

## Pledges not fulfilled

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or gunfights", three tortured to death and two shot dead, according to a report of Odhikar released yesterday.

Home Minister Shahara Khatun in January last year said no extra-judicial killings took place since the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed office in 2009.

However, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina later in that month at a programme in London said her government had taken all-out measures to stop extra-judicial killings in the country.

In the report, the rights organisation said that at least six people disappeared in last three months. And at least 21 people died in jail and 34 others were allegedly killed in mob beating. Besides, six Bangladeshis were killed, 19 abducted and 26 injured on Indo-Bangladesh border by Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

As per the report, at least 42 were killed and 3,663 injured in political violence.

At least 54 women were killed for dowry while some 90 others were reported to have fallen victim to dowry-related violence. Another 25 faced acid violence.

Moreover, at least 166 females and girls were reportedly raped. Of the women, 19 were killed after rape, one child committed suicide and 36 were victims of gang rape.

At least 96 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment. Among them, six committed suicide.

According to Odhikar's documented statistics, two journalists were killed, 30 injured, 35 threatened, two attacked and 23 assaulted in last three months.

A total of 33 instances of the imposition of section-144 of CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code) were recorded across the country, mainly to prohibit political gathering and rallies, which, Odhikar believes, is a violation of democratic rights.

The country's overall human rights situation is deteriorating, said ASM Nasiruddin Elan, director of Odhikar. "Lack of government's willingness and political unrest are the key reasons behind this."

He also stressed the need for effective measures by the government to end human rights violation for strengthening democracy.

The report says presidential clemency to the accused persons on death-row adds to the lack of people's confidence in the judicial system.

Odhikar in the report placed a 13-point recommendation to protect human rights. The recommendations include stopping extrajudicial killings, torture by law enforcement agencies, obstruction of political programmes, all forms of criminalisation in the name of politics and violence against women. The organisation also suggested that the government should intensify its protest against human rights violation by BSF.

## Reckless driving

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Family sources said Shahid, a driver of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, went to his office in the morning from his Staff Quarter residence in Agargaon.

Before leaving, he asked his son Sheikh Abdul Sazzad and wife Rozi Begum to go to the examination centre. Shahid assured his son that he would see him before Sazzad entered at 9:30am.

Family members said Sazzad was a brilliant student who achieved GPA-5 in the SSC examinations and Shahid always took an interest in his son's education. He had a dream to his son as a doctor.

Sazzad appeared for the HSC examinations from BAF Shaheen School & College.

"After dropping his boss at the office, Shahid rushed to the centre with the jeep he drives. He parked the vehicle at Department of Agricultural Extension and started walking to reach his destination," Sheikh Abdul Wahid, the victim's brother, told The Daily Star.

As he was crossing the road adjacent to Farmgate park, the bus ran over him.

Locals caught the driver and handed him over to the police who also seized the bus running on Mohammadpur-Chittagong route.

"I saw around seven people attempting to cross the road but when the bus came they all retreated and I decided to drive on. I did not notice that one of them was in front of the bus," said Abdul Hye, sub-inspector Tejgaon Police Station, quoting the detained driver Alal Mian.

In the other incident, two friends -- Rabiul Islam Jadu, 32, owner of HR Printers and Moinul Islam Dolon, 30, who owns Multi Printers -- were killed as the truck hit their rickshaw around 1:30am.

Because of work pressure they were returning home late, said Lokman Hossain, brother of Rabiul.

After work, Rabiul hired the rickshaw from Fakirpool Water Tank to Nandipara.

As the rickshaw reached near Karnaphuli Garden City, the truck hit the rickshaw from behind leaving the two dead on the spot.

Locals rushed the wounded rickshaw-puller Alauddin to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He remained unconscious till the time of filing of this report.

Police with help from locals seized the bus and arrested the driver.

## Pranab due

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Pranab during his two-day visit is expected to convey to Bangladesh India's stance on fulfilling all bilateral agreements and decisions made since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January, 2010.

Dipu Moni, who confirmed the visit of Pranab, told reporters yesterday that all pending bilateral issues would be discussed during Pranab's visit to Dhaka.

She said during Pranab's visit, both the countries would also have discussions on the agreements signed during Sheikh Hasina's visit to India and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Bangladesh visit in September last.

According to official sources, Pranab's visit will be mainly to attend the closing programme of the year-long Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebrations.

They said officials were working out details of the programme schedule and agenda for discussion. Pranab is expected to call on Sheikh Hasina, have meetings with his Bangladeshi counterpart AMA Muhith and Dipu Moni.

Diplomatic sources said Pranab was coming to convey Bangladesh that India is hopeful of overcoming the political complexities that have clouded over the implementation of two key decisions, the Teesta river water-sharing agreement and ratification of the agreement on exchange of adversely possessed lands, enclaves and land boundary demarcation.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters after inauguration of a course for foreign ministry officials at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, Dipu Moni said she would hold bilateral talks during her visit to New Delhi with Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna.

Responding to a question about the debate over renewal of river protocol with India, she said the government was considering the protocol in a greater framework for the region.

About arbitration on maritime boundary with India, she said bilateral negotiations could take place alongside the arbitration on the basis of principles set by the International Tribunal for the Laws of the Sea.

## Padma bridge

**FROM PAGE 20**  
and IDB -- also suspended the release of their promised funds for the country's longest bridge involving \$2.9 billion.

The government signed loan agreements with the WB for \$1.2 billion, ADB for \$615 million, Jica \$400 million and IDB for \$140 million to construct the 6.15-kilometre bridge.

Later, Kuala Lumpur proposed Dhaka to fund the project and an MoU was supposed to be signed in this regard. But the Bangladesh government did not strike any deal since it contradicts agreements signed with the existing donors.

After the meeting, PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters.

He said the prime minister has expressed the hope that Malaysia would soon start the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers for the mutual benefits of both the countries.

Hasina said Malaysia could recruit more ICT-skilled workforce as well as doctors and engineers from Bangladesh.

She expressed her happiness over Malaysia's interest to invest in infrastructure, housing, power and high-way sectors in Bangladesh.

The prime minister urged Malaysia to import world-class readymade garment, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, footwear, jute goods, sea foods and agro-based products from Bangladesh.

Lauding the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hasina, the ambassador said Bangladesh has achieved tremendous successes in different fields, including agriculture, education, health, and women empowerment, under her leadership.

He said Bangladesh and Malaysia now enjoy excellent friendly relations and hoped that the ties would be strengthened further in the years to come.

Mentioning that Bangladeshi professionals are doing well in various sectors in Malaysia, the envoy said they are making invaluable contributions towards development of their country.

Adviser to the Prime Minister Mashur Rahman, Ambassador At-Large M Ziauddin and PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman were present.

## 2 Rab men

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Citing the report, he said lance corporal Muhammad Ruhul Amin, a Rab driver, and finance department lecturer Muhammad Saif Uddin Khan locked in a squabble over parking a Rab van on a road at Prembagan in the capital's Dakkhinkhan on Wednesday.

"The altercation turned into a fighting between them. At one stage, the teacher's brother Sahab Uddin, who is a sub-inspector and also a Rab member, took part in the fight in favour of his brother," the Rab chief said.

He said Ruhul Amin will be sent back to the army with major punitive measures recommended against him.

According to sources, such measures in the military include dismissal from job, demotion and jail.

Rab authorities Saturday said they ordered Ruhul Amin stand released.

Another top official of the elite force said SI Sahab Uddin will be sent back to the police department. Punitive measures have also been recommended against him as he took part in the fight which is a violation of discipline of the force.

Both the accused and the teacher reside in the same area.

A team of highly-placed Rab personnel met DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office Saturday when they expressed 'sorrow' for the incident terming it 'unexpected'. They promised that necessary measures would be taken against the accused.

The DU teacher came under attack when he requested the Rab personnel to move the parked van aside to avoid traffic jam on a narrow lane near his residence.

But the accused driver did not pay heed to his repeated requests and started beating him up even though he provided his identity, the teacher claimed.

He later took treatment at Pangu Hospital in Shyamoli with severe injuries to his forehead, chest and left elbow.

## Against

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Rab "mistakenly" took him for a top criminal.

On December 4 last year, Jui's husband Rafiqul Islam, an expatriate worker in the UAE, chopped off her fingers with a machete as a "punishment," for she wanted to pursue higher education.

Jui took her Bangla first paper exam at Narsingdi Govt Women's College centre. Still unable to write, she dictated the answers to her cousin Sania Akhter who wrote those on the answer sheet. Sania took her SSC exam this year, reports our Narsingdi correspondent.

"Despite a poor preparation, I have done well in the examination," Jui said after the exam.

"I'm taking the exam with the help of my teachers and local administration," she said adding, "I expect to get A plus if I can do well in other papers."

Talking to The Daily Star, Jui's parents expressed satisfaction over their daughter's courage and determination.

They asked all to pray for her so her dream comes true.

Limon took the exam from Kawkhali PGS School and College under Technical Education Board at Kawkhali Govt Boys' School in Jhalakathi, our Barisal correspondent reports.

After the exam, he told journalists that his only dream was to complete his education and help his poor family.

"I hope to do well in the next examination," he said adding, "I have to fulfil my dream. I want to serve the country on receiving higher education."

Hours after he was shot, doctors had to amputate his left leg from his thigh to stop infection due to profuse bleeding.

A technical team of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) in Savar fixed an artificial leg on him on August 29 last year.

Limon went home on October 13 and started making preparation for the exam.

## CCC suggests suspending teacher

**FROM PAGE 20**  
for caning two students.

Shirin Akter, an English teacher of the school, caned the students ruthlessly on Saturday despite a High Court ban on all forms of corporal punishment at educational institutions.

Ahmedur Rahman Faruki, assistant education officer of CCC, visited the school yesterday and listened to accounts of the accused teacher, one of the victim students and his father for two hours from 9:30am in presence of the principal of the kindergarten.

"The accused admitted to caning the duo as they were fighting with each other," Faruki told The Daily Star.

"She [Shirin] verbally apologised for the incident. But it was in no way a good practice to punish students physically," said Faruki, who had later submitted his probe report to Nurul Alam Nizami, chief education officer of CCC.

In the report, he recommended suspending the teacher temporarily since her excuse was not acceptable.

Contacted, Nizami said he would send the report to the CCC chief executive officer who will then forward it to the CCC mayor.

If the mayor approves the recommendation, the suspension will come into effect, he said adding that

the teacher would not be able to take classes during the suspension period, and would get half of her salary.

Meanwhile, Saleh Jangi, father of the victim student Jihad, alleged that the teacher seemingly had no remorse for her conduct.

When the CCC official visited the school yesterday, the teacher was arrogantly saying that she has links in the CCC, and highly placed relatives in different organisations to manage the situation, Jangi said.

The father of the class-V student also said Awami League city unit joint secretary advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul called him over the

phone and asked him to meet in his office in the afternoon.

Jangi, who works at Chittagong Court Building, went to the office and found the accused teacher's brother barrister Harun waiting there.

"Babul requested me to solve the matter mutually through discussions with Harun," he said.

"Later barrister Harun took me to the CCC by his car and asked me to give a written statement saying that I have no allegation against the teacher," he said adding that he refused to do that.

Contacted, AL leader Babul said he requested Harun to take his sister to Jangi's home and apologise.

## Key defence counsels

**FROM PAGE 20**  
chief defence counsel of the Jamaat leaders, and Tajul Islam, another key counsel, were abroad.

The tribunal--the first of two courts formed to deal with crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War--adjourned the sessions for over a week as the counsels would not be available until then.

Justice Md Nizamul Huq, chairman of the three-judge tribunal, however, reminded the defence that being abroad would not be accepted as grounds for adjournment and that the tribunal was "compelled" to adjourn the proceedings considering the convenience of the defence.

The first item on yesterday's agenda was the indictment hearing of Jamaat chief Motiur, who is facing 15 charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the Liberation War.

Munshi Ahsan Kabir, a defence counsel for another accused Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, stood before the three-member judge panel and said the defence was not ready for the first item on the agenda.

He said Tajul Islam, the leading defence counsel for Nizami, was in London and prayed for adjournment until Tajul was available, which is after April 5.

The proceedings against the Jamaat chief were earlier adjourned on March 27 as Tajul Islam was abroad.

Justice Nizamul Huq then said if the judges can sit at the tribunal during the vacation period of High Court, why not the lawyers? "It seems the vacation is only for the lawyers."

The tribunal then adjourned the proceedings against the Jamaat chief until April 8.

Ahsan Kabir then began reading out a petition seeking discharge of Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, another Jamaat-e-Islami leader facing nine war crimes charges at the tribunal.

No allegations were brought against the Jamaat assistant secretary general for 40 years until the trial began, he said in the application, adding that his client was facing trial only because of his political position.

The defence counsel then told the tribunal that he could not place argument supporting the discharge petition as he only read out the application on behalf of chief defence counsel Abdur Razzaq.

He said Razzaq was outside the country and sought adjournment until the chief Jamaat counsel returned on April 9.

"Being abroad would not be counted as grounds for adjournment," Justice Nizmaul Huq told the counsel. "Only sickness of lawyers will be considered as a reason of adjournment."

The proceedings against the Jamaat assistant secretary general were adjourned until April 10. On March 29, proceedings against Kamaruzzaman were deferred to yesterday after the defence prayed for time to prepare their arguments.

Farid Uddin Khan, defence counsel for another Jamaat assistant secretary general Abdul Quader Mollah, presented an application for discharging Quader from the charges of crimes against humanity.

The counsel said the prosecution had failed to bring specific charges against the Jamaat leader.

The charges say that Quader Mollah was involved in the killing of thousands of people, among other atrocities committed, in Dhaka's

Kalyanpur and Mohammadpur area during the Liberation War, he said.

However, no names of victims or killers were mentioned in the formal charges, the counsel added.

After presenting the application, Farid said he could not argue supporting the petition as it was prepared under the leadership of defence counsel Abdur Razzaq.

He too prayed for adjournment until Razzaq returned.

Tribunal chairman Justice Nizamul Huq then said the situation presented the tribunal with a "technical obstacle" as it has no other cases this week except for the proceedings against Jamaat leader Mojaheed and indictment order of BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on April 4.

Farid Uddin Khan then told the tribunal that they would not seek any more time in future.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali then reminded the tribunal that the proceedings against Quader Mollah have been adjourned several times before due to lack of preparation on the part of the defence.

On March 28, proceedings against the Jamaat leader were adjourned until yesterday as the defence were not prepared to place their arguments on that day.

Justice Nizamul Huq then said court proceedings had been adjourned several times before considering the problems of the defence. But the defence should also understand the situation of the court, he said.

The tribunal then adjourned the hearing until April 9.

"We are compelled to allow the adjournment although we are reluctant to do so," said the tribunal chairman.

## Political backing helps spread large graft

**FROM PAGE 20**  
to mark anti-corruption week at ACC auditorium in the capital.

"Corruption creates inequality among people, which goes against the principles of the Constitution. They don't get equal opportunities of legal shelter and public services," said former chief adviser to a caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

The former chief justice said of the many cases filed against the heads of state, of government, ministers and politicians since 1991, only two were finally settled.

"The farce created over bail for the influential and corrupt politicians in attempts to draw them to the parties only tarnishes the image of the court. Hearings in their cases get delayed," the veteran jurist observed.

Speaking as the chief guest, Habibur Rahman said if the anti-corruption officials do not keep themselves updated with modern technology, the corrupt would always outsmart them.

Noted civil society leader Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said there could not be corruption if there was common political will against it.

"If the politicians in power are deep in corruption, common people cannot get rid of it," he said, adding that ensuring accountability of the politicians was an imperative in checking corruption.

In his keynote address, economist Dr Farashuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said major corruption took place through amending laws in favour of certain quarters.

"If corruption in tender occurs under political shelter and if the political parties in power and in opposition together get engaged in sharing businesses, curbing

corruption gets very tough," he added.

He said it was the petty crimes that often become public, but not issues of funding of elections by big business companies. Media also did not talk much on this as all political parties accepted money and the same company financed all major parties, he added.

Stating that major corruption occurred in the public sector, Jatiya Party lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud said if the minister, secretary, additional secretaries and joint secretaries of a ministry were free from corruption, that sector could not suffer from major graft.

Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) President AK Azad said there was no accountability in society, which was a major reason for corruption. Politicians and judges were supposed to make public statements of their wealth, but very few of them had done it, he said.

He demanded making public the names of those responsible for the recent share market scam.

BNP leader Dr Moyeen Khan said the ACC was often used as a means to harass the opposition, which must end.

The speakers said the socio-economic and political systems also allowed corruption. Therefore, maintaining a check and balance

in the state mechanism was necessary to curb corruption, they noted.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said the backlog of cases in court hampered the trial of corruption cases.

"If we cannot come out of such backlogs, the commission will have no bite; it will remain a toothless tiger," he said.

The speakers suggested strengthening the commission with logistics and efficient work force and making the role of civil society and media more active.

The Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam said though journalists' unions were divided, the media as a whole were playing a crucial

role in publishing reports on corruption, but much more can be done.

Lawmakers Fazle Rabbi Mia, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Huq Inu, Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal; Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, civil society leader Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, Daily Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar, News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin also spoke at the seminar moderated by journalist Zahiduzzaman Faruk.

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