2 housewives 'commit suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives allegedly committed suicide in the city's Adabor and Narayanganj town yesterday.

Hasna Hena Simi, 25, wife of Italian expatriate Abdur Rahim, was found hanging by the neck with a bed covering from a ceiling fan in an Adabor house she rented with her sister, said police.

Hasna committed suicide after an argument over phone with Rahim on Friday night for delaying in taking her to Italy, said the deceased's sister Mahbuba Hena Mou.

Meanwhile, the Narayanganj housewife, Rehana Begum, 24, wife of Shaheen Al Mamun, was found hanging by the neck from the ceiling in her father's Siddhirganj house, said police.

Rehana and Shaheen had an argument after which she locked him in one room and herself in another and committed suicide, said the deceased's sister Sheuli Begum.

Passengers stab rickshaw-puller to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passengers stabbed an unidentified rickshaw-puller to death following an argument over fare at Shanir Akhra of Kadamtali in the city yesterday.

Police said the victim, aged around 35, carried two passengers to a lane in Bank Colony area around 5:45pm.

The passengers locked themselves into a heated argument over the fare with him. At one stage, one of them stabbed him in the chest and fled the scene, police added.

Two passers-by rescued the victim and rushed him to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Russell T Ahmed, CEO of Champs21.com, and Kathryn Kelly, Engilish Language Adviser of British Council, shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday to make British Council the official knowledge partner of "The Daily Star Spelling Bee - Powered by Horlicks", the first-ever spelling competition to be held in over 1,000 schools of Bangladesh. Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, *fourth from right*, was present on the occasion. PHOTO: STAR

'War crimes trial to establish social justice'

BSS, *Dhaka*

Speakers at a religious seminar yesterday laid emphasis on holding speedy trial of the war criminals to establish social justice in the country.

"They demand punishment to the war criminals who perpetrated crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of 1971 for establishing the rule of law and good governance in the country", they said.

The speakers said Islam is the religion of peace, but a vested quarter is tarnishing the image of Islam by "propagating" violence and communalism in the society.

The seminar, "Maizbandhari is only Tarika in Bangladesh", was organised by Gouse Maizbandhari Central Parishad at the city's Institute of Diploma Engineers. Dr Syed Didarul Haque was in the chair.

The programme was addressed, among others, by Director General Of the Islamic Foundation Shamim Mohammad Afzal, Dhaka University's Prof Dr Anisuzzaman, Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Shahed, and secretary general of the organisation SM Zakaria.

Dr Selim Jahangir presented the keynote paper while Akram Hossain conducted the seminar.

A milad mahfil followed by special prayers was held for a peaceful Bangladesh.

Female migrants on rise

BSS, *Dhaka*

In the past three years the country saw 80,509 technically trained women migrating abroad, a sign that such workers are on the rise with the creation of newer avenues for them.

Efforts were underway to find new destinations for women beyond Middle Eastern countries, the typical destination for Bangladesh's migrant workforce, said overseas employment ministry officials.

"The government is trying to find new destinations for female migrants, equipping them with necessary training and knowledge," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan told the news agency.

Those sent in the past three years were either skilled, semi-skilled or interns in technical know-how. The figure is 30,779 for 2011, 3,000 more than the previous year.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) officials said women with such qualifications are paid a monthly salary of Tk 10,000 to 12,000 in the Middle East.

To train migrant workers, the government formed Skill Development Fund last year with Tk 140 crore of "seed money" from which Tk 14 crore would be annually spent, said Dr Zafar.

A total of 80,509 women who are skilled, semi-skilled or interns in technical know-how migrated abroad in the past three years

"With proper training, these female fortune-seekers will be able to send a large volume of remittance," he added.

Dr Zafar said Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib vocational training centre alongside 13 others are training women on different courses on housekeeping, languages, culture and security related issues.

Aspiring female migrants are receiving a 21-day training course from those centres run by Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), said its Director of training Engineer Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

He said the government established at least 38 technical training centres across the country to train aspirant migrants on 45 courses at a nominal cost.

In 2011 the centres trained 65,569 workers, 59,000 in 2010 and 46,000 in 2009.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank officials said remittance flow maintained its upward trend in the first week this month with the country receiving US $ 250 million.

"If this trend continues, incoming remittance could cross the US $ 1.20 billion mark at the end of this month," Saidur Rahman, general manager of Bangladesh Bank's Forex Reserve and Treasury Management Department, told the news agency.

Call for Saarc parliament to solve regional problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of different political parties yesterday stressed the need for a joint security structure and Saarc parliament to solve the problems of this region, including the water sharing issue.

Visa restriction will not solve the problems; rather it is necessary to develop trust and extend hands of cooperation among the countries, they said at the convention of Bangladesh-Bharat-Pakistan People's Forum (BBPPF), Bangladesh Chapter at a city hotel.

The political parties include the ruling Awami League, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), and the Workers Party of Bangladesh.

"Problems over water sharing issue in the region can be solved through discussion at the government and political levels", Amir Hossain Amu, an AL lawmaker, said.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said the peoples of Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan have been gripped by various forms of fear including atom bomb, communalism, and poverty.

"These fears are persisting in the region due to mistrust. Establishing trust and cooperation among the countries are imperative to get rid of those fears", he said.

He also proposed formation of a joint security structure and Saarc parliament to solve problems remaining in the South Asian region.

CPB chief Manjurul Ahsan Khan underscored the need for improvement of mutual relationship to prevent aggression of imperialism.

President of BBPPF and former lawmaker of India Debbrata Biswas praised the role of Bangladesh in combating terrorism and imperialism.

Mentioning that water-sharing problem is the outcome of stringent political attitude, he said it is high time to raise voice against it.

Pankaj Bhattachariya, convener of BBPPF, Bangladesh Chapter, presided over the programme.

ALL-IN FARES AT
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

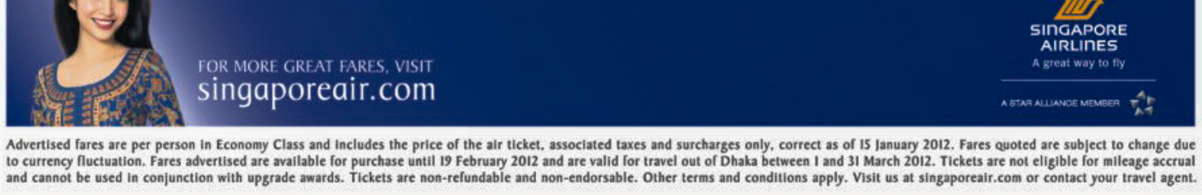
SINGAPORE BDT 40450 RETURN

KUALA LUMPUR BDT 53550 RETURN

JAKARTA BDT 53650 RETURN

DENPASAR BALI BDT 55450 RETURN

MANILA BDT 55450 RETURN



Advertised fares are per person in Economy Class and includes the price of the air ticket, associated taxes and surcharges only, correct as of 15 January 2012. Fares quoted are subject to change due to currency fluctuation. Fares advertised are available for purchase until 19 February 2012 and are valid for travel out of Dhaka between 1 and 31 March 2012. Tickets are not eligible for mileage accrual and cannot be used in conjunction with upgrade awards. Tickets are non-refundable and non-endorsable. Other terms and conditions apply. Visit us at singaporeair.com or contact your travel agent.

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