



The Chittagong Development Authority demolishes the extended part of a building which was built in violation of rules in the city's Dewanbazar area, leading to a scuffle, inset, between the owner and police yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'SECRET' BURIAL OF JAPANESE WOMAN IN DHAKA Police seek permission to exhume body

Initially suspect she was murdered over business interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police sought permission from a Dhaka court on Monday to exhume the body of a Japanese woman who was allegedly buried secretly in the capital's Uttara after being "murdered" a month ago.

After filing a murder case and arresting five suspects, Uttara East police sought the permission for exhumation of the body of Hiroe Miyata, 60, to conduct autopsy and ascertain the reason behind the death.

The court is set to hear the prayer tomorrow.

The incident surfaced after Kosuke Matsunaga, vice consul of the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, filed a general diary (GD)

with police on November 19.

In the GD, he mentioned that Miyata's mother Makiko Hirabayashi from Japan informed him on November 4 that she could not make any contact with her daughter by phone for a couple of days.

Police then started investigation and arrested five men -- Maruful Islam, a business partner of Miyata, and Rashidul Haque Bappi, Fakhrul Islam, Bimol Chandra Shill, and Jahangir.

Another accused, Jakir Patwari, also Miyata's business partner, is still on the run.

A Dhaka court yesterday remanded the

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## Continue sufficient gas supply in Dhaka HC tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to continue an adequate supply of gas to the households in Dhaka.

The court passed the order after disposing of a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh in 2011.

While hearing the petition, HRPB's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the court that the government has set up a compressor at Bahirab's Ashuganj point to increase gas supply to Dhaka after the HC issued a rule in 2011 and as a result, people are being benefited.

Manzill also prayed to the court to issue an order to the authorities concerned of the government to continue the sufficient supply of gas to the households in the capital.

The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company authorities have informed the HC that a compressor has been set up at Ashuganj to increase the pressure of gas in the delivery line to the city residents after it issued the rule on March 13, 2011.

## BCL men beat up JCD activist at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Jahangirnagar University was allegedly beaten up by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on the campus yesterday.

Iqbal Hossain, a fourth-year student of law and resident of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall, was admitted to a hospital in Savar.

JCD said BCL activists Ekram Hossain Omi and Javed Hossain Sajal along with five to seven others beat up Iqbal with sticks and waist belts at Meher Chatter.

JCD demanded punishment for the attackers.

However, BCL activist Javed Hossain Sajal said some juniors beat up Iqbal "a little".

## WAR CRIMES IN HABIGANJ Woman links 3 to torture of husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman yesterday testified that war crimes accused Muhibur Rahman Boromia, his brother Mujibur Rahman Angur Mia and their cousin Abdur Razzak had abducted and tortured her husband in Habiganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

Raju Bibi, of Eralia Beripar of Baniachang upazila in Habiganj, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that she had seen the three while they were taking her husband away from their house.

Raju, wife of Anforullah and ninth prosecution witness in the case against the three, said the three men and several other Razakars came to their home in the middle of Bengali month of Bhadra and took her husband to a Razakar camp set up at the house of Syed Qamrul Ahsan.

"At that time, I was at my husband's house; as I tried to follow them, accused Mujibur Rahman alias Angur Mia pushed me aside. I, however, followed them," she said.

The 68-year-old said she heard her husband's scream when he was tortured at the Razakar camp.

The next day, Muhibur, Mujibur, and Razzak left her injured husband near their house, she said. "I found my husband smeared with blood and his right hand broken."

Defence counsels completed her cross-examination before the proceeding was adjourned until January 3 next year.

SHAKHAWAT AND EIGHT OTHERS' CASE  
The tribunal yesterday deferred till December 23 the hearing to decide whether to frame charges against nine war

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## Divorced women should get half of conjugal wealth

Suggest legal experts at Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Divorced women should receive an equal share of property accumulated by the couple during their conjugal life, suggested law professionals yesterday.

They stressed the need for inclusion of such a legal provision in the country's laws relating to women.

"A woman who is divorced after 30 years of marriage is left without a penny. Even the Mahr (money in Muslim marriages) given to the woman at the time of marriage amounts to nothing over time," noted Prof Md Abdul Alim, a researcher of gender-based issues from Rajshahi University.

Senior district judge Shamshun Nahar Mema also made similar comments and recommended continuous trial sessions for cases related to violence against women.

They were addressing a roundtable on the implementation and limitation of laws enacted to prevent violence against women, at the office of the daily Prothom Alo in the capital.

The programme, funded by USAID, was organised by the newspaper in association with Bangladesh National Women

Lawyers Association (BNWLA), and Plan International, Bangladesh.

The event was organised in observation of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women today, and the 16 days of activism against gender based violence till Human Rights Day on December 10.

Towhida Khandaker, director of BNWLA, presented data on cases filed under the Dowry Prohibition Act 1980 and Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 (amended 2013), and under USAID funded Protecting Human Rights (PHR) and BNWLA's legal aid programmes.

Towhida said 2,220 cases were filed between January 2012 and October 2015, but only 28 were convicted in the same period.

Towhida Khandaker stressed the need for more special tribunals and judges for cases filed under these laws.

Mukta Dhar, senior assistant police commissioner of Women Support and Investigation Division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, noted how transfer of doctors often delays medical report crucial in rape cases.

Fawzia Karim Firoze, president of BNWLA, among others, spoke.

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