

# Ensure timely justice to prevent violence against women

Several thousand demand at Shaheed Minar rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life has turned bitter for a Santal woman since she was gang-raped by some influential people in 2014, centring control over a land.

More than five years have already passed, but justice is still a far cry for the victim from Chapainawabganj, as law enforcers are yet to even arrest the alleged culprits, who continue to intimidate her.

"There is no justice in the country. How long do I have to wait for justice and face threats from my rapists? They are passing their lives freely, but my days have become miserable," said the weeping woman in a programme at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

"Not only me, many others are facing such violence almost every day and waiting for justice for years," she added.

A total of 19 non-government organisations — including Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Naripokkho and ActionAid — held the event to mark the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on November 25.

Several thousand men, women and children took part in the rally — the biggest of its kind in recent times — carrying banners and placards containing different anti-violence messages. The theme of the event was "Let's rise together against rape of women and children".



People from all walks of life join a rally at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, protesting violence against women and children. Inset, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam speaking at the event. PHOTO: STAR

Speaking at the event, rights activists demanded speedy trial for all forms of violence against women and children, including rape and sexual harassment, so that perpetrators cannot escape justice and are deterred from committing such crimes.

They also called upon women to raise their voice against torture, and asked the government to be more serious about incidents of violence

immediately, as these have been on the rise in recent times.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "We organised this event to awake people's conscience. We don't want to tolerate such gruesomeness and brutal crimes anymore. If we all raise our voices, nobody will dare commit such crimes."

The noted rights activist also urged people from all walks of life

to protest incidents of violence immediately when they see those taking place.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said violence against women is contradictory to the spirit of Liberation War and all the achievements of Bangladesh.

"As a man, I feel ashamed and

# Star journo awarded 'Finish four projects soon' for health reporting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist of The Daily Star yesterday received a Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Best Reporting Award-2019.

The newspaper's senior reporter Mohammad Al-Masum Molla was awarded for his outstanding report on 'health and education'.

The report titled "Lab Tests on Milk: Everything same, only results vary" which explored the flaws of laboratory tests on milk, was published on September 5.

A total of 10 journalists received the award during a ceremony in DRU auditorium. Information Minister Hasan Mahmud handed over the awards to the winners, each receiving a certificate, crest and prize money of Tk 50,000.

The other award recipients (print and online category)

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## PM directs liberation war ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Liberation War Affairs Ministry for quick implementation of its four important projects including Swadhinota Stambha Construction (3rd Phase) Project at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan.

"I want these [projects] to be implemented soon," she said, seeing a PowerPoint presentation on the four initiatives at the Prime Minister's Office.

The three other projects are — House Construction Project for Insolvent Freedom Fighters, Mujibnagar Independence War Memorial Complex Construction Project and 360 Degree Panorama for Bangladesh

Project.

"Measures will have to be taken for proper maintenance of these [memorial structures]," the prime minister said.

Under Swadhinota Stambha Construction (3rd Phase) Project, the March 7 Speech Memorials and December 16 Surrender Memorial will be constructed at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan.

Two sculptures — an 18-foot sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and another depicting the surrender of Pakistani soldiers — will be installed at the two memorials.

The implementation of this project worth Tk 265.44 crore started in January

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## Shaheed Dr Milon Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Dr Milon Day was observed across the country yesterday, commemorating the 29th martyrdom anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, who was joint secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association.

Milon, a teacher of Dhaka Medical College, was killed by thugs of the then authoritarian ruler HM Ershad near TSC of Dhaka University, at the height of the anti-autocracy movement on November 27 in 1990.

The sacrifice of Milon transformed the movement into a mass uprising that prompted the fall of the regime, paving way for restoration of democracy.

To mark the day, different political, social and cultural organisations placed wreaths at his

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## ROHINGYA CRISIS

# Had no choice but to let them in: foreign secretary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had no other alternative to allowing the Rohingyas in when they faced atrocities in Myanmar's Rakhine state, said Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque yesterday.

"We had no alternative to letting them in Bangladesh," he said at a public lecture on "justice and accountability for Rohingya" organised by the Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) of Brac University in its auditorium.

Emotion among Bangladeshis ran high when the Rohingyas were killed and their houses burnt, he said at the event attended by academics, diplomats, and representatives from the UN and NGOs.

"It [allowing entry of Rohingyas] was a

very difficult decision. We knew about its impact at national level, but we also had to consider international obligations," Haque said.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled brutal military crackdown in Myanmar since August 2017 and joined some 300,000 others who had left previous waves of violence in Rakhine. They have been denied citizenship and basic rights like freedom of movement, education and health since 1982.

Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral deal on Rohingya repatriation in November 2017, but Rohingyas refused to return to Rakhine despite two attempts over the last two years, saying that the environment there is not conducive yet.

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NUSRAT'S VIDEO

## Verdict in case against ex-OC Moazzem today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the case filed against Moazzem Hossain, former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station, in a case filed over recording and circulating a video clip of madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi will be delivered today.

Judge Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka is scheduled to read out the judgement in presence of the lone accused Moazzem at 2pm, said court sources.

On November 20, the

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## ONION PRICE SPIKE

# Govt failure to contain market may have made rice millers bold: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday said price of onion would not have reached an exorbitant level had the government taken initiatives to directly import the key cooking ingredient in October to increase supply.

The non-government consumer rights body said the government took various initiatives to increase supply of onion in the domestic market and arrest the price spiral after India banned exports on September 29.

Yet, the steps — easing requirement for advance payment to open letters of credit for onion import, requesting big businesses to import the daily essential and selling it through Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) trucks at subsidised prices — could not contain the price hike, said CAB.

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## PHOTO OF THE DAY

ANISUR RAHMAN



Pedestrians have to calculate risks, then perform some careful acrobatics to walk on the Dainik Bangla intersection, which was dug up three months ago to install sewage lines. Traffic police stationed at the area also complained that controlling vehicle movement has become a difficult task.

## BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY

# 10m saplings to be planted across country

UNB, Dhaka

The government will plant 10 million saplings across the country marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen came up with the information yesterday, saying the year-long "Mujib Borsho" celebration will begin on March 17 next year.

He encouraged all to plant saplings everywhere.

The minister also referred to the devastation of forest land by Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar district since the 2017 influx.

Bangladesh has given shelter to forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar on 6,800 acres of forest land in the coastal district.

It is in an extremely vulnerable location and the presence of Rohingyas is affecting Bangladesh's ecosystem, the government says.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that March 2020 to March 2021 would be observed as Mujib Borsho (Mujib Year) across the country to mark the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

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নাসেশুরী শাখা

হোডিং নং- ৯৯/৯  
আজিজুল মার্কেট, কলেজ মোড়  
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পুবালা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর

৪৭৪ ও ৪৭৫ তম শাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

২৮ নভেম্বর ২০১৯, বৃহস্পতিবার

শীঘ্রই আরও ০৭টি শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন

