A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar's border security force Nasaka abducted 21 Bangladeshi fishermen along with their six boats from the Naf river at Teknaf of Cox's Bazar Friday night, confirmed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Ramzan Ali, owner of one of the seized boats, said 20 fishermen on five boats had been fishing in the river since that afternoon. In the evening, they had met with rough weather and made distress calls to their families over the mobile phone, he added.

Responding to help, Ramzan sent Abul Fazal with a trawler to rescue the fishermen.

When Fazal had reached the fishermen and was about to tug the boats to safety, Nasaka members appeared and took them away, said relatives of the victims.

The fishermen abducted include Md Ayub, Abul Prakash Abuiya, Md Karim, Abul Fazal, Morshed, Md Hashim, Kamal Hossain, Abu Sayed, Ali Ahmed, Fayez Ahmed, Nazir Ahmed, Md Ismail, Abul Mia, Nur Bashar, Md Yunus, Md Yaser, Omar Faruk, Mohammad Abdullah and Amir Hossain. They are all from Jaliapara village of Teknaf.

Contacted, Commander of BGB-42 Battalion Lt Col Zahid Hossain yesterday said they had strongly protested the incident and sent a letter to Nasaka urging for a flag meeting. Nasaka was yet to

respond, the BGB commander added.

Noted

FROM PAGE 1 walls of their houses, take care of furniture and raise children. They must not venture out.

In the sermon, the 93year-old principal of Hathazari Madrasa in Chittagong likened women to tamarind. He also spoke against the girls working at garment factories and also those pursuing higher education.

These remarks, read the statement of the noted personalities, exposed Shafi's sick mind and despicable attitude towards

The signatories are Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Akbar Ali Khan, Ajoy Roy, Qayyum Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haq, Anwara Syed Haq, Kamal Lohani, Ramendu Majumdar, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Sarwar Ali, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, Rana Dasgupta, Syed Monjurul Islam, Abed Khan, Nasimun Ara Haque and MM Akash.

Meanwhile, Gonotantrik Baam Morcha, an alliance of seven left-leaning parties, yesterday demanded that Shafi apologise for his indecent remarks against women.

Describing his comparison of women with tamarind as "vulgar and derogatory", it said his remarks not only dishonoured women but also belittled men.

Besides, Imarat Nirman Sramik Union Bangladesh, a platform of construction workers, in a statement said Shafi had denigrated women whose contribution to different sectors is crucial to development of the coun-

Afghan court ordered release of child-bride torturers

AFP, Kabul

A court in Kabul ordered the early release of three people convicted over the torture of a child bride, an official confirmed yesterday, in a move denounced by activists as a blow for women's rights.

Sahar Gul, who was 15 at the time her ordeal, was burned, beaten and had her fingernails pulled out by her husband and in-laws after she refused to become a prostitute in a case that shocked the world.

She was found in the basement of her husband's house in northeastern Baghlan province in late 2011, having been locked in a toilet for six months prior to her rescue by police.

Her father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-inlaw were sentenced to prison for 10 years each for torture and attempted murder, though her husband remains at large.

reviewed their case, it found out that they were only involved in family violence," Supreme Court spokesman Abdullah Attaee told AFP. The court did not have

enough evidence against them, he said, adding a fresh prosecution would be launched. "For now, the court has ruled that the time they have spent in jail is enough

for them," he said, though he could not say when the ruling was made or whether the trio had yet been freed. Afghan rights groups expressed indignation

over the early releases,

calling it a step back in

time for Afghanistan's "This case, once heralded as a legal triumph underscoring the advances for women's rights in the past decade in Afghanistan is nearly 12 years ago.

"But after the court now a harbinger of a grim future," Women for Afghan Women, a Kabul and New York based women's rights organisation who helped Gul during the trial wrote on their website. Violence and abuse

> be a major problem in Afghanistan a decade after US-led troops brought down the notorious Taliban regime. In May the Afghan parliament cut short a debate on a

against women continues to

bill to protect women from violence after complaints from some traditionalist MPs that it was against Islamic teaching.

The Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) law, which was passed by a presidential decree in 2009, is seen as a benchmark piece of legislation marking progress since the fall of the Taliban regime

Hefajat defends Shafi

FROM PAGE 16

popularity of Hefajat, were "creating confusion by launching a smear campaign" against Shafi. Signed by Hefajat's

Organising Secretary Maulana Azizul Hoque Islamabadi, the statement noted, "As part of the smear campaign, special reports and talk shows based on the video clip of the sermon have flooded the social, electronic and print media. Some newspapers have played an overenthusiastic role."

Shafi, read the statement, gives sermons in villages in local dialects, using examples easily understood by villagers, while in cities he uses dialects suitable for educated people.

The organisation argued that using analogies and

languages used in villages and books [in sermons] cannot be termed indecent. These words and language have long been used in books, advertisements, health-related leaflets and booklets.

been used for centuries in sermons delivered in villages. No one has heard of these being termed indecent," added the statement.

In his sermon, Shafi said, "If a small boy is sucking on a piece of tamarind ... when you walk beneath a tamarind tree ... when you go by a tamarind shop in the market, it makes your mouth water; women are worse than that."

ting inside your husband's home, you should take care of your husband's furniture

and raise your children, your male kids. These are your jobs. Why do you have to go outside?" The sermon drew flak

from different women rights bodies and eminent civil "Such examples have society members after a video clip of the speech went viral.

But yesterday's statement claimed that the Hefajat chief never asked to see women detained at home, rather he reminded all about women's key roles at home.

It also mentioned that demands related to women's issues in Hefajat's 13-point demand have been termed anti-women. Some "so-called" feminists and He went on saying, "Sit- civil society members had formed a human chain and held a rally against Hefajat's demands.

RMG workers must have union

be ensured for the country's sake, not to bow to mounting pressure from abroad.

"The workers must be given rights to organise, provided with a platform to raise their voice and allowed to settle their issues with their employers at factory level. Without a plant-level mechanism, it would not be possible."

Nazrul said trade union was the answer to all troubles and crises at the garment factories. "We have laws better than many other countries. We need to implement them. So, we need strong trade union. Although the law does not ban them, the workers are not being allowed to form unions."

Roy Ramesh Chandra, general secretary of IndustriAll Bangladesh Council, a trade union, said the amended law would not be acceptable locally and globally, if it did not allow workers the freedom to organise and to form trade unions.

He said garment factory owners must follow international labour standards if they wanted to do business in the global arena.

"There should also be self-governance at the plant level so that workers get the chance to raise their issues locally and discuss them. Only inspectors cannot ensure compliance in the big industry," he said.

Nesar Ahmed, president of Labour Court Bar

ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ

কাশফিয়া প্রাজা (৪র্থ তলা), ৩৫/সি, নয়াপল্টন

ভিআইপি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আইসিবি ইউনিট ফান্ডের সিআইপি সুবিধার অন্তর্ভুক্ত সম্মানিত ইউনিট সার্টিফিকেট

হোল্ডারগণকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০১১-২০১২ইং অর্থবছর সহ বিগত বছর সমূহের

সিআইপি সার্টিফিকেট যাঁরা সংগ্রহ করেননি তাঁদেরকে অতিসত্ত্বর (৩ মাসের মধ্যে) উক্ত

বিষয় ঃ আইসিবি ইউনিট ফান্ডের সিআইপি সার্টিফিকেট সংগ্রহ প্রসেঙ্গ।

সিআইপি ইউনিট সার্টিফিকেট সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

Association, said many proposals of the workers might not be included in the amendment to the labour law which was due to be passed this week.

The law also might not be strict on the duties of the factory owners, he said.

Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Employers' Association, said the employers were ready to accept trade unions.

"Bangladesh Employers Federation has long been calling for trade unions at factories -- long before the Tazreen Fire or Rana Plaza collapse. We have also proposed to include export processing zones."

He did not hide the employers' fear about trade unions. "The employers fear that politics could infiltrate trade unions. Politicised trade unions will ultimately disrupt production, putting investment of hundreds of crores of taka in jeopardy.

"Politics must be disengaged from trade unions, he said. "We have to look at the issue from a realistic point of view."

Arthur E Shears, a chief technical adviser of International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dhaka, said the country needs to take steps to have occupational safety in place, as factories were the places where workers spend onethird of their lives.

"We need to promote safety culture."

নির্দেশক্রমে-

মোঃ সেরাজুল হক

এ্যাসিসটেন্ট জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

ইউনিট ফান্ড ডিপার্টমেন্ট

कानः ৯००>२२४।

Shaheen Anam, executive

director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, blamed weak

governance for the troubles

in the industrial sector. "In Bangladesh, one can run a business without following laws, as the authorities do not perform their due duties."

She said the nongovernmental organisations gave proposals for the garment sector in the past but

they were not implemented. "Bangladesh would have been able to avert the current type of crises if those suggestions were implemented. But whenever we had raised them the industries not only opposed them but also accused us of plot-

ting to destroy the sector." She said Manusher Jonno Foundation and BILS had submitted chapter-wise rules on the Labour Law, 2006, in 2008 to the labour ministry. "But we do not know what has happened to them. Recently, we have heard that the labour ministry is trying to come up with regulations."

AMM Safiullah, vicechancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, said, "None in Bangladesh follows civil engineering standard procedures while constructing buildings. As a result, small buildings are also collapsing alongside high-rise build-

He said turning residential buildings into commercial ones or factories was a crime and should not be allowed.

Mohammad Mahboob, director, operations of Fire Service and Civil Defence, who played a key role in the rescue efforts in the Tazreen Fashion fire, warned about the unsound condition of the garment factories in Old Dhaka.

Abdur Razaque Khan, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, said the weakness of the labour department was known to all and the department was not accountable.

Shirin Akter, a labour leader, who chaired the event, said Bangladesh would have to take steps to implement conditions set out in the Geneva agreement last week.

Kidnapped boy rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A seven-year-old boy, who had been abducted from Dhaka nearly a month ago, was yesterday rescued from Chittagong by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7).

Rab personnel also arrested the alleged abductors Mamun, 25, and Golap, The victim, Emon, is a

from Ctg

nursery student of Sishu Bidhalay Niketon. His father Jamal Hossain is a garment worker and his mother Laizu Akther a domestic help working in Lebanon. On June 20, Mamun

who had worked with Laizu in Lebanon, took Emon from Laizu's mother's house in the capital's Jatrabari area on an outing and did not return. The following day, Mamun over the phone demanded Tk 50 lakh as ransom, said Jamal, victim's father.

On the same day Jamal filed a general diary (GD) with Jatrabari Police Station.

Meanwhile, yesterday the abductors told Jamal to bring the ransom to Alanker intersection in Chittagong city. Then, with help of Rab members, the duo was arrested from there around 12:30pm.

With the information gleaned from the duo, Rab personnel rescued Emon from a slum in the port city's Foy's Lake area at around 3:00pm, said Shakawat Hossain Assistant Police Super-Intendent (ASP) and Operation Officer of Rab-7.

18 session

FROM PAGE 16 secretariat told The Daily Star yesterday. Speaker Shirin Sharmin

Chaudhury on July 2 adjourned the ongoing parliament session until 11:00am today. Earlier on June 3, the

Business Advisory Committee of parliament decided at a meeting that the budget session would be prorogued on July 3. However, on the advice of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury extended the session until July 17 to pass some important bills. The passage of the labour

law is crucial to restoring Bangladesh's GSP facility, which the US administration suspended last month due to insufficient progress in labour rights and workers' safety standards.

Labour and Employment Minister Rajiudin Ahmed Raju on June 5 placed the labour law (amendment) bill in parliament in order to simplify the rules of forming trade unions and ensure health care and safety measures for workers.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry for scrutiny.

Egypt's divide turns brother against brother

REUTERS, Cairo

Islam Ibrahim has no idea if his older brother Nasim was one of the Republican Guardsmen shooting at him when he and hundreds of other Egyptians were wounded and more than 50 killed. The brothers, who moved

together to Cairo from a village near the Suez Canal, stayed close until last week, when the army in which Nasim serves toppled the president that Islam has vowed to defend. "I don't know if he was there with them or not," said

Islam, 24, with a bandage

from a gunshot on his knee

and an open wound from birdshot on his shoulder. "I don't like to think about it. If he was, I know he would-

n't fire on unarmed demonstrators," he said. He sat on a plastic chair behind the stage at the camp near a Cairo mosque where thousands of supporters of the deposed

president, Mohamed Morsi, say they will keep a protest vigil until he is restored.

The overthrow of Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, has split the country like no other event in memory, dividing brothers from brothers, fathers from sons and husbands from wives.

Two days after the army ousted Morsi following escalating street protests against his rule, Islam called his brother to invite him to a pro-Mursi rally. "He said I should be at

home celebrating and that the army had saved the country from chaos," recalled Islam. The brothers have not spoken since.

A few days later, Islam was among protesters outside the headquarters of his brother's Republican Guard when they were fired upon in one of the deadliest incidents in more than two years of political unrest.

"I was still praying when I

heard the gunfire. I was 300 metres away from the soldiers. They were shooting teargas over our heads," said Islam, clutching a walking cane in one hand and a Koran in a brown leather

BULLETS FLYING

case in the other.

"I heard bullets flying in all directions. Everyone was running left and right. Some of my friends were throwing rocks at the soldiers. We made a shield out of steel traffic barriers, but my leg was sticking out and a bullet struck me in the knee.

"My friend helped me stop the bleeding with his shirt. As I was running back another bullet hit me in the shoulder."

The army says the violence was provoked by terrorists who attacked its troops. The Brotherhood says its supporters were fired upon while peacefully praying. Footage circulated widely on the Internet shows uniformed snipers firing from rooftops.

Russia faces US wrath FROM PAGE 16

summit with Putin, with whom he has tricky relations, before heading on to the G20 summit in St Petersburg. US-Russia ties are already

strained over human rights and the conflict in Syria.

Snowden on Friday dramatically summoned activists to the transit zone of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport where he has been marooned without a valid passport for the last three weeks after arriving on a flight from Hong Kong. The United States wants

the former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor extradited back home to face justice over his leaking of sensational details about US surveillance activities, a demand Moscow has so far rejected Snowden, 30, making his

first publicised appearance since arriving in Moscow, told the activists he wanted to claim asylum in Russia until he could safely travel to win permanent sanctuary in Latin America.

"I ask for your assistance in requesting guarantees of safe passage... in securing my travel to Latin America, as well as requesting asylum in Russia until such time as... my legal travel is permitted," Snowden said. He said that the asylum

request was being made Friday evening. The head of Russia's Federal Migration Service (FMS) said early yesterday that Moscow had yet to receive the application which, if it arrived, would be examined "according to normal legal procedures".

The asylum request procedure could take up to three weeks, sources said. But hinting that

Snowden's new application may be viewed positively, the speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament Sergei Naryshkin and the upper house speaker Valentina Matviyenko both swiftly said his request should be accepted. Naryshkin, a powerful

ally of Putin who used to head the Kremlin administration, said that Snowden was a "defender of human rights" who risked facing the death penalty if he was sent back to the United States. The almost surreal meet-

ing saw the group of less than a dozen activists arrive at the airport to be surrounded by a huge crowd of journalists. Those invited included representatives of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as well as prominent Moscow lawyers.

Russian state television late Friday broadcast footage shot from a mobile phone of the meeting, which showed Snowden reading out a statement while flanked by a staffer from the WikiLeaks antisecrecy website, Sarah Harrison, and a woman

He appeared well and spoke confidently.

interpreter.

Curiously, Snowden had last week withdrawn a request for asylum in Russia after Putin insisted he could stay only if he stopped releasing information that harmed the United States. At the meeting with activ-

not want to harm the United States but it was not clear whether this meant he was prepared to stop leaking in order to stay in Russia. Although several leftist Latin American states have

ists, Snowden vowed he did

indicated a readiness to host him, Snowden said at the meeting that Western governments would prevent him from travelling there.

The United States has already rebuked China for allowing Snowden to leave for Russia from Hong Kong and Moscow would risk incurring the wrath of Washington should it dare offer him asylum.

India's food security scheme to launch on Aug 20

PTI, New Delhi

Congress president Sonia Gandhi yesterday asked the States ruled by the party to implement in "letter and spirit" the food security scheme, which it sees as a "game-changer" in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Gandhi held deliberations with Congress Chief Ministers on how to implement the food scheme seeking to provide cheap

ple, for which an ordinance was promulgated last week. Party sources said the Chief Ministers were told at

the meeting to rollout the

scheme in "letter and spirit".

foodgrains to 82 crore peo-

Delhi, where Assembly polls are due by year-end, will be the first State to roll out the scheme on August 20, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Besides Congress Chief

Ministers, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, party vice-president Rahul Gandhi, Food Minister K.V. Thomas, AICC general secretaries were present

during the deliberations.

The aim of the meeting was to ensure that the scheme is implemented in the best possible manner with Congress-ruled States becoming role models in implementation of the food security measure.



whatsoever.

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208

LOCAL TENDER NOTICE

Tender ref.: EDCL/PUR/LOCAL/TENDER/2013/11

Dated. 11/07/2013

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers / Importers / Contractors for Installation of following items on urgent:

Name of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Time for completion after getting work order	Last date of Closing & opening
Supply, Installation, Testing Commissioning of Sandwitch Pannel, Doors & Windows, Passbox, Guid Rails & Floor Finish work of the Oral Liquid Area (Details as per BOQ & Technical Specification).	Tk. 5% of quoted amount	Tk. 6,000/set (Non-refundable)	03 months	Closing: 22/07/2013 At 12.00 pm Opening: 22/07/2013 At 12.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender. The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the from of Bank Draft /

Pay Order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive. EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason

> Deputy General Manager Planning & Procurement. For: Managing Director.