

Violence against women has become 'institutionalised'

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against women gets overlooked or not perceived as electoral violence because of the normalisation of gender-based violence and ignorance among electoral stakeholders, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the roundtable at its office in association with Institute of Informatics and Development (IID).

Falguni Reza, senior associate researcher of IID, presented the summary of its study on violence against women in elections. Around 800 women involved in various electoral processes were surveyed as part of it.

According to the IID study, some 71 percent women reported violence through intimidation, 57 percent reported physical violence, and 43 percent reported violation of ballot secrecy during the last national election and several local elections.

One of every six women candidate who faced character assassination said it was done by member of the same party.

Speaking on the occasion, former parliamentarian Mahjabeen Khaled said political violence against women can end if the political parties' high-commands have the intention.

She also opined to form a "women's parliamentary caucus" which would look after women's stake in the parliament.

Sheepa Hafiza, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra
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Legal aid is not a charity: chief justice

Urges judges and lawyers to be sincere in prompt disposal of cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday urged judges and lawyers to be sincere while carrying out trial proceedings of cases run at government cost, so that the lawsuits are disposed quickly.

He also called upon rights activists, non-government organisations and all relevant bodies in judiciary to come forward and ensure justice to underprivileged people in society.

Syed Mahmud Hossain made the call while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on government legal aid services, jointly organised by the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), at the court auditorium in Dhaka.

"Seeking justice and legal support are fundamental rights," he said. Legal aid is one of the core aspects of establishing rule of law and ensuring human rights, he added.

Saying that people's access to justice is increasing gradually, he said legal aid from the government, which is free of cost, is not a charity; it is a basic right of people who are insolvent.

"Along with lawyers, I'm also



Syed Mahmud Hossain speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

requesting officials in the concerned administration to provide support to the underprivileged so that they can continue their lawsuits properly," the chief justice added.

Speaking on the occasion, Law Minister Anisul Huq urged the persons involved in judiciary to provide legal services properly instead of harassing people.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said the government's legal

aid services can help the judiciary in reducing the ongoing case backlog, which hinders justice.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam, Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim, National Legal Aid Services Organisation Director Aminul Islam, and Supreme Court Bar Association President AM Amin Uddin, among others, also spoke at the programme.

Muntassir Mamoon seeks police security

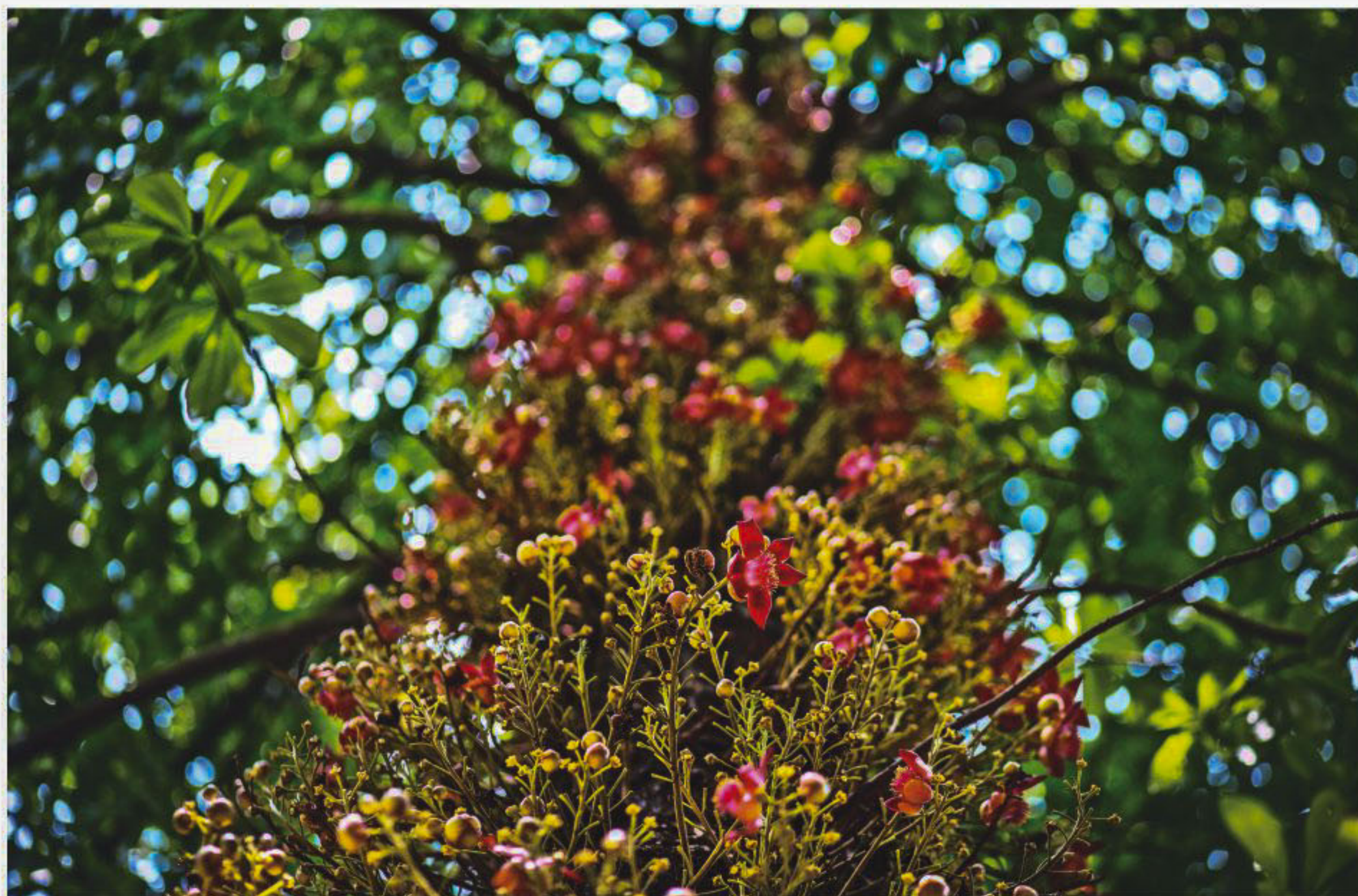
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have beefed up security for Dhaka University Professor Muntassir Mamoon after he lodged a general diary, citing death threat from a militant group.

Dhanmondi Police Station's Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Pervez Islam told The Daily Star yesterday that round-the-clock security has been arranged for him.

"We have accepted his GD. We sent forces to his house," he said, adding that a police guard has been stationed on the perimeter of his house and inside.

Earlier around 12:30pm
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Native to South America, the cannonball tree -- photographed at Ramna Park -- is quite popular in Bangladesh. The large, fragrant flowers do not have any nectar, but bees are drawn to the colour and smell. The name of this tree comes from its large, round fruit, which makes a cannonball-like sound when it hits the ground.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DHAKA TODAY

ART EXHIBITION

Notun Dekha Puran Dhaka
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia
Time: 3pm

WORKSHOP

Reporting on Terrorism
Venue: Cirdap International Conference Centre, Tophkana Road
Time: 9:30am

THEATRE

Jononi Shahoshika
Venue: Jagannath University
Time: 11am

ART EXHIBITION

Borjo Namta
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur

Time: 6:30pm

WORKSHOP

RAGA: Theory and Practice with Nishit Dey
Venue: Jatra Biroti
Time: 6pm



TV SHOW SCREENING

Game of Thrones Season 8 Screening!
Venue: Arena - Café & Lounge, Mohammadpur
Time: 7pm

Efforts on to protect corrupt 'big fish'

Leaders of Biman Sramik League allege

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Biman Sramik League yesterday alleged that efforts are on to protect the Biman Bangladesh Airlines' "big fish" involved in corruption and irregularities.

They also claimed names of seven Biman Sramik League leaders have been sent to Anti-Corruption Commission with the aim of shielding the corrupt individuals and diverting public attention.

"ACC in March gave a clean chit to Biman Sramik League-CBA leaders and closed their six-year-long investigation against them. The ACC team didn't find evidence of corruption or amassing of illegal wealth after verifying wealth and

properties of Biman CBA (collective bargaining agent) leaders," said Md Mosikur Rahman, president of Biman Sramik League, at a press conference at Biman's head office in Kurmitola.

"But within 15 days of giving the clean chit, names of Biman Sramik League leaders were sent to ACC on charge of their involvement in corruption and irregularities," he said.

"Biman has 6,000 officials and staff members. Why are Biman Sramik League leaders particularly being harassed repeatedly without any specific allegation?" he questioned.

He said corruption in leasing
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SSC and equivalent exam results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously across the country today.

Dhaka Education Board Chairperson Prof Ziaul Haque said chairpersons of all ten boards will hand over the results to Education Minister Dipu Moni at International Mother Language Institute at 10:30am.

The minister will then officially announce the results from there, he added.

Usually all ten education board chairpersons along with the education minister present a summary of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. But this year no such ceremony will take place as the PM is visiting London, said an education ministry official.

Results will be available at schools,
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Stop laying off media workers unethically

Journos announce tougher action if demands not met

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday threatened that they would go for tougher agitation programmes if their four-point demand, including gazette notification of the ninth wage board, is not met before Eid-ul-Fitr.

They came up with the warning during a demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club.

The programme was organised by a faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Their other demands are: stopping unethical lay off of media workers, disbursement of regular salary and enactment of Media Employee Act, 2018.

Protesters demanded that media workers, who were sacked recently, be given all their dues as per rules of the current wage board. They also spoke out against the process of laying off media workers.

Journalist leaders also announced a bigger demonstration today at the same
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AIR POLLUTION HC summons CEOs of 2 city corporations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned chief executive officers of both Dhaka north and south city corporations on May 15, to explain their actions about complying with a previous directive issued over curbing air pollution in Dhaka.

The court also asked Deputy Attorney General ABM Abdullah-Al Mahmud Bashar to instruct secretaries of forest ministry and public administration to take necessary steps for appointing adequate executive magistrates to run mobile courts to check air pollution across the country.

The bench of Justice Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader passed the order, while hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).
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PHOTO: STAR

Advertisement for NRB Bank featuring a Ramadan promotion. It includes the NRB Bank logo, the slogan 'Not Just Another Bank', and a large image of a Ramadan meal. The promotion is 'BUY 1 GET 3!' free IFTAR followed by Dinner. Below this, there is a grid of logos for various hotels and restaurants participating in the offer, including Amari, Radisson, Six Seasons, Lakshore Hotels, Dhaka Regency, Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Ascott Dhaka, Kathum Grand, Long Beach, Platinum Residence, Grand Orienta, Gallesia, Asia Hotel & Resort, Hotel Sarina, Casa Greek, Hotel Dhaka Garden Inn, Canary Park, and Marina Royal Hotel. At the bottom, there are logos for 24 hours call center 16568, The Artisan, BRAC Centre Inn, and The Lives. The text 'conditions apply' is written vertically on the right side.