

# End discrimination against women

Sahara urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday called upon the people to launch social movement countrywide to end all sorts of discriminations against and torture on women.  
"Women have been victim to different kinds of disparities and repression over years," she said.  
"It is impossible for the government alone to eliminate the disparities and persecution overnight. So cross-section of people should step up to initiate social movement to end these."  
The minister, as the chief guest, was addressing the "Rally for women awakening" organised by Karmojibi Nari (KN) at Mahanagar Natyamancha in the city yesterday.  
Sahara suggested formation of a resistance committee in each locality and educational institution to fight off stalking, both in urban and rural areas. The government will start war crimes trial from February next year, she noted.  
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu termed child marriage one of the major tools for women repression and

urged all to prevent the early marriage.  
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam stressed the need for changing social view towards women for their empowerment and entire development.  
Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam laid emphasis on full implementation of Women Development Policy to stop discrimination against them. She sought cooperation from the male counterparts to ensure equal rights.  
KN President Shirin Akhtar presided over the rally moderated by its General Secretary Sharmin Kabir. Several hundreds of women from across the country attended the programme.  
Earlier, they brought out a procession from Muktagong, which ended at the rally venue.  
They also submitted a memorandum to the home minister demanding implementation of women development policy-1997, ensuring participation of women in all national economic activities, ensuring their just wage and security in workplaces, and reviewing of the existing laws related to violence against women.



Girls delightfully wave flags at the "rally for women awakening" organised by Karmojibi Nari at Mahanagar Natyamancha in the city yesterday.

# Sedition case filed against SQ Chy: Two arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
A sedition case was filed against detained BNP stalwart Salauddin Quader Chowdhury with Fatikchhari Police Station in the city on Tuesday for his offensive remark on the 15 August killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.  
OC Md Mafiz Uddin of the police filed the case accusing Salauddin for his derogatory remark on the 15 August killing with approval from the Home Minister following an appeal made by him earlier.  
According to the case statement, Salauddin Quader told a conference of BNP Fatikchhari unit here on November 20, 2009 that no end could be brought to one-party rule had August 15 not taken place. The nation did not accept the verdict of the Bangabandhu murder case.  
Quoting the complaint, the OC said such remark inspire the killers including those of involved in the killing.  
IO of the case SI Alaf Hossain already started investigation on the case and visited the spot yesterday.  
Another sedition case was filed against Salauddin Quader with the court here on December 3, 2009 on the same allegation.  
Meanwhile, police arrested two supporters of detained BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury from Devpaha in the city on Wednesday night for sticking posters with a demand of the release of their leader. They are Mostaque Ahmed and Abdus Sobhan.

# Khaleda Zia returns today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returns home today upon completion of her five-day visit to China.  
The party has set to give a warm reception to Khaleda Zia at Shahjalal International Airport.  
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain asked all leaders, workers, and supporters to gather in front of the airport by 11:00am. Khaleda's arrival is scheduled at 12:00pm.  
BNP leaders and activists from the city and adjacent areas will march in a procession to the airport, which they hope will be a showdown of the party's political strength.

# PM for building tech-based country

BSS, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday renewed her government's pledge to build a science and technology-based modern Bangladesh through turning the country's huge population into human resources.  
She said her government with consultation of all concerned had adopted a time-befitting modern education policy along with implementing various pragmatic programmes in the education sector in this regard.  
The prime minister (PM) said this while inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration and reunion of Residential Model College in the city.  
Laying emphasis on providing quality education to the students, Hasina said only standard education can help turn the population into human resources.  
"Bangladesh is a poor country. We can eradicate our poverty through turning our population into human resources."

She said her government has introduced junior school certificate examination and brought about massive changes at primary level education to give a smooth start to the education life of our children as primary education is the base of building their academic career.  
Giving salient features of the government programmes in education sector, she said her government has taken steps to provide education free of cost up to degree level, distribute textbooks free of cost at primary and secondary levels and provide IT facilities and tiffin at schools to stop dropout.  
Apart from this, she said her government after assuming office have appointed 51,289 assistant teachers and 1,852 headmasters across the country to reduce teacher crisis. Besides, she said, a process is on to appoint several thousands new teachers to this end.  
Hasina said if needed her government will take more programmes in the education sector to build Bangladesh as a literate

free country by 2014.  
The PM said her government has taken steps to set up 10 more quality schools in the city considering the admission crisis at the elementary level.  
The prime minister announced providing stipend to five meritorious students of the college after the name of Shaheed Sheikh Jamal, brother of Sheikh Hasina and former student of the institution, from Bangabandhu Memorial Trust and two buses to the college.  
Earlier, she witnessed a spectacular march-past and display presented by the students of the institution. The PM took salute of the students.  
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Principal Col (Retd) Md Qamruzzaman, former students Nasrul Hamid Bipu, MP, A K M Zaman and Prof Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed also spoke at the function.

# Pakistan to help free kidnapped Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
Pakistan yesterday assured Bangladesh of extending all possible cooperation and support for the release of kidnapped Bangladeshis in Afghanistan and their safe return.  
Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani gave the assurance when Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad Suhrah Hossain called on him at the PM House there yesterday.  
Afghan miscreants on December 17 attacked a camp of a South Korean construction company in Mazar-I-Sharif town and killed a Bangladesh engineer and abducted seven other workers.  
APP from ISLAMABAD adds: Gilani said Pakistan considers Bangladesh more a brother than a friend given the commonalities of religion, history and culture.  
Gilani stressed the need for implementation of the existing memoranda of understanding and agreements between the two countries.  
He said Pakistan was keen to start direct shipping links between Karachi and Chittagong, opening of banks branches in each others' countries and setting up of warehouses to increase the volume of trade to the level agreed at the Eighth Session of Joint Economic Commission held in September 2005.

# 6 Hizb ut-Tahrir men on two-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A Dhaka court yesterday placed six detained members of banned outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir on a two-day remand each in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.  
Akkas Hossain, sub-inspector of Uttara Police Station, produced them before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Kamrunnahar Rumi, seeking a 10-day remand.  
The court, however, granted a two-day remand

# BSMMU closes, demotes 41 teachers, officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday terminated and demoted 41 of its employees including professors, associate professors and assistant professors.  
A total of six professors, 18 associate professors, eight assistant professors and nine others received letters yesterday.  
Dr Mohammad Saiful Islam, who was the associate professor of Urology, said, "My letter reads -- your answer was not satisfactory. Your appointment was not officially authorised."  
"So the syndicate at its meeting on December 22 decided to cancel your appointment as the associate professor and reverted it to the post of assistant professor." But I was appointed as associate professor in 2006 after competing

in an examination, he said.  
He added that the university authorities brought the allegation that it requires three years working experience for an assistant professor to sit for the examination for post of associate professor.  
"But I had 12 days less than required," he said. The terminated teachers and doctors at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday said without showing any respect to the court and the previous syndicate, the university authorities are taking political revenge.  
They asked how the university authorities could cancel recruitment of 41 employees, appointed by the earlier syndicate, when a writ petition is still awaiting hearing at the Higher Court (appellate division).

The university authorities sent a suspension order on June 30 to the 41 employees following the recommendation of Nazrul Committee (an investigation committee headed by Prof Nazrul Islam).  
The doctors then challenged the Nazrul Committee report at the Joint District Judge's Court on June 10 this year. But violating the court order to show cause, the university authorities temporarily suspended 41 teachers, doctors and officers.  
The victims then filed a writ petition at the High Court division where reappointment of all the suspended employees was ordered.  
The university authorities then appealed to the Chamber Judge against the reappointment and the court then stayed the order for 10 days.

Later, the suspended employees appealed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to cancel the stay order. The court accepted and it is still awaiting hearing, said the sacked doctors of the university.  
Ophthalmology Department Associate Prof Dr Abdul Kuddus, Dr Saiful Islam of Urology, Oncology Department Chairman Prof Syed Akram Hussain and former deputy registrar Dr Rafikul Islam spoke at the press conference, among others.  
When contacted, BSMMU authorities however said the court has no embargo regarding termination and degradation of these employees.  
"They actually filed a case challenging the report of Nazrul Committee," said Registrar of the university Abdul Gafur.

# Qulkhwani

METRO DESK  
Qulkhwani of MD Zahir Uddin, a retired government official and social worker, will be held at Baitul-Tawab Mosque, Road No 7/A, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.  
Zahir Uddin passed away at Square Hospital on Saturday (December 18) at the age of 95.  
He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka  
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.  
Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.  
Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Faridpur, Sitakunda, Srimongal, Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Sayedpur, Dinajpur, Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga and Barisal and it may continue.  
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.  
The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.  
Country's highest temperature 26.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.6 degrees at Chuadanga.  
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	25.0	13.4	66	65
Chittagong	24.6	13.8	81	67
Rajshahi	24.4	07.8	96	78
Rangpur	24.5	10.5	93	84
Khulna	25.5	10.8	100	73
Barisal	25.8	09.6	84	83
Sylhet	25.0	13.2	78	78
Cox's Bazar	26.4	14.0	73	64

# Class VIII-X students to learn RTI act in textbooks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A separate chapter on the right to information (RTI) act will be incorporated in the subject of social sciences in classes VIII, IX and X from the next academic year, he said.  
Chief Information Commissioner M Zamir told a roundtable titled "Right to Information Act 2009: Review and Recommendation" at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

"I hope a chapter of five to six pages on the right to information act will be incorporated in the subject of social sciences in classes VIII, IX and X from the next academic year," he said.  
Zamir said he had requested education minister a few months back to incorporate the chapter and the minister had accepted the proposal rightway.  
"We have counted that over 45

lakh children have been studying in these three classes and they will be learnt about the right to information act through this process," Zamir said hoping that the children will help their family members and others to understand the RTI.  
The commissioner said the RTI act is like a newborn baby and so all concerned should come forward to make people aware about the law.  
"We are trying as possible as we

can. But, I consider you all as the ambassadors of the right to information act to take the act at the door steps of people," said Zamir.  
He called upon NGOs to nominate their designated information officers showing respect to the act.  
Speaking as the special guest, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said as the RTI is a new law, expectation much from it would not be logical enough.

She said good sides of the act should be implemented first before doing criticism of its bad sides.  
Law Commission Chairman Dr Shah Alam underlined the need for creating mass awareness to make the RTI act an effective tool to curb corruption and decrease the incidence of human rights violation.  
Bangladesh Legal and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the roundtable.

## Award Ceremony

Congratulations to MR. NABIL SULTAN (Deputy Managing Director & Director of Marketing, SONIC GROUP) on your amazing achievement to win "Young Business Person of the Year" at 13th Financial Mirror Bangladesh Business Awards 2009-2010. You are a remarkable man with a wonderful intellect. We are lucky to have you as our Dynamic and Passionate Leader. Wish you all the best and we are sure this is only a beginning.

All The Members of SONIC GROUP

# One beaten dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her neighbour at Demra in the city yesterday morning.  
Police said Amela Khatun, 50, of Hajinagar died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after one hour of the hammering by Anis, Sahida, and Rashida.  
Locals said the accused hit Amela on the head with bamboos following a squabble.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Rally**  
Dhakabashi will hold a rally. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Shishu Academy.

**Human Chain**  
National Front of Teachers and Employment will form a human chain. Time: 11:00am, Venue: National Press Club.

**Meeting**  
National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) will hold view exchange meeting. Time: 11:00am, Venue: NCTB.

**Human Chain**  
Poribesh Bachao Andolon will form a human chain. Time: 11:00am, Venue: National Press Club.

**Ceremony**  
Bangladesh Udichi Shilpighoshthi will organise an inaugural ceremony. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Central Shaheed Minar.

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