



## Tahmima's story wins praise in Indian daily

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladeshi-born acclaimed British writer Tahmima Anam's work published in the fourth edition of Granta's publication "Best of Young British Novelists" has earned encomium in a review in the leading Indian daily newspaper "Business Standard".

Tahmima's story "Anwar Gets Everything" is a story about a Bangladeshi labourer at a construction site in Dubai.

The reviewer Arundhati Dasgupta writes in the "Business Standard", "When she (Tahmima) describes the conditions in which the young migrants work, their relationship with the contractor and the longing for a love left behind, it is almost as if the borders have melted. Dubai could be a town in India."

"But her blunt style and vivid descriptions bring the desert alive. She pulls us into the sandstorm; she makes us flinch at the touch of hot metal rails and shudder at the thought of having to lie in a shed hot as an animal mouth," the reviewer adds. "The extract whets the appetite and is sure to have many looking for other novels by her."

Granta's book contains selected excerpts and stories of 20 young British novelists using subjects and reference points in different parts of the world including India, China, Africa and Thailand.



Truckers of Sylhet haphazardly park their vehicles on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway yesterday protesting vandalism on around 30 trucks which had entered Sylhet city before 9:00pm on Friday night. Locals had demanded enforcement of the entry bar following the death of a 30-year-old local businessman after being run over by a speeding truck at the city's Pathantola on Wednesday night. The photo was taken from Humayun Rashid Square.

PHOTO: STAR

## Sylhet truckers block roads for 18 hours protesting vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Truck workers ended an 18-hour road blockade in Sylhet city yesterday upon assurance of authorities' action against the people who vandalised 30 trucks on Friday night.

The protesters put the barricade at eight points around 9:00pm on Friday, blocking entry of vehicles and creating huge traffic snarl-up in the city.

They lifted the blockade, created with some 300 trucks, after holding a meeting with the district administration, police officials, and political leaders yesterday.

Locals and police said following the death of a 30-year-old local businessman by a speeding truck in Pathantola on Wednesday night, agitated locals put blockade on the roads in the area and demanded bar on entry of trucks into the city until 9:00pm.

The police authorities agreed to the demand and gave instructions accordingly, but 30 trucks entered the city before 9:00pm on Friday night.

Officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station Md Ataur Rahman said about 30 to 40 people broke glasses of about 30 trucks on Sunamganj road as they entered the city before 9:00pm. He said police were trying to arrest the vandals.

President of Sylhet District Truck Workers Union Abu Sarker said they lifted the barricade around 3:00pm after the authorities assured of them arresting the vandals.

Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Md Shahidul Islam and district Awami League General Secretary Shofiqur Rahman Chowdhury attended the meeting among others.

## DEMAND FOR JU VC'S RESIGNATION Admin activities stop as Juta locks offices

JU CORRESPONDENT

No administrative activities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) were held for the third consecutive day yesterday as JU Teachers Association (Juta) put the administrative building under lock and key demanding resignation of JU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain.

However, regular classes and examinations were held. Under the banner of Juta, some teachers laid siege to the administrative building to press home their demand. Meanwhile, JU Officers' Samity also joined the Juta's demonstration and observed daylong work abstention yesterday to press home their demands, including increase of their retirement age from 60 years to 62 years.

Earlier on June 19, Juta declared Prof Anwar persona non grata on the campus for not suspending the studentship of a leader of JU unit of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

On April 6, Rajib Ahmed Rasel, general secretary of the BCL unit, allegedly assaulted Nurul Haque, a lecturer of economics department. Following the alleged assault, the JU teachers carried out protest programmes on the campus demanding his suspension. They, however, returned to all academic activities after over a month-long work abstention.

However, Razib only received a warning of suspension for three months if he created further anarchy on the campus.

## AILA DEVASTATION

## 1 in 10 of Gabura, Munshiganj unions displaced: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of every ten people in Gabura and Munshiganj unions of Satkhira district had no choice but to leave their ancestral homesteads in search of livelihood after super cyclone Aila devastated the areas, found a research study.

Centre for Climate Change and Environment Research of Brac University that carried out the study presented the findings at a discussion on the role of governance in climate change-induced migration in the capital's Brac Centre Inn yesterday.

Loss of livelihood, habitation and land in the unions forced local inhabitants to migrate across the border to India and internally to Dhaka, Khulna and other districts, said Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof Ainun Nishat.

Compared to the usual economic and political reasons, saline water intrusion in farmland due to the 2009 storm surge of Aila and conversion of farmland into

shrimp enclosures by wealthy people became an overriding force for migration of day labourers and farmers to urban areas, he said.

Since saline water intruded into the locality, decreasing sources of sweet water has been an acute problem in the unions, where 76 percent of the people have no access to drinking water, said Nishat.

Lack of sanitation coverage, electricity, transportation, health and education services fuelled the migration, he added.

The findings forecast that unless damaged sea embankments are repaired and saline resistant cultivation method introduced for alternative livelihoods, migration would continue as 41 people said they migrated because of natural disasters.

Dr Aparup Chowdhury, additional secretary to the environment and forest ministry, said the government was spending 80 percent of Tk 2,500 crore taken from the climate change trust fund to repair dykes and embankments.

## KILLING OF TWO WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

## Killers still walking free

Says National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Killers of two persons with mental disabilities are still walking free, said National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled members at a press briefing yesterday.

"Kalimuddin alias Sabratu of Thakurgaon was killed (near the end of May) over a minor blunder of spoiling a few rice stalks," said Badrul Mannan, general secretary of Welfare Society for Mental Health and Rehabilitation.

"Mariam Begum of Laxmipur was chained in a room and burnt to death (on May 30)," he told the press conference the forum organised on the two victims in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

In both cases, the killers have not been arrested, he added.

Absence of exemplary punishment is turning these incidents into a recurring phenomenon, stated Jatiya Protibondhi Forum Co-Chairperson Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Majumdar.

Such murder cases generally go unnoticed and are not served justice. Society discriminates against persons with physical and mental disabilities and will get further encouragement if this recurs, said speakers at the programme.

They recommended that the government establishes day-care centres for such persons whose families consider them a burden, and demanded a separate mental health college.

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## Jute mill in Khulna closes for 45 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The privately owned Mohsen Jute Mill in Shiromony area in Khulna city was declared closed for 45 days on the ground of "financial crisis and decreasing demand for its products on the foreign markets".

Quoting the mill authorities, Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali Police Station, said a notice was served by the authorities, which was put up on the notice board around 5:30pm.

"We deployed additional police personnel to avoid any untoward situation in the mill area," he said.

Some workers claimed that the authorities announced the mill closed after being ill-motivated.

The authorities closed the mill as their bank interest has increased, they alleged.

They said around 1,500 workers and employees would be jobless.

The mill authorities could not be contacted over the phone till last night.

In 1971, the Mohsen Jute Mill was established in Shiromony BISIC area in the city near the bank of the river Bhairab.

## Jewellery traders observe daylong strike in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Jewellery shop owners in Narayanganj district yesterday observed a daylong strike demanding security at their business establishments.

They kept their shops shut and formed a human chain after parading the major streets in the city and submitted a memorandum to the superintendent of police over several demands, including recovery of looted gold and arrest of robbers.

The speakers said police were yet to make any arrest or recover any looted ornaments in 10 to 12 robbery incidents in Narayanganj in the last five years.

On Thursday, robbers looted 68 tolas of gold from AL-Amin Jewellers in the city's Kalirbazar area.

During the looting, the gang exploded at least 20 bombs, leaving at least 10 people injured.

The traders said the administration failed to take action regarding the incidents over and over, which made them feel insecure.

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