

# Men vow to resist violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After vowing not to harass women in their lifetime, several hundred men including youths yesterday urged all to forge a social movement to resist violence against women.

Attending the inaugural session of a 16-day countrywide campaign to generate support of youths to prevent violence against women, over 200 men, mostly youths, took an oath to protest any incidents of violence against women.

Campaign to Work with Men and Boys, a network of 32 non-government organisations working to prevent all sorts of torture against women in the country, arranged the programme at Rabindra Sharobar in the city's Dhanmondi.

Noted citizens, sports personalities and cultural activists inaugurated the

campaign by releasing balloons.

"We should try our best from our own positions to stop violence against women," said former captain of Bangladesh National Cricket Team Khaled Mahmud Sujon.

He said youths could play a vital role to forge a social movement against such violence. He stressed on sufficient number of playgrounds for youths so that they can pass their leisure periods on sports.

Journalist Ajoy Das Gupta said all sorts of repression against women should be stopped in line with the spirit of the War of Liberation. He said the War of Liberation in 1971 took place to achieve freedom from torture on the nation. So, it should be ensured that women are not being oppressed in the country, he added.

Former captain of Bangladesh Football Team Arif Khan Joy called upon

youths not to engage in stalking and other violence against women.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said stalking is a social disease and all concerned should come forward to prevent the trend.

Popular singer Subhro Deb said before harassing a woman, a man should remind himself that he too has a mother, sister or daughter.

Writer Selina Hossain and Ganoshakharata Obhijan Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury were present, among others.

Karmajibi Nari also chalked out a series of programmes across the country marking the international day to resist repression against women. The programmes include rallies, human chain, cultural events and seminar.



Noted citizens, sports personalities and cultural activists inaugurate the countrywide campaign to forge a social movement to resist violence against women by releasing balloons at Rabindra Sharobar in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

# LAND DISPUTE IN SUNAMGANJ 18 to die for shooting down three 21 years ago

UNB, Sunamganj

Eighteen men were yesterday sentenced to death, four in absentia, for shooting down three villagers in a clash over a land dispute at Balikhanda-Paragon in Jagannathpur upazila 21 years ago.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahim pronounced the verdict in a crowded court. The age of all the condemned convicts is above 50 years.

Those are to walk gallows are Ahmed Ali, Abdul Haq, Siraj Ali, Zarip Ahmed, Sufi

Mia, Amirul Islam, Bazlu Mia, Kamor Ali, Jabbar Ali, Noor Abedin, Rais Ali, Haris Ali, Masandar Ali, Abu Lais, and four in absentia Mohan Mia, Matiuur Rahman, Atiqur Rahman and Farid Ahmed.

They were found guilty of firing shots during a clash over the land dispute that left three people dead on the spot on November 13, 1989. The victims were Sudhir Baidya, Rajendra Baidya and Feroq Ahmed of the same village.

Police after investigation into the incident submitted the charge sheet

against 26 people. After a long hearing of the case the then district and sessions judge's court acquitted all the accused seven years ago.

The plaintiff had moved the High Court with a revision petition against the verdict.

A division bench had granted the petition and sent the case back to the district and sessions judge's court of Sunamganj.

After hearing of the case again, the court delivered the verdict yesterday afternoon sentencing 18 people to death.



Harun-Ar-Rashid, former army chief, speaks at a press conference with more than 100 former military officers at Trust Auditorium adjacent to Bir Shreshtha Jahangir Gate in the city yesterday. (Story on page 1)

# PRIMARY EDUCATION TERMINAL EXAM 7,755 students absent on 2nd day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second day of the Primary Education Terminal Examination was held peacefully yesterday with a total of 7,755 students absent.

Of the total absent, some 7,141 students were from general primary while 614 from etbada madrasas, according to the control room of the Directorate of Primary Education at 8:00pm yesterday.

Meantime, a total of 184 students were

reportedly expelled across the country.

A total of 24,88,765 students registered this year for the exams. On the first day, some 2,63,026 students-- 1,98,167 from general primary and 64,859 from etbada madrasas-- were absent. The number of absentees in the two days stood at 2,70,167.

The students of both the categories sat for English examination yesterday.

Today, the students of general primary will sit for Paribesh Parichiti Somaj (Social

Science) while the madrasa students will sit for Quran and Akayid Fikh.

The biggest public examination of the country began on November 23.

The government introduced the new public examination in place of primary scholarship examination with a view to impart equal education to all students.

The results of the examination would be published some time between December 22 and December 27 and the certificates will be given afterwards.

# TILTED BUILDING IN CHITTAGONG CDA asks owners to demolish illegal portions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) here yesterday sent two notices to the owners of the tilted building and its adjoining one located at Agrabad. The notices sought the building plans and designs of the two structures and directed to demolish the illegally extended portions of both.

However, dwellers of the tilted building Chand Nibash are continuing their stay as they and CDA officials saw no high risk.

Concerned official said Chand Nibash has been gradually tilting towards the adjoining six-storied building for a long time.

CDA Authorisation Officer AGM Selim told The Daily Star that during primary investigation, they found the building started tilting gradually for last couple of years, so there is no need to evacuate the dwellers immediately.

He said they found some deviations in construction of both the multi-storied buildings.

The buildings were constructed without a

space of 4 feet from their boundaries, violating the CDA instruction, he said.

"We sent the two notices to each of the two building owners," he said.

Mohammad Mahbub, living on the ground floor of Chand Nibash, said they have been living in this condition for two years.

CDA would formally send letter today to the existing seven-member CDA Technical Committee, formed to specify the quality of city buildings, to start investigation into the tilted building, said the sources.

Selim said, "To begin final investigation, we will send a letter to CDA Technical Committee on Thursday and all decision would be decided by them."

Head of the committee Prof Jahangir Alam of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, who visited the spot on Tuesday evening, told The Daily Star that during piling of Reliance Plaza, no protection was ensured by the owner. As a result the adjoining Chand Nibash started tilting towards it slowly, he added.

# Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Zia Ansari, a former chief executive producer of Bangladesh Television, will be observed today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# Milad mahfil

METRO DESK

On the occasion of 10th death anniversary of Dr Maleka Al-Razi, founder of Dr Maleka University College, Qurankhwan and milad mahfil will be held on the college campus at about 1:00pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends, well-wishers and students are requested to attend the programme.

# PADMA BRIDGE Ten firms submit pre-qualification statements UP, municipality polls within next Jan-Mar Says Sakhawat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten firms have submitted their pre-qualification statements for the \$2.4 billion construction work of the Padma multipurpose bridge.

The firms put forward their documents on the last date of submission of the statement yesterday, bridge division sources said.

The 10 companies are Daelim-BAM-VCI joint venture, Hyundai Eng Construction, Samsung, Hindustan Construction & Vinci joint venture, China Railway 15 Bureau, China Railway Construction Corporation, China Major Bridge Eng, GS Engineering Construction Corporation, CCCC Ltd China and L&T India.

The construction of the bridge is expected to begin early next year with a target to complete by 2013.

Development partners including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JAICA, Islami Development Bank and the Abu Dhabi Fund are financing the bridge.

Elections of union parishads (UP) and municipalities in the country will be held within January-March next year.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) Muhammad Sakhawat Hussain yesterday told a view-exchange meeting at the upazila complex conference room here.

Election rules for the local government bodies would be amended soon keeping provisions of poll cost of Tk 5 lakh for a UP chairman candidate while Tk 1 lakh for a UP member candidate, he said.

The Election Commission is thinking about holding elections of the same regions on the same day to check muscle power and interferences, Sakhawat said.

After visiting the under construction Uzirpur and Gournadi upazila election commission server stations, the election commissioner held meeting with the UP chairmen and members and local officials and elites.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

# USAID fair postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

USAID postponed the Gender and Development Fair at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre scheduled on November 29-30, due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

The new date of the fair will be announced later.

# Buet exam date rescheduled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Term final examination for all batches of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will be held on December 4 instead of November 27, says a press release.

Md Shah Alam, assistant director, told The Daily Star that the date of the exam has been deferred yesterday by a decision of the academic council.

Buet also extended its registration time for the M Phil programme on December 10.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with tempo, partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met office said.

The sun, sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:21am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 14.2 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	
	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.8	17.3	57	67
Chittagong	27.6	18.3	72	71
Rajshahi	28.8	15.4	80	77
Rangpur	28.5	16.4	79	90
Khulna	30.0	17.0	76	75
Barisal	30.0	17.0	74	91
Sylhet	29.7	17.7	68	67

# 'Stop repression against women'

DU CORRESPONDENT

A section of women leaders yesterday urged the youths to forge a movement across the country to resist repression against women.

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, they said youths have the strength to forge the movement to eliminate stalking and sexual harassment against women as well as dowry system from the country.

They demanded of the government to include section 10(2) in the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 as it was once excluded from the act.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) arranged the press conference.

BMP announced various programmes to be held at 60 organising districts and 1,722 units across the country with the slogan of "Say no to sexual



Ayesha Khanam speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is Shahana Kabir and on her left are Adv Masuda Rehana Begum and Adv Maksuda Akhter.

BMP Legal Aid Secretary Shahana Kabir, Adv Maksuda Akhter and Adv Ramlal Raha were also present.

Masuda Rehana said a total of 434 incidents of stalking and sexual harassment happened in the country from January to September as well as 22 females committed suicide for being victim of repression and stalking.

Ayesha Khanam demanded of the government to fully implementation of the domestic violence act to ensure women's rights.

They also said 34 fatwas have been issued in the country from January to September this year. The government should take initiative to root out fatwa.

The women leaders suggested a network among the South Asian countries for resisting children and women trafficking as well as rehabilitation of acid victims.