

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT

Forced disappearance key challenge

Recognises government

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Recognising that forced disappearance is one key challenge to improving the human rights situation, the government yesterday agreed to include it in a report for submission to UNHRC at the end of January.

Sultana Kamal, a former adviser to a caretaker government, told this to journalists after emerging from a national consultation on "Bangladesh's 2nd cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2013" at the foreign ministry.

This was the second time that the consultation, attended by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, some 28 civil, law enforcing and military officials and around 40 non-government organisation (NGO) representatives, was held seeking suggestions on the report's preparation.

The 193 United Nations members have to submit their respective reports to declare what actions they took to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, said the government also mentioned of corruption as another challenge. The issues of Bishwajit and Limon came up but there was no discussion on extra judicial killings, she said.

The government claimed that the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord's implementation was progressing on the right tracks, she said.

However, the land settlement issue was still unresolved, the local authority was yet to be handed over power while the army still remained deployed in CHT. "We have categorically put forward our differences in

opinion," she said.

The consultation sources said the NGO representatives strongly voiced to include some important issues in the report.

These include incidents of violence against women, situation of children and child labour, civil and political rights, governance, corruption, issue of brutal killing of Bishwajit and torture and harassment on Limon.

Despite the government's good works, including in legislature, to improve the human rights situation, the ground reality is not so encouraging due to a huge gap between laws and their implementation, they observed.

The government claimed tremendous achievements in improving the human rights situation in the last four years due to enactment of necessary laws and effective steps for their implementation, said the sources.

Saida Muna Tanseem, director general (UN & Human Rights) at the foreign ministry, who gave a presentation on the report's preparation, told the journalists that the 10,000-word report would be inclusive of all important issues.

The government will convene a final consultation, likely in this month's third week, before submitting the report, said Saida.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) fixed April 29 to review Bangladesh's report. NGOs and National Human Rights Commission already submitted their reports to UNHRC in November 2011.

The UPR, a state-driven process under the UNHCR's auspices, will assess the reports on the extent states respect their human rights obligations.



Untreated sewage spews out unabated into the Karnaphuli river after being discharged from homes of Chittagong city residents, threatening the survival of aquatic life and creating an eyesore. The photo was taken from Majhir Ghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CU BCL leader restarts extortion breaching promises

CU CORRESPONDENT

A Chittagong University student, who was suspended for assaulting a fellow but allowed to sit for his master's examination after signing an undertaking less than a fortnight ago, demanded money from a campus shop owner yesterday.

In the undertaking, Abu Toiob Suman, joint secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and student of public administration, promised to abide by the university disciplines and not to do any mischievous activities.

Earlier, Suman had been suspended for three months. The vice chancellor withdrew the suspension order on November 22 as he signed the undertaking.

The affected shopkeeper, Md Rashid, said Sumon had been demanding money from him for a long time. "As I was unable to give him money, he forcibly closed my shop today (Wednesday) and locked it up."

Seeking anonymity, another shopkeeper said Sumon alone went to Rashid's shop on the social science faculty compound and then broke it open. "Later he took some of the goods and closed it with his own lock," he said.

Acting proctor Prof Khan Md Towhid Osman said, "We have sent two assistant proctors after hearing the news and opened the shop."

CU BCL President Mamunul Hoque said the organisation would not take liabilities for anybody's personal mischief. "If anybody wants to use the organisation for his personal purposes, he will be thrown out of the organisation," he said.

Sumon also threatened Ashraf Reza, CU correspondent of the daily Azadi. Reza said, "When I asked Sumon for his opinion regarding the complaint, he threatened to kill me in front of police and other journalists in CU Railway Station area."

Earlier Reza wrote about Sumon's tender manipulation in his newspaper in December last year.

Reza said he would file a complaint against Sumon with the CU proctor and the VC in this connection.



Chehlum

UNB, Dhaka

Chehlum of Anjuman Ara Jamil, a former law-maker, and wife of Shaheed Brig Gen Jamil Uddin Ahmad Bir Uttam, will be held at "Villa De Anjuman" in the capital's Mohakhali New DOHS after Magrib prayers today.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme at House No-115, Lane-6 in the area.

Anjuman Ara Jamil, also a social worker, died on November 29, last year at the age of 74.

Shawkat Osman remembered for penning lives of downtrodden

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Bangla litterateur Shawkat Osman observed society from its lowest tier and penned down the unspoken words of the downtrodden, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The politically and socially conscious novelist mocked corrupt politicians and the ruling system through his satirical literary pieces, they told the discussion, organised by Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad in the capital's Liberation War Museum to celebrate the legend's 97th birth anniversary.

Poet Ahmed Rafique, a Language Movement hero, said Shawkat was a complete politician in his writings, thinking, and works and enriched Bangla literature through his rare style in use of the language.

Bangla Academy's former director general Mansur Musa, Shawkat Osman's sons -- Prof Bulbon Osman and State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman --, and litterateur Andalib Rashdi also spoke at the discussion.

Born in Hoogli, West Bengal on January 2, 1917, Shawkat graduated in economics and did his masters in Bangla from Calcutta University (now known as Kolkata University).

His widely acclaimed pieces include his first novel "Jononi", "Kritodasher Hashi" and many short stories, poems, plays, essays and books for children.

Osman received several awards and accolades and passed away in 1998.



Guests and graduates at a certificate awarding ceremony of the first batch of UCEP-BMET Hotel Management and Catering Training Institute in the institute at Tila Gorch Sylhet on December 30. UCEP Board of Governors Chairperson Dr Ubaidur Rob, UCEP-Bangladesh Executive Director Brig Gen (retd) Aftab Uddin Ahmad, UCEP Association Member Zeba Rasheed Chowdhury and Abdullah Al Hossain from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) were present. The Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP) Bangladesh, the Department of International Development and BMET established the institute in 2011 to develop educated, knowledgeable and skilled professionals, says a press release.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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Harvesting Crops

We mourn the loss of our beloved Father and Grandfather

Mr. Mohammed Nurul Islam

(Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Elahi Rajعون)

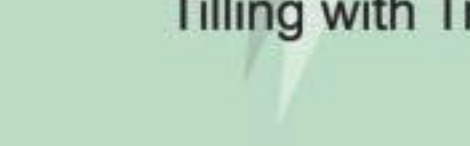
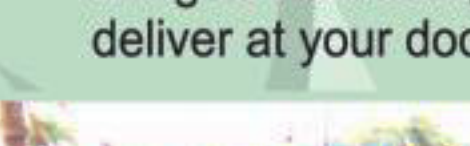
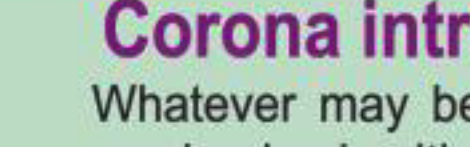
We cherish the Love and affection you gave, which touched our hearts.
Even though now You are no longer with us, You remain Immortal in our Hearts.

You were such an amazing man, who touched the life of many.
Everyone who knew you will also miss you forever.

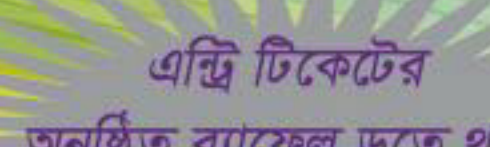
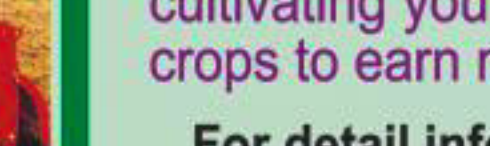
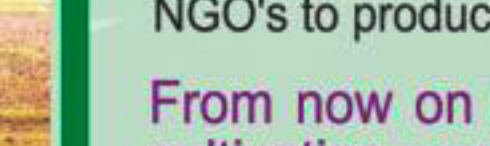
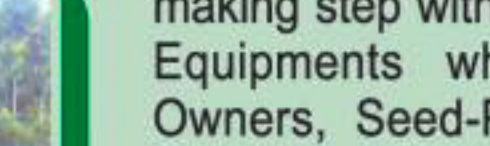
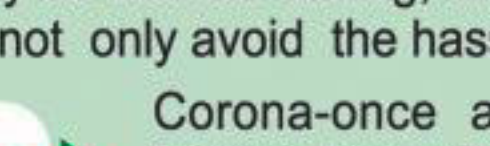
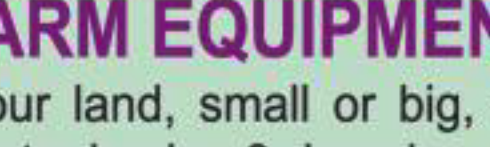
We pray for the salvation of your departed soul.

Mustafa Rafiqul Islam (Duke), Farah Islam, Saroshah Islam, Ammarah Islam, Munira Jilani (Annie), Sara Jilani, Golam Jilani Sadiq, Shaiqueel Arefin Jilani, Mobashara Gazi (Helen), Khaled Gazi, Omar Gazi, Fahad Gazi.
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সকাল ১০:০০ টা থেকে রাত ৮:০০ টা পর্যন্ত

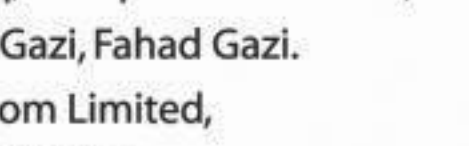
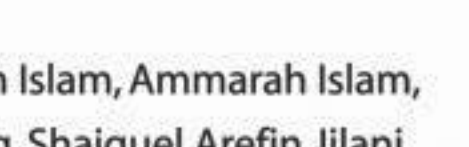
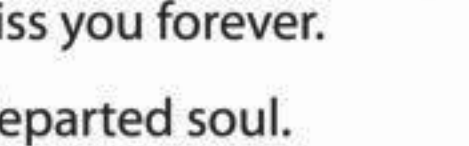
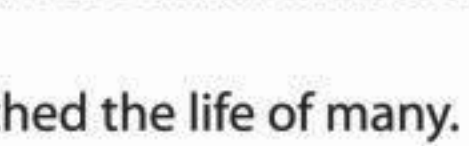
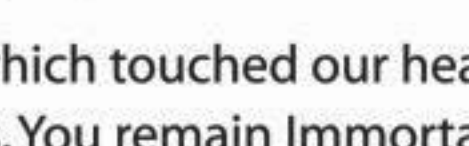
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