



Prachya Natya Gosthi stages a symbolic drama at the foot of anti-terrorism sculpture 'Raju' at the TSC intersection on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the attacks on indigenous people and demanding trial of the persons involved and withdrawal of army camps from CHT areas.

# Community policing can help create safe neighbourhoods

Speakers tell regional confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday said community-based policing could be a viable approach for Bangladesh to create safer neighbourhoods by preventing the crime before it aggravates, especially for vulnerable groups like women and girl children.

They said this at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day regional conference on 'Gender, International Human Rights Law and Community-Based Policing' at Police Staff College in the city.

Bangladesh Police, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) jointly organised the programme.

Police and administrative officials, civil society and NGO workers from Saarc countries participated in the conference to exchange lessons and identify linkage between gender, human rights and community policing.

Sir Norman Bettison, chief constable

of West Yorkshire, shared his experience about community-based policing in the United Kingdom.

He said monthly survey in the UK shows that community-based policing is gaining huge public trust.

It is a method by which the police force work closely and actively with the community. Through motivation and early intervention, community police help prevent an offence before it aggravates instead of just apprehending lawbreakers after the incident.

In turn, community policing helps create a safer environment, Bettison explained.

He said the key expectation of every citizen to police is safety and police have the power to give a sense of security and change people's lives.

The UK police pointed out that women and girl children are the most frequent victims of abuse. Community police can spot the incidents faster and prevent abuse.

Currently, Bangladesh has one policeman for every 1,400 individuals.

Inaugurating the conference, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said community policing offers a paradigm shift in law enforcement, as it requires face-to-face contact with the people they serve.

Community policing helps fostering trust, which can be an important tool in protecting the lives of those who are more vulnerable, especially women and children, she added.

The minister called on the police force to involve more female personnel in the model of community policing.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad, Garman Ambassador to Bangladesh Holger Michael, Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Alphonso JAJMG Hennekens, Acting Head of Mission of ICRC Jerome Fontana and Additional Inspector General of Police Naim Ahmed, also rector of Police Staff College, also spoke.

# Female domestic help found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female teenage domestic help was found dead three hours after being held in a residence on suspicion of stealing a cell phone in Dhaka's Adabar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tajmohal Akhter, aged around 19, from Mymensingh.

She had been working at a residence inside Mansurabad Housing for the past year.

Employer Monwara Begum told The Daily Star that locals brought Tajmohal to her home around 10:00am with a cell phone that she allegedly stole from the residence yesterday morning.

"We charged her little for her misdeed. But we did not beat her," said Monwara.

"She went to the roof to dry some clothes and suddenly we heard a noise in front of our house as she fell from the roof," she added.

Members of her employer's family recovered her body from a road near their home around 1:00pm.

They brought Tajmohal's body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead.

Adabar police visited the residence and said they are investigating the incident.

# Price hike of electricity protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday condemned the government decision to increase the price of electricity.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement termed the government decision illogical and said it will cause severe suffering to the common people.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and general secretary (acting) Subrata Chowdhury said the people would not accept the decision, as they have to suffer from severe load shedding.

It seems to be an extra burden to the common people because the price of daily commodities is going beyond their buying capacity.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) President Khaleuzzaman said it is a lop-sided decision of the government.

He demanded effective measures to resolve the energy crisis across the country rather than increasing the price of electricity.

Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, Chhatra Oikya Forum and Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) also condemned the decision.

# Govt to ensure healthcare from UZ to village level: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday said the government is working seriously to ensure primary healthcare services from upazila Sadar to village level where three-fourths of the total population live.

To increase people's access to health service and make it affordable, the government would also make the district Sadar hospitals self-sufficient for secondary-level treatment of the patients, he added.

The minister said this as the chief guest at the 37th annual conference of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh (OSB) at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons auditorium in the city.

The specialist doctors should have the tendency to work outside the capital, he said, adding that they are quite unwilling to work at village or district-level hospitals that deprives the rural people of getting

their services.

The primary eye care service and diagnostic facilities would be increased to attain vision 2020 that aims at 'Vision for All'. Basic ophthalmic equipment will be supplied soon to different upazila health complexes in this connection.

Ruhul asked the OSB authorities to send their recommendations to take necessary steps for expanding ophthalmological services in the rural level.

Health Adviser to Prime Minister Prof Syed Modasser Ali and State Minister for Health Mozibur Rahman Fakir spoke at the event as the special guests while OSB President Prof Ava Hossain was in the chair.

Prof Dr MA Matin, lifetime chairman of Bangladesh Academy of Ophthalmology, Prof Shah Monir Hossain, director general of DGHS, Prof Mahmud Hasan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, and Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, secretary general of BMA, also spoke.



Sammlita Nari Samaj take out a procession from Muktagan in the city yesterday protesting the deaths of 21 workers who were killed in a devastating fire at Garib & Garib Sweater Garment in Gazipur on February 25.

# GOVT ORDER FOR EMPOWERING UZ OFFICIALS SC stays HC order for 2 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for two weeks a High Court (HC) order that recently stayed a government order empowering the upazila officials instead of union parishad (UP) chairmen to implement a project for creating jobs for the poor people.

Upon a government petition, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Muzammel Hossain also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC order within this two week's period.

Following the apex court order, the upazila officials now can implement the project.

The food ministry on February 16 this year issued a notification giving charges to the upazila tax officials in place of the UP chairmen to implement the project for creating employments for the poor people.

Following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum, the HC on February 28 stayed for two weeks the notification, and also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the notification should not be declared illegal.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza appeared for the government.

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# Role of Bangladeshis in UK's dev lauded

UNB, Dhaka

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Miliband praised the role of minority people, including Bangladeshis, in the socioeconomic development of this country.

He made the appreciation at a programme of the Labour Party at Bangladeshi restaurant 'The Red Fort' in central London on Monday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The function was organised in honour of the Labour Party candidates from minority communities for the upcoming local and national elections in the United Kingdom and leaders of minority supporters of the party.

The British foreign minister noted that when the Conservative Party was in power 13 years back, Britain's foreign assistance budget was very poor.

"But now the budget topped the lists of developed countries of the world in providing assistance for poverty alleviation and socioeconomic development of Asian and South African countries, including Bangladesh," he was quoted as saying.

The minister also said that the Labour Party is being enriched day by day with the participation and work of ethnic minority people, the Bangladeshis in particular, as some Bangladeshi-origin people became this party's leaders.

# UK education fair kicks off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day UK Education Fair begins today at Dhaka to help the students with the admission information to different colleges and universities in the UK.

Organised by the British Council, the first two days of the fair will be held in Hotel Sheraton in Dhaka and the third day fair on March 7 will be held in Peninsula Hotel in Chittagong.

A total of 37 educational institutions of UK are taking part in the fair. Their representatives would provide information to the students and guardians, said the organisers.

The British High Commission is also coming to the fair to provide information on the students' visa application.

The participating institutions are Birmingham City University, Bradford College, Cardiff University, City of London College, Leeds Metropolitan University, Liverpool Hope University, London Metropolitan University, The University of Nottingham, University of Bedfordshire, London Academy of Management and Sciences and University of Greenwich.

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