STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 19 eminent citizens started for Jhalakathi last night to show sympathy and solidarity for Limon Hossain, who was shot and maimed by Rab last year.

A brick kiln worker and college student, Limon had to have his left leg amputated from thigh after Rab shot him without caring to verify his identity on March 23, 2011. He was "mistaken" for a criminal.

The recent allegations of murder against Limon and his family following an assault by a "Rab source" on the Eid day prompted the move to demand justice for Limon.

"Justice for Limon must be sought and ensured because unfair conducts will become established facts if we don't protest," rights activist Khushi Kabir, one in the group, told The Daily Star.

Other senior citizens in the team include Hamida Hossain and Nina Goswami of Ain O Salish Kendra, economist MM Akash, Advocate Rafique Siraji of ALRD, Rejaul Karim of BLAST, Rahnuma Ahmed of Drik, columnist Delwar Hossain and Jahanagirnagar University teacher Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain.

"We are convinced that Limon is totally innocent," Khushi said. "Rab could have admitted their mistake. Rather they are opting for ruining an innocent boy's life, and the government seems to be indifferent concerning this." Critical of the government, the citizens have asked why

perpetual wrongs were unleashed on Limon. They will hold a human chain at 10:00am in front of

Jhalakathi Press Club today, said Khushi.

Around 12:00 noon, the activists will accompany Limon and his family during the submission of Henoara Begum's no-confidence petition against the Rab personnel involved in the shootout.

"A few of us will meet the Jhalakathi deputy commissioner at his office sometime around the court hearing," said Khushi.

At 3:00pm, a views exchange meeting is to follow with eminent personalities and journalists to discuss how Limon could overcome the unending harassment.

They will start for Dhaka at 5:00pm.



City

Gonotantrik Baam Morcha forms a human chain in front of National Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding a stop to the attacks on and harassment of college student Limon Hossain and his family members. Limon was maimed by Rapid Action Battalion on March 23, 2011. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOK

Union Parishads

Ruling party interferes in safety net programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local ruling party leaders influence all Union Parishad (UP) activities and compel elected UP chairmen and members to hand over to them a portion of the government's social safety net programme allocations to distribute those themselves, alleged the chairmen yesterday.

"The leaders take away 50 percent of the allocations, like test relief and allowance for old people. An exception occurred only during the last caretaker government," said one chairman, Mostafa Kamal.

"People voted us to power and we are accountable to them. But the ruling party men do not have any responsibility towards the people," said Kamal, chairman of Jahangirpur Union Parishad of Nandail in Mymensingh.

The chairmen were addressing a meeting, "Lessons learned: sharing session on social mobilization and accountable local governance towards creating MDG unions", in the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Brac's Community Empowerment Programme and The Hunger Project, Bangladesh jointly organised the meeting.

Another chairman, Mohammad Kamruzzaman Lebu, of Ghogha Union Parishad of Muktagachha in Mymensingh, said, "The local ruling party's president and secretary distribute the allocations but elected union parishad representatives have almost no role in it."

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said democratic governments work against local governments but despotic

governments work for local governments due to misconceptions regarding democracy in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Majumder, global vice president of The Hunger Project, Bangladesh, said Brac and the project jointly undertook a pilot project, "Social Movement and Accountable Local Government

significant success in bringing primary school dropouts back to school, increasing birth registration, birth control and sanitation practices and making public service providers

The achievements came under the leadership of UPs and spontaneous and voluntary efforts by the locals, he said.

Speaking as the special guest, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said achieving the MDGs requires service providers at public institutions to have sound coordination with public representatives while being accountable to people.

said not only law enforcers but also the voluntary participation of people is needed to check the atrocity.

Brac Executive Director Dr Mahbub Hossain chaired the meeting. The Asia Foundation Country Representative Hassan Majumder, UNDP Adviser (local government) Dr Tofayel Ahmed, Prof Salauddin M Aminuzzaman of Dhaka University and Gonoshasthaya Hospital Chairman Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Presenting a keynote, Dr Badiul Alam

MDG Unions" at four Mymensingh UPs. The June 2010-July 2012 project recorded

accountable, said Badiul.

On eradicating violence against women, she

HR activists protest enforced disappearance STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists yesterday condemned forcible disappearances and illegal detention of persons without disclosing their whereabouts.

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), a network of human rights defenders in South Asia, in a statement urged nationwide protest against the practice of "enforced disappearance".

They released the statement on the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared, which is today. According to local rights watchdog Odhikar, 67 cases of

enforced disappearances have been recorded in Bangladesh since the present government came to power in 2009. The SAHR statement says that enforced disappearance is a particularly terrible crime as it not only violates several

the right to a fair trial, but also those of the victim's family. Odhikar in a separate statement said, "The enforced disappearance of political leaders is an alarming trend and has already thrown Bangladesh into political instability and uncertainties."

participate in this contest * The campaign will run till 30th September, 2012.

human rights of the victim, including the right to security and

ASSAULT ON JOURNALISTS Arrest of Hallmark

MD demanded Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists at a demonstration yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the government to arrest Hallmark Group's managing director and employees who assaulted a private television channel's journalists on Tuesday.

Boishakhi Television's senior reporter Dipu Sarwar, videographer Miron Hossain, and a local correspondent Abdul Halim were seeking access to the company's Tentuljhora office at Savar to report on the recent financial scam involving the group.

The company's employees locked in an altercation with the journalists at the main entrance of the office complex and then assaulted them.

The demonstration, by members of Dhaka Reporters Unity, Bangladesh Federal

Journalists and other media organisations, took place under Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh's banner before its Segunbagicha office in the capital.

The journalists condemned the company's managing director, Tanvir Mahmud, for embezzling Tk 2,686 crore from Sonali Bank and accused him of ordering the assault.

They also declared to announce a greater agitation programme on September 2.

A Bangladesh Bank investigation found that Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch lent Hallmark Group and five other companies Tk 3,547 crore between 2010 and May this year on fake documents.

Of the amount, belonging to depositors, Hallmark Group embezzled Tk 2,686 crore in collusion with some bank officials.

*conditions apply

MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION Govt decision unfair: DAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) yesterday termed unfair the government's decision to admit students to medical and dental colleges on the basis of SSC and HSC examination results.

Admission to medical colleges without holding any tests is irrational and cannot be a proper way to gauge students' level of intelligence, speakers told a discussion hosted by DAB at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Two rights organisations, including Ain O Salish Kendra and an international body, also protested the government's decision and condemned law enforcers' obstruction and attack on demonstrating students recently.

The government should talk to the protesting students rather than using force to address their grievances, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, which represents 49 NGOs across Asia, said in a statement yesterday. Meanwhile, more than 300 admission aspirants staged a

sit-in at Raju Bhaskarja of Dhaka University yesterday demanding cancellation of the government decision. They also brought out a procession demanding release of the eight students arrested in Chittagong on Tuesday.

The protesters declared to hold a citizen rally at Raju Bhaskarjaat 3:00pm on Saturday to press home their demands. Speaking at the DAB discussion, BNP leader and former

health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain expressed

solidarity with the protesting students and asked the government to maintain the test-based admission policy. "If the government does not cancel its decision considering the interests of the majority of the students, it will be

proved that the government's purpose is to do corruption and make a business out of the admission process," he said. GPAs should not be taken as standard, and all qualified

students should have an opportunity to participate in a contest, said Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthya Kendra.

Meanwhile, a platform of guardians demanded the government shut all coaching centres through enacting a law and enrol students in Buet, medical colleges and all other

Death Anniversary METRO DESK



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Alhaj Shamsul Hoque Mojumder,

an engineer of Public Works Department Division and eminent social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held tomorrow after Jumma prayers at Amjad Mojumder Bari Jame Mosque, Al-Haj Shamsul Haque Mojumder Jame Mosque, and Ferdous Nagor Jame Mosque at Amjadhat union under Fulgazi Upazila in Feni.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mossamm at Nazma Rahman, wife of Dr Sheikh Zillur Rahman, died of

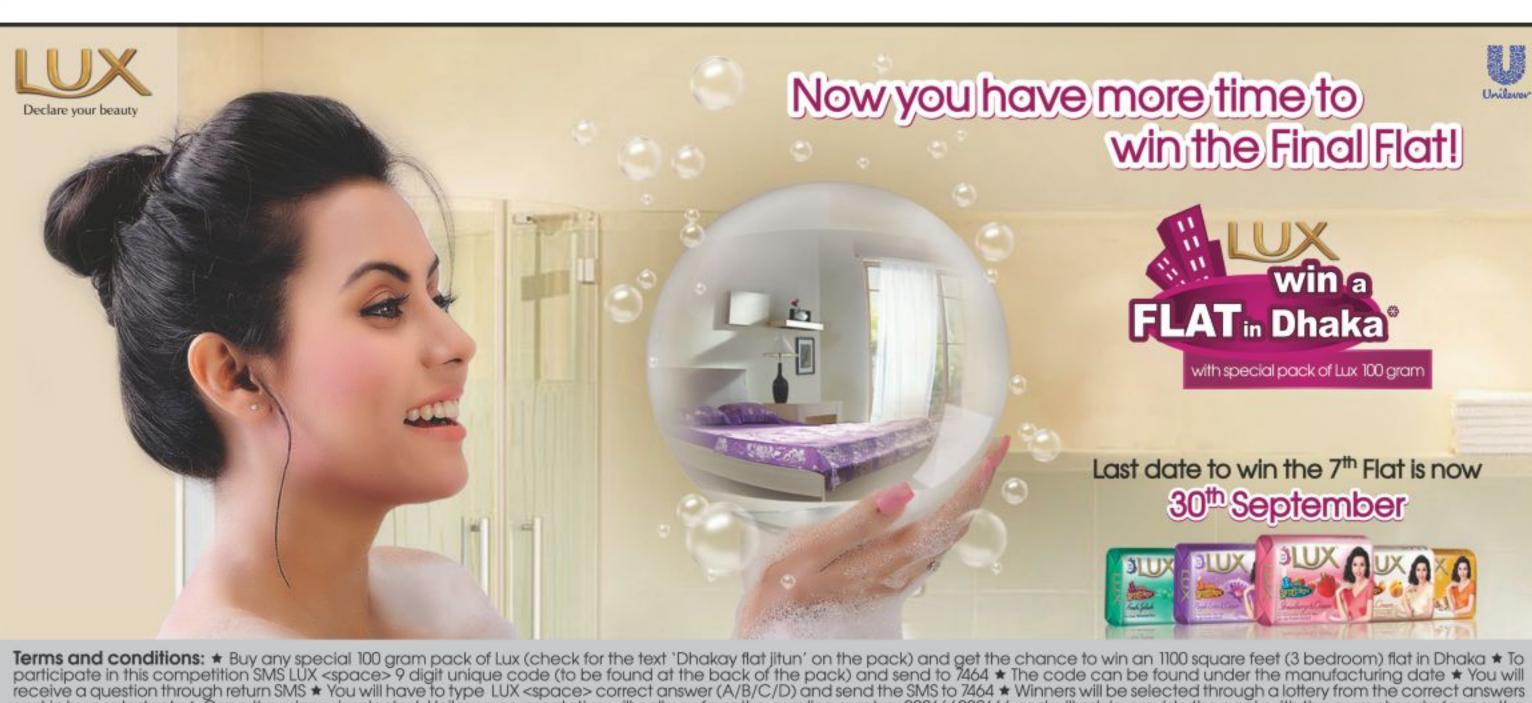
brain hemorrhage at Khulna

Medical College Hospital on Monday. She was 48. She left behind her

husband, and three sons.

Two doa mahfils will be held at 5:00pm on August 30 at the Munshipara Mosque and the other at Poipara in Khulna.





sent in by contestants * Once the winner is selected. Unilever representative will call you from the careline number 099666999666 and will ask to provide the pack with the correct code (as per the SMS sent) * If someone fails to submit the pack with the correct code, his/her selection will be rejected * During the campaign, one lucky winner will win a flat every week * The winner's name for

each week will be announced at the end of the week * The winner will have to collect the required flat papers on a given date from Dhaka * For more details contact the Unilever Careline number

appearing on the side of the pack or contact us at 099666999666 * Multiple unique codes can be sent from a single mobile number * Anyone involved with Unilever or this campaign cannot