

DOCTOR EVA MURDER Speedy trial of killers sought

Doctors, lawyers and rights activists formed a human chain yesterday demanding speedy trial of the killers of a female doctor.

They said workplaces in Bangladesh are not safe for women as illustrated by the death of Dr Sajia Afrin Eva who was killed at her office in a clinic in the capital's Dakshin Khan on November 30 last year.

The hour-long human chain was formed in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital under the banner "Voice against Violence".

Eva, after graduating from Sylhet Osmani Medical College, began working at Brac clinic less than two weeks before she was killed there. She used to work at night and lived with her family in Ashkona.

Officials of Tejgaon Victim Support Centre are looking into Eva's case at the moment. Her family demanded transferring the case to speedy trial tribunal for quick trial and disposal.

The human chain yesterday also protested recent incidents of rape and murder in Savar, Tangail, Rangpur, Madaripur and in the capital's Mirpur.

"We demand proper investigation and exemplary punishment of the rapists and killers," said Nahid Hakim, a psychiatrist at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).



(From left) Dr Akter Mahmud, Prof Golam Rahman, Prof Shariff Uddin Ahmed, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Syed Hashemi, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Dr Mostafa K Mujeri, Mustafa Quaium Khan, Prof Golam Murtaza, Prof ATM Nurul Amin and Prof Mahabubullah at a discussion on urban issues organised by The Daily Star at its office in the capital yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: STAR

Coordination urgent to stop human trafficking

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coordination among different ministries, NGOs and civil society members is essential for proper implementation of laws to prevent human trafficking, said discussants at a roundtable yesterday.

They stressed building awareness among grassroots people, local government institution representatives, law enforcers, lawyers and other stakeholders to combat human trafficking.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with World Vision organised the roundtable, "Human Trafficking (prevention and protection) Act-2012: Present circumstance and duties", at the daily's office in the capital.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed at the event said raising awareness about the new law among lawyers and judges is very important so as to derive benefits while its deficiencies would soon be fulfilled.

Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation Chief Executive Alena Khan said female hostels should be brought under the government registration and monitoring because many girls and women are tricked into being trafficked from there.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the roundtable.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali and Home Ministry's Additional Secretary Mainuddin Khandaker also spoke at the event.

Five students detained for 'kidnapping' teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained five students, four of Jahangirnagar University and one of Dhaka College, and rescued a college teacher, whom they had allegedly kidnapped, from a courier service office in Savar yesterday.

The students claimed that the teacher, Ahsan Habib Prince, of Selima Rahman College in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district, owed one of them Tk 85,000 and that they had not kidnapped him, said police.

"We came to know that the five would come to the courier service office to collect Tk 10 lakh they demanded for the teacher's release," said Capt Tahsin Saleheen of Rab-4.

Rab said Prince was kidnapped from the capital's Shikha Bhaban on January 11 and kept confined in the university's Al-Beruni Hall.

Rab handed over the students to Savar Police Station last night.

TWO RMG WORKERS' RAPE, MURDER 2 sentenced to death

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced to death two people for raping two female garment workers and killing one of them in the capital's Mirpur in 2006.

The fugitive convicts are Mohammad Nazrul Islam, 42, owner of S Nahar Garments in Mirpur, and his accomplice Mohammed Mostafa, 32.

Md Sadikul Islam Talukdar, acting judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5, pronounced verdict and fined each of them Tk 20,000.

The punishment will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender. The court sent conviction warrant directing the respective officers-in-charge for execution.

Nazrul, son of Azizur Rahman, hails from Roydev village under Sundarganj upazila in Gaibandha district while Mostafa, son of Abdur Rouf Madbar, hails from Pachuria village under Alfadanga upazila in Faridpur district.

According to the prosecution, the convicts raped the women after taking them to Nazrul's rented residence in Paikpara on October 18, 2006 and killed one of them after she threatened to make the rapes public. They cut her into seven pieces and dumped those in various places across Mirpur. Afterwards, police recovered a leg.

Sub-Inspector Mohammad Hamidul Haq of Mirpur Police Station filed the case against the duo. Police had detained Nazrul but he secured bail from the High Court by submitting forged documents.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Teachers from 27 cantonment public schools and colleges of the country with Dhaka Cantonment Girls' Public School & College Governing Body Chairman Brig Gen Md Emdad-Ul-Bari, PSC and Principal Lt Col Imrul Kais; Army Headquarters Director (Education) Brig Gen ASM Mushfiqur Rahman, PSC; and National Debate Federation Bangladesh Chairman AKM Shoaib, Vice President Mahbubur Rahman Shakil and members Shariful Anwar, Sarzah Yasmin, M Alamgir and Muzbah Mahadi pose for a photo after attending a workshop at Dhaka Cantonment Girls' Public School & College. The workshop on parliamentary debate was organised by Dhaka Cantonment Girls' Public School & College in association with National Debate Federation Bangladesh on January 12.

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INDIAN MINISTER DUE JAN 28 Deal to ease visas likely

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A liberalised visa agreement and an extradition treaty are likely to be signed between India and Bangladesh during Indian Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde's three-day visit to Dhaka, beginning January 28.

The new visa pact, named revised travel arrangement, will remove curbs on the visit of each other's businesspersons, senior citizens above 65 years of age and children below 12 years of age.

While the draft of the visa agreement has been approved by both the governments, the long-awaited extradition treaty was yet to be cleared by Indian Cabinet after its minor modification by Bangladesh government.

"We hope, both the treaties will be signed during the Indian home minister's visit to Bangladesh," an official of Indian home ministry said yesterday.

The extradition treaty, if signed, is expected to pave the way for deportation of jailed insurgents.

Similarly, it will help Dhaka in getting back its criminals who are currently lodged in Indian jails.

For the first time, India and Bangladesh are expected to exchange strip maps of their 4,096km long boundary to facilitate resolving boundary dispute locally.

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