

Enact law to stop fatwa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) on Thursday demanded of the government to enact law to stop religious edict (fatwa) and eve teasing to ensure security of women.

In a statement, the Parishad expressed concern over the assault of a female student at Kaptai Sweden Polytechnic Institute by the male students.

It also demanded exemplary punishment to the students following proper investigation.

According to a news published in the Shamakal, a group of male students ordered the female students to cover their heads with scarf and not to wear 'tip' on forehead and use high hill shoes.

As a girl of computer science department disobeyed the order, one Rafikul Islam of civil engineering department along with his friends assaulted her.

They also locked her in a room and threatened her with a revolver saying that they would throw acid on her if she further dares to do the same thing.

A general dairy was lodged with Kaptai Police Station in this regard.

Maths festival held in Jhenaidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Mathematics Festival 2009 was held at Government KC College yesterday in a jovial mood with participation of some 1200 students from 60 education institutions aiming at dispelling maths fear from their minds.

Held on the college premises, the festival was jointly organised by Youth Ending Hunger Jhenaidah Sadar unit and Bangladesh Mathematics Olympiad Committee as part of the countrywide festivities with the theme 'Play with Mathematics and Conquer the World'.

Students from outside a class 12 took part in the event.

A total of five students would be selected from the participants who would participate in the divisional maths festival.

If the students were selected in the divisional meet, they would participate in the national-level competition.

Mathematics Festival Convener Md Nazim Uddin inaugurated the event where Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jhenaidah Roma Rani Roy was present as the chief guest.

Ashok Biswas, an activist of Youth Hunger Bangladesh, said the festival encouraged students in solving complex mathematical problems in a happy mood.

An excellent academic atmosphere was created at the venue where there was no monotony of doing sums, he mentioned.

Moumita Sarkar, a student of class nine of Jhenaidah Govt Girls' School, said it was a matter of joy for all the participants.

Sabuj, a student of KC College, said the festival removed fear of mathematics from the minds of the students.

Bangladesh Kosovo Forum launched

METRO DESK

The Bangladesh Kosovo Forum (BKF) was launched yesterday with the objective to persuade and influence the Bangladesh government to accord recognition to Kosovo which became an independent state on February 17 in 2008, says a press release.

The forum was announced at a press conference at Dhaka Reporter's Unity.

Office-bearers of the organisation are: Ambassador SM Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury -- chairman; Prof Golam M Chowdhury -- vice chairman; Prof Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah -- secretary general; and Irtiza Nasim Ali -- treasurer.

The forum believes that further delay in recognition of Kosovo will affect the national interest of Bangladesh. The recognition of Kosovo will open up new vista of opportunities for Bangladesh in economic, trade, cultural and intellectual areas in the growing competitive world.

USA, EU, Saudi Arabia, Maldives and Malaysia have recognised Kosovo.



A schoolgirl shows her painting at an event marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Children draw vision of poverty-free world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of schoolchildren thronged the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to draw their vision of an ideal world on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Some 300 students from Scholastica School, Surovi, Beautiful Mind and Brac School participated in the event titled 'Drawing a World Fit for All Children'.

They also participated in a mobile photo exhibition.

A mobile photo exhibition depicting the images of people from all walks of life working to overcome poverty was also held.

The photographs were taken by the students of 'Pathshala', the South Asian Institute of Photography.

Public Affairs and Communications Department of Brac organised the programme in association with Brac Bank, AKTEL and Brac Enterprise.

Addressing the function, Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, said, "The main purpose of organising such events was to bridge the gap among the children from all walks of life for their mutual curiosity as well as respect for each other with an aim to work together in future to build a poverty-free world."

Muhammad A Rume Ali, chairman of Brac Bank, and a number of senior officials of Brac, Brac Enterprise and AKTEL were present at the conclusion.

Pledge to stand united against poverty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A wide cross section of people took an oath of working together to fight hunger, poverty and discrimination at a campaign at Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

School students, indigenous people and persons with disabilities were present at the programme with a slogan 'It is time to stand united against hunger, poverty and discrimination'.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton conducted the oath-taking ceremony as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dharitri Foundation (DF) and Action

on Disability and Development (ADD) jointly launched the campaign on the occasion of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty today.

The mayor stressed that some 0.7 percent of the total income of the developed nations should be spent for development of the poverty-torn countries in the world.

The mayor said the global climate is change rapidly as the developed countries are emitting greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, for their own interests, adding that as a result, the earth's average temperature is rising and its consequences are leaving a bad impact on climate change, forcing the poor countries to face natu-

ral calamities and poverty.

RCC Ward councillors Shahidul Islam Pintu, Abul Hasnat, Meraj Uddin, Zaher Hossain Suja, Moniruzzaman Bablu, Akbar Hossain and Bazul Haque Mantu, Chief Executive Officer KM Abdus Salam, BUP Director Sayed Shah Habib Ullah, Executive Director Nilufar Banu, ADD Rajshahi Coordinator Sarker Helaluzzaman and DF Executive Director Adan Islam Mou were present.

Brendra Nitya Dal presented Gambhira songs at the programme.

Later, a colourful rally for building mass awareness of poverty paraded through the city streets.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton administers an oath to a cross-section of people at a campaign at Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban yesterday to work together to fight hunger, poverty and discrimination.

FACTIONAL CLASH 4 more BCL cadres held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Police arrested four more BCL cadres yesterday in connection with Wednesday's gun-attack on another faction at Commercial Mour in Brahmanbaria town.

With the arrest a total of five cadres of Mahmud group were arrested in this connection. They are Moshir Rahman Mobin, 20, Mamun Islam, 30, Suman Sarker, 30, Dish Suman, 25 and Sany, 25.

There was a conflict between Mahmudul Haque Bhuiyan, president of district unit of BCL and Sabjal Mumin Talukder, cultural secretary of district BCL, over establishing supremacy in the town.

Centering the conflict, cadres of Mahmud attacked men of Sabjal group with firearms at Commercial Mour on Wednesday which left five injured -- Sabjal Mumin Talukder, 30, Mubarak, 50, Akir, 43, Suhel, 27, and Ashique, 25.

In critical condition, Sabjal was sent to Dhaka while the rest were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Sabjal's father Mizanur Raman filed a case with Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station in this connection accusing 15 people.

Govt committed to ensuring press freedom

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government is committed to ensuring freedom of the press and people's right to information and it already passed the Right to Information Act to this end.

The journalists would work unitedly to ensure people's rights to information, he mentioned.

The minister said this at a discussion organised by Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association at Teacher-Student Centre.

Veteran journalist ABM Musa said journalism has lost its nobility as a profession as businessmen, millionaires and multinational companies have grabbed the media.

The new people who would enter the profession would face difficulty in it

but they must have passion for journalism, he mentioned.

Former student of the department and State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said the DU students should bring back the past glory of the university.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, DUMCJ Alumni Association Adviser Prof Shakhawat Hossain, Communications Secretary Muhammad Zahid Hossain, Jatiya Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud, Editor of the Amader Shomoy Naimul Islam spoke also at the discussion with DUMCJ Alumni Association Chairman Prof Dr Abdus Salam in the chair.

Later, a cultural programme was held.

DC's office guard dies in rooftop fall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A night guard of Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office died after falling from the rooftop of the DC office building in Manikganj on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Zakir Hossain, 26, of East Dashara village in the municipality area.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Manikganj Police Station Azizul Haque said Zakir went to the roof around 9:00pm for taking water from the water tank but fell down from there slipping his legs.

The victim was rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition, but he succumbed to his injuries at 12:00 noon.

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কাকরাইল

সাইজ: ১৮১০ বর্গফুট (কর্কট প্রট)

মতিঝিল

সাইজ: ১২৯৭ ও ১৪১০ বর্গফুট

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Bangladesh elected Asian audit instts governing board member

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected governing board member of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI).

The election was held at the 11th council and 4th symposium of ASOSAI on October 8-15 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Over 200 auditor general organisations of 35 countries joined the symposium.

A three-member Bangladesh delegation, led by Comptroller and Auditor General Ahmed Ataul Hakim, took part in the eight-days symposium.

Bangladesh got the third highest votes in the 45-member Governing Board. Pakistan was elected Chairman while South Korea Secretary General in the election.

The other elected Governing Board members are Kuwait, Indonesia, Turkey, Vietnam and Iraq.

Arges all available

FROM PAGE 1

examination that those were made in Pakistan.

The sources add the grenades recovered earlier were also manufactured in Pakistan.

"Because of explosions we could not detect the manufacturing country of the Arges grenades used in the attacks in 2004 on the British envoy, Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta, Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran and former finance minister SAMS Kibria in 2005," says a source.

"Since the attacks were carried out by Huji, we now strongly believe those grenades were also manufactured in Pakistan," the source adds.

Though several grenades were exploded in the August 21, 2004 attempt on then leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina, some unexploded grenades recovered from the crime scene were Pakistan-made, the source points out.

The Rab recovered 41 Arges grenades from southwestern district Satkhira on February 15, 2008 and 15 more from Jhenidah on October 29, 2007. The force also seized a few others from Narsingdi,

Dhaka's Amin Bazar and even from Sherpur before the recent recovery.

Prior to formation of Rab, police recovered 20 grenades from Kuril Badda in the capital in November 2003.

The sources say all the earlier recovery is similar to those recovered from Sherpur Sunday.

Maj Momtazur Rahman, deputy director of the Rab Bomb Squad, told The Daily Star: "This time the Arges grenades have not been recovered from Huji men and the arrestees were going to sell those to local clients."

"We're now investigating who alongside Huji are smuggling in and purchasing Arges grenades to conduct subversive activities," Maj Momtaz added.

The three arrestees from Sherpur have been put on police remand, and the interrogators believe they would reveal important information.

A number of sources say initial information suggests the arrestees from Sherpur are traders of Arges grenades and they collected those from Indian insurgent group Ulfa to sell each at Tk 10,000 or more.

The statement of an accused in the 10 truckloads of

arms haul case in Chittagong said those arms, ammunition and explosives were meant for Ulfa. The accused also said Bangladesh is being used as a route to pass weapons to Ulfa in India and also for fighting in Kashmir.

A source says there are some people in different places in Bangladesh behind smuggling of grenades for Huji men. The investigators suspect many grenades are still in possession of Huji.

The Huji members mastered the use of Arges grenades when they went to Pakistan and Afghanistan for training, says a source in the banned outfit.

In South Asia, Arges grenade, a military weapon, was widely used in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan by the terrorist groups in some major attacks in the last two decades and gradually became the most popular weapon.

As the first recovery of Arges grenade was made in 2003, the investigators suspect Huji men had started smuggling in grenades in Bangladesh during the rule of BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.