



(From left) Lawmaker Hasanul Haque Inu, writer Shafiqul Islam Kajol, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and United Nations Special Representative Arthur Erken at the launching ceremony of a book on war heroines at the city's Liberation War Museum yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

2 Sylhet BCL men held for beating cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists on charge of beating two traffic constables in the city's Lama Bazar area yesterday.

Two arrestees, Pinku Das, 18, and Ripon Das, 26, were immediately rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital as locals beat them up.

Police and witnesses said the incident occurred at the city's Lama Bazar point where a traffic constable stopped a rickshawpuller, as he ignored traffic signal.

Police said the two BCL men, who were travelling on the rickshaw, swooped on the constable Faruque Hossain all on a sudden.

Book on war heroines launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday demanded a stop to the use of war heroines and their heart-touching stories for commercial purpose.

"If you really want to help the war heroines, do it following your responsibility to society," said Shafiqul Islam Kajol, the book's writer, at Liberation War Museum in the city.

The book "The Unsung Ballads" portrays incidents of repressions and torture on 23 war heroines during the War of Liberation and their sufferings after independence.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, United Nations Special Representative Arthur Erken, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and lawmaker Hasanul Haque Inu unveiled the book's cover.

Kajol said, "Nothing was done over the last 40 years to recognise the contributions of war heroines to the War of Liberation. But the war criminals remembered and harassed them again and again whenever they got the chance."

One war heroine Monjura Begum died in Meherpur in 1998 but no one took any initiative to conduct her namaaj-e-janaza. He and his friends carried out all the tasks, he said.

"The incident inspired me to work for them," Kajol said. Mentioning that the book would be a useful deed for war crimes tribunal, Dipu Moni said her ministry would conduct its publicity in the international arena to reveal the history of war heroines.

BCL activists burn journals' room at Sust

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists vandalised and set afire a room of four journalists at Shahporan Hall of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) yesterday.

The BCL men broke open the lock of the room no-205 around 2:00pm, damaged it, and set fire to equipment including two computers worth over Tk 1 lakh, said the victims.

The victim journalists are Asgar Khan of Dainik Dinkal, Shah Sabuj of Dainik Janata, MU Shimul of Dainik Jalalabad, and Abdul Majid of SylhetDak.

Asgar Khan said they have no enmity with BCL, but its activists have done so being influenced by others. "We are going to claim compensation and demand trail of the accused to the vice-chancellor, proctor, and hall provost."

Concern over removal of Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations have expressed concern over the government's decision to remove Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus from the office of the managing director of Grameen Bank.

They said the disrespectful attitude towards Prof Yunus would tarnish the country's image in the international community and requested the government to review the decision with utmost importance and tolerance.

In a written statement, Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad said the decision is incorrect.

"Apart from playing an important role in reducing poverty with the help of Grameen Bank, he also earned Nobel Prize for his activities with the bank and make the country and the nation feel honoured the country and the nation," read the statement signed by Ershad.

"If a personality like him faces disrespect in his country like this, it would not be considered honourable for Bangladesh in the international community," it added. Ershad believes the government is not

involved in the matter, and the debate can be ended if Bangladesh Bank withdraws its notice for the removal. The JP chairman also hoped for government intervention in the matter.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), in a press release, said the government's attitude towards the Nobel laureate is wrathful, and it may cause millions of microcredit takers lose their faith in Grameen Bank.

Saying that the move may spoil Bangladesh's image in the international community, JSD leaders called on the government to consider the situation in a friendly and patient manner.

In another written statement, Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, secretary general of National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh, expressed dissatisfaction at the decision.

Stating that Prof Yunus has managed to put Bangladesh in the world map for a second time since Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Chowdhury requested the government not to create any debates regarding the Nobel winner and spoil the goodwill of Bangladesh.

Dowry puts her life at stake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A teenage girl who was beaten up seriously by her husband for dowry Wednesday is now struggling for life at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

CMCH sources stated critical the condition of Fatema Akhter Yasmin, 19, now under treatment at One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of the hospital.

The victim's mother Rabeya Begum told The Daily Star that Yasmin was married to Sohel Mian, 25, of the city's Madarbari area about a year ago.

During the wedding ceremony Sohel was given Tk 40 thousand and 1.5 tolas of gold-ornament, but he used to torture Yasmin from the very beginning for further dowry, said Rabeya.

"Sohel demanded Tk 2 lakh from us and tortured my daughter seriously several times to put pressure on us to pay the said amount as dowry." The poor mother said they gave him Tk 60 thousand in phases only to see their daughter happy. Still the torture was continuing and Yasmin fled her in-law's house to her parent's house in Kazir Dewry area few days before, said Rabeya.

According to sources, Sohel along with some of his companions kidnapped Yasmin from in front of her parents' house around 3:30pm Wednesday.

The miscreants fastened Yasmin's face with a towel, took her on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, and beat her unconscious en route.

Passers-by rescued Yasmin while Sohel and his accomplices fled. They took her to CMCH where she remained unconscious till filing of the report around 7:00pm yesterday.



International Migrant Foundation forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding safe return of Bangladeshis stranded in Libya. PHOTO: STAR

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Female BCS officers being discriminated

Say gender experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female civil service officials have been facing different forms of discrimination during their posting, promotion, and transfer nowadays, according to gender experts.

Apart from disparities, they are also facing problems due to lack of childcare facilities and women-friendly lavatories in their offices, said Prof Nazmunnessa Mahtab of women and gender studies department, Dhaka University.

Prof Mahtab was presenting the keynote paper at a consultation workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

She also said, "I have found some women Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) officers telling that they fall victim to teasing by their male colleagues."

The male officers are often found to have told the females "you will get promotion and better posting as you are a woman," said Prof Mahtab.

According to the gender expert, remarks of this type are gender insensitive that directly neglect qualification of a woman.

The workshop "Promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women at workplace" was jointly organised Labour and Employment Ministry and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

ILO's national programme officer Selina Ahmed moderated the workshop addressed by Labour Secretary Nurul Haque, Joint Secretary Abdur Razzaq, ILO Bangladesh deputy director, and Ranjan Karmokar of Steps Towards.

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