



Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust, speaks at a seminar titled 'Laws, practice and human rights of sex workers' organised by HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB) at the capital's Brac Centre Inn yesterday. On her left are Dainik Samakal Managing Editor Abu Sayeed Khan, Additional Inspector General of Criminal Investigation Department Mokhesur Rahman and HASAB Executive Director Amzad Ali.

PHOTO: STAR

Protect fundamental rights of sex workers

Rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take effective initiatives to stop harassment of sex workers and protect their fundamental rights, some rights activists demanded at a seminar yesterday.

An excluded section of the society, sex workers are deprived of basic rights, including health care, education, sanitation, and access to justice, they said and laid emphasis also on change in social views to end those discriminations against them.

On allegation that police routinely harass sex workers, Mokhesur Rahman, additional inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told the seminar that policemen would be trained so that they became more aware of human rights, women rights and child rights.

Rahman, who was speaking as chief guest, stressed the need for changing the legal structure of police department to make the force more people-friendly.

Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary director, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (Blast), presented the keynote paper at the

seminar, "Laws, practice and human rights of sex workers", organised by HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB) in support with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Sara said sex workers had to pass their days under the constant threat of eviction and arrest. "They bear so much hatred of our society that they are not allowed burial rites".

She recommended arranging public dialogue to create awareness about their rights, updating laws and ensuring access to services for them.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said the culture to exclude sex workers, persons with disabilities, and Dalit communities should be changed to protect their rights. She emphasised prevention of underage girls from being involved in sex work.

HASAB Executive Director Amzad Ali chaired the seminar, while Dainik Samakal Managing Editor Abu Sayeed Khan, ATN Bangla Chief Reporter Shahnaz Munni, Nari Mukti Sangha President Rozi Begum, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Dowry leads to girl's suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly-wed girl allegedly hanged herself to death at her father's house in the capital's Adabor yesterday, as her husband left her there for the last six months demanding dowry.

Surma Begum, 20, was married to Mohammad Yusuf, 26, a dry fish trader of Char Fashion upazila in Bhola, about six months ago.

Twenty days into the marriage, Yusuf took Tk 10,000 from Surma's father Nurul Islam and went to Chittagong to buy dry fish. He had not returned to take Surma afterwards.

As Nurul Islam went to Char Fashion, Yusuf's father Abdul Wadud told him that they would bring Surma home only if he gave Yusuf Tk 2 lakh.

On his return from Char Fashion, Surma became depressed, stopped talking to people, and ended up killing herself.

Lightning kills 2 Bangladeshis in Malaysia

UNB, Dhaka

Two Bangladeshi workers died and three others suffered injuries as they were struck by lightning at a rubber farm in Pos Balau of Malaysia on Sunday, according to a local newspaper.

The victims were walking in heavy downpour to get to the workers' quarters located about 2km from the plantation when the mishap occurred at about 3:30pm.

Robiul, one of the injured, said they had to leave the plantation early as rubber saplings could not be planted during rain.

"Usually, we finish work at 5:00pm and a supervisor drives us back to the quarters. But today, we had to leave early due to the heavy rainstorm and lightning," he told reporters at Gua Musang Hospital.

"When we were walking through the rain, I heard a loud explosion before two of my friends collapsed with their bodies almost charred. My two other friends were screaming in pain. I was lucky to have suffered only minor injuries," Robiul added.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abdul Qadir.

Qadir was killed by Pakistan occupation forces on April 17, 1971.

His grave was found in 2007 by his elder son in Chittagong after a long search. He was reburied at Qadirabad Cantonment in Natore with full state honour on September 22, 2011 following the direction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

All are requested to pray for the salvation the departed soul.

HC stays 33rd BCS exam for 3 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday, in response to a writ petition, stayed for three weeks the process to hold the 33rd Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations, the preliminary test of which was scheduled to be held on June 1.

Challenging the legality of Public Service Commission's (PSC) online circular, 20 exam candidates filed the petition on April 15, saying that they failed to get the admit card despite submitting the forms online and depositing the money on time.

They said this occurred due to technical defect in the server of the Teletalk Company Ltd.

RAMNA BLASTS

IO tells court of 14-month probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An investigation officer (IO) of the murder case over the 2001 Pahela Baishakh blasts at Ramna Batamul yesterday narrated what he unearthed during his 14-month probe.

A Dhaka court recorded the statement of Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, the then detective branch assistant superintendent of police, also the second IO and a witness in the two cases filed over the attacks.

The court also recorded the statement of Akhteruzzaman as witness, who was later cross-examined by two of the accused.

Judge (in-charge) Mohammad Akhteruzzaman of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court also fixed today for the next hearing in the cases.

IO Akhteruzzaman said in his statement that he took over the charge of the investigation into the cases on April 14, 2001 and continued the probe till June 8, 2002.

After that he arrested Moulana Akbar Hussain, a Harkatul Jihad (Huji) leader, and 11 others for their alleged involvement in the Ramna blasts, which killed 10 people and injured 50 others.

One of the 12 accused, Akbar had given a confessional statement to a magistrate on June 24, 2001, when he disclosed names of several others responsible for the killing.

Akbar also confessed that he along with several others had planned the blasts at Rahmania Hafizia Madrassa in the city's Mohammadpur.

Later, the IO recorded statements of those who were injured and handed over the case docket to the DB office on June 8, 2002, as he was transferred to another place.

Eight of the accused, including Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, now in jail custody, were produced before the court yesterday, while Akbar, now on bail, was also present.

Five others, including Moulana Tajuddin, a brother of BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, have been absconding.

The Ramna blasts were made on April 14, 2001, when throngs of people were celebrating Bangla New Year 1408. Following the attacks, two cases were filed with Ramna Police Station.

Rezaul made BSNDT president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Engineer Md Rezaul Karim Khan, former additional director

general (infrastructure) of Bangladesh Railway, was elected president of the new council of Bangladesh Society for Non-Destructive Testing (BSNDT) for 2012-13.

The election was held at BSNDT's 15th Annual General Meeting at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka recently.

Other office bearers are -- Md Saiful Alam (general secretary), Md Faruque Hossain Chowdhury (treasurer), Engineer Jafar Sadique and Kazi Nazrul Haque (vice presidents) and Quazi Andalib Hasan and Engineer Mohammad Billal (joint secretaries).



Mahmudul, Zahedul BAESA president, general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudul Hasan and Dr Zahedul Hassan were elected president and general secretary of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists Association (BAESA).

Dr Abid Imtiaz was elected assistant general secretary through the biennial election of the BAESA for the period of 2012-2014.

The other office bearers are vice president Dr AKM Fazley Kibria, treasurer Dr Asad Sarif and information and publicity secretary Golam Rasul.



এঁকেছি আমরা, দেখেছে বিশ্ব

দেশের খ্যাতিমান ৫ জন শিল্পী, আড়াই শতাধিক নবীন শিল্পীকে সাথে নিয়ে অগণিত তরুন-প্রাণ নগরবাসীর স্বতস্কূর্ত অংশগ্রহণে মানিক মিয়া এভিনিউতে গড়েছেন বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ আলপনা আকবার কীর্তি।

বিশ্বসেরা আলপনার বিশ্বয়কর দিকগুলো:

- প্রায় ২ লক্ষ ৬০ হাজার বর্গফুটের বেশি আয়তন
- ৩,৬০০ লিটার রঙের ব্যবহার



প্রথম আলো