

# Equal rights for females must for development

*Says PM adding no girl will remain uneducated; awards Prof Mamtaz, Golap Banu with Begum Rokeya Padak*

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for establishing equal rights of males and females, saying that no society could advance if half of the society is left behind in the process of development.

She made the call while inaugurating Begum Rokeya Day and distributing Begum Rokeya Padak-2014 in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The prime minister handed over Begum Rokeya medals to Prof Mamtaz Begum, chairperson of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha, and social worker Golap Banu, founder of Baridhara Mohila Samabaya Samity in Dhaka, for their contribution in spreading female education, establishing women's rights and socio-economic development of the helpless and poor women.

She expressed her firm optimism that no girl would be deprived of education as her government has taken various steps for ensuring female education to materialise the dream of Begum Rokeya. "I hope that by the grace of Allah, no such a situation in the country will exist in future that any girl will be left out from education. Every girl would be educated," she said.

Hasina said Begum Rokeya had a dream that the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents Begum Rokeya Padak to Golap Banu, founder of Baridhara Mohila Samabaya Samity in Dhaka, for her contributions to spreading female education, establishing women's rights and socio-economic development of the helpless and poor women, in Osmani Memorial Auditorium of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## Rajshahi College Bus driver arrested over accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police last evening arrested the driver of a bus rented by Rajshahi Government College following an accident in which three students were killed and 50 others injured Sunday.

Abdur Razzak, 42, of the city's Meherchandi, was held in Katakhal Bazar area, said Ifte Khair Alam, an assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

The bus plunged into a roadside ditch after the vehicle and a passenger bus had collided head-on on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Rajshahi city's Katakhal.

Since then, the college students have been demonstrating in the city demanding capital punishment for the drivers of both the vehicles.

A case was filed against two drivers with Motihar Police Station on that day.

## NEWSIN brief

### Court to decide on Forkan's war crimes charge framing Dec 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will decide on December 18 whether it will frame charges against Forkan Mallik for his alleged involvement in war crimes committed in Patuakhali.

The three-member tribunal fixed the date after hearing charges brought against the alleged Razakar yesterday.

On November 17, the prosecution pressed the eight charges, including mass killing, murder, rape, arson and forced religious conversion, against Forkan and the tribunal took the charges into cognisance on December 2.

### Woman commits suicide in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman allegedly committed suicide yesterday by hanging herself from a ceiling fan in their Turag residence in the capital over a family feud.

Kulsum Akter, 28, locked herself inside her room after her husband, Hossen Mia, who is a mason, refused to give her money to enroll their two children in a school and quarreled therefore, said police.

Hossen broke open the door and took her to Uttara Adhunik Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

### Korean investors donate furniture to Savar school

CITY DESK

Aiming to improve the educational environment of local communities, Korean Investors Association in Bangladesh (KIAB) with the support of the Korean Embassy donated students' desks and chairs, whiteboards and drinking facility in the school.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ceremony of KIAB was held at Gazirchat Primary School in Savar yesterday. Teachers and students of the school; Leo Kim, Chairman of KIAB, and members of KIAB were present at the event.

### Canadian envoy Heather Cruden pays farewell calls on ministers

CITY DESK

High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Heather Cruden paid farewell calls on Minister of Commerce, Tofail Ahmed; Minister of Road Transport and Bridges, Obaidul Quader; and Minister of Health, Mohammed Nasim yesterday.

During her three-year eventful tenure in Bangladesh she enjoyed her time, said a press release yesterday. Her departure date has not been fixed yet.

### Rtv launches mobile app

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private satellite television channel, RTV, has introduced a mobile app, making its news and other programmes more accessible for the people.

Prime Minister's Information Affairs Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal inaugurated the app at a programme at the Bengal Multimedia Studio in the capital's Tejgaon on December 7.

## Women should fight all barriers for education

*Begum Rokeya commemoration discussion told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as Begum Rokeya has shown, women should fight all barriers be it traditional or religious values or harassment to get themselves educated, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The importance of education in setting women free from seclusion of staying at home was discussed at a programme at the senate bhaban of Dhaka University.

Before the discussion, a paper titled "Situating Rokeya" was presented by Perween Hasan, vice chancellor of Central Women's University.

Her presentation was a part of a series of lectures organised by DU's women and gender studies department on Begum Rokeya Day, commemorating the 134th birth anniversary and the 82nd death anni-

versary of pioneering feminist writer, social reformer, educationist and philosopher Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

The day was observed all over the country as well as in the subcontinent through different programmes, rallies and seminars.

Hasan read excerpts from Bangla novels, including Anwara and Abdullah, newspaper clippings and journals from the early 1900s to depict the society in which Rokeya boldly voiced her opinion about women's rights.

Most of the writings depicted an ideal educated woman as someone who remains at home, shows unquestioned devotion towards her husband, cooks, reproduces and takes care of children.

Tania Haque, chairman of the women and gender studies department, said, "In her [Rokeya] era, it was considered a sin for

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## 8yr-old girl raped by neighbour in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A first-grader was allegedly raped by a neighbour at Muslimnagar in the capital's Matuail yesterday afternoon.

The 17-year-old neighbour, Shaon, lured the girl into his empty house about 20 yards off her residence around 3:00pm, said the victim's family members.

All in tears, the girl appeared before her mother around 5:30pm, and explained what happened.

The eight-year-old was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 11:30pm. The family did not report the matter to police.

The girl's mother said the residents of the area assured her of settling the matter through arbitration.

"We are getting her treated now. After her recovery, we will file a case if there is no arbitration," she told The Daily Star.

Shaon's family, who had been the girl's next door neighbour for a long time, moved to their new house six months ago, and it was known to the girl. Shaon worked as an assistant to a trucker.

Confronted by the victim's mother, the boy's family denied the allegations outright. The teenager allegedly fled after the crime. Kadamtoli Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Salam said they were aware of the matter and looking into it.

## DCC polls ploy to foil BNP movement

*Says Fakhrul; adds his party will decide on participation in due time*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a long time, the government has announced to hold the overdue elections to the two Dhaka city corporations to foil BNP's movement and divert people's attention from the protest, party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He made the comments while talking to reporters at Labaid Specialised Hospital in the capital where he visited the ailing film director Chashi Nazrul Islam.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told Monday's

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Award recipients for investigative journalism-2014, standing from left, Abdul Al Mamun, HS Alauddin, Arup Roy, Sazzad Parvez, Salaudinn Tarek and Kamrul Hassan Selim with guests, sitting in the front, at a ceremony at Drik Gallery in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Gowher Rizvi for 'self-regulation' in journalism

*He expresses his thoughts at a TIB ceremony for awarding three journo; anti-graft watchdog also awards five cartoonists*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi urged journalists to practice self-regulation in their profession.

If the media does not maintain self-regulation, outsiders will try to regulate it which will create a problem for this sector, Rizvi said at a discussion on "Recent perspective of journalism in Bangladesh" and award giving ceremony for investigative journalism-2014 organised by the

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COMMENTS ON BISWAL

## Bogra court scraps case against Ashraf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday dismissed a defamation case against Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam for his "derogatory" remarks about US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal.

Jahangir Alam, a former leader of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, had filed the case, saying Ashraf's comments had hurt him and the people of Bangladesh, and that it would damage the bilateral ties. He is a businessman of Bogra's Shariakandi upazila.

Recently, Ashraf called Biswal a "two-bit minister".

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate-1 Abul Kalam Azad dismissed the lawsuit, four hours into its filing because it had no merit, said advocate Noresh Mukharjee, general secretary of Bogra district unit of Awami Ainjibi Parishad.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**

Centre for Policy Dialogue will organise a discussion on "VAT and SD Act 2012: Concerns and Implementation Challenges". Venue: Six Seasons Hotel, Gulshan-2, Time: 3:00pm

**Seminar**

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad will organise a seminar on Humanity Rights Day. Venue: The Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, Time: 3:00pm

**Jamuna TV**

THE NATION'S NEWSROOM

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