

CPJ concerned at attacks on newsmen

UNB, Dhaka

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has expressed its deep concern at what it said was an ongoing string of attacks on newsmen in Jhalakathi by activists of the ruling BNP.

In a letter faxed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Thursday, the New York-based CPJ conveyed the details of the attacks that began on December 4.

As an independent organisation of journalists and dedicated to defending its colleagues worldwide, the CPJ called on her administration to put an end to the attacks by her party activists.

"Journalists are entitled to equal protection under law to safely report the news without the threat of reprisal," the letter said.

"The BNP men must be held accountable for the violence against media community and should be prosecuted," it added.

Meanwhile, the journalists of Jhalakathi at a meeting yesterday decided not to cover events of the

BNP and its front organisations in protest against the attacks.

A black flag flew atop the at Jhalakathi Press Club, protesting the ransacking of the club allegedly by the BNP activists.

The decision of news boycott came from an urgent meeting of the press club with its president M Abdur Rashid in the chair.

The meeting decided to keep all press clubs across the country informed about the latest situation and register mass GD (general diary) seeking security of the journalists.

1,821 more held

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Police arrested a total of 1,821 people, including seven listed criminals, during their ongoing drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered four firearms, one weapon and six bullets. Six cases were filed against two people under the Arms Act.



The Bangladesh Garments Oikya Forum took out a procession in the city yesterday in protest against repression on workers across the country.

PHOTO: STAR

BASA executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badiur Rahman, a Planning Commission member, and Mohammad Haider Ali, chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, have been elected president and secretary general of Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (BASA) for 2004-05.

ASM Abdul Halim, Md Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, AHM Nurul Islam and Md Mortuza Hossain Munshi were elected vice-presidents.

Mohammed Ayub Mia was elected treasurer while Alamgir Hossain Khan and Mohammed Towhidur Rahman deputy treasurers.

The joint secretary generals are M Siraj Uddin Mia, Dr Md Abdus Sabur, Abdul Khaleque, and ASM Saleh Ahmed.

Shahinul Islam, Md Golam Yahia, Md Samsul Alam, AJM Salah Uddin Nagori, Md Faridul Islam, Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman, and Begum Kaniz Mowla were elected assistant secretary generals.

The office-bearers of 45-member central executive committee were elected unopposed at the annual general meeting of BASA yesterday.

Death anniversary of three martyred brothers today

The 32nd death anniversary of three martyred brothers -- Selim Reza, Nasiruddin Ahmed and Azmal Hossain -- will be observed today, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, the Pakistani army and their collaborators picked up three sons of late Asgar Hossain of 'Pubail House', 19 Siddheshwari Lane.

A milad mahfil will be held at Pubail Station Jame Mosque in Pubail after Maghrib prayers today.

Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury

The 32nd death anniversary of Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury, a martyr of the liberation war, will be observed today, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Rafiqul Haider was picked up from his Shahidbag residence in the city by the Pakistani army and their collaborators.

A milad mahfil will be held at Aminbagh Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today.

Outlaw held in Khulna, eyes gouged out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A regional commander of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was arrested by detective police from Jabusha village of Rupsha upazila on Thursday night.

Haider Mridha, son of Daud Mridha of Mahishaguni village of the same upazila, was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital with both of his eyes gouged out on the same night.

Police Super Habibur Rahman said eyes of the outlaw were gouged out by angry mob who snatched him while he was in police custody.

Local people, on the other hand, alleged that his eyes were gouged out by police.

According to police, Haider was accused in 12 cases including murder, dacoity, arson and extortion.

He surrendered to police with an outdated shutter gun on June 25 in 1999 to take advantage of general amnesty. But he again joined the outlawed party after his release.

Police also arrested another outlaw Monir on the same night from near Khulna thana, but he was let off by the officer-in-charge of Rupsha thana early yesterday morning for reasons unknown.

Conspiracy against USTC on: VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A vested quarter has been conspiring to halt the activities of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), said Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Nurul Islam at a press conference yesterday.

He mentioned the name of a leader of the Bangladesh Medical Association, Chittagong chapter, alleging that the leader was behind the vested quarter.

Dr Nurul Islam, also a national professor, said the authorities would not give in to any evil pressure. "If needed, the USTC campus would be shifted to Dhaka," he said.

He called on all to help resist the 'plot' hatched by the vested quarter and cooperate with the authorities to continue the activities of the university.

He urged the guardians to send their wards to the university, saying that all activities on the campus have resumed.

The VC also assured that the university authorities would ensure the security of the students.

He further said notice would be served on the agitating teachers if

they do not join their duties soon.

"And if they do not pay heed to the notices, they would be dismissed," he warned.

Regarding those who have already been suspended, Prof Nurul Islam said they will have to appeal to the authorities for reinstatement.

Replying to a query, he said they were suspended with the approval of the syndicate.

Pro-VC (acting) Abdullah Al Harun Chowdhury, Director (administration) Col. (ret'd) Eskander Hossain, Chairman of Pharmacy Department Md Mohiuddin Chowdhury and a number of teachers and guardians were present at the press conference held at the local press club.

Earlier, a meeting of the guardians was held on the USTC campus with Prof. Nurul Islam in the chair.

The meeting formed a six-member Guardians' Forum which assured the authorities of their all-out support to resist any conspiracy against the university.

The forum also demanded immediate resumption of all classes.



Temperature may rise

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Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins in the morning, Met office said, adding that night temperature may rise slightly.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 11.8 degree at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Max Temperature in celsius, Min Temperature in celsius, Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.