belongings and she wanted to fulfill the desire of her husband to grow up them with proper education.

"Wazan, never hurt my children. Help them grow up properly," this was the last word of my husband Nurul Haque who was martyred on April 13 in 1971 along with other people on the riverbank



Wazan Bewa, left, and other women, right, work at Thanapara Swallows Development Society.

of Padma near the Sardah Police Academy, said Wazan.

Roy and Anita accepted the plea of the villagers and started a handicrafts programme next year to rehabilitate the members of the martyred families.

Wazan, who was the only bread earner of the family, got a chance to work at the organisation which helped her grow up her two sons Yakub and Mokibor with food clothing and education.

While visiting the area this correspondent found Wazan, now 65, working at Thanapara

Swallows Development Society (TSDS), the changed name of former Swallows Development Society.

"I am quite happy as I have materialised the dream of my husband by bringing up our children with proper education with the help of this organisation which has established a primary school and a daycare centre for the children of the those who are working here," said Wazan.

Like Wazan, over 200 hundred women and 17 men, who lost their family members on that fateful day, are working in



PHOTO: STAR

this the organisation.

Another widow Nekjan Bewa, 62, who also lost her husband on that day and is working in the TSDS, said, "I earn Tk 3000 to 4000 every month on the basis of my work which helps me to survive with my only son."

She regretted that she didn't get any government assistance being a member of the martyred family.

"I have heard that the government provides allowances to widows and the martyred family members but so far I didn't get such assis-

stance," she added.

"With the killings of the heads of families, this village had turned into a place of so many destitute widows. But this organisation has helped them survive providing work to them and other members of the martyred families," said TSDS Executive Director Raihan Ali who also lost three members of his family.

He told The Daily Star that after meeting the demands of the local markets the products of TSDS are being exported to other countries including

Sweden, Finland and the UK, he added.

Raihan said since its inception the organisation is also running a school up to class five for the children of those who are working in the handicrafts programme to ensure their education and a daycare centre so that the workers can work here without any tension for their offspring.

"Currently TSDS has introduced training on computer, gender equity and women's rights, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation and forestry," he added.

Fugitive militant held, placed on two-day remand

STAR REPORT

Convicted militant Mostafizur Rahman Mantu was placed on a two-day remand yesterday following his arrest from the city's Fakirerpool area on charges of patronising militancy in Rajshahi region under the leadership of infamous Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

Sunday.

Mantu, widely known as Jutta (shoe) Mantu, was sentenced to 31 and a half years along with 26 others, including former BNP minister Barrister Aminul Haque, on charges of patronising militancy in Rajshahi region under the leadership of infamous Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

Mantu was a close aide to Bangla Bhai, the executed second-in-command of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Mantu confessed to his link with Bangla Bhai and participation in the Bangla Bhai-led vigilante operations in Rajshahi regions covering parts of Naogaon, Rajshahi and Natore districts.

A team of Special Branch captured Mantu in the city's Fakirerpool area on Sunday and handed him over to the Paltan police who shown him arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Mantu on a two-day remand for interrogation after Paltan police produced him at the court with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

Mantu, 45, told the police that he was staying in Chittagong town since 2007. He used to catch fish in the sea and recently he has started

working as the caretaker of a house.

Mantu said he was going to Rajshahi to appear before a court in connection with another case, but the police arrested him after he got down from a bus at Fakirerpool.

IUT NAT'L DEBATE NSU becomes champion, IUT runner-up

METRO DESK

The grand finale of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) National Debating Championship 2009 took place at Hotel Sarina in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

The NSU-6 debating team became champion and the IUT-2 team runner-up in the competition. Rishad Sharif of the IUT became the best speaker.

The competition is the largest national-level British parliamentary style English debating.

One team from IUT, one from EWU, one from IBA and two teams from NSU competed in the final.

Channel 1, Star Campus of The Daily Star and ABC Radio were the media partners for the tournament.



Participants at the first selection round of Horlicks Future Force, a contest for adolescents aged between 10-14, at Mirpur City Club ground in the city recently.

Concern over killings by BSF

METRO DESK

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) expressed concern over repeated killing of Bangladeshis by BSF, says a press release.

The commission views that such killings by BSF are naked violations of human rights and urges government of Bangladesh to respond in no time and take immediate steps to stop recurrence of such incidents in future.

Two Bangladeshis were killed by BSF in border area recently.

Construction worker shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of three unidentified criminals shot a worker of an under-construction building at the city's Pallabi yesterday.

The injured was identified as Hamidul Islam, 35, a worker of the under-construction building at Perish road in Pallabi. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Abdul Khaleq of Pallabi police station said the criminals reached the spot on foot and handed over a chit to Hamidul, demanding toll from owner of the building.

He said before leaving the spot they shot him in his left leg.

The chit contained a cellphone number and a message asking owner Rajib of the house not to continue construction without paying them toll, police said, adding that they collected the chit and investigating the matter.

ASI Khaleq quoting Rajib said none demanded toll from him earlier.

First round of Horlicks Future Force held

METRO DESK

The first selection round of Horlicks Future Force, a contest for adolescents aged between 10-14, was held at Mirpur City Club ground in the city recently, says a press release.

About 200 young talents from all over the country took part in the event to prove their mettle through some physical and mental games.

Popular actor Intekhab Alam Dinar and actress Bijouri Borkutullah and former captain of national cricket team Khaled Masud Pilot were the members of the jury panel.

Among the 200 participants, the best 30 will be selected for the next round.

The three winners of the final round will be announced as the Horlicks Future Force and they will receive scholarships worth Tk 5 lakh each.

The programme will be aired on Channel i on every Thursday and Saturday from July 16.

Janasheba Foundation

OPPORTUNITY OFFERED

For Treatment at Cheaper Rates (TCR) Programme, Janasheba Project (a 14-storied academic hospital project), Janasheba Foundation, Mirpur, Dhaka, a Secretarial Assistant is wanted for the Director General (Administration).

Office Location : Mirpur, Dhaka.

Pay : Negotiable.

The candidate has to be proficient in computer operation, computer-aided presentation, use of English, and official interaction.

Interested candidates (male and female) may apply immediately with CV and detailed academic documents to : Office of the Chairman, Janasheba Foundation, 63 Central Road, Dhaka 1205. Phone 8614400/8614959 ext 103/113, Fx 8618300, Email <ustcbd@bangla.net>.

ASIAN UNIVERSITY OF BANGLADESH

5th Convocation 2009

The 5th Convocation of Asian University of Bangladesh will be held on 27th July, 2009 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center. The graduates and postgraduates who have completed all requirements for their respective degrees from Spring Semester-2007 to Fall Semester-2008 are advised to register for Convocation from 1st to 7th July 2009 at the Uttara Campus of Asian University of Bangladesh (bring your full Transcript in original with two photocopies).

Tel: 8916116, 8912366, 8922992, 8950729
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Registrar

SALEABLE PROJECTS (IN DHAKA CITY)

Gulshan PARK SHORE Simplex: 2325-2648 sq ft Duplex: 3983-4982 sq ft	North Gulshan THE PALICAN 3730 sq ft	Gulshan DREAM ISLAND 1785 sq ft	Gulshan FATEMAZIZ Simplex: 3517-3731 sq ft Duplex: 6513 sq ft	Niketan Spring Field 1401-1807 sq ft	Niketan Island Up coming	Banani SIX SEASON PARK 1524 sq ft	Banani SILVERSHINE SERENADE 1615 sq ft	Banani FELMONTE HEIGHTS 2386-2645 sq ft
Baridhara DOHS CASSIOPEIA 1144 & 1512 sq ft	Mirpur PEONENZA 1078-1270 sq ft	Nazimuddin Rd. PARK VALLEY 1259 sq ft	Nazimuddin Rd. Crystal PLAZA Shops & Commercial	Banani blue sapphire Shops & Commercial Up coming	Shiddheswari SERENITY 1349 sq ft	Moghbarar DEER PARK 1245 & 1382 sq ft	Wari Crimson de Vale 1221-1466 sq ft	Uttara Rosewood Areebah 1915 sq ft
	Uttara SPRING FLOWERS 1222 sq ft	Uttara LUMIERE 1728 sq ft	Middle Badda Penance 1178-1627 sq ft	West Malibagh AZARO Up coming	Moghbarar HOUSE HEIGHTS Up coming			

ON GOING PROJECTS (IN CHITTAGONG CITY)

Khulshi Hills R/A The Legend Sold	Khulshi Hills R/A Royal 2057-2125 sq ft	Nasirabad H/S Joy Bells 2498 sq ft	Nasirabad H/S JUVENILE PARK 1886-2189 sq ft	Nasirabad H/S Forest Rain 1370-1619 sq ft	Nasirabad H/S Winter Sun 1506-1943 sq ft	Panchlaish R/A WIN STONE 1496-2145 sq ft	Panchlaish R/A MOONLIGHT 1841-2672 sq ft	South Khulshi allistar 1340-1768 sq ft
	South Khulshi BLUE SHORE 1628-1687 sq ft	South Khulshi ROSE HEAVEN 1700 sq ft						

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1 sq ft = 0.092 sqm (approx.)

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