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**EDITOR** Dr. Saiful I. Dildar

> AvB.W. g`v#bRvi tgvt i'ûj Avyb

I.T. Manager Md. Ruhul Amin

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**Assistance by :** The Institute of Rural **Develoment-IRD** 

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**EDITORIAL OFFICE: Bangladesh Human Rights Commission(BHRC)** 222/Kha, Malibag (1st floor) Fat # C-2, Dhaka-1217 G.P.O. Box- 3725, Bangladesh. Tel: 88-02-9361353, 01714098355 Fax: 88-02-9343501, 8321085 E-mail: hrm.news24@gmail.com Website: www.bhrc-bd.org

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Salara

2. Vennue: Kazi Bashir Uddin Auditorium (Mohanagar Natyamancha) Gulistan (in front of Bangabhaban), Dhaka.

**3.** a) **Registration Fee:** Taka 500 per person till 15th February 2013. b) Registration fee: Taka 1000 per person from 16th February to 28th February 2013. c) **Registration fee: T**aka 1500 per person from 1st March to 5th March 2013.

### **Registration fee for International Participator:**

**4.** a) **Registration Fee:** US \$ 50 per person till 15th February 2013.

**b) Registration fee:** US \$ 75 per person from 16th February to 28th February 2013. c) Registration fee: US \$ 100 per person from 1st March to 5th March 2013.

### **5. Divisional Conference Schedule:**

a) Rangpur Divsion: 2nd February 2013, Vennue: Rangpur City

**b)** Chittagong South Division: 8th February 2013, Venue: Cox's Bazar Cultural Academy Auditorium, Cox'sbazar. c) Chittagong North Division: 9th February 2013, Venue: Chittagong Shilpakola Academy, Mohammad Ali Road, Chittagong.

### PM in Russia: A shift in foreign policy? Barrister Harun ur Rashid

Prime Minister Hasina's visit from 14th to

Sheikh 16th January to Russia is important because her government wants to restore its friendly relations with Russia. After 1975 the relations with Russia received a jolt and Russia felt betrayed and

with

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets Russian President Vladimir Putin at Kremlin on January 15.

1971 Liberation War, the leaders of the former Soviet Union supported the cause of the Liberation War Bangladesh people while China and the US supported Pakistan due to their different strategic reasons. People of Bangladesh will never forget the supportive role played by the Soviet Union at the time, particular-

long period of time.

This is because during the

of

ly at the UN Security Council. Had there be no vetoes at the Security Bangladesh for a Council by the Soviet Union,

Bangladesh would not have independence so soon. After liberation, the Soviet Naval team of 200 personnel Russian Admiral under Zuenko cleared the mines of the Chittagong port quickly and efficiently making it operational in 1972 when the Indian Navy could not do the job because of heavy mines planted by Pakistan under waters. On 27th March, 2012 late Admiral Zuenko was awarded a medal by the government in recognition to contribution his to Bangladesh during the hard days. Soon after independence of Bangladesh, in March, 1972, Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib visited Moscow which was his first formal overseas trip to express deep appreciation for the role the Soviet Union played in 1971. At the time one squadron of MiGs was offered by the Soviet Union to Bangladesh. Bangladesh sent its Ambassador first to Moscow. All these events demonstrated Bangladesh's close and friendly relations with Moscow at the very beginning. After the tragic assassination of Sheikh Mujib in August 1975, there was a period of low key relations with Moscow and by 1991 the

Soviet Union disappeared and the Russian Federation came in its place.

annoyed

avbev**na**Kvi

Under the changed situation, both Bangladesh and Russia have renewed their engagement to strengthen their partnership in various sectors. Gradually a new horizon of started cooperation has between the two nations. April, 2012, three sub-In sidiary companies of the state-owned Petrobangla signed a \$193.5-million agreement with Russia's Gazprom Company for drilling 10 gas wells in Bangladesh. Under the deal, Gazprom will construct the drilling pad and warehouse, rig shifting and commissioning, procure drilling materials and engage with third party service providers, among other Addressing the things. singing ceremony, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said it would have taken \$30 to \$32 million to drill each of the wells, but the cost came down below \$20 million each for signing the deal with Gazprom. During the visit of the Prime Minister, Bangladesh inked its biggest arms contract worth \$1 billion with Russia, which also announced a \$500 million loan to Dhaka for the construction of the country's first nuclear power plant. The two major deals were announced after Russian President Vladmir Putin met January 15 with on

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for talks. Media reports in Bangladesh, said fighter jets, helicopters, armoured vehicles, anti-tank missiles, automatic grenade launchers and radar equipment would be included in the package of the procurement deal. The previous 1996-2001 tenure of Hasina's

ruling Awami League witnessed the procurement of 10 MiG 21s from Russia. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 16th January underscored the need for formation of the Bangladesh-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group to further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in socioeconomic, educational, agricultural, energy and cultural fields. "It would ensure better exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two friendly countries," Sheikh Hasina said this when she met chairperson of the Council of Federation of Federal Assembly of Russia Ms. Valentina I Matvienko at the Council of Federation Building. The two sides inked 11 agreements, Itar-Tass reported. Hasina told the briefing that her government wanted to deepen engagements with Moscow for mutual benefits and gains.. Over the last four years, Hasina said, "we made good progress in certain key areas, including cooperation in nuclear and conventional energy".

# **Damini's death puts humanity to shame**

Parvez Babul

The sad incident of Malala Yousufzai (15), hit by bullets of the Taliban in November, 2012, for her campaign in favour of education for the girls perplexed the whole world. Before the global concern for Malala died down, the death of an Indian gang-raped woman Damini, aged 23, who was a medical student, again sent shockwaves across the world. The gang rape had triggered huge revulsion and anger across India. Protesters had marched in central Delhi and other major cities, demanding that no one else fall prey to such barbarism. The Indian Prime Minister called upon politicians and members of the public to work together to make India 'a demonstrably better and safer place for women to live in'. The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent his condolences to the victim's parents and family saying, "Violence against women must never be accepted, never excused, never tolerated". The demand of the people of

India is completely logical. The safety and security of each woman of every country must be ensured at any cost.

But the question is how? Is only the law enough, or do we need to create mass awareness?

A **gybevna Kvi - 5** 

The United Nations estimates, 125 countries today have laws that penalise domestic violence, a huge step forward from just a decade ago but seven to ten women continue to be targeted for physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes, and 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is still not a crime!

Odhikar, a rights body in Bangladesh, highlighted in its report recently that 3,000 women were raped in Bangladesh in last four years. Over 500 were killed after rape. About 300 women committed suicide after being raped. Rights activist Salma Ali said, in many cases, victims did not file any case for fear of further harassment by the rapists or were forced to withdraw cases because of threats by influential people of the society and even by some political leaders. Rape cases should be tried in Bangladesh under the speedy trial act and the government should formulate separate laws for protec-

to ensure justice to the victims. Moreover, a political commitment is mandatory to stop such heinous crimes, Salma Ali added. In Bangladesh, 70 percent girls marry before their 15th birthday. I think, this is certainly one type of rape, because 18 years is the legal age to marry a girl in Bangladesh. So, this should also be strictly enforced. Realising the incidents of barbarism to Malala of Pakistan, Damini of India, and the rapevictims of Bangladesh, it is urgent that we know relationship between feminism and humanism, and how these can help prevent barbarism the women face these days. After going through some documents related to feminism, this writer has come to conclusion that this is the right time to love both feminism and humanism to be real feminist and humanist by ensuring women's safety and security, their human rights, gender equality and equity, and women's empowerment in real sense. During an international training, this writer felt that we must take feminism positively, because the women are constitutionally and conventionally equal to men; there is no doubt in this basic, globally-recognized truth.

tion of victims and witnesses

But in reality, women's network is weaker than the men,

because in the patriarchal families or societies, the network of the relatives is not favourable for women. That is why, we, the men, must join women in strengthening their network of any movement and establishing their rights. Experts say, feminism symbolises movement and ideologies aimed at defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social for women. This rights

includes equal opportunities for women in education and employment. A feminist is 'an advocate or supporter of the rights and equality of women'. The history of the modern western feminist movements is divided into three 'waves'. Each wave deals with different aspects of the same feminist issues. The first wave questions of feminism with the publication of her book 'the Second Sex' in 1949. The book expressed feminists' sense of injustice. Secondwave feminism is a feminist movement beginning in the early and continuing to the present. And it coexists with third-wave feminism. Second wave feminism is largely concerned with issues of equality other than suffrage, such as ending discrimination.

**vbeva Kvi - 6** 

Since the 1980s standpoint, feminists have argued that the feminist movement should address global issues, such as rape, incest, prostitution, and culturally specific issues.

In 1907, an international conference of socialist women was held in Stuttgart where suffrage was described as a tool of class struggle. Clara Zetkin of the Social Democratic Party of Germany called for women's suffrage to build a 'socialist order, the only one that allows for a radical solution to the women's question'. In international law, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and described as an international bill of rights for women. Rights activists of Bangladesh have been logically demanding full ratification of CEDAW in Bangladesh

since its inception. On the other hand, humanism teaches us that it is immoral to wait for God to act for us. We must act to stop the wars and the crimes. We have powers of a remarkable kind. We have a high degree of freedom in choosing what we will do. Humanism tells us that whatever our philosophy of the universe may be, ultimately the responsibility for the kind of world in which we have to live rests with us. Therefore, both feminism and humanism teach us to be real human beings.

Moreover, every human being has same or equal rights, irrespective of women and men, country or region, race or colour. So, both feminism and humanism perfectly cover our demands, philosophies, and principles of women's rights movement to make awareness, to be proactive, and to go into action. There is no harm if we become real feminists or humanists to ensure women's rights. We salute Malala for her 'heroic and strong' stand education; for women's express deep sympathy to the parents of Damini. And we demand justice like others without delay to Malala, Damini and also to those women and girls who are victims of rape and stalking in Bangladesh. The writer is a media person. parvezbabul@yahoo.com

comprise women's suffrage movements of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, promoting women's right to vote. The second wave was associated with the ideas and actions of the women's liberation movements beginning in the 1960s. The second wave campaigned for legal and social equality for women. The third wave is a continuation of, and a reaction to, the perceived failures of secondwave feminism, beginning in the 1990s. French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir provided a Marxist solution and an existentialist view on many of the

Salar Sa **qubewaKvi-7** 

# **Indo-Bangla extradi**tion treaty signed

Bangladesh and India finally signed two crucially important deals on extradition and visa liberalisation in the capital Monday for exchange of prisoners as well as visitors.

The first accord--the Extradition Treaty-is aimed at exchanging prisoners languishing in both the neighbouring countries while the other- the Revised Travel

vides for easier visa access. Visiting Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar

Sambhaji Rao Shinde and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inked the pacts on behalf of their respective sides at a city hotel in the afternoon.

The deals were signed at a meeting between a 15-member Indian delegation led by Shinde and a 17-member home side led by Alamgir. After the 90-minute meeting ended at 4:00pm, the signing

of deals was announced at a Chetia, general secretary of be considered for extradition.

Delhi eases visa system

joint press conference at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla. The extradition treaty will facilitate the exchange of sentenced persons of both the



Arrangement (RTA)-pro- Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar the way for bringing terpart Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir sharing home a number of listed a close moment during the signing of the extradition treaty on 28 January.

> excluding countries, the transfer of political prisoners. However, the treaty can be cancelled by any side with a prior notice of six months. The treaty will help Dhaka

> get back a number of criminals who are currently lodged in Indian jails while it facilitates India to reclaim separatists like Ulfa leader Anup Chetia.

> Experts, however, say the deal was aimed at extraditing

> > avbevna Kvi -

secessionist group Ulfa, who was arrested in 1997 for trespassing with fake passport.

He was convicted in court and has been languishing in Bangladesh after serving his prison terms.

Delhi had been pressing Dhaka for years for extraditing him, but Dhaka could not do so for want of an extradition treaty.

The treaty will also pave criminals now in India and are allegedly run-

ning the criminal underworld over phone.

Besides, Bangladesh's war crime accused Abul Kalam Azad alias Bacchu Razakar and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's convicted killer Risaldar Moslehuddin are believed to be hiding in India.

Under the deal, only those convicted criminal of offences with at least one year's imprisonment would

Criminal offences mentioned in the proposed treaty are murder, physical damage, explosion, use of firearms, kidnapping, abduction, incitement to murder, property damage and so forth.

Meanwhile, the new visa pact styled 'Revised Travel Arrangement' will remove restrictions on visit of each other's businessmen, students, patients, senior citizens above 65 years and children below 12 years on the lines of the liberalised visa regime between India and Pakistan.

Accordingly, businessmen will be given five-year multiple entry visa and those who want to travel for medical treatment will get two-year multiple entry visa which is extendable for another year. Visa will be given to three

attendants of a patient. Under the student visa, a person can avail one-year multiple- entry travel document. Adviser to the PM Gowher

Rizvi, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq Α Karim, Indian High

two-day official visit. The foreign delegation is set meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni before today departing Dhaka (Tuesday).

Cabinet's Approval

The cabinet Monday endorsed the much-hyped extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India signed in the capital the same day. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the cabinet meeting that approved the deal to pave the way for transferring criminals hiding in the two close neighbouring nations.

The Indian cabinet okayed the signing of the pact Thursday. India had long been requesting Bangladesh for such a deal mainly to take back most-wanted Ulfa secretary Anup Chetia.

M Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters that the treaty would be applicable to criminal offences, not to political causes.

The cabinet also endorsed the draft of 'Rural Roads and Bridge Maintenance Policy' for repair, maintenance and renovation of rural roads, bridges and culverts.

The proposed policy will authorise the local government and engineering department to maintain important roads, leaving lesser important roads to the local government bodies in the district, upazila and union.

It also approved in principle the draft of 'Breastfeeding Substitute Child Food (marketing control) Bill 2013' to regulate the production, marketing and publicity of substitute child foodstuff.

# The deed for the nuke plant is

### **US maneouvring dominance** over dead bodies of workers

Activists and economists on Monday alleged that the United States is maneouvering its dominance in the

ments (RMG), US must admit its share of responsibility for the non-compliance of safety measures in the fac-

Commissioner Pankaj Saran, among others, were present at the meeting.

The Indian minister arrived at Dhaka last morning on a country standing upon the dead bodies of readymade garment (RMG) workers. As importer an of Bangladeshi readymade gartories that has become a 'death trap', they said. Addressing a rally in front of the BGMEA Building in the city, they cautioned that the

US authority should not try to exploit the dead bodies to pursue its dominance in various ways including the threat to withdraw its GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preference) facilities for Bangladeshi RMG products. Organised by a number of workers' unions and organisations to protest the killing of workers in fire incidents in recent times, the rally was also participated by a good number of professionals, intellectuals, writers, cultural activists and journalists.

Economist Prof Anu Muhammand, also the member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port, said that as a beneficiary of the RMG industry of the country, the United States is also responsible for the pitiable condition of the workers in the sector.

Bangladeshi RMG products are charged the highest tax for entering into the US market, he said.

"It's not only the RMG owners, but also the buying houses and global retail chains such as Walmart who are making huge profit; hence are responsible for the situation," Anu said.

"Let the US be told to reduce the profit. Let us ensure that they can't try to maneouver dominance over the country standing on the dead bodies of workers," he added.

Bangladesh Garment Sramik Oikya Forum leader Shahidul Islam Sabuj said negligence of the government and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and

Association Exporters (BGMEA) for ensuring the safety measures and compliances has led to the creation of the death trap in the RMG sector.

He alleged that the government and the BGMEA are also trying to save the garment factory owners who are responsible for the killing of workers in fire incidents

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena at a views exchange meeting at Habiganj on January 24 said the US government has made up its mind to withdraw the GSP facility to RMG prodimported from ucts Bangladesh on grounds that the workers in the sector are not being allowed to join trade union and that many other labour rights were not ensured.

pur was carried out was some 25 years ago. Much has changed in Roop pur since. Population has increased and geographical features have changed.

A number of energy experts of our atomic energy commission have stated that In spite of some primary basic reports the country did not have either experts or tools for a full-fledged feasibility study. However, the \$ half a billion deed also includes costs for a better and upgraded feasibility study.

A number of issues considering

Is Bangladesh ready for a Nuke power plant? **Shahriar Feroze** 

signed. Alike the arms agreement - the \$500 million worth power plant is also raising questions about our efficacy vis-à-vis plant set up and management. Not much has been revealed about the planning and procedures of Roop pur's prospective power plant. A lack of transparency and accountability in this regard is visible. The typical methodology for setting up a plant usually, begins with a feasibility study of the project. The study leads to its design that discusses the types of apparatuses and gears required for the project. The last time a feasibility study regarding a nuke plant in Roop



This project seems vague to many curious citizens like the writer. First of all, no power plant with a generating capacity of 1000 megawatts of energy exists - anywhere in the recent times - bearing the cost of \$500 million. The cost is likely to exceed far beyond. For the layman it is difficult to predict.

The country evidently does not have the much needed technical experts and managers for running such unit. It can be assumed that for a period of 5-10 years the government will have to bear a huge cost for maintaining a large group of Russians. They will be surely expensive. The plant will use uranium fuel, consisting of solid ceramic pellets, to produce electricity through a process called fission. Procurement, transport of fuel and nuclear waste is also a risky and hazardous task which we will have to handle. Russian nuclear reactors in the recent times have been riddled with controversies too.

A key characteristic of the recently signed agreement turns Bangladesh entirely dependent on the Russians. Starting from debt, experts, machines to technology. The huge investment in the nuke plant along with its infrastructure is likely to block

development of renewable energy and energy efficiency the actual solutions to climate change in Bangladesh.

The Indian media have come with a series of defects with their reactors. In India More than a million people live within the 30 km radius of the KKNPP (Koodankulam Nuclear Power Project) which far exceeds India's AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) stipulations. According to Indian Media reports, It is impossible to evacuate this many people quickly and efficiently in case of a nuclear disaster at Koodankulam. We have seen Fukushima suffering too. Additionally, atomic establishments continue to remain prime targets for terrorist groups and extremists all around the world. A disaster management plan and rehabilitation of at least 3 million lives within a radius of 30 kilometres should have been prepared concerning the inhabitants of Roop pur. The recently passed atomic energy control bill with regard to nuclear power plant has not been implemented as yet. If it lacks a detailed disaster management scheme for the inhabitants of Rup Poor then it's an incomplete one.

Since Chernobyl disaster in Who is a human rights activist?

The person who earns an honest living and spends a part of her / his earning for the cause of suffering humanity at large, always stand firm beside a person in distress, respectful to the law of the land and speaks out in favour of peace without fear of possible persecution is worthy of calling Human **Rights Activist.** 

- Bangladesh Human Rights Commission



1986 the world has experienced 57 more nuke calamities, and if a plant is to build in Roop Pur then it has to be built upon the lessons learnt from the past catastrophes. Seeking experts' opinion at the 11th hour or after the 'deed is done' have been carefully observed over the years. Are we seriously prepared for managing a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh?

Technical contract between the two countries is an important issue. We expect an experienced third party to scrutinize over the contract before it's signed.

'As far as a technical contract is concerned with the Russians. we don't have nuclear experts in our end, so we would need proper guiding for identifying loopholes of the contract too', says a former chairman of our atomic energy commission.

Our lawmakers seem to be on a rush for materializing their manifesto promises.it has appeared to be more of a 'prestige Project' for the current rulers. Consequences for such prestige in the future may be awfully lethal.

Let's not stage another nuclear Macbeth.

### If half of the world's food is wasted then

A finding by a renowned British firm by the name of mechanical engineers (IMechE) reported that nearly half of the world's food never reaches its ultimate destination - the hungry people. Obviously, the question is, where does it go