



Past International Director of Lions Club Sheikh Kabir Hossain presents certificate to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 25th annual Multiple District Convention of Lions Club International at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

# Call for women FFs' proper recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women rights activists at a seminar yesterday demanded proper recognition of women's contributions to the War of Liberation.

Although women played a significant role through direct participation in the war, their contributions and sacrifices were not properly recognised in the nation's history, they said.

Women freedom fighters (FFs) should be honoured with due respect and recognition, they added.

They were speaking at a seminar styled 'Liberation war and women' organised by the Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW) at the capital's WVA auditorium marking the 40th anniversary of the Liberation War.

Speaking as the chief guest, noted litterateur Selina Hossain said women freedom fighters remain undervalued in the history, which was mostly written by the males.

"During the war, women fought everywhere, from the grassroots level to the policy-making level. But their tale of suffering, struggle and sacrifice were not evalu-

ated properly in the history," she said.

Narrating some stories of brave women freedom fighters who participated in different operations against the Pakistani military during the war, she emphasised on collecting or writing about the liberation war stories that describes the real contribution of the women freedom fighters.

Women leader Maleka Begum said women had acted in different roles during the war like guerrilla fighter, war organiser and caregiver, but they were always represented as the victims of torture and repression.

Another women leader Selina Khaleque also said, during the post-liberation period, the society had isolated the female war-victims by recognising them as 'Birangona' ('war heroine').

She demanded amendment to the government's definition of freedom fighters that says that only those who fought with arms will be considered as freedom fighters.

BFUW President Prof Nazma Siddiqui chaired the programme while women rights activist Salma Khan spoke among others.

## YABA HAUL Four sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court sent four people, accused in a case over the country's biggest-ever seizure of illegal Yaba tablets made on Friday, to jail yesterday.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rahman also fixed to hear a ten-day remand prayer, to be held by police, tomorrow.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), in a drive, seized 2,70,000 pieces of Yaba tablets, worth Tk 10 crore, from a warehouse at Asadganj of Chittagong and arrested a smuggler and three of his accomplices.

Rab lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station in this connection accusing the smuggler, Abdur Rashid Kulu, 50, accomplices Sabbir Ahmed, 30, Ataul Karim, 28, and Mohammad Ismail, 27, and the warehouse owner Abdul Malek Chowdhury, who is absconding.

# Poverty, illegal migration lead to human trafficking

Speakers tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty and illegal migration pave the way for trafficking of people from Bangladesh, who eventually end up in prostitution and dreadful organ trade in foreign lands, government high officials said at a dialogue yesterday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs organised the dialogue on combating human trafficking and launched a National Action Plan to this end at a hotel in the capital.

Bangladesh stands as a source country, from where women aged 18-24 are trafficked to brothels in India and other countries, said Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, additional secretary to the home ministry.

The criminals also traffick children for sale in brothels and carry out the ghastly crime of organ transplantation on them, he said, adding that men too are prey to trafficking.

Illegal and unsafe migration creates big scope for human trafficking, he said.

The government aims at bringing the heinous crime significantly down by 2014 through the enforcement of the newly enacted Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act and the National Action Plan, he said.

Maj Gen Anwar Hossain, director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), said the security force rescued 70 women and four children while they were being trafficked to India during the past three months.

He identified allurements of tourism and overseas job, attempt to avoid sexual and physical abuses at home, poverty, and forced labour as the key reasons of human trafficking.

Dan W Mozena, US ambassador to Bangladesh, said the legislation would greatly help fight the horrible crime of trafficking better.

He said a 17-year old Bangladeshi girl, Sonali, who was rescued after three months in a brothel, was still struggling hard to reintegrate herself into normal life.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni said

the government was going to open 19 new foreign missions in different countries, including Lebanon and Mauritius, in the next two years to expand country's manpower export.

Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, minister for expatriates welfare and overseas employment, said the ministry was trying to eliminate brokers to prevent dubiousness in migration.

It should not take one more than Tk 50,000 to migrate through designated authority, he said, and the government had now set up registration centres in 65 districts and one could not go as a migrant labour without registration.

Home Minister Shahara Khatun, Prime Minister's International Affairs Advisor Gowher Rizvi, and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker also spoke on the occasion.

CQK Mustaq Ahmed, senior secretary to the ministry of home affairs, conducted the dialogue, sponsored by the USAID with technical support of Wincrock International.

## Ctg Jubo Dal leader succumbs to injuries

Ameer Khasru blames police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A leader of Chittagong city unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, who was injured in a clash with police last Sunday, succumbed to his injury at a private clinic in the port city yesterday.

The deceased, Humayun Kabir, 38, was vice-president of the party's Shulakbahar ward unit.

BNP Chittagong city unit President Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said Humayun was critically injured in the Sunday's incident when police attacked BNP activists in the city's Kazir Dewri area, leaving around a hundred people injured.

Humayun was undergoing treatment with a head injury at the private clinic, where he died at 7:00pm yesterday, Ameer Khasru said.

## PCJSS leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was shot dead while two others sustained bullet injuries in Laxmichhari upazila of Khagrachhari district early yesterday.

Deceased Anil Chakma, 34, was the convenor of PCJSS Laxmichhari upazila unit and injured Ripon Chakma, 20, and Mahendra Chakma, 23, were his neighbours.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Laxmichhari Police Station, said 10 to 12 armed criminals had broken into Anil's house in Jurgachhari around 3:15am. When Anil came out his room they riddled him with bullets. Anil died on the spot.

Hearing the gunshots, neighbours rushed to the house and found the criminals fleeing setting the house on fire, said the OC, adding that when the locals tried to catch them, the assailants opened fire leaving Ripon and Mahendra injured.

Informed, army personnel rushed to the spot and helped the locals send the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police recovered Anil's body and sent it to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for an autopsy. They also recovered a .22 bore rifle in burnt condition, a light gun and 23 bullets from Anil's house, said Johirul Islam, superintendent of police (Ramgarh Circle).

Sajib Chakma, central press and information secretary of PCJSS, condemned the killing and blamed United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), an anti-peace treaty outfit, for the killing.

Niron Chakma, press and information secretary of UPDF, refuted the allegation. He alleged the incident took place over PCJSS' intra-party rivalry.

Niron said Anil, a former member of UPDF, had been suspended from the party for corruption in 2003, before he joined PCJSS. Anil then got involved in criminal activities including gun running, extortion and killing in Laxmichhari, he alleged.

## Unilever's annual sports concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The annual sports competition of Unilever Bangladesh Limited ended yesterday with a prize-giving ceremony in the Chittagong city.

The sports competition was organised by the Sports and Recreation Club of Unilever, who also organised the prize-giving ceremony and a cultural function at Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong.

While addressing the programme as the chief guest, Unilever Human Resource Director Jerry Jose said games and sports are important for everyone as they refresh the mind after tiresome work.

Besides producing internationally standard consumer goods, Unilever has been participating in different development programmes as part of its corporate social responsibility, he said.

Jose along with Unilever Supply Chain Director Aminur Rahman, the special guest, distributed prizes among the winners.

Swarup Chakrabarty and Mridul Kumar Das jointly bagged the champion's prize while Mohammad Alamgir secured the runner-up position in indoor sports.

Amal Kumar won the champion's prize in outdoor sports while Sudip Kumar Dey was the runner-up.

## 'Help victim journos'

UNB, Dhaka

Journalist community leaders and academics yesterday urged the country's corporations and businessmen to assist families of journalists who were the victims of recent attacks, assassination attempts and road accidents.

The urge was made at a function marking the handing over of Bashundhara Group's financial donation to affected journalists and their families at East West Media Group Limited's conference room at the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area.

Mahir Sarwar Megh, son of murdered journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Mehrun Nanan Runi, received Tk 15 lakh which will be kept in a bank as fixed deposit so that he can get Tk 15,000 per month to meet his expenses.

When he reaches adulthood, Megh can withdraw the amount.

The family members of The Independent senior reporter Bibhas Chandra Saha and photojournalist Shahiduzzaman Titu, who were killed in separate road crashes in the capital recently, got Tk 2 lakh each.

Arifur Rahman Sohel, canteen assistant of Jatiya Press Club, who lost both kidneys recently, also got Tk 1 lakh.

Bashundhara Group announced that it would provide Tk 2 lakh to each of the family members of Hazrat Ali, who was shot dead while trying to save two women from armed muggers, and bus driver Badar Ali, who was burnt alive during a hartal recently.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the function, chaired by East West Media Limited Chairman Mustafa Kamal Mohiuddin.

Daily Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haque Milon, Bangladesh Protidin Editor Nayeem Nizam, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj, BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, DRU President Shakhawat Hossain Badsha and Somoy TV Managing Director Ahmed Zubaer also spoke at the programme.

## Outlaw bombed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An alleged outlaw was killed as rivals threw bombs at him at Bamundi village in Gangni upazila, Meherpur last night.

The deceased was identified as Abdus Salam, 35 son of Aziziur Rahman of Bamundi.

Salam's father Aziziur Rahman, also an outlaw, was killed in a shoot-out with police on May 5, 2008.

Gangni police said a group numbering seven to eight called Salam out of his residence when he was taking dinner at about

8:45pm.

Salam suffered critical wounds as the criminals hurled two bombs at him immediately after he came out of his home. His right hand was blown off and splinters were lodged in his chest, Gangni police said.

He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital from Meherpur General Hospital.

Salam was wanted in several cases, including two for bomb blasts.

Police said Salam was in jail for three months in one of the cases and came out of the prison on May 12 on bail.

## MP's assault on woman protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Upazila Parishad representatives yesterday protested the assault of a female colleague by a local Awami League lawmaker in Dakope upazila of Khulna.

They demanded immediate arrest of the assailant, Nani Gopal Mandal, who is an elected MP from Khulna-1.

Nani Gopal allegedly assaulted Joyonti Rani, vice chairwoman of Dkope upazila, on April 13, says a press release of Upazila Parishad Association of Bangladesh (UZPAB), which protested the attack by forming a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The lawmaker refuted the claim, saying the allegation was part of a conspiracy.

On May 3, a court issued an arrest order against Nani Gopal and five other local AL leaders on charge of sexual harassment of a woman and an attempt to kill her in Dakope.



Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday with a 19-point demand for the development of the greater northern region.

## YOUTH'S DEATH IN ROAD ACCIDENT

# Police sue Uttara BNP activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a youth died in a road accident in the capital on Friday, police filed a murder case claiming he was a Jubo League activist who ran into the path of a vehicle while trying to avoid being beaten by some local BNP activists.

On the contrary, relatives of the victim, Shah Alam Fakir, 26, said the youth was neither involved with any political party nor in any beating.

Moreover, sources in Uttara, where the accident occurred, said Awami League and Jubo League activists clashed over setting up mango shops between Rajlaxmi Complex and Latif Emporium, over half an hour after the accident.

They had exchanged fire while chasing each other, the sources said. Alam's uncle, Sujat Fakir, who wit-

nessed the accident, said, "We (he and Alam) went before Rajlaxmi Complex at Uttara at around 8:45pm to collect Tk 5,000 which a person owed to Alam."

While the duo was crossing a road, Alam was hit by a vehicle. He was first taken to Metropolitan Hospital at Dhaka Mohakhali and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead at 10:15pm, he said.

Sujat added that he did not see any clash taking place before or after the accident.

Alam's elder brother Aminur Rahman Fakir said Jubo League activists tried to forcibly take away the body from the Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Alam was on the staff of a Baridhara hotel, hailing from Alfadanga of Faridpur district and residing in Bashtoli of Shahjadpur, he added.

The morgue sources said the death was caused by a road accident.

In the inquest report, police mentioned that Alam was working with Jubo League activists to set up the mango shop at around 9:15pm when the BNP activists attacked.

Alam sustained serious head injuries and was hit by an unidentified vehicle while running across the road to flee from the attackers, read the report.

Uttara Model Police Station Sub-Inspector Zahir Ahmed filed the case against eight people, including some BNP leaders and activists, by name and 150 unidentified people.

Officer-in-Charge Khandker Rezaul Hasan of the police station said they arrested a local BNP leader, Tuhin Hasan Kafil, the main accused, as the attack was allegedly led by him.