



Bulbul, Jalil Bhuyian elected president, secy general of BFUJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul of the daily Sangbad and Abdul Jalil Bhuyian of The Daily Star have been elected president and secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) for 2006-2008, says a press release.

The other office-bearers are treasurer -- Farazee Azmal Hossain of the Ittefaq, vice-presidents -- Kartik Chatterjee, Omar Kaiser, Kiron Saha and Chitta Ghose and joint secretaries general -- Mollah Jalal, SM Zahid Hossain, Kamrul Huda Helal and Asif Siraj.

The members of the executive committee are Abdul Mannan, Aslam Sani, Inamul Haq Babul, Yasin Ahmed, Nazim Uddin Shyamal, Jesu Roy Chowdhury, Jaminur Rahman Dulal, Anu Mustafa, Joytirmoy Mallik, Md Saheb Ali, Mahmudul Alam Nayan, Abdur Rahman, Ratan Singh, AHM Motaleb and Sultan Uddin Khan.

The election was held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Bogra, Dinajpur, Jessore and Mymensingh press clubs simultaneously on Saturday.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul has been elected president unopposed. Abdul Jalil Bhuyian bagged 812 votes to become secretary general while his rival Mahbulul Alam got 110 votes.

Treasurer Farazee Azmal Hossain got 563 votes while his nearest rival Ataur Rahman 369 votes.

Free, fair election a prerequisite for strengthening democracy

General Stackpole gives talk on 'Challenges to democracy in South Asia'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lt Gen (Retd) Henry C Stackpole yesterday said a free and fair election is a prerequisite for strengthening democracy of a country.

Presenting the keynote paper at a talk, he said democracy is now at 'adolescent level' in Bangladesh and it has to walk a long way to get maturity.

General Stackpole, former president of Honolulu-based Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS), was speaking at a talk.



PHOTO: STAR

Lt Gen. (Retd.) Henry C Stackpole gives a talk on 'Challenges to democracy in South Asia' at the BISS auditorium in the city yesterday.

JCD slams BCL for calling strikes

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP, slammed Awami League (AL) and its student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for calling hartals and student strikes at educational institutions.

They said AL and BCL have been conspiring to foil the next parliamentary election by creating anarchy and instability across the country through calling illogical hartals and strikes.

They were speaking at a rally in front of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) yesterday.

JCD President Azizul Bari Helal said Chhatra Dal would resist all evil activities of AL and its student front BCL.

JCD General Secretary Shaiful Bari Babu, Vice Presidents Nurul Islam Nayan and Mostofa Khan Sofori, Organising Secretary Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, DU unit JCD General Secretary Saidul Islam Firoz and other leaders addressed on the occasion.

judiciary has to be the 'guardian of truth.'

The US general said the whole world is now waiting to see whether the people of Bangladesh would be able to establish a secular government in the next general election.

He however said corruption and bureaucratic tangle are the two major problems for the democracy of a country.

Referring to Grameen Bank and Brac, General Stackpole said the country has achieved much in micro-credit, information technology and other sectors.

Judith A Chammas, deputy head of the US Embassy in Dhaka, hoped that the next election will be free and fair to help strengthening democracy.

She said there is a long history of co-operation between the civilian and military people in the field of humanitarian and other development activities in the country.

Judith said it is a good sign for democracy that many military officials after their retirement have joined the politics and business to push the country ahead.

BISS Director General Major General (Retd) Muhammad Abdul Matin, Prof Ataur Rahman of Dhaka University, and Columnist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhry also took part in the talk.

ing at the talk on 'Challenges to democracy in South Asia' organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium in the city.

The US general is now on a visit to Bangladesh on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Operation Sea Angel.

He was the commander of the rescue mission which was launched within 24

hours of the devastating cyclone that hit the country's long coastal belt stretching from Bhola to Cox's Bazar on April 29, 1991.

General Stackpole said active participation of both the government and the opposition in parliament is a must to strengthening democracy.

He said for a democratic county the rule of law has to be established and the



PHOTO: STAR

Zubaida Huq, mother of Nasreen Perveen Huq, speaks at a meeting in memory of Nasreen at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. Nasreen Huq Memorial Meeting Committee organised the event. (Story on Page 2)



PHOTO: STAR

Karmojibi Nari, an organisation of working women, takes out a procession at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday to mark the May Day.

Charges not framed against 5 JMB men

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court could not frame charges against five banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members in two cases as one of them were not produced before it yesterday.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's arges against them and directed the authorities concerned to produce all the five JMB members on the day.

The cases -- one under the Arms Act and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- were filed with Uttara Police Station on January 5.

The accused are Wahidul Islam, 20, Shafiqul Islam, 30, Hafez Ibrahim, 30, Abdullah Al Faruq, 21, and Hanif

Munshi, 22. Of them, Hanif was not produced before the court yesterday.

Earlier on April 10, the court had directed the authorities concerned to produce the five JMB members before it yesterday in connection with two cases.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 30 pressed charges against the five JMB members, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

The investigation officer dropped the name of Shakil alias Mollah Omar from the charge sheet as he was killed in a fight with the law enforcers in Comilla on March 12.

Later, Rab arrested Abdullah Al Faruq and Hanif on the basis of information given by the arrestees.

Gen Stackpole calls on army chief

BSS, Dhaka

Former US Marine Task Force Commander Lt Gen (retd) Henry C Stackpole paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Moeen U Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

The army chief welcomed General Stackpole in Bangladesh.

During the discussion, General Stackpole appreciated the role of Bangladesh Armed Forces in disaster management, which involves both humanitarian assistance and post-disaster infrastructure development.

The army chief recalled the humanitarian assistance provided by the US forces in cyclone-hit areas in 1991.