

**DU SEX ASSAULT  
CU students  
demand  
punishment  
for all culpable**  
CU CORRESPONDENT

Two alliances of student bodies yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment for the perpetrators who sexually assaulted women during Pahela Baishakh celebration on DU campus, and also for the policemen who attacked students demonstrating against the sex offenders earlier this month.

Students under the banner of Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and Samrajyabad Birodhi Chhatra Oikko, Chittagong University unit, brought out a procession on the campus to press home their six-point demand including immediate resignation of DU Proctor Amzad Ali, full-fledged security on public university campuses, formulation of sexual

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Protesters of Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and Samrajyabad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya try to break through a police barricade in the capital's Doyel Chattar yesterday aiming to lay siege to the home ministry with five demands, including arrest of perpetrators of the Pahela Baishakh mass molestation of females.

PHOTO: STAR

**Justice seeking  
students, cops  
face off again**

DU CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrators and police chased each other yesterday at the capital's Doyel Chattar and High Court areas where the latter put up barricades, halting a procession trying to lay siege to the home ministry with five demands, including arrest of perpetrators of the Pahela Baishakh mass molestation of females.

Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and Samrajyabad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya, an alliance of 13 student organisations, first brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and then staged a sit-in at the HC old gate after facing the barricade of at least 200 armed personnel and armoured personnel carriers.

The protesters criticised the role of the home minister and law enforcers.

Snehadi Chakrabarti Rintu, general secretary of a faction of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, said, "The home ministry totally failed to ensure people's safety. They are afraid of meeting us face to face. They can not stop agitated youths."

On April 14, some youths sexually assaulted around 20 females on the DU campus for an hour, but the proctor and police on duty nearby allegedly did not respond on time.

Moreover, Bangladesh Chhatra Union activists were beaten up by cops on May 10 when they tried to besiege the Dhaka Metropolitan Police headquarters protesting the

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**Patriarchal mindset, culture  
of impunity must go**

Discussants tell ActionAid Bangladesh programme about preventing sexual harassment of women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patriarchal perception of men and women and the culture of impunity which protects perpetrators of sexual harassment must change to prevent the crime against women and make public spaces safer for them, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

"All of us are not alert about sexual harassment and often do not speak up against it, fearing for our own security and honour," said Annisul Huq, newly elected mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, adding that this attitude needs to change.

ActionAid Bangladesh organised the programme at Chhayanaut Bhaban in the capital's Dhanmondi celebrating

the global launch of "International Safe Cities for Women Day 2015".

The day was celebrated in 20 countries to ensure safety for women and raise awareness about the existence of sexual violence against women in urban public spaces.

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir said a Department for International Development-funded three-year multi-country project was initiated to address these issues and under which a baseline survey on Safe City for Women was conducted from June to September, 2014.

According to the survey, in which 800 women, 200 men and 200 boys from different income groups took

part from Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Narayanganj, 88 percent of women said they faced sexual harassment from passers-by, male passengers in public transports and customers at shops.

Eighty-one percent of the respondents said they would not approach police for help while 65 percent opined that police would blame women rather than take action against perpetrators.

Annisul was presented a memorandum where amenities and services for women including public toilets, proper lighting of roads and gender-sensitive policing were demanded.

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**Japan to give  
150 garbage  
trucks for  
Dhaka, Ctg**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan will provide 150 garbage trucks to improve waste management in Dhaka and Chittagong cities.

Takeshi Matsunaga, Japanese embassy chargé d'affaires; Mikio Hataeda, Jica Bangladesh Office chief representative; and Mohammed Abu Taher, Economic Relations Division additional secretary, signed the agreement in Dhaka yesterday.

The Japanese government's grant assistance of 1,486 million yen is under "The Project for Improvement of Solid

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**Access to midwives can  
prevent maternal deaths**

The Daily Star - UNFPA roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Midwives are the gatekeepers of maternal and newborn healthcare system, and majority of Bangladesh's maternal deaths could be prevented if pregnant women had access to skilled birth attendants during childbirth, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said safety of new mothers and their babies largely depends on availability of midwives, as they are the first trained personnel to tend to pregnant women.

The roundtable titled "Midwifery-led Maternal Health" was organised by The Daily Star and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at the daily's office in the capital.

"Nearly 58 percent childbirths take place without skilled birth attendant often leading to many preventable complications.

Deploying midwives across the country and ensuring that childbirths take place in healthcare facilities can reduce the risks," said UNFPA's maternal health specialist Dr Shamina Sharmin while presenting the keynote paper.

Citing a UN estimate, she said a majority of Bangladesh's 5,200 annual maternal deaths are caused by these preventable complications.

Zahid Maleque, state minister for health, said the government, realising the importance of midwifery, approved 3,000 posts for midwives across the country.

He further said that over 525 midwives would be graduating from nursing institutions by the end of this year.

The state minister regretted that the

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With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of articles for your reading pleasure. This week's spotlight talks about how traditional old jobs still persist and are going strong. There is an article on sexual harassment that talks about the importance of sex education in schools. There is also an eye-opening piece on a seminar organised by BRAC University on Gender and Religion. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

**KEY TO THE PAST**

THE IMPORTANCE OF AWARENESS

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STAR WEEKEND