

Fear of violence restricts females' mobility

ActionAid Bangladesh discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fear of violence and sexual harassment restrict mobility of females, said noted women's rights leaders at a discussion yesterday.

"There is hardly a woman who has not suffered harassment or sexual abuse," said Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, adding that she, herself, is a victim.

Young people's mindset needs to be changed to ensure security of women, said Salma Khan, women's rights activist and former chairperson of UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Dhaka North Mayor Annisul Huq said he becomes worried when his daughter is out at night.

ActionAid Bangladesh organised the discussion at Banani Club in the capital. The programme comes in the midst of a 16-day campaign against gender violence.

The campaign, which started on Wednesday, will end on December 10, also Human Rights Day.

Prof Shahnaz Huda of Dhaka University said behind almost every incident of sexual violence there is a political patron.

"Perpetrators of sexual violence get impunity if they have connections to the ruling party or belong to law enforcing agencies," she added.

An ActionAid survey conducted at public places like bus stops, railway stations, shopping malls, parks and educational

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Exhume 'secretly' buried Japanese woman's body

Court asks DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered exhumation of the body of a Japanese woman for a post-mortem to determine the cause of her death.

Hiroe Miyata, 60, was allegedly killed and buried secretly in the capital's Uttara Sector 12 a month ago.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sheikh Hafizur Rahman directed the deputy commissioner (DC) to have her body exhumed.

The secret burial surfaced after a Japanese Embassy official in Dhaka lodged a general diary (GD) on November 19, saying she could not be contacted by her mother from Japan for a few days.

Police then started investigation and arrested five men including one of her business partners.

Uttara East Police said they would exhume the body after receiving the order formally.

Shykh Seraj receives

FROM PAGE 3

Barry Gusi handed over the prestigious award to Shykh Seraj in a ceremony where more than 5,000 people from 20 countries were present.

Former president of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev, former president of Portugal Antonio Eanes, son of Cambodia's Prime Minister, Hun Many, human rights activist of China Dr Huang Jiefu, and internationally famed Filipino actress Nora Aunor also received the award.

In his address, Shykh Seraj said poverty was rooted deep inside the minds, and urged farmers to shake it off with self-belief.

He also said the media was not only a tool of entertainment; it could wipe out hunger and establish peace and harmony in the world.

Barry Gusi said, "Shykh Seraj's works on poverty reduction, agricultural development is a blessing for Asia.... This international recognition will make a bridge between Shykh Seraj and the world."

Shykh Seraj has received more than 50 prestigious awards including Ekushey Padak in 1995, and the AH Boerma Award by UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

KIBRIA
MURDER CASE

Recording of testimonies resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court yesterday resumed recording of testimonies of witnesses in the former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case in the absence of two accused -- former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and suspended Sylhet city mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

Yesterday was the fifth day of recording testimonies. So far, recording of testimonies was deferred seven times.

Witnesses Harmuz Ali and Somsher Miah of Habiganj testified, said Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar. The court fixed December 2 as the next date for hearing testimonies.

Babar and Ariful Haque Chowdhury were absent on the grounds of illness.

On September 13, a Sylhet court indicted 32 people, including suspended Sylhet City Corporation mayor Ariful Haque, in the case.

Five people, including Kibria, were killed and 70 others injured in a grenade attack on a public rally on January 27, 2005.

4 to die for killing couple, 2 children

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people to death for murdering a couple and their children in Keraniganj in September last year.

Judge SM Kuddus Zaman of the District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka handed down the verdict.

The convicts are: Suman Dhali alias Daku Suman, 28, Zakaria Hussain alias Jony, 28, Suman alias CNG Suman, 32, and Nasir Uddin, 28. The court acquitted Afsana Akhtar, wife of Daku Suman, as allegation against her was not proved.

The court in its verdict said the convicts killed the four at any time between 10:00pm on September 22 and 4:00am on September 23, 2004 by beating, torturing and strangling them. It was a pre-planned, pre-mediated and cold blooded murder of four unarmed civilians, it added.

Saju, 35, his wife Ronji, 27, their seven-year-old son Imran and two-year-old daughter Sanjida were found dead at a house in South Keraniganj area, on the outskirts of Dhaka, on September 24, 2014. Saju was gagged and his hands and legs were tied behind his back. The bodies of the mother and the children were found covered with a mattress in a corner of the same room. Bashiruddin, brother of Saju, filed the case the following day.

HC asks Buet to accept Neelopol as lecturer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to accept the joining letter of Neelopol Adri as its lecturer in seven days after receiving the judgment.

The HC came up with the directive after hearing a petition filed by Neelopol challenging the legality of the Buet authorities' refusal to accept her joining letter.

Neelopol's lawyer Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star that his client was appointed as a lecturer of Urban and Regional Planning department of Buet on January 10 this year after its selection committee and syndicate selected her through relevant tests.

However, the department chairman refused to accept her joining letter on January 18 as she completed her BSc from Jahangirnagar University, although she completed MSc from Buet and Phd from a London university, he added.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Disasters killed 5 lakh in Asia-Pacific last decade

Reports UN agency

DU CORRESPONDENT

Around 500,000 people lost their lives in 1,625 reported disasters in the Asia-Pacific region over the last decade, according to a report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The report titled "Disasters without borders: regional resilience for sustainable

development" was launched at a discussion organised by the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies of Dhaka University on the campus yesterday.

Puji Pujino, regional adviser on Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP, conducted the study.

The report said the disasters affected 1.4 billion people in the region and caused

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

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