

2 UN experts in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two independent UN experts arrived in Dhaka yesterday to investigate the relationship between sanitation and human rights in Bangladesh.

Magdalena Sepúlveda, research director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva and Catarina de Albuquerque, a human rights activist and lawyer, began their weeklong visit with a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

It was organised in conjunction with the Human Rights Forum on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Bangladesh, which is a network of 17 human rights based organisations.

In a joint press release, De Albuquerque and Sepúlveda said, "In Bangladesh, extreme poverty is related to a lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation."

"A better understanding of this relationship will help us determine how these problems can be overcome."

Sepúlveda supports the recognition of sanitation as a distinct human right and contends that international human rights law requires states to ensure access to clean drinking water.

De Albuquerque and Sepúlveda will meet with government officials, UN agencies and civil society representatives.

They will visit minority communities in Comilla, as well as Bihari camps in Dhaka, a Dalit colony and the Burmese ethnic group the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

3 bullet-hit in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot and injured three people in two separate incidents at Wari and Bongshal in the city yesterday.

Faruque Sikdar, 27, and Golap Hossain, 48, drivers of Lal Miah, a house owner on Larmini Street at Wari, received bullet injuries when two youths on a motorbike came to the house at around 10:30am and opened fire.

They were rushed to Salimullah Medical College Hospital.

Injured Golap at the hospital said, "They just asked whether it was House No 5 owned by Lal Miah, but before we could reply, they opened fire, leaving us injured."

Officer-in-Charge Md Abdul Hanif of Sutrapur Police Station said the criminals through an SMS demanded Tk 1 crore as toll from Lal Miah, an owner of a fan factory in the area, around 20 days back.

He suspects the extortionists might have carried out the attack.

In another incident, two motorbike riders came to Akbar Steel House on North-South Road at around 10:00am and started spraying bullets, leaving Abul Kalam, manager of the shop who was sitting at the counter, injured.

Kalam with bullet wound in the abdomen was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Abdus Subhan, a relative of Kalam, said local extortionists had been demanding toll from Akbar Hossain for the last seven months since he was building a house at Gendaria.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Jahan Ara Begum, wife of late Kazi Abdul Khaleque of Cheora Kazi Bari in Comilla, passed away due to cancer and old age complications at the United Hospital in the city on Wednesday at the age of 90.

She has left behind her sons, daughters, grandchildren and relatives to mourn her death.

A doa mahfil will be held at 21/2 Jigatola in the city after Asr prayers today praying for salvation of the departed soul.

Shahennur Islam

METRO DESK



Shahennur Islam, wife of Md Nurul Islam Khan, former senior deputy director of Palli Unnyan Board, passed away at Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital in the city on Wednesday, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her gulkhwani will be held at her residence (244/3, Ibrahimpur, Mirpur-14) in the city after Asr prayers today.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Call for concerted action to ensure constitutional rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Social Welfare Secretary Quamrunnesa Khanam at a discussion yesterday called for a concerted action by the government and non-government organisations to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) and protect their constitutional rights.

She said the government is likely to open hostels in the city for PWDs to serve them as well as to protect their human rights.

"Persons with disabilities having jobs in the city have to face accommodation problems. So, the government is arranging separate hostels for male and female PWDs which would soon be inaugurated," she added.

The secretary said this at the discussion organised by Social Welfare Ministry, Social Service Department, Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) and National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi on the occasion of International Day for the Persons with Disabilities.

The government is also taking different programmes, including pilot programmes to provide services to the PWDs in five districts in the country which would be expanded further if succeeds, constructing a complex for the rehabilitation of the PWDs, she observed.

This year's theme of the day was 'Making the MDGs inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world'.

Nasima Begum, joint secretary of Social Welfare Ministry, briefed on the decentralisation of the programmes and projects

taken for PWDs.

"Only the capital-based programmes cannot bring the whole segment of people to the mainstream, it should include all types of PWDs who remain scattered across the country."

Hasan M Mahamud, country director of Handicap International, emphasised the need for including PWDs in every step of development which will help foster their empowerment.

An entire rights-based programme establishing 'right to act' for PWDs can make them no burden to the society, he added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, called on the employers of private sector to employ the persons with disabilities and give recognition to their potential.

She reiterated a friendly atmosphere for PWDs and implementation of the existing laws preserving their rights.

ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir, Social Service Department Director General Sitangshu Sen and NFOWD President Khandakar Zahurul Alam also spoke at the programme.

The programme was followed by a colourful cultural programme with the participation of over 500 physically and mentally challenged persons.

Meanwhile, individual rallies were organised in the city to mark the day.

National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations (NADPO) in cooperation with Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS) organised a rally in front of the National Press Club.

The speakers urged the government to reform the existing laws and policies related to the disabled persons with an aim to imple-

ment the 'UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

They demanded empowerment of PWDs in all development programmes launched by the government, reservation of at least 15 seats for PWDs, amendment to Representation of People's Order-1972, provision to create posts for PWDs in all the committees of all political parties, mentioning specific programmes for them in election manifestos, allocation of at least one percent of the national budget for strengthening the disabled persons' organisations and inclusion of disability issue at all ministries by amending 'Rules of Business' in the light of UNCPRD.

Addressing the meeting, Md Jahangir Alam, secretary general of NADPO, said according to a study of World Health Organisation (WHO), 10 percent people of the world are suffering from various forms of disabilities. In this ratio, more than 1.5 crore people of Bangladesh are disabled.

Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Jatiya Trinamul Protibandhi Sangstha, National Forum for Disabled Women took out a procession from Russell Square.

The organisations placed a set of recommendations for the empowerment of PWDs at grassroots level.

The recommendations include inclusive education, reduction of child mortality, providing health service to PWDs, necessary measures for PWDs who are affected for the climate change impacts and expanding development programme for PWDs to upazila level.

Lt Gen Jahangir placed at foreign ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has made some important changes in Bangladesh Army, National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Anti-Corruption Commission through fresh transfers and appointments.

Service of Quarter Master General of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury has been placed at the foreign ministry to be appointed as an ambassador.

Service of Major Moniruzzaman, who was in NSI as deputy director, has been withdrawn and placed to Armed Forces Division while service of Colonel Nazrul Islam has been placed under the Ministry of Education to be appointed as Inspector of University of Professionals.

Police Inspector (unarmed) Taposh Sarkar, who was in ACC as deputy director, has been withdrawn and his service has been placed at the home ministry, according to official handouts.

DAM invites designs for children's city

METRO DESK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has undertaken a project titled 'Shishu Nagori' (children's city) in different parts in the country aiming at making orphan street children aged 6-15 years self-reliant, says a press release.

There will be residential facilities for 1,000 children, a school and a field for their games and sports in each 'Shishu Nagori'.

An architectural plan for development of the city will be selected through an open competition of architectural designs.

Final year students of architecture are eligible to take part in the competition individually or collectively through their departmental heads. Members of the Bangladesh Institute of Architecture are also eligible for the competition.

Last date for submission of designs is December 20.

YMCA executives

METRO DESK



Symon P Adhikary was re-elected president of the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA) of Bangladesh for the term 2009-10, says a press release.

The election was held on November 20.

Other office-bearers are: vice-presidents -- Messrs. Samuel S Bala of Gopalganj YMCA, Melvin R Rozario of Chittagong YMCA and Fabian Mondal of Dinajpur YMCA; honorary treasurer -- Raymond Subir Arang of Birisiri YMCA; and members are Patrick Sarker, Francis Baroi, Bilash B Gomes, Bappi Mree and Barnard Tamal Mandal.

Duncan Chowdhury will continue as the national general secretary of the organisation.

Double shifts in 80 govt schools soon

2000 teachers to be recruited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 2,000 teachers will be recruited as the government is going to introduce double shifts in 80 more secondary schools in 41 districts across the country.

The finance ministry has given green signal to the process of creating the new posts in those schools, said an official handout yesterday.

The education ministry took the decision to introduce double shifts in the secondary schools this year with a view to tackling the growing number of students seeking admission

to reputed schools.

The pay scale of the teachers will be fixed by the authorities concerned before the issuance of the order to create posts, the handout added.

Instruction of the cabinet division and approval of the education minister will be needed to create, preserve and regularise the posts.

Double shifts have already been introduced at 70 government secondary schools out of a total of 317 schools.

At present, the process of appointing 600 more teachers is 'going on,' the handout added.

AL asked to amend

FROM PAGE 1

The AL constitution contains provisions which recognise Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad, Awami Ainjibi Parishad and some more as associated bodies of AL, and allow formation of party units abroad.

The RPO however does not allow any party to have any associated or affiliated body consisting of teachers or students of any educational institution, or employees or workers of any financial, commercial or industrial establishment or institution, or members of any other profession. It also does not allow any party to have foreign chapters.

In compliance with the RPO provision, the AL dropped names of Sramik League and Chhatra League from the list of its associated bodies.

On receipt of the EC's letter, the AL team led by HT Imam, also adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, discussed the issue with the EC.

Meeting sources said the AL delegation tried to persuade the EC to accept the party's ratified constitution submitted to it after the party council. They said if they

were informed before the party council, they could have followed the EC's directives to amend the party constitution in line with the RPO.

But the EC argued that the AL should have scrutinised its constitution in the light of the RPO before ratifying the provisional changes at the party council. The EC pointed out that the RPO does not allow AL to have Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad as its associated body, meeting sources said.

"We may allow Awami Ainjibi Parishad to remain as an associated body of the party as we think lawyers should engage in politics," Sohul said.

HT Imam, also a member of the AL advisory council, told the EC that they would place the issue before party chief Sheikh Hasina on her return from abroad, and the party will then decide the next course of action.

Sohul said, "He [HT Imam] pointed out some difficulties in making further amendments to the party (AL) constitution as its council had recently been completed. But we did not compromise on the issue."

2 outlaws killed in 'shootout'

FROM PAGE 1

group of PBCP men led by Jamal were holding a secret meeting there around 1:30am.

According to Rab and police, sensing the presence of law enforcers, the outlawed operatives charged bombs at them and injured a Rab official. The windscreen of one of the Rab's vehicles broke due to the impact of the bomb.

An hour-long gunfight ensued. As the outlaws fled the scene, two bodies were found. Police identified them as Jamal and Sunnat.

Police also recovered one pistol, three LGs, two locally made guns, six bullets and 11 bombs from the scene.

RISE OF JAMAL Son of Joyanal Abedin of Palashpara in Chuadanga town, Jamal was a popular football player of the district.

After being unsuccessful in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam he got involved with crime through

drug peddling. He then joined hands with Yusuf and Paltu, two infamous drug traders and adherents of outlawed Banglar Communist Party (BCP-Latu) in Chuadanga.

Over a feud with these two, Jamal joined with PBCP-ML leader Mazid of the district. Here he came in contact with PBCP founder Mofakkar and was made military operation commander of the outfit's district unit. He became a killing machine afterwards and carried out blood missions in Chuadanga and its adjacent districts -- Meherpur, Kushtia and Jhenidah.

Police said in his long fourteen years of outlawed life, Jamal committed at least 50 murders including of Chuadanga district Awami League (AL) joint secretary also veteran freedom fighter Asabul Haq Asha, Bangladesh Jubo League Chuadanga district unit organising secretary also chairman of Juranpur

Union Parishad Ali Hossain, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chuadanga district unit secretary Bipu and Chuadanga district Jubo League joint convener Baharul Islam Ayon.

Jamal was first arrested by Jessor police in 2000. Released in 2003, he joined the PBCP-ML (Janajuddho faction) and soon was embroiled in a conflict with the outfit's founder Abdur Rashid Tapan alias Dada Tapan over killing two party men, Kuti and Sahidul. He returned to PBCP-ML the same year.

After the death of Mofakkar Hossain in 2004, Jamal declared himself general secretary of the outfit. He then reorganised the party cadres under him.

Chuadanga police announced different amounts of bounties for information on top 20 outlaws in 2005. Jamal was second on the list while Dada Tapan first.

Newly married couple commits suicide

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A newly married couple committed suicide by hanging themselves from a ceiling fan at their rented house at Tongi in Gazipur last night.

Jahangir Alam, 23, and his wife Rahima Khatun, 18, worked at a garment factory.

They got married only two months back, police said, adding that the cause behind the incident could not be known immediately.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Tapan Chandra Saha of Tongi Police Station said the couple locked the residence from inside and hanged themselves at around 5:00pm.

Akhter Ahmed's body arrives today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The body of journalist Akhter Ahmed Khan, press minister of Bangladesh embassy in the US, will arrive in Dhaka at 8:00am today, says a press release.

Monjuri Khan, wife of the late journalist, will receive the body at the Zia International Airport.

His body will be kept on the National Press Club premises at 10:00am for people to pay their last respects to him.

Akhter passed away due to a cardiac arrest in Washington DC on Monday at the age of 54.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held on the National Press Club premises at 10:30am.

His second namaz-e-janaza will be held at his parent's house at 35 Rajar Dawree in the city. Another namaz-e-janaza will be held in the field of Rajar Dawree Government Primary School after Juma prayers.

He will be buried at Zurain graveyard beside his father and mother.

His Qulqhwani will be held at the National Press Club auditorium on December 7.

Meanwhile, a condolence meeting was held at the Bangladesh Auditorium of Bangladesh embassy in the USA on Wednesday to mourn his sad demise.

Ambassador, minister (press) of the embassy Akramul Qader and other officials of the mission and expatriate Bangladeshis joined the function.

A condolence book was opened at the embassy.



Death anniversary of Nurul Islam today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Nurul Islam, president of Gonoatantri Party and Bangladesh Trade Union Centre.

Nurul Islam died on this day last year 36 hours after he was critically injured in a fire at his Lalmatia residence in the city.

To mark the day, family members and leaders and workers of Bangladesh Trade Kendra and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad will place wreaths at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur at 10:00am, says a press release.

Nurul Islam's son Tamohar Islam was also killed in the fire at their residence on December 3 in 2008.

But the CID still could not unearth the mystery behind the fire.

Abdullah Hil Baqui

METRO DESK



Today is the 38th death anniversary of Abdullah Hil Baqui, Bir Protik, says a press release.

He embraced martyrdom in 1971 in face-to-face fighting with Pakistani occupation forces. He was commander of Baqui unit of North in Dhaka city.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence 'Baqui Bhaban' after Asr prayers.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

It said slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country during the period.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 12.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.3	16.7	69	70
Chittagong	28.3	17.8	83	73
Rajshahi	27.6	14.2	92	86
Khulna	29.0	17.0	80	74
Barisal	28.2	15.4	81	90
Sylhet	30.0	17.7	72	70
Cox's Bazar	29.5	18.0	74	57