

# 25,000 women, children trafficked a year

## DU teacher tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 25,000 women and children are being trafficked to other countries from Bangladesh every year, said this at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Quoting the survey of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), he said in the last five years, 87,000 children were rescued, who were either being trafficked or had been smuggled out of the country.

He was presenting the keynote at the seminar on 'Protect children from trafficking: Save our future' at the Meghna Hall of BIAM Foundation in the city. Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF), a network of NGOs working with child rights issues, organised the seminar.

Prof Delwar, also chairman of Department of International Relations,

said steps should be taken to stop child trafficking and combined efforts of government and non-government organisations are necessary in this regard.

He also discussed different aspects of debate regarding the concept 'trafficking' and identified the segment of children who get victims of trafficking, the destination of the trafficked children and common means of trafficking in the country.

He emphasised the importance of collective efforts of law enforcement agencies, judiciary, national and international bodies and community people in protecting children from trafficking.

In case of ineffective implementation of law, a monitoring system with the international network and update technologies should be given priority, he added.

Shah Alam, assistant inspector general of police, said there should have a specific definition of human trafficking, which would help punish the traffickers. "Besides, there is an option in the website of Bangladesh Police to put information about trafficking to identify the traffickers and rescue the child victims", he added.

He said anti-trafficking and immigration laws should be updated to help curb the problem.

Speakers said campaign can provide information about how the community and civil society can play constructive role in combating child trafficking.

Razia Begum, secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, attended the programme as the chief guest.

BASF Director Md Kafil Uddin and executive member Enayet Hossain were present at the programme.



Jamaat and Shibir leaders and activists who were arrested near Baitul Mukarram National Mosque and Paltan Maidan were brought to Paltan police station by a prison van yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

# Pro-AL docs' rooms ransacked by the aggrieved at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of aggrieved doctors, who did not qualify in the adhoc basis recruitment examination at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), yesterday vandalised rooms of pro-Awami League doctors of the institution.

The results of the recruitment examination leaked out in the morning. As a group of candidates found that their names were not on the list, they went to the room of Iqbal Arslan, secretary general of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) and professor of biochemistry department in BSMMU, and vandalised window panes and bookshelves.

The candidates then locked him and several others of the department in the room for around 25 minutes.

"A group of 20 to 25 candidates swooped on the room and threw chairs at the bookshelves and windows. They also assaulted some of the employees of the department," said Arslan's personal assistant Mujibul Haque.

Later, they vandalised rooms of Prof

Sharfuddin Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), and its Joint Secretary General Abdul Aziz.

The results were officially published in the afternoon with names of 3,551 doctors on the list. The written test to recruit 4,133 adhoc basis doctors was held on February 19 while the viva voce from April 4 to 15.

Many of the candidates alleged that the recruitment process was not transparent, as the score that each candidate obtained in MCQ test was not mentioned in the result sheet. No cumulative results were published and the criteria for qualifying in the exam are still not clear, they added.

Some agitated candidates alleged that SCP and BMA leaders are casting influence on all government health programmes including recruitment, promotion, transfer processes and others. Though Prof Arslan was not involved directly in the recruitment, he had many candidates of his choice on the list, includes the allegation.

Arslan however denied the allegation

termining it baseless.

"Among 9,000 candidates, the government selected some 3,551 and it is not our responsibility to oversee who got recruited. We were neither in the recruitment process nor in the selection committee," he said.

Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed said, following the chaos he met the health minister and the minister assured him that he would try to add names of a few more doctors on the list.

The BSMMU vice-chancellor said the Directorate General of Health Services is responsible for the recruitment, and in no way BSMMU is involved in it.

"Still I met the agitated candidates at Milton Hall of the university and convinced them to sit with the SCP and the BMA leaders to discuss the issue," he added.

He also said a committee would be formed to find out the ones who vandalised the rooms, and to take legal action.

# BUET STUDENT'S DEATH IN ROAD ACCIDENT Bring Samrat killers to book: Nahid

DU CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said his ministry would make a request to the home ministry to bring to book the people responsible for the death of Buet student Khandaker Khanjahan Samrat in a road accident on May 27.

He also urged the law enforcement agencies and the home ministry to take necessary measures to ensure exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Samrat, a first year student of mechanical engineering department, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus near the Eden Girls' College in the city.

"Such killing is unacceptable," said the minister who attended a milad mahfil organised by the Buet authorities at the Buet central mosque in memory of Samrat.

The accident took place due to reckless driving and such indifferent attitude cannot be acceptable, Nahid said while addressing teach-

ers, students and staffs of the university who joined the milad mahfil.

Conveying sympathy to the bereaved family and Buet students and teachers, he said, "I will take steps to ensure punishment to the people responsible."

He also said steps would be taken to control the movement of heavy vehicles on the roads around the Buet campus.

"We do not want to lose any more student, as a large number of brilliant students are enrolled at Buet every year," Nahid added.

Protesting the death of Samrat, students have been demanding punishment to the driver and other staffs of the killer bus and payment of compensation to his family.

Buet VC Prof Shafulullah said the Buet authorities have filed a case and the payment of compensation has been under process.

He also said that the Buet authorities are considering building a memorial to Samrat on the campus as per wish of his family.



# Death anniversary of Manik Mia today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 41st death anniversary of Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia, a renowned journalist and founder-editor of the daily Ittefaq.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed and fatiha will be offered at his graveyard at Azimpur in the city at 8:00am. A discussion will also be held at the National Press Club.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam requested all the district units of the party to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at the Ittefaq Bhaban in the city.

# Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**Firoza Khatun**, wife of late former deputy secretary and finance adviser Mohammad Nurul Haque, passed away due to old age complications at Labaid Hospital in the city at early hours of yesterday at the age of 85, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and five daughters to mourn her death.

Firoza, mother of Nasimun Ara Haque, assistant editor of the Bengali daily The Sangbad, was buried at her family graveyard in Comilla after namaz-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque in the city yesterday.

Her qulkhani will be held at her residence at House No # 86, Road No # 7/A in Dhanmondi residential area in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.



A group of aggrieved doctors who did not qualify in the adhoc basis recruitment examination vandalise rooms of pro-Awami League doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday.

# Samshun Nahar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samshun Nahar, mother of Abu Kawsar, senior reporter of the Daily Samakal and general secretary of Energy Reporters' Forum (ERF), passed away due to cancer on Sunday night at the age of 60, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, three sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

She was laid to rest at her family graveyard at Haziganj in Chandpur.

# WITHDRAWAL OF MURDER CASE Hearing adjourned till July 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned till July 4 the hearing of a petition challenging the withdrawal of a murder case in Rajshahi against nine persons including Ruhul Qudus Babu, who was recently appointed as an HC judge.

An HC bench of Justice Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice Habibur Gani set July 4 for hearing the petition upon an adjournment prayer by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

The Attorney told the court that there was no urgency for hearing this petition, as the case was filed in order to politically harass Ruhul, the then JSD backed Chattrra League leader of Rajshahi University (RU) and others.

Mahbubey said Ruhul was nominated as an HC judge by the president on April 11, but he was yet to

take oath for his office.

The revision petition was filed against an order of a Rajshahi court that allowed a government prayer on April 8 this year for withdrawal of the case filed on charge of killing Aslam Hossain, an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader of RU, in 1988.

Nayeb Ali, the plaintiff of the case, and Aslam's father Zinnat Ali filed the petition on May 2.

The petitioners' lawyer advocate Tajul Islam told the court that there was no bar to hearing the petition against the withdrawal of the case against any judge.

Aslam was killed at his room in Nawab Abdul Latif Hall of RU on November 17, 1988.

The same day, Nayeb Ali, a classmate of the victim, filed a murder case with Matihar Police Station in Rajshahi against Ruhul and 17 others in this connection.

# LOCAL GOVT POLLS Executive magistrates to try some poll offences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry has empowered executive magistrates to hold trial of some poll offences during elections to local government bodies.

In doing so, the ministry has included newly enacted laws of local government bodies -- upazila parishad, city corporation, municipality and union parishad -- in the schedule of the Mobile Court Act 2009.

A gazette notification in this regard signed by the home secretary was issued on May 25. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the notification that says the changes are effective immediately.

Executive magistrates manning are now able to try electoral offences for which the offender will not be sentenced to imprisonment for more than two years.

These magistrates, who are

from the administration cadres, are going to exercise this authority for the first time in the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls slated for June 17.

According to the Election Commission decision, 20 executive magistrates will be deployed in the CCC area on June 3 and 21 more on June 14 to try poll offences summarily.

To pave the way for deployment of executive magistrates in polls to local government bodies, the EC had earlier decreased penalties for some offences from the highest seven years in prison to a maximum of two years and minimum six months.

The EC did this while making rules for conducting city corporation polls since executive magistrates cannot sentence a person to more than two years imprisonment.

Once deployed, the executive magistrates can try offenders for corrupt practices in polls such as taking or giving bribes, and making false statements against candidates.

According to the rules, a person could be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of two years and up to seven years with fines for committing those offences.

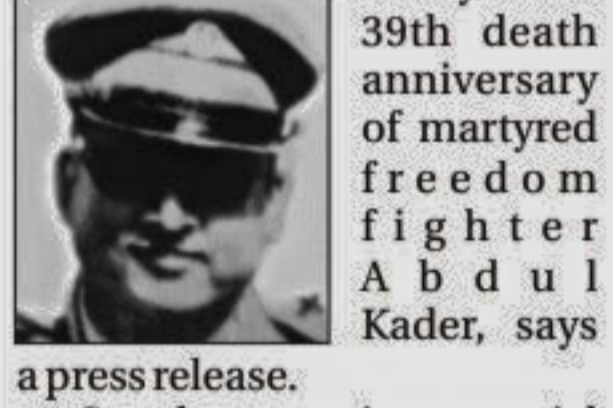
The rules have also empowered executive magistrates to try offences like conducting campaigns on election day within 400 yards of polling stations, and using loudspeakers on the day.

These provides for sentencing such offenders to imprisonment for minimum six months and up to three years.

Judicial magistrates are empowered to hold trial of all electoral offences including those for which one might be sentenced to imprisonment for up to seven years.

# Abdul Kader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 39th death anniversary of martyred freedom fighter A b d u l Kader, says a press release.

On the occasion, special doa and milad mahfil will be held at the Daviganj Jame Mosque, Thana Jame mosque and Jamirta village under Shahjatur police station in Shariatpur.

He was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces in Dangapara area of Panchagarh on this day in 1971.

Kader hoisted a Bangladesh flag on March 27 in 1971 when he was working as the officer-in-charge of Daviganj police station in Panchagarh.

# Thundershowers likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over Chittagong.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathira and lowest 20.7 degrees Celsius at Sitakunda.

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	30.3	23.5	94	72
Chittagong	30.8	23.0	70	92
Rajshahi	34.3	25.4	73	74
Khulna	32.8	29.4	78	80
Barisal	32.5	29.2	83	79
Sylhet	28.2	21.9	89	78
Cox's Bazar	32.8	23.5	66	100

# AL meets alliance partners today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League this evening holds a crucial meeting with leaders of all of its components in the 14-party combine, grand alliance and members of the AL Central Working Committee and Advisory Council and lawmakers to discuss the overall socio-economic and political situation of the country.

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm at Ganabhaban, the official residence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, also the AL president, will chair the meeting.

It is being held at the time when the leader of the opposition and BNP chairperson, Khaleda Zia, is

continuing exchanging views with like-minded political parties and different professional bodies over the 27 June hartal called by the BNP.

"The meeting has been called to exchange views with the leaders of grand alliance components, their party lawmakers and our leaders on various socio-economic issues," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star.

He said they will discuss the progress in implementation of their electoral pledges, and the ways to execute those quickly.

The latest political situation and opposition's matters might also come to the discussion, he added.

# Bilkis Banu

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Bilkis Banu, zamindar of Kartikpur in Shariatpur and wife of late Syed Anisuzzaman, former president of Chittagong Bar Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mehfil will be held on the mazar premises of Hazrat Shah Kamal (R) at Durmut in Jamalpur after Juma prayers on Friday.

Relatives are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# JS budget session begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad will begin tomorrow, but the prospect of BNP joining the session appears to be slim as its demands are yet to be fulfilled.

The finance minister will place the national budget for 2010-11 fiscal on June 10. It will be the second budget of the Awami League-led grand alliance government since it came to power.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin

Farooque told UNB yesterday that his party is willing to return to parliament if the government is sincere in meeting their demands. The demands include withdrawal of 'false cases' against BNP chief and other leaders, and an end to making derogatory remarks against late president Ziaur Rahman and his family.

BNP had staged a walk out of the House on April 4, a day before the last session was prorogued, opposing the passage of a bill raising remuneration and allowances of MPs.