

# ICT ACT

## Some provisions threat to freedom of expresion

*Says rights platform of 19 NGOs*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh, a platform of 19 NGOs, yesterday reiterated that some provisions in ICT (amendment) act were a threat to the existing human rights related laws and policies, particularly to the freedom of the press and citizens' right to express opinion.

In a written statement signed by Sultana Kamal, the forum's convener and a rights activist, the forum urged the government to make necessary amendments to the act through comprehensive discussions.

Referring to sections 54, 55, 57 and 61 under the act, the forum observed that there was a strong possibility of the misuse of these provisions for political and other motives.

There is no specific direction of which actions will be brought into cognisance using section 57 which includes some actions namely false, obscene, derogatory, instigating, tarnishing the state's image or hurting religious sentiment.

The ambiguities of these words must sanction the misuse of this act, the forum fears. As these actions were made non-bail-able under the section 57, these will breach the citizen's rights seriously.

At the moment, the trials in cases against Odhikar secretary and director, Bangla daily Amar Desh editor, four bloggers and three journalists of the Inqilab are going on.

The forum urged the government to ensure transparency

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

# Govt to appoint administrators for troubled pvt universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will appoint administrators in troubled private universities if the institutes cannot resolve disputes on contentious issues like ownership and moving to their own campuses.

The education ministry also threatened to stop academic activities of these universities if the problems were not resolved through arbitrations.

The decision was taken at a review meeting at the ministry with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.

The meeting also discussed different cases filed over the issues, said a press release.

According to the release, the troubled universities are: Darul Ihsan University, Prime University, Northern University, Southern University, Asian University of Bangladesh, BGC Trust University, Queens University, and America Bangladesh University.

Measures will be taken to resolve the cases of the universities over Board of Trustees or outer campuses quickly by bringing those [cases] in one court, the meeting decided.

The meeting also came up with a new

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION

## PM opens campaign

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is pledge bound to bring down the infant and maternal mortality rate substantially as well as to eliminate measles and control rubella to face the challenges of the 21st century.

She stated her government's position while officially inaugurating the three-week "Measles-Rubella Vaccination" campaign at a simple ceremony at her official Gono Bhaban residence in the morning.

At the inauguration of the country's biggest vaccination campaign, Hasina patted the children taking them on her lap, and encouraged them to take the vaccine.

The premier said the government is working ceaselessly keeping in mind the goals of eradicating measles, controlling rubella, and retaining the polio-free status of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

# Shibir men clash with BCL activists at Sust

*Vandalise 12 vehicles, windowpanes of buildings over arson on motorcycle of university unit Shibir president; 10 injured*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Some 10 activists of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) unit BCL and Shibir sustained minor injuries during a clash yesterday following vandalism allegedly by the latter's men after their president's motorcycle was torched.

Police fired some 40 rubber bullets in the air to disperse the warring factions half-an-hour later.

Witnesses, including a Sust administrative officer, bus staff and shopkeepers, preferring anonymity, claimed that around 30-40 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists carried out the arson before the East Building around 3:00pm.

In no time, around 40 Islami Chhatra Shibir men carried out the vandalism before the administrative building, they said.

Assistant Proctor Niloy Chandra Sarker told The Daily Star that 12 vehicles, including buses and motorcycles, were damaged while some windowpanes of the administrative and three academic buildings were broken.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# 375 MW ELECTRICITY

## Ecneec okays 2 power plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved two power plants to produce a total of 375 megawatt (MW) under two projects.

One of the projects includes a 275 MW power plant, worth Tk 2,688 crore, to be set up in Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Station by 2017. China Industrial and Commercial Bank will provide Tk 1,836 crore for the project as buyer's credit.

The power station already has two power plants each having production capacity of 125 MW.

With this a total of 13 projects worth Tk 9,110 crore were approved during the Ecneec meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at NEC conference room in the capital.

The other 100 MW diesel based power plant will be installed at Chapainawabganj at a cost of Tk 1,114 crore. The HSBC would provide a credit of Tk 893 crore.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Model Pallab detained, freed hours after

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police early yesterday detained model and actor Pallab Chakraborty along with 10 others in the capital's Rampura area on charges of possessing firearms.

However, after primary interrogation, Pallab and four others were freed hours later as police did not find their involvement in carrying the arms, said Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motiheel division) Mohammad Ashrafuazzaman.

Pallab had gone to the office just a while before the raid with a junior co-artist

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# FIRST ANNIVERSARY

## Gonojagoron Mancha declares 3-day programme

DU CORRESPONDENT

The activists of Gonojagoron Mancha units at home and abroad will simultaneously bring out processions at 4:00pm on February 5, marking its first anniversary.

Spokesperson Imran H Sarker announced it yesterday alongside their three-day programme marking the anniversary.

On February 5, the mancha will begin the day by placing wreaths at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka University and National Memorial in Savar in the morning.

An oath taking ceremony will be held at 3:00pm at Shahbagh followed by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# FAMILY PLANNING OFFICIALS

## Govt to fill up vacant posts soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon recruit people to fill up vacant posts of family planning officials, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday.

Addressing a views-exchange meeting with officials of the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) at its auditorium in the capital, he said he would talk to the public administration in this regard.

The DGFP now has 6,958 vacant posts.

The minister expressed hopes that the recruitment would yield a major boost in the country's family planning programmes.

He also emphasised his commitment to fight absenteeism among physicians.

"Punishment for irresponsible behaviour should be expulsion from service as suspension proves to be inadequate," Nasim said.

Suspended officials tend to lobby hard to regain their jobs and often succeed in their endeavour, he added.

He expressed his wish to enact a law permitting physicians to be sacked for absenteeism.

The health ministry on Thursday suspended two doctors and a medical assistant for absenteeism at Valuka upazila of Mymensingh.

# Obituary

CITY DESK

Col (ret'd) Dr MM Ali, FRCS, former senior surgeon of CMH Dhaka, passed away on Saturday. He was 98.

He will be buried at Armed Forces Graveyard in Banani following his namaz-e-janaza at CMH Mosque today after Zohr prayers.

His kulhwani will be held tomorrow after Maghrib prayers at house-46 on road-20 in Uttara Model Town's sector-3.

He contributed to setting up "Pongu Hospital", an orthopaedic hospital in Dhaka, and also helped to establish the CMH (Combined Military Hospital).

# College student stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Miscreants stabbed the son of a pro-BNP Mohila Dal leader to death in Sylhet city's Kuarpur area in broad daylight yesterday over establishing supremacy, said locals.

The deceased, Sohan Ahmed, 18, son of Shahana Begum Shanu and Tajul Islam, was a class XI student at Madan Mohon College.

The victim's mother Shahana, a central committee member of Mohila Dal and its city unit vice president, was also a ward councillor of Sylhet City Corporation.

Around six people attacked Sohan with sharp weapons

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## তুমি জাগলেই জাগবে বাংলাদেশ

আর দেশকে জানলেই জাগবে তুমি।  
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# Abducted youth killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A youth, who was abducted on January 21, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital where he was taken after locals found him beaten up on a road in Sabujbag Metropolitan College area in Khulna city on Saturday night.

Ashique Sarder, 25, a truck helper, son of Akram Sarder, was abducted from the city's Mollabari intersection centring previous enmity, claimed his family members.

Locals said they found Ashique lying on Khokon Commissioner's Lane and rushed him to Khulna Medical College Hospital. They then contacted Ashique's family who first shifted the victim to a local hospital and then to Khulna Surgical Clinic where Ashique died.

Ashique's family members said Ashique told them the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3