



PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

A visitor looks for her favourite books at Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday.

Call to enact separate law to address human trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) yesterday called for enactment of a separate law to address human trafficking.

They pointed out that the nature and method of human trafficking is changing in recent times, creating new challenges ahead of the government and others legal support providers in addressing the issue.

They called on the government to enact a new law covering the wide range of areas, which is now imperative.

The BNWLA members said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city, which was aimed at sharing the recommendations of the participants at a roundtable organised by the association on Saturday.

Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of BNWLA, and chairperson of Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC), Bangladesh chapter, said previously trafficking of women and children for sex industry was established as the feature of human trafficking.

However, in recent times, the traffickers changed their strategy of 'victim collection'. Trafficking is increasing in the name of labour migration, she added.

Salma said this also requires an elaborate definition of human trafficking, identifying all

the areas. UN Palermo Protocol might be followed to create the new definition, she said.

Since trafficking is a clandestine matter, the accurate number is not available. Various NGOs put the number of yearly trafficking in between 15,000 to 20,000. Primary destinations of the trafficked persons are neighbouring India, Pakistan and Middle Eastern countries.

They are mainly trafficked for sex trade, domestic work, forced labour, camel jockeying, often forced marriage and other forms of exploitative labour.

Legal experts said there is also a need to review the existing laws, including Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 (amended 2003).

Forming a Women and Children Repression Rules, which would give more detailed guidelines to address issues of human trafficking is also urgent, they noted.

The recommendations also included a victim and witness protection protocol, brining recruiting agencies under the law, introducing provision of visiting place of occurrence in the destination country, video conference to collect testimony of the victims staying in the safe custody of the destination country as well as other involved legal persons.

Advocate Towhida Khandaker, director of BNWLA, Advocate Rehana Sultana, director of Legal Aid, and Advocate Kohinoor Begum, deputy director of Advocacy, also spoke.

CORRUPTION CASE
SC upholds HC order to stay case against Sajeda Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) order that stayed the proceedings against Deputy Leader of House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in a corruption case filed by Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order by dismissing a leave to appeal petition filed ACC to appeal the HC order.

In response to a petition filed by Sajeda, the HC on November 18, 2008, stayed the proceedings against her in the case, and also issued a rule upon the ACC to explain why the proceedings should not be declared illegal.

The apex court yesterday, however, asked the ACC to take steps to dispose of the HC rule through hearing.

On July 10, 2008, the ACC filed the case with Ramna police station against AL leader and former environment and forest minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in connection with concealing wealth worth Tk 13.84 lakh to the ACC and amassing the said wealth illegally.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for the ACC.

Ban communal politics

Demand 501 DU teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 501 teachers of Dhaka University (DU) in a statement yesterday demanded ban on all communal and militant organisations in the country.

The demand came after two students were killed by Shibir men at Rajshahi University and Chittagong University and tendon of few others were cut.

Condemning the incidents, the teachers expressed grave concern over the attacks and killings.

"We think, anti-liberation and communal Jamaat-Shibir quarter and militant groups loyal to them are hatching a conspiracy to create anarchy in the country in order to foil its ongoing democratic trend and to obstruct the trial of the war criminals," the statement read.

They demanded exemplary punishment to people involved in the recent killings at the educational institutions.

Signatories to the statement include Prof Md Anwar Hossain, Prof Khondokar Bazlul Hoque, Prof Abul Barakat, Prof Shahadat Ali, Prof M Akhtaruzzaman, Dr Md Anwar Hossain, Dr Rangalal Sen, Prof Aminul Haque Bhuiyan and Prof Wahiduzzaman Chan.

Memo to President

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday submitted a memorandum to President Zillur Rahman demanding trial of the killers of Dhaka University student Abubakar, Rajshahi University student Faruk Hossain and ban on religion-based politics.

A four-member team of the alliance submitted the memorandum to president at Bangabhaban, said PCJ leaders.

Earlier, the PCJ leaders and workers brought out a procession from Madhu's Canteen that paraded different campus streets and started marching towards the Bangabhaban. Policemen intercepted the procession near Doyel Chatter.

The alliance leaders and workers then held a protest rally in front of Shishu Academy, Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Manabendra Deb, Chhatra Federation President Ariful Islam, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Fakhruddin Atiq spoke at the rally.

'Recent killings aimed to foil trial of war criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday said the recent killings at different educational institutions were aimed at creating unrest in the country to prevent the nation from holding the trial of war criminals and going back to 1972 constitution.

"When killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were handed, the process of trying war criminals is almost finalised and the way to get back 1972 constitution is cleared, such type of killings are nothing but deviate us from establishing a country based on the spirit of our liberation war," said

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain in a written speech.

A platform named 'Samprodayikata-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha' organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

It declared that they would hold a national council by mid May to give the platform an organisational shape to ensure a society free of communalism and militancy by holding the trial of war criminals.

Before the council, the platform will hold meetings at all divisions and district levels. The body is also trying to bring all political parties, including AL

and other organisations, under its banner to pursue its goal.

The platform, however, has no plan yet to bring BNP under its banner.

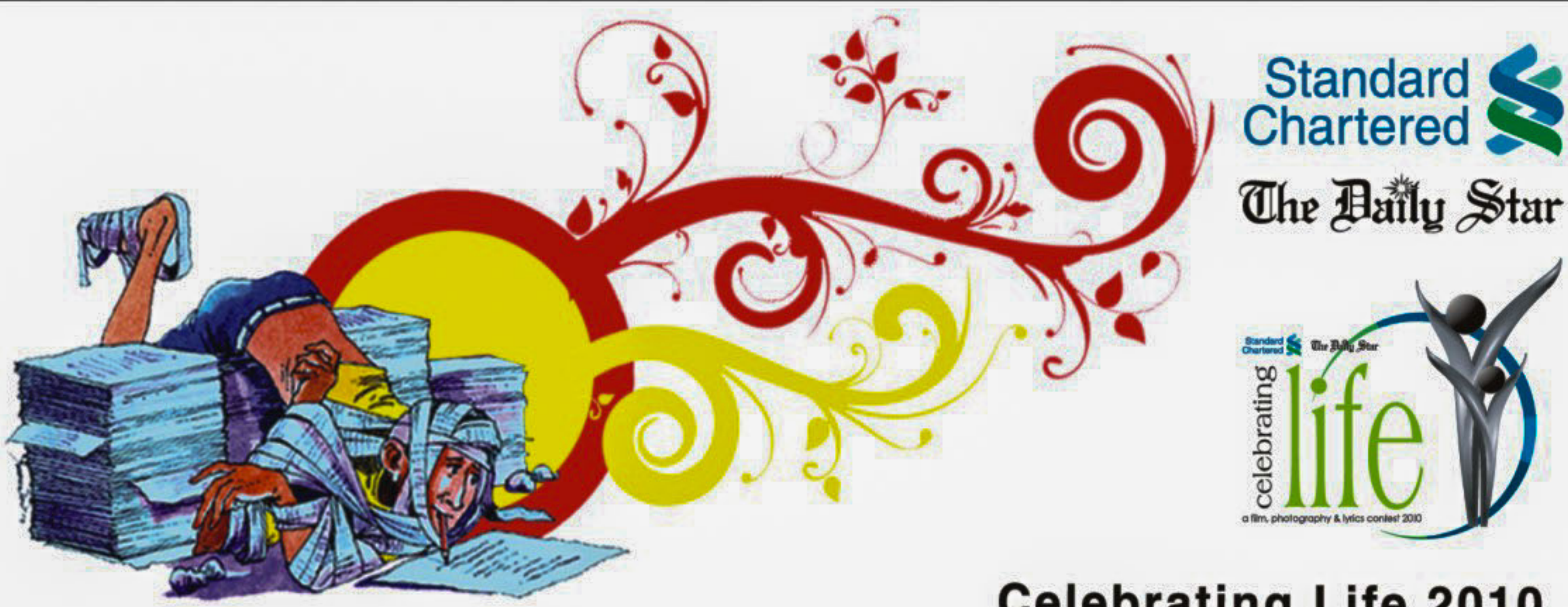
"We want to hold a national council through which we will give our platform a permanent organisational shape. We want to do this to lead a continuous movement against the communalist and fundamentalist force as the problem has become much relevant in this subcontinent," said politician Ajoy Roy.

"Observing the recent killings, we suspect that the killings carry the blueprint that was planned in 1971 to make the nation intellectually crippled

by killing talented sons."

The platform called on the government to engage all parties and people, who believe in the spirit of liberation war, in the movement against militancy and communalism, as it would not be possible to become victorious against the evil force without a united effort.

Karmajibi Nari President Shirin Akter, Rokeya Kabir of Nari Progoti Sangha, Dr Rashid Imam and representatives of Khelaghar Asar, Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Samyabadi Dal and Sangjukto Sramik Federation were also present at the press conference.



Celebrating Life 2010

A Film, Photography and Lyrics Contest

'Indomitable Bangladesh'

Celebrating Life is back! The Daily Star & Standard Chartered's Celebrating Life: A Film, Photography and Lyrics Contest is all set to take off again in 2010. This is the third incarnation of Celebrating Life, and with your participation, we hope to make it the grandest yet!

What is Celebrating Life

"Celebrating Life" is a composite competition, inviting films, photographs and lyrics entries that showcase life in Bangladesh. Organized jointly by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered, Celebrating Life is our attempt to provide participants with a platform for creative expression on an unprecedented scale. The competition is divided into three categories: film, photographs and lyrics.

This Year's Theme

For this year's contest, we have picked the theme "Indomitable Bangladesh". We want your films, photographs and lyrics to celebrate the irrepressible spirit of this nation, to celebrate the optimism and positivity all around us. Contestants are allowed complete freedom to explore any subject matter of their choice within this theme. However, we strongly encourage participants not to limit themselves to urban settings, but to look at rural Bangladesh as well.

About the Film Contest

The film contest will invite entries across three segments: Best Film, Best Debut and the Critic's Choice Award.

Best Film: In this segment, submissions will be awarded in the categories of Best Documentary and Best Short Fiction. The length of the films for the Best Film segment should be between 20 - 45 minutes.

Best Debut Film: In this segment, submissions will be awarded in the categories of Best Debut Documentary and Best Debut Short Fiction. The "Debut Film" segment shall invite entries between 3 to 12 minutes in length, encouraging experimentation and originality.

All submissions must be in DVD format for preview purposes. Winners will be asked to provide master copies of their awarded films in DVCAM master format. Submissions must be original and unpublished work of the filmmakers.

A jury board consisting of experts in the field will judge the submissions. The winning films will be broadcasted on Channel I and shall be screened in a touring festival program in twelve districts across Bangladesh. Eminent film directors have shown interest in working closely with the top two winners of this contest for upcoming projects. Cash awards of Tk. 200,000 will be given to each of the two Best films from the Best Short Fiction and Best Documentary categories. In addition, winners will also be provided with a budget of Tk. 300,000 each to produce assigned films within a given timeframe. In the Debut Film category, cash awards of Tk. 50,000 will be given to each of the two Best Debut Films. Winners will also receive certificates and crests.

The Daily Star-Standard Chartered and the maker of the films will have rights over usage of the winning films for public screening, television screening, charity purposes or for any other promotional purpose either individually or as a joint event.

Best TV Production Award: The Best TV Production Award segment shall recognize the best of 2009's TV and Film productions based on the following categories: Best Director, Best Producer, Best Fiction, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cameraperson, Best Editor, Best Music Score/Sound, Best Script, and Best Costume/Makeup. The winners of this segment shall receive crests and certificates. A special Celebrating Life festival shall be organized, during which all winning entries will be telecasted by Channel I. The winning entries shall also be screened in festivals all over Bangladesh. Please note that no cash prizes shall be awarded in this category.

If your work has been aired on BTV or any of the satellite channels, and you think that it deserves critical recognition, please send it in to us on a DVD. Along with your entry, you must include a full cast and crew list printed on paper.

A special award shall be provided to a music personality (singer, director, musician or any other) in recognition of contributions made to the music industry of Bangladesh.

About the Photography Contest

In the photography contest, participants are allowed to submit a maximum of 3 entries per person. A jury board composed of eminent personalities/experts in the field will judge the submissions, amongst which three winners will be selected who will receive certificates, crests and cash prizes. The winner will receive a cash prize of Tk. 50,000, the 1st runner's up entry will receive Tk. 40,000 and the 2nd runner's up entry will receive Tk. 30,000. Nine additional entries will receive honorable mention awards and certificates.

Only digital pictures will be accepted in CD format, the minimum acceptable resolution is 1500 pixels. Once the preliminary selection is finalized, the participants shall print out the chosen photographs and re-submit. The organizers have the right to disqualify any entry without any prior notification due to non-adherence to technical guidelines, or unacceptable nature of the content of the images. No submission can be returned to the participant.

All selected photographs will become the property of The Daily Star, Standard Chartered, and the photographers. The organizers will gain rights over any form of usage. The winnings photographs will also be featured on Standard Chartered Bank's Yearly calendars; credit lines will be provided on any form of usage.

About the Lyrics Contest

Entries can be in both English and Bengali, and participants can submit a maximum of three entries per person. A jury board composed of eminent personalities/experts in the field will judge the submissions, amongst which ten winners will be selected in two categories – five for "English Lyrics", and five for "Bengali Lyrics", who will receive certificates, crests and cash prizes. The winning entries in either category will receive Tk. 15,000 each; the 1st runner's up entries in either category will receive Tk. 10,000 and the 2nd runner's up entries in either category will receive Tk. 7,000. The rest of the ten winners, 4th and 5th, in either category will receive Tk. 3,000 each. Lyrics should be submitted in the form of computer printed hard copies. No submission can be returned to the participant. Renowned music directors and singers will compose songs based on the winning lyrics, and young and veteran singers will give voice to the songs. These songs will be featured on CDs. The prize-winning songs will also be performed at district level festival concerts all around Bangladesh. **All winning lyrics will become the property of The Daily Star, Standard Chartered and Zaheen Music. The organizers will gain rights over any form of usage.**

Rules and Regulations

1. How to submit: All entries must reach the Daily Star office by 30 June 2010. No entries will be accepted after the last date of submission.
2. Write your name, address, email address and cell phone number clearly in block letters on the envelope and on the back of each submission. In case of CDs/DVDs please ensure that all contact information is written on both the CD/DVD Cover and the CD/DVD itself.
3. Please retain a copy with yourself, because no entries will be returned to the participant.
4. The results will be published in The Daily Star after the Awards Giving Ceremony. Keep reading the leading English daily!
5. Personal calls are strictly discouraged. Any persuasion, verbal or written, will result in immediate disqualification. Read the website thoroughly for any queries. If you have a query, please send it to us through our website, we will reply as soon as possible.
6. The same person can take part in more than one or in all three contests.
7. There is no age limit. Any Bangladeshi citizen or any foreigner residing in Bangladesh is eligible.
8. No submission can be returned to the participant.
9. The last date of submission is 30 June 2010.

Address your entries/submissions to: Festival Director, Celebrating Life
The Daily Star, 19, Karwanbazar, Dhaka -1215, Bangladesh.

Email: celebratinglife.contest@gmail.com

For more information, visit our website: www.celebratinglifebd.com

Partners:

