"Otherwise, people of the country will lose confidence over the existing trial

Reazul Haque stressed strengthening

"Different social platforms could be

a "cooperative resistance" against rape

and raising awareness against all forms of

used for raising awareness among the

people instead of spreading rumours," he

professor at Jahangirnagar University, said

that values of humanity must be upheld in

the society irrespective of gender, religion

and caste, to prevent incidents of rape and

Saarc Human Rights Foundation, said

general people -- especially women and

children -- are losing their freedom of

movement due to some perverted-minded

"Punishment must be ensured for

With Kazi Reazul Hoque in the chair,

the organisation's vice president Khan

Mohammad Bablu, finance Secretary

Chitra Rani Sarker and Maj Gen (retd)

Md Abdur Rashid also spoke at the event,

Prof M Abed Ali, secretary general of

In his speech, Dr Abul Kalam Azad -- a

injustice, persecution and irregularities.

book due to prolonged trial

process: Kazi Reazul Hoque

procedure."

repression.

people.

rapists," he added.

among others.

Speakers at discussion demand govt monitoring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

programmes against rape.

Rights Foundation.

rape cases.

Expressing concerns over delay in trial

of rape cases, speakers at a discussion

yesterday demanded proper government

monitoring -- to ensure speedy trial in

rape cases and maximum punishment for

Addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press

Club, they also urged various social

organisations to chalk out effective

The discussion, titled "Role of social

organisations in preventing rape and

violence to women" was arranged by

Dhaka metropolitan unit of Saarc Human

On Thursday, the High Court ordered

women and children repression prevention

tribunals across the country to prioritise

trial of rape and murder after rape cases, to

dispose of them within the stipulated 180

chairman of the National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) Kazi Reazul Hoque

said many rapists are not being brought

to book properly due to prolonged trial in

immediately in cases including those

of Nusrat in Feni and Rifat in Borguna.

He said justice should be ensured

Speaking at yesterday's event, former

A group of teenagers sprint for a dip in the water, on a humid afternoon in Dhaka's Demra area yesterday.

60-yr-old missing from Mirpur for a month

Family claims Rab official's involvement STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A wood trader has been missing from the capital's Mirpur area for a month, his family alleged yesterday, blaming a Rab official's involvement over prior enmity behind the abduction.

Ismail Hossain, 60, went missing on June 19 after he came out of his shop in Shah Ali area to have lunch around 2:30pm, according to a general diary filed with Shah Ali Police Station on June 20.

His wife Nasrin Jahan held a press conference at Dhaka Reporter's Unity yesterday, and demanded her husband's safe return. Their two children were also present at the press conference.

Nasrin said Ismail's mobile phone has been found switched off since the day he

went missing. Family members looked for him everywhere, but he was not to be found. She alleged that a Rab official was behind his husband's abduction, following a case against Ismail.

Hailing from Bajitpur of Kishoreganj, Ismail was accused in a murder case of the Rab official's father in 1986.

"He was released by court in that case. But they still suspect my husband was involved in the murder," Nasrin said.

Before Ismail went missing, he told his wife that was being threatened over the matter. He also wanted to file a GD. But he went missing before he could do so, the wife said.

"The investigation officer told us that the CCIV camera on the spot from where SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Waterways Journey for Eid

Journos' platform places 10-point recommendation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communication Shipping and Reporters Forum (SCRF) yesterday placed a 10-point recommendation to make waterways journeys safe ahead of the Eid-Ul-Azha.

The journalists' platform, through a press statement, also called upon authorities concerned to deploy adequate number of law enforcers at Shumulia and Paturia ferry terminals, to maintain discipline for uninterrupted ferry and launch services on Shumulia-Kathalbari and Paturia-Doulatdia route of the Padma, during the huge rush of people during the Eid vacation.

The organisation also sought tough action to prevent overloading of all kind of passenger vessels, especially all the terminals. launches and sea trucks, on different waterways routes across the country.

SCRF also recommended strengthening mobile court drives against irregularities and mismanagements in service, preventing illegal and unfit vessels from plying, and ratcheting up coast guard and river police's activities.

It also urged district administration, including district police, to stop the operation of illegal and faulty vessels in coastal and Haor areas during the during this monsoon season. Eid vacation.

The platform also sought steps to introduce weather updates every hour through loudspeaker announcements, and through TV and radio channels, at

"We have prepared recommendations after taking issues such as weather into consideration, to ensure security and safety of passengers," SCRF President Ashis Kumar Dey said.

He said homebound people of coastal areas would prefer waterways to reach their village homes ahead of Eid to avoid possible traffic jam and accidents on roads and highways, which will intensify pressure on waterways

Besides, weather has been unpredictable, he said, adding, "So, the authorities should take steps in advance to make journey of homegoers safer."

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

Formulate law as per HC directive: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

GOLD SMUGGLING

Two Biman

sent to jail

A Dhaka court yesterday

sent two traffic helpers

Airlines to jail in a case

bars, weighing around

four kilogrammes, from

Shahjalal International

Airport on July 13.

the order as police

remand.

their possession at Hazrat

Shahinur Rahman passed

produced accused Emdad

Hossain and Abdur Rahim

after end of their five-day

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Metropolitan Magistrate

filed over seizing 38 gold

of Biman Bangladesh

staffers

Bss, Dhaka

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to formulate a law to prevent sexual harassment at workplace, as per the 2009 directives of the High Court.

demanded also They implementation of a High Court directive to form committees at every workplace to prevent incidents of such harassment.

Gender Platform -- a coalition of six human rights and labour organisations -- held the programme at Jatiya Press Club. Ainun Nahar, coordinator of the platform, read out a written statement.

In the statement, she spoke of the context of directives given by the High Court in 2009.

"It is regrettable that no law has been passed yet, while no institution has taken initiative to implement

those directives," Nahar said.

On May 14, 2009, the HC issued a set of guidelines defining sexual misdemeanor, to prevent any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women, girls and children at their workplaces, educational institutions and other public places including roads across the country, in response to a writ petition.

the guidelines, and ruled that the world of work". guidelines will be treated as a law until the law is implemented.

concerned to form a five-member harassment complaint committee headed by a woman at every workplace of harassment against women.

members must be women, it ruled. Referring to recent media reports,

Nahar said, "The number of sexual harassment incidents at workplaces and in educational institutions has increased."

She placed a three-point demand to prevent sexual harassment -- adoption of law, formation of committee at every workplace, and ratification of

the convention 190 of ILO. ILO's convention 190 is a The HC directed the government commitment regarding "elimination to formulate a law on the basis of of violence and harassment in the

Advocate Fawzia Karim Feroze, executive director of Bangladesh The HC directed the authorities Women Lawyers Association; ZM Kamrul Anam, secretary general of Bangladesh Labour Foundation; Nazma Akter, executive director and institution, to investigate allegations of Awaz Foundation; Sanzida Sultana, director of Kormojibi Nari; Majority of the committee and Nazma Yeasmin, director of Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies, were also present at the programme.



Demanding payment of their arrears from government fund, employees from 327 municipalities continued their hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

ঢাবি প্রশাসনের কুসনের শিক্ষার্থী

Students of the seven Dhaka University-affiliated colleges demonstrate at Nilkhet intersection yesterday, protesting the alleged death by suicide of a student of Begum Badrunnesa Government Women's College, due to "farce of DU authorities". The students later formed a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar.

AL to distribute relief in flood-hit areas

Ruling Awami League (AL) has formed six teams to distribute relief goods in flood affected districts.

The teams were created at a joint meeting of AL secretariat with its associate bodies, along with presidents and secretaries of the party's Dhaka north and south city units at the party president's Dhanmondi political office in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

AL general secretary and road transport and bridge minister Obaidul Quader chaired the meeting.

AL Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Shree Sujit Roy Nandi will coordinate the relief distribution programme.

A team led by AL joint general secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak will distribute relief items among flood victims in Kurigram,

Lalmonirhat and Rangpur districts while another team led by AL presidium member Mohammed Nasim will distribute relief in Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Bagura. The party's presidium member Nurul

Islam Nahid will lead the relief team in

Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj while

presidium member Mosharraf Hossain will lead another team in Chattogram, Bandarban and Feni.

AL joint general secretary and education minister Dr Dipu Moni will lead a relief distribution team in Munshiganj and Chandpur while agriculture minister Dr Md Abdur Razzaque will lead a team in Manikganj, Tangail and Jamalpur.

Meanwhile, commerce minister Tipu Munshi has said the government will provide every flood-hit person with relief goods and life-saving medicine across the country. "The government has allocated adequate relief materials and its distribution is in full swing," Tipu said.

The minister said this at two separate functions arranged at Chhawla and Tambulpur union parishad premises in Pirgachha upazila of Rangpur, to distribute relief goods and medicine among 1,200 flood-hit people on Friday afternoon.

Tipu Munshi also distributed Aman rice seedling among flood-affected farmers and tree saplings among students on the occasion.

Youth stabbed dead in Lalbagh

PHOTO: STAR

UNB, Dhaka

A youth was stabbed to death by a group allegedly over a trivial matter in the capital's Lalbagh on Friday

night. The deceased was identified as Shamim, 18. DMP's

Deputy Commissioner (Lalbagh zone) Nazir Ahmed Khan said he might have been killed over smoking at Shaheed Nagar around 9pm. The cause behind it would be confirmed after investigation, he said.

Shamim was declared dead at DMCH after being admitted there with injuries to the abdomen, said Inspector Md Bachhu Mia of DMCH police outpost.

The body was sent for autopsy, while police detained four people for interrogation in connection

with the killing.