



Sammilita Nari Samaj stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding security for girls and immediate arrest of spoilt boys and exemplary punishment to eve-teasers.

## Security for girls demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists yesterday demanded security for girls both in rural and urban areas.

They also called for immediate arrest of spoilt boys and exemplary punishment to eve-teasers.

They made the call at a human chain programme in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Sammilita Nari Samaj organised the event.

Coordinator of Sammilita Nari Samaj Farida Akhter, Sultana Akhter Ruby, Lovely Yasmin, Shima Das Shimu and Rawshan Ara joined the human chain.

Referring to some recent incidents of violence against women, they said spoilt boys have become more aggressive nowadays due to indifferent attitude on the part of administration and law enforcement agencies.

Many girls have stopped going to school and even a

number of girls commit suicide every year due to eve-teasing, but the government is yet to take any stern action against the criminals, they added.

They also called on the home minister to resign if she fails to ensure security for girls.

The education ministry will also have to take responsibility if any girl falls victim to eve-teasing while going to the educational institutions, they said.

PHOTO: STAR

## Diarrhoea patients on rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 654 patients with diarrhoeal diseases sought treatment at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) at Mohakhali till 6:00pm yesterday.

The hospital authorities informed that the number might cross 850 by midnight. The number was 872 on Saturday.

Due to the rise of temperature and drinking of impure water people are suffering from diarrhoeal diseases, said the health experts of ICDDR,B.

They suggested people drink boiled water and avoid stale and street foods.

They also suggested giving oral saline along with normal foods to the diarrhoea patients.

But if the patients get severely dehydrated, he or she needs to be taken to the nearby hospital immediately, they added.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION DEBATE CONTEST

# Make vow to fight graft

## Sultana Kamal urges students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal yesterday called on the students to make a vow to fight corruption with a view to establishing a Bangladesh free from corruption and poverty.

"Your predecessors made supreme sacrifices to achieve the country's independence. Now it is your turn. All of you will have to work together to eliminate poverty and corruption," she said as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a debate competition.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) jointly organised the two-day 'Anti-corruption Parliamentary Debate Training and Competition' at the Willes Little Flower School and College auditorium in the city.

Sultana Kamal also urged the school-going children to work for the welfare of the people

and society rather than for personal gains, because the desire for personal gains drives a person to be corrupt.

Describing the competition as a tool to sharpen one's skills, she suggested that all students take part in such debate competitions to develop their analytical skills so that they can differentiate between right and wrong in a logical way.

BDF President Abdun Noor Tushar urged the children not to compromise on corruption at any stage of life.

He also said the main objective of this debate competition is to inculcate anti-corruption spirit in youngsters so that they keep away from corruption in their professional life.

TIB Director SM Rezwan-ul-Alam and Principal of Willes Little Flower School and College Lt Col Mohammad Mainul Islam Chowdhury also spoke.

Some 270 students of class 8, 9 and 10 from 38 schools are taking part in the competition.

## Patal gets bail in income tax evasion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to former state minister for youth and sports Fazlur Rahman Patal in connection with evading Tk 7.50 lakh income tax for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Patal along with his lawyers appeared before the court for bail in the case.

The court granted bail to the BNP leader upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors.

The court also transferred the case to the Special Judge's Court-1 for its trial fixing April 13 for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

The same court on March 1 issued an arrest warrant against him after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case.

In the case statement, NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Mizanur Rahman said Patal evaded Tk 7.50 lakh income tax on his income of Tk 26.10 lakh for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

He provided false information about his real income and expenditure, even though he was a minister, alleged the NBR statement.

On May 28 of 2007, the joint forces arrested Patal on charge of disrupting public safety and destabilising the country, subversive activities and corruption. He also was given 30 days' detention order.

He was later sued for acquiring wealth through illegal means and concealing his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

# Pledge to bring war criminals to book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters from Pabna yesterday vowed to bring the war criminals to book, relieving the country of its 39-year-old stigma.

The vow came at a reunion of Pabna Muktiyoddha Forum at LGED auditorium in the city.

The freedom fighters also demanded due respect, saying that they fought bravely for the country not for just a meagre monthly allowance.

The website of the forum was also inaugurated at the programme.

Abdur Rahman, a freedom fighter from Adharkotha said, "I would like to see my county accomplish two things before I die, one is bringing all the war criminals to book and eliminate poverty."

It is a disgrace that the war criminals are still at large, he added.

Md Jalal from Shojanagar said, "We get a

meagre amount as monthly allowance for fighting for the liberation of this country. Beggars earn more than that. We did not fight for this."

The allowance was Tk 600 monthly, which was recently increased up to Tk 2000 by the current government.

Speaking as the chief guest, Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker Bir Uttam said, "All preparation for bringing the war criminals to book has been completed. When we will be able to accomplish this task properly only then we will gain our ultimate freedom and relieve ourselves of the shame."

Brig Gen (retd) Gias Uddin A Chowdhury, commander of sub-sector 4, Prof Abu Sayeed, former information minister, Maj General (retd) Zia Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, and Advocate Kazi Sadrul Haque Sudha, convener of the reunion committee, also spoke.



Prof Dr Shamsher Ali, president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, gives away an award to a winner of the 3rd national level abacus competition at Shilpakala Academy in the city recently.

# Textbook printers, sellers oppose int'l bids

## Say it will destroy local printing industry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Textbook Printers and Sellers Association yesterday demanded the government refrain from inviting international tenders for printing primary-level books for 2011 academic year, saying the local printing industry will be destroyed if the government decides to do so.

The association leaders, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, said National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is going to take 'suicidal decision' by sending the task abroad which is possible within the country with low cost.

They also demanded the government take steps to print the textbooks in the local printers in order to help flourish the potential industry. "Giving the task outside the country is a conspiracy to destroy the local industry. We have capacities to compete with the international market and our standards are no less bad than any others," said Tofail Khan, president of the association.

In a written statement, he said though some 1,000 printing presses, 2,000 binding organisations and many transport companies are directly involved in the textbook printing task, about 7,000 printers and over 5,000 binders and transport companies are indirectly involved in the task.

NCTB is going to take a decision to print all textbooks of class I, II and III through international tenders which will put a halt to the thriving potential of the industry, he added.

"If the task of printing books, which is being done in the country for years with low cost, is sent abroad, several lakhs of workers involved in the industry will be jobless and a huge amount of foreign money be wasted."

"When the task of printing 19 crore textbooks has been done with the existing infrastructure in a short notice last year, then why it would not be possible to do the same work with an advance preparation?" he questioned.

If the international tender is invited, the printing industry will not make its place in the foreign markets due to tariff discrimination in importing papers and printing materials, Tofail explained, saying that the government will lose its revenues and the printing and paper industries will lose work.

Tofail admitted to the anomalies and corruption of some of the printers and said the board never took any action against those despite informing them several times.

"We will help the government if it identifies those involved in the anomalies and takes punitive action against them," said Nagibul Islam Dipu, senior vice-president of the association.

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