

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

Take stern action against abusers of women

Fakhrul urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Voicing “profound concern” over the growing incidents of harassment and abuse towards women, the BNP yesterday urged the government to take stern action against the perpetrators.

In a statement, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir strongly condemned and protested the violence against women, including various forms of harassment.

“I urge the government to establish justice and peace in the country by decisively addressing all anarchic situations, including violence against women,” he said.

The BNP leader said women are playing a leading role alongside men

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Selina Begum uses a jute sack to spread water and soybean oil to this roller applying bitumen on the Barishal-Dhaka highway. After working from morning to evening, the 56-year-old earns only Tk 500 per day. The photo was taken at Gournadi, Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

GAZIPUR DISTRICT JAIL  
The inhumane reality for female inmates

MONJURUL HAQUE

The last time Shanto and Suman saw their mother, she was shivering in the cold, wrapped in a tattered blanket that barely covered her frail frame

Sitting on the pavement outside Gazipur District Jail, the two brothers clutched a small bundle of warm clothes they hoped to hand over to her.

“She says the blanket they gave her is so thin that it barely shields her from the cold,” Shanto told this correspondent recently.

“She is suffering in there.”

Gazipur District Jail has long been a place of misery for inmates. But for the women confined within its crumbling walls, the conditions verge on the unbearable. With an official capacity of just 10, the women’s ward held 71 inmates as of January 21, according to prison sources.

This overpopulation has turned the jail into a suffocating maze of desperation, where food is scarce, medical care is inadequate, and basic hygiene is an afterthought.

My wife told me they don’t even get proper bedding. They just hand out sacks and expect them to sleep on the cold floor.

HUSBAND OF AN INMATE

“If any inmate is deprived of basic needs like proper food, hygiene, and warm clothes, it is a direct violation of their human rights. The government must intervene.”

RIPAN ANSARI

GS of National Human Rights Council

Recognise women participants in July uprising  
Demand 55 women’s rights organisations

KEY DEMANDS

- Urgent action against violence against women
- Curb fundamentalist, extremist cultures
- Ensure women’s participation in government, politics
- Revise laws on rape, dowry, harassment, violence
- Establish victim support centres, rehabilitation facilities
- Promote gender-sensitive education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Women’s Day Committee, comprising 55 organisations working for women’s rights, has placed an 11-point demand, including state recognition for women who directly participated in the July uprising that overthrew the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

They presented their demands at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

One of their key demands is immediate and effective action to stop all forms of organised violence against women on the occasion of International Women’s Day being observed today.

Tamanna Khan, convener of the committee who is also a member of Naripokkho, briefed reporters about their demands.

They also called for equal representation and active participation of women in government and non-government institutions, political parties, rights-based committees, and religious organisations.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

‘Want to live freely, safely, and with dignity’

Women stage silent protest against rising violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of women activists staged a silent demonstration yesterday in front of the National Parliament Building on Manik Mia Avenue, protesting against recent attacks, intimidation, and violence against women.

The protesters held banners and placards demanding safety and expressing dissatisfaction with the current situation. Messages included “Stop violence against women,” “No mob justice,” and a call for the home adviser’s resignation.

Besides, a group of female



protesters staged a flash mob against rape, while several male protesters also joined the rally. The demonstration later moved towards Asad Gate, where protesters released a statement outlining their demands.

“Women are not safe in Bangladesh. In recent months, incidents of harassment, abuse, rape, mob attacks, and cyberbullying have surged across the country, affecting women from all walks of life. These are not isolated cases but part of a persistent pattern of intimidation and violence against women,” the press release said.

The statement criticised the interim government, which was formed through a mass uprising with many women as leaders,

organisers, and participants and driven by demands for justice, freedom, and anti-discrimination, saying it has failed to uphold those promises.

“They have taken no meaningful action to address these crimes, effectively emboldening perpetrators,” it read.

FIVE-POINT DEMAND

The protesters put forward five key demands in the statement. They demanded the removal of the home adviser, saying his “confusing” and “irresponsible” remarks have caused the public to lose their trust.

They urged the interim government to fulfil its responsibilities and take immediate action to ensure all citizens’ safety.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Women are not safe in Bangladesh. In recent months, incidents of harassment, abuse, rape, mob attacks, and cyberbullying have surged across the country, affecting women from all walks of life. These are not isolated cases but part of a persistent pattern of intimidation and violence against women.

RMG worker found dead in N’ganj lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police have recovered the body of a young garment worker from a lake in Narayanganj’s Siddhirganj yesterday morning, two days after he went missing.

Confirming the incident, Shahinur Alom, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station, said that after recovering the body from Siddhirganj Lake, it was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

The deceased was identified as Md Nayan, 20, son of Abdul Halim from Jamalpur. He was living in a rented house in the Dhankunda area of Siddhirganj, and worked at a local garment factory, said police.

Family members said Nayan had left his rented house on Wednesday evening and been missing since.

Locals spotted a body floating in Siddhirganj Lake around 8:00am

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Nahid aims to finish what July uprising began

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladeshi students who overthrew autocratic ex-premier Sheikh Hasina last year have formed a new political party to finish the work that began with her ouster, the group’s leader told AFP.

Nahid Islam, 27, was one of the most visible faces of the youth-led protest campaign Students Against Discrimination, which brought down the curtain on Hasina’s iron-fisted rule after 15 years.

The sociology graduate resigned last week from the interim administration that replaced her to lead the new National Citizens Party (NCP), arguing that Bangladesh’s political establishment lacked the will for far-reaching reforms.

“They were not even interested in the reforms for which young people sacrificed their lives,” Nahid told AFP.

“Because we have an obligation to implement what we pledged during the mass uprising and its aftermath, we decided to form a political party,” he said.

More than 800 people were killed in last year’s uprising, and Nahid was briefly detained alongside other student leaders in an unsuccessful effort to force them to call off the protests.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Vendors set up numerous stalls outside Abahani Field in Dhanmondi, selling a vibrant array of flowers and plants. With the arrival of spring, blossoms are in full bloom, showcasing a stunning collection of local and exotic flowers in a spectrum of colours. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED