



PHOTO: STAR  
Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee, left, admires clothes by five acid survivors at an exhibition at the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) office in the city yesterday.

## 'Buy clothes from exhibition to encourage acid survivors'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five women bearing the marks of acid burns in their faces and lives made their mark in embroidery works, thanks to an initiative from Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in association with Australian Small Scheme Human Rights Grand Fund.

These women selected from across the country received training in designing exclusive fashion wears.

The result of the three-month training and creativity of the women was a vibrant collection of clothes presented at a three-day exhibition that began at the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) office yesterday.

Organised by ASF, the exhibition was inaugurated by Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee.

The quality of the designs is impressive, the high commissioner said, adding that greater things will come out of the initiative with further training.

This exhibition is an expression of the strong mentality of confident women, ASF representative Tasleema Akter said and called on everyone to purchase clothes from the exhibition to encourage the acid survivors and appreciate their skills and creativity.

She expressed the hope that these clothes would be available in popular boutiques across the country in the future.

ASF Chairperson Parvin Mahmud lauded the initiative and called on the media to highlight the contribution of the acid victims, which would help the victims realise their true potential and dreams.

## Cancellation of proposed Pvt Varsity Act demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) yesterday opposed the proposed Private University Act 2009 demanding its immediate cancellation.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, the association leaders said there is no need for formulating a new act for private universities.

The irregularities and corruption in different private universities can be curbed through proper implementation of the existing law which was amended in 1998.

In a written statement association vice-chairman Abul Kashem Haider said in a bill for proposed private university act there is a recommendation for dividing the governing council into two parts creating scope for government's intervention.

The bill also seeks to change the basic structure of private universities and bring them under the control of the government, he added.

The association leaders termed the proposed act as an initiative of snatching the autonomy and independence of private universities.

## Acid attack on elderly woman in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An elderly woman suffered serious burns as her rivals threw acid on her over a land dispute at Nazirpur village in Habiganj yesterday.

The victim, Niyati Rani Das, 58, wife of late Nidhu Bhushan Das, was rushed to Habiganj Sadar Hospital and later sent to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Niyati had a long-standing dispute over lands with one Dilip Roy of the same area. At about 2:00pm yesterday, Dilip threw acid on her at her house and fled from the scene, sources said.

## Matia urges opposition to join JS session

UNB, Rajshahi

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury yesterday urged the opposition to join parliament session saying that those got people's mandate have no right to stay out of it.

"Opposition lawmakers are boycotting parliament session following a row over seat arrangement in the House. But, they've been given more seats in the front row than what they deserve," she said while addressing a gathering at the local circuit house.

Referring to agitation by farmers demanding fertilisers during the state of emergency, Matia said now the agri-inputs have reached their doorsteps.

About price hike, she said the prices of a number of essential commodities have marked a rise because of profit motif by a section of business people.

Later, the agriculture minister exchanged views with agriculture officials from four districts.

Rajshahi City Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Fazle Hossain Badsha MP and Zinnatunnesa Talukder were present on the occasion.

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