

Punishment

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hill tracts in the current year. But the actual number is much higher.

A total of 427 incidents of rape took place in the last six months across the country while the number of killing after rape, family violence, killing after harassment, violence against children and killing of children after harassment is 37, 208, 144, 856 and 148 respectively.

The speakers also said the government must take the responsibility for not bringing the perpetrators to justice and meting out strict punishment to the killers and rapists.

They also stressed the need for ensuring speedy trial of the cases filed over violence against children and women.

Samajtantrik Women Forum President Rowsan Ara Roshu presided over the programme where General Secretary Shampa Basu and member of the central advisory committee Samsun Nahar Josna were also present.



PHOTO: FARHANA MIRZA

A man plucks water lilies from a water body in Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan. The national flower of Bangladesh, which is also consumed as a vegetable, is providing livelihoods to hundreds of families of the district during the monsoon, as arable land is usually inundated during the season.

HC orders closure of 340

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headlined "An indifferent forest department".

The HC also issued a rule asking respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction in stopping the operation of 340 purported illegal sawmills should not be declared illegal, and why they should not be directed to shut down the sawmills.

Secretary to the ministry of environment and forest, DG of DoE, divisional and district forest officers in Pabna and its DC and additional DC have been made respondents to the rule.

The High Court bench fixed October 4 for passing further order on this issue.

Citing forestry official Kabir Hossain Patwari, The Daily Star report said there are 367 sawmills in nine upazilas of Pabna district.

Only 27 of them have a forest department licence, and the rest are illegal.

Advocate Md Mesbahul Islam Asif, who moved the writ petition, told The Daily Star that he received the copy of the HC order on July 31.

The officials concerned of the government have not taken any initiative to stop operations of the mills, as they might not have received the copy of the High Court order yet, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Md Ekramul Haque Tutul, who represented the government in this case, told The Daily Star that the officials concerned must take steps to stop operation of 340 illegal sawmills in line with the High Court directive.

Speaking truth to power

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authority and make them accountable for their actions," National University student Moumita told The Daily Star. She was helping school students in checking licences of vehicles.

Policemen were deployed in the area, but their overall attitude towards the students was friendly. This correspondent overheard an official telling his colleagues that it's not surprising that the students would raise the demands; bus drivers in Dhaka are indeed reckless.

Remembering Zamiruddin Ahmed



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Ambassador Zamiruddin Ahmed. He was a journalist, lawyer, politician, diplomat and revolutionary.

An early career in journalism (Paschim Bangla Patrika, Ittehad, The Nation, Daily Azad) followed by law (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court) and political activism led to close associations and lifelong friendships with leaders such as Hussain

Shaheed Suhrawardy, Manik Mia, Moulana Bhashani, Ataur Rahman Khan, Tajuddin Ahmed and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was a member of the Rashtra Bhasha Andolan Committee during the 1952 Bangla Language Movement, a member of the very first Working Committee of the Awami League in 1953, and Political Secretary to the Chief Minister of East Pakistan in 1956. He coordinated many election campaigns culminating in the Awami League's pivotal landslide victory in the 1970 Pakistan General Election.

Post Independence, he was appointed by Bangabandhu as Bangladesh's top diplomat in Malaysia, Libya and Tunisia. He practiced law in the Supreme Court until his retirement.

We miss his kindness, generosity and concern for everyone's well-being. Please pray for his departed soul.

D-232



Protect languages of ethnic minorities

Say speakers at discussion

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for taking necessary steps and creating public awareness to preserve the languages and literatures of people of the ethnic minority communities.

Adivasi Kalyan O Unnayan Sangstha organised the programme at Public Library, marking International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9).

Speaking at the programme as the chief guest, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Samad said ethnic minority communities should work hard to protect their languages.

He also underscored the need for enhancing the practice of indigenous languages, literatures and culture and establishing a committee and community radio to ensure such practice.

Dr Kazal Krishna Banerjee, a professor at the DU English department, called for including indigenous languages into mainstream.

He also highlighted the importance of awareness and a change in people's mindset

in this regard.

While presenting the keynote paper, poet Anisur Rahman said a government decision in 2010 recognised 30 communities as ethnic minorities.

Referring to a research article, he claimed that a total of 75 ethnic minority communities of Bangladesh have been mentioned in the article.

Anisur Rahman alleged that the government decision deprived the rest of the ethnic minority communities of their identities.

Rakhi Mrong, women affairs secretary of Adivasi Kalyan O Unnayan Sangstha, said, "To enrich cultural elements and literatures, languages need to be protected and conserved," she said.

Among others, Mahmudul Amin, associate professor of National Academy for Educational Management, and Ashish Hajong, a leader of Bangladesh Hajong Chhatri Sangathan, spoke at the programme.

It was chaired by Mong A Khan Mongmong, president of Adivasi Kalyan O Unnayan Sangstha.

I just want

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Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatri Odhikar Sangrakhan Parishad, was detained by law enforcers a month ago. He was remanded twice in two different cases.

The family members appealed to the premier to release the detained demonstrators, saying they [demonstrators] were not involved with politics and their movement was not against the government.

Mujibur Rahman, father of detained quota reformist Moshiur Rahman, said he raised his son on earnings from pulling a rickshaw. He too pleaded with the PM for his son's release.

"For the last one month, I have been trying... but to no avail. I just want my son back," said Mujibur of Rajapur upazila in Jhalakathi.

Speaking as the chief guest, ABM Mostafa Amin, member secretary of Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, urged the government to release the detained activists and accept the logical demands of the quota reformists.

Students seek

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He said that not only the supporters of their party but also all political parties will unite and take to the streets with the people against the government.

Moudud said that the government now must engage in discussions with political parties to overcome the ongoing crisis; there is no alternative.

Immediately implement

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"A cabinet meeting will be held on Monday (August 6) and the act concerning road safety is supposed to be presented there. To what extent the government has accepted the [students'] demands will only be understood after seeing what law they make on it," said Abu Maksud.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujon), a civil society platform, in a press statement said the protest of the young students is an unprecedented incident in not only Bangladesh but also the world.

It also said public support for the movement is a strong wake-up call for the government.

Sujon appreciated the decision of the government to not use force against the movement waged by school and college students, but condemned the attack on students by police and some alleged ruling party activists.

Juktofront leaders AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, ASM Abdur Rob and Mahmudur Rahman Manna in a joint statement expressed solidarity with the students' nine-point demand, and called upon the government to stop attack on agitating students.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal also demanded that logical demands of the students be accepted.

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NEWS IN brief

Throat-slit bodies of woman, granddaughter found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A woman and her six-year-old granddaughter were found dead with their throats slit at their house in Paschim Mulghar village under Sadar upazila of Rajbari yesterday.

The deceased are Shaheda Begum, 50, wife of Shahjan Mia, and Lamia Akter.

Family members found the bodies in the morning and informed police, said Asma Siddiqi Mili, superintendent of Rajbari police.

Shaheda and Lamia were the only ones living in the house, she said quoting family members. "We are investigating the incident."

3 'JMB' men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three alleged members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) along with arms and ammunition from Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Fozle Rabbi, 25, Shahid Islam, 35, and Hasan Masud, 27.

They are active operatives of JMB, said Additional DIG Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-13, at a press conference at its office yesterday.

Mamtaz Aksad's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Mamtaz Aksad Banu, a founder member of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, says a press release.



She was the wife of late Ali Aksad, former president of Bangladesh Peace Council and assistant editor of the Daily Ittefaq and Daily Sangbad. She left behind two daughters, one son and two grandsons.

A life member of the Library Science Alumni Society of Dhaka University, Mamtaz was also a founder member of the council.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Hena Majumder's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the third death anniversary of Hena Majumder, wife of Pranab Majumder who is editor of the fortnightly Aarthakaj.

She died on this day at her Gopibagh residence in Dhaka, said a press release.

On this occasion, prayers will be held in the city's Swamibagh Shree Shree Loknath Brahmachari and Razbaragh Shree Shree Bordeshwari temple.

Death anniv of Ghazi Lutful Rahman

CITY DESK

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Air Commodore Ghazi Lutful Rahman.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a feeding the poor programme has been arranged in the capital.

Lutful Rahman was commissioned in the Air Force in 1960. During his career, he held positions as Director Armed Forces Division and director of Agrani Bank, among others.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: www.ilo.org/dhaka. All Applications MUST be sent to recruitment_dac@ilo.org along with completed ILO PHF by no later than midnight, Tuesday, 21 August 2018. Please mention the position name and vacancy number in your email subject and rename the ILO PHF with your full name. The ILO values diversity among its staff and aims at achieving gender parity. We welcome applications from qualified women and men, including those with disabilities. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The ILO is a non-smoking working environment.