

# Attendants at public hospitals to get ID cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patients' attendants at public hospitals will soon be issued identity cards in a bid to curb overcrowding.

The decision was taken in a meeting held yesterday at the health ministry among directors of public hospitals with Health Minister Mohammed Nasim in the chair.

Doctors, nurses and employees of public hospitals will also receive ID cards that they will be required to wear while on duty, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

The health minister during the meeting directed all public hospital authorities to implement the decisions taken at the meeting at the earliest.

In order to be able to avoid any untoward situation, Nasim advised the hospital directors to be watchful over any unusual incident inside hospital premises among patients, their attendants, doctors, nurses and all other hospital employees and staff members.

The minister also instructed the hospital directors to drive out brokers and remove unauthorised installations from hospital compounds.

The decisions came after medical interns at several medical college hospitals in the country had imposed a three-day strike that caused immense sufferings to patients.

The interns enforced the strike after the health ministry slapped a six-month suspension on four interns at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra on the ground of launching assault on a relative of a patient inside the hospital on February 19.

Nasim withdrew the punitive measures taken by his ministry on March 6.



Clockwise from left, Nari Sanghati brings out a torch procession in the capital's Shahbagh area yesterday, marking International Women's Day. They asked the government to remove a special provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2017, and establish daycare centres at different localities and workplaces. Bangladesh Nari Mukti Kendra, a women's rights organisation, organises an exhibition in TSC area of Dhaka University on the occasion. Awaz Foundation holds a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club. PHOTOS: STAR



# Biman runs all-women flight

BSS, Dhaka

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday operated a special flight by all women to mark the International Women's Day.

Captain Tania Reza and First Officer Sarwat Siraj Antara flew a Boeing 737-800 with all female crew on Dhaka-Sylhet route. The flight BG-603 took off from the domestic terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with 80 passengers at 01:50pm.

Apart from pilots and cabin crew, female security personnel and ground handling staffs were deployed for the flight.

The national flag carrier took the initiative to encourage women in aviation sector.

At a ceremony held at the domestic terminal, Biman Managing Director and

# Women struggling for rights despite contributions

Rights activists tell rally marking International Women's Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extensive social and state initiatives can make women empowerment sustainable and ensure their equal share in economic and social activities, rights and development activists told a rally in the capital yesterday.

Facing various hurdles, women are contributing significantly to the country's economy, but they are still struggling for their rights at home and outside, said the activists who gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar to celebrate International Women's Day.

They slammed the government for enacting the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 recently with keeping intact a provision for "special circumstances" which would permit

girls or boys to get married before reaching minimum marriageable ages.

Shamajik Protirodh Committee (SPC), a platform of 70 women, rights and development groups, organised the rally.

Women's Day has been observed since the 1900s to commemorate the struggle for women's rights. This year, the theme of the Day is "Be Bold For Change".

The day saw gatherings, rallies, human chains, conferences and discussions in Dhaka and other parts of the country where the participants called for an end to discriminations at home and workplace, and value women and men's contributions equally.

At the Shaheed Minar's rally, the activists demanded equal wages for women at all sectors,

transportation, and day care facilities.

Ayesha Khanam, president of SPC, said, "It turns out to be risky for women as they don't know how to deal with their maternal and civic duties simultaneously amid the rapid advancement of the society."

Also chairperson of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, she demanded that the government make the parliamentary standing committee on women and children's affairs more women-friendly.

"Bangladesh feels proud of women's contributions...but in their journey of advancement, sexual harassment and discrimination in payment are increasing against them," said

# ZIA ORPHANAGE GRAFT CASE AGAINST KHALEDA Finish trial in 60 days

HC asks new trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday transferred the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court and asked the new trial court to complete the trial proceedings in 60 days from the date it receives the transfer order.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim came up with the order following a revision petition filed by Khaleda on February 8, seeking its order for transferring the case to another court from Special Judge's Court-3.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of Special Judge's Court-3 will transfer the case to Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah's Court after receiving the HC order.

The latter will resume the trial proceedings of the case from its current stage, he said.

The ACC lawyer said he will inform the ACC about the HC order and then the commission will take decision whether it will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the transfer order.

Earlier on February 2, Khaleda submitted an application to the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka expressing no confidence on the judge of that court on various grounds, but the court rejected the no confidence petition.

In the revision petition submitted to HC on February 8, she challenged the order of the Special Judge's Court-3.



# Court again seeks probe report on Gulshan attack

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the eighth time asked Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit to submit a probe report of the Gulshan café attack case, on this occasion by April 18.

The case's investigation officer, Inspector Humayun Kabir, is yet to respond.

Armed militants stormed Holey Artisan Bakery at the diplomatic zone in Dhaka's Gulshan area on July 1 last year and killed nine Italians, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, one Indian and one Bangladesh-born US citizen. Two police officers were also killed. An over-12-hour siege ensued, ending in a commando operation in which five terrorists and a café chef were killed.

# BRUR RECRUITMENT IRREGULARITIES ACC okays charges against ex-VC Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission has approved a charge sheet in a case filed against former vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) Abdul Jalil Miah and four officials of the university, for their alleged irregularities in recruitment.

According to the charge sheet, the other accused are: Shahjahan Ali Mandal, acting registrar; ATGM Golam Feroz, deputy director (planning and development); Morshed Ul Alam (Rony), assistant registrar; and Khandakar Ashrafal Alam, assistant director (finance and accounts).

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the charge sheet.

ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said they will submit the charge sheet to the court soon.

Ignoring the order of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and education ministry, according to the charge sheet, the accused recruited people through nepotism and corruption.

In January 2013, there was a huge protest organised by "Durniti Birodhi Mancha" -- a platform of a section of students, teachers, officials and employees of the university -- that had been demanding resignation of Dr Abdul Jalil Miah for his involvement in corrupt practices.

# Rab busts human-trafficking gang

37 victims rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday detained a gang of 24 alleged human traffickers in different parts of the capital following rescue of 10 victims at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA).

The 10 victims were rescued on March 1 while they were going to Indonesia on tourist visas and were supposed to go Malaysia by trowler from there, said Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, commanding officer of Rab-3, at a press briefing at Rab's media center in Kawranbazar.

Getting information from them, Rab arrested the 24, including Shafiqul Islam alias Guru, Tanzim and Abul Bashar, an expatriate in Malaysia.

Guru and Bashar are the main culprits who mainly target people of remote areas and lure them with better life abroad, he added.

Rab also recovered Tk 6 lakh, which was extorted as ransom after holding victims captive, and seized a huge number of passports, fake visas and fake visa making materials.

## STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

**INSIDE THE CAMP**

This Friday, the *Star Weekend* offers a plethora of stories worth your read. The cover story highlights the current situation and struggles of the women and children living inside the Rohingya camps. Look out for *The Land of Tales and Tigers* by Moyukh Mahtab in which the writer explores the Sundarbans through three books, Amitav Ghosh's *The hungry Tide*, Richard M. Eaton's *The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier* and Annu Jalais' *Forest of Tigers*. Don't forget to grab your copy of the *Star Weekend*, tomorrow, Friday!

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