

'Make list of those responsible for HR violations'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, president of the advisory committee of Forum for Secular Bangladesh, yesterday blamed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan for human rights violations in the country.

On their instructions, the law enforcers have been oppressing political leaders, journalists and women across the country, he said at a discussion on 'Human rights violation during the fundamentalist and communal alliance government'.

He also demanded trial of them and confiscation of property they have amassed through illegal means.

The Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion at the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium in the city on the occasion of 77th birth anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

The speakers called for making a list of those responsible for human rights violations during the rule of the four-party alliance government and bringing them to justice.

Not only the members of law enforcement agencies, but also those who directed them to resort to repression should be on the list, they said.

Such list should be made public through the media, Justice KM Sobhan said, adding that those responsible for



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a discussion on 'human rights violations' at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Justice KM Sobhan and journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and on his right are AL leader Tofail Ahmed and Hena Das. Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion to mark the 77th birth anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

human rights violations should be boycotted socially until they are brought to book.

Opposition leaders and workers, religious minorities and even women have fallen victim to torture by the ruling party men since October 1 in 2001, he said.

Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the defeated forces of

1971 have become active again -- they are now oppressing and killing the pro-liberation forces to take revenge.

He alleged that there are 27,000 cadres of ruling BNP and Jamaat in the police administration and they are serving the interest of their parties by torturing opposition leaders and workers.

Workers' Party President Rashed

Khan Menon, acting president of the Forum Shahrir Kabir, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Hena Das, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof Md Anwar Hossain and two victims of police brutality -- Advocate Shahin Sultana Shanta and Sabina Akhtar Tuhin -- also spoke.

Five killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 15 other injured in separate road accidents in three districts yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent from Bogra adds: two people were killed in a road accident at Dubchancha bus stand area in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as bus passenger Shankari Bala Rani, 50, of Naogaon district and bus helper Mahabub, 30.

The bus turned upside down when a Naogaon bound tank lorry hit the backside of the bus.

Drivers of two vehicles managed to escape, said locals.

Injured Adamdighi Upazila

Education Officer Shaidul Islam, Assistant Upazila Education Officer Abdur Rahman and custom staff Mafizul were admitted to local health complex.

A case was filed with Dupchancha Police Station.

UNB from Comilla reports: Two people were killed and 15 others injured in a head on collision between a covered van and a bus at Hasanpur in Daudkandi upazila early yesterday.

Police said the mishap took place on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 4:00am, leaving covered van driver Khandaker Mintu Alam, 30, and an unidentified man dead on the spot.

The injured were admitted to a local hospital and Dhaka Medical

College Hospital and Dhaka Pangu Hospital.

A case was filed with the police.

Meanwhile, a schoolgirl was killed in a road accident at Shivnagar village in Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah on Tuesday.

The dead was identified as Priyanka, 9, a local primary school student and daughter of Joti Das of the village.

Police and witnesses said a speedy tempo ran over Priyanka while she was crossing Shivnagar-Chashra road on her way to school. She died on the spot.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed.

17 YOUNG JOURNOS GET UNESCO CLUB AWARD Freedom of press a must for strengthening democracy

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh yesterday awarded "Unesco Club Journalism Award-2006" to 17 young journalists from both print and electronic media for their outstanding contributions in journalism.

The journalists are Hasan Jahid Tusher of The Daily Star, Kamrul Hasan of the Prothom Alo, Abu Sufian of BDNEWS, Nurul Karim Bhuiyan of BSS, Alpa Arzu of the New Age, Murni Saha of ATN Bangla, Kishowar Laila of Bangla Vision, Mahub Matin of Channel-I, Fahmida Mahub of Ntv, Ahmed Mushfika Naznin of BTv, Tusher Abdullah of Rtv, Sankar Kumar Dey of the daily Janakantha, Shafiqul Alam Raza of the daily Jugantor, Rozina Islam of the daily Sangbad, Anwar Aldin of the daily Ittefaq, Shamsul Saleheen of the Amar Desh, and Shamsul Islam of the daily Inqilab.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed distributed certificates and crests to the journalists following a discussion on 'Role of the media to eradicate poverty'.

The association organised the discussion to mark the World Press Freedom Day at the conference hall of Banbeis Bhaban in the city.

Addressing the discussion as chief



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of "Unesco Club Journalism Award-2006" pose for photograph with the guests at the conference hall of Banbeis Bhaban in the city yesterday.

guest, the law minister said the mass media today have been playing important role in poverty alleviation in the country through focusing achievement of the people.

Termining freedom of press as the main component of democracy, Moudud said freedom of press is vital to strengthen democracy.

Emphasising right to information, the minister said they are going to enact a law soon in this regard.

He called upon newsmen to publish news objectively and in transparent and accountable manner.

Presided over by Dhaka University Professor Masuda M Rashid

Chowdhury, the discussion was also addressed by Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Dr M Asaduzzaman, DU Professor Dr Aminul Islam, Secretary of Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco ANM Bazul Rahman and Adviser of the organisation MAziz Khan.

Meanwhile, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University (DU) also observed World Press Freedom Day yesterday by bringing processions and holding seminars.

They urged the government to enact Right to Information Act soon for the sake of free journalism.

Free treatment for Kansat victims

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Human rights organisations Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) and Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) will provide treatment free of cost for the people who fell victim to police torture during Kansat movement.

This is the first-ever such initiative taken by some human rights organisations.

As part of the programme, a daylong Mobile Treatment Clinic will be set up at the Kansat High School ground today, sources said. The activities of the clinic will begin at 9:00am, said a BIHR press release.

Doctor SA Sagar, psychotherapist ASM Saiful Anwar, physiotherapist Mostafa Zaman Miraz, regional councillor Khan Md Rustom Ali, supervisor Iqbal Ahmed, BIHR area coordinator and TFT Rajshahi coordinator and journalist Jahangir Alam Akash will run the clinic.

Youth slain in Keraniganj

BDNEWS, Keraniganj

A gang of unidentified criminals slaughtered a youth at a garden of Malanchha area under Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka, police said yesterday.

The identity of the youth could not be known immediately. Police sent the body to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

JU council meet adjourned

JU CORRESPONDENT

The 116th academic council meeting of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was adjourned till today following the allegation of "unethical activities" against the Advanced Studies Committee (ASC) of Bangla department.

Prof Khaled Hossain of Bangla department was present in the meeting of ASC that formed a committee comprising of three examiners to examine his own thesis paper, which is unethical and unusual, some academic council-member claimed.

Lions Club of Ctg Central Jubilee

The 9th Charter Anniversary 2006 of the Lions Club of Chittagong Central Jubilee was held at St. Martin Hotel at Agrabad in Chittagong recently, says a press release.

Governor of Lions District 315-B4 Anwar Shawkat Afsar attended the ceremony as the chief guest while Club President Golam Mohiuddin Babul presided.

Ilias Chowdhury and Advocate Mustafa Kamal Mansoor were elected as president and general secretary of the club for 2006-2007.

Repression on minorities protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) formed a human chain on the campus yesterday protesting repression on minority community at different upazilas of Gopalganj and Madaripur districts in the last two months.

Termining the repression as a ploy to destroy opposition's 'vote bank', they demanded immediate end to repression and punishment to the culprits.

The speakers said the government instigated miscreants to carry out repression on minority in the name of robbery.

They said the repression is being carried out ahead of the parliamen-

tary election to affect opposition's vote.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan urged the government to stop all kinds of repression against minority people to uphold country's democracy and secular image.

Former DU Vice Chancellor Dr Durgadas Bhatyacharia, former Duta president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former DU proctor AKM Nurunnabi, Prof Mohammad Ashraf Uddin, Prof Dr Nim Chandra Voumik, Prof Sadeka Halim, and Prof Dr Dalem Chandra Barmon joined the human chain to express solidarity.

Passer-by dies as billboard falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A passer-by was killed at Shahbagh in the city yesterday as a heavy billboard fell on him.

The accident occurred when Muhammad Emon, 20, was walking on the footpath in front of Aziz Super Market at around 3:30pm.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Fire burns compartment of train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire burned down a compartment of a train while it was being repaired at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday.

Witnesses said fire broke out at about 12:10pm suddenly when four people were repairing the compartment placed at platform No 7 at the station.

The fire fighters said Fire Service and Civil Defence put out the fire in half an hour, but could not ascertain its origin.

Panic spread among the passengers but none was injured.

BDR recovers arms left by BSF official

BDNEWS, Jessore

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered an SLR and 10 bullets left by a member of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) official yesterday from Maheshpur border of Jhenaidah district.

BDR and local sources said a drunken BSF official intruded 200 metres inside Bangladesh from no 53 pillars of Jolli, Maheshpur point at 10:00am yesterday.

In this backdrop, villagers chased the drunken official who left Bangladesh border leaving one SLR and 10 bullets.

On information, BDR rushed to the spot and recovered the arms.

Preparation to hold a flag meeting between the two countries is going on until filing of the report.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Afsari Khanum, a noted singer of Rabindra sangeet and Nazrul sangeet and wife of Shamsur Rahman (Dr Johnson), will be held after Maghrib prayers on Friday, May 5, at the residence of the deceased (Batayan-2, 500A, Road No. 8, Dhanmondi R/A), says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to be present at the milad mahfil to be held for salvation of the departed soul.

Japan envoy hails citizens' movement

FROM PAGE 16

parties make concessions for the greater interest of the progress of democracy.

Turning to the citizens' movement, he said a key to success is national commitment and it all depends on increasing the number of intellectuals at the core of this movement, who are committed to its purpose and take real actions to realise them.

Next, he said the committed intellectuals must formulate mid and long-term plans and persevere to encourage other citizens, many of whom are not literate, to understand and appreciate the significance of the movement and participate in it.

Horiguchi, who will leave Bangladesh on Monday on completion of his three years diplomatic assignment, said it will require a considerable amount of time to prepare the strategy to achieve the goals, mobilise partners, get recognised, assign a person in charge of each upazila and union in order to promote this movement nationally.

Termining the citizens' movement 'a first step', the Japanese ambassador said mid and long-term plans are also required to solve the confrontational political structure in this country.

According to him, the first thing desired is that the major political parties must discuss mid and long-

term political reform plans before each election and pledge to carry those out after the election regardless of the party in power.

He said the civic group proposed by Dr Yunus may watch whether parties are living up to their promises or not. If these are systemised, he said Bangladesh's democracy should make remarkable progress through several elections.

Horiguchi said the international community, which wants Bangladesh to develop further, may promote this kind of mid and long-term political reforms, not confined only to encouraging free and fair elections.

Through the process Bangladesh will obtain greater influence in international affairs and bring favourable results from its negotiations with foreign countries with stronger bargaining power, he said.

Furthermore, Bangladesh will be requested to play a significant role in settling political disputes, including nuclear weapons control, and in promoting social and economic development in South Asia, he added.

"I believe that Bangladesh has the potential to do so and that it should make the first step towards that end."

The outgoing Japanese ambassador said the biggest challenge of development in Bangladesh is to improve its governance, including elimination of corruption, strength-

ening of implementation abilities and improving local government systems.

The governance issue was taken up as one of the core issues by Japan's Country Assistance Programme and the Joint Strategy Note for Development by the four donors, he said.

Horiguchi said Japan will support the improvement of local government system by promoting decentralisation and empowerment of the community people.

Turning to law and order, he said the situation has improved remarkably after it had once deteriorated to a critical point. Lauding the arrest of top JMB leaders, he requested the government to bring all the JMB suspects to trial under due process of law and to expedite the process.

The ambassador highly praised the progress in economic sector, especially in export, investment areas, and expansion of infrastructure. However, he said there are many mid and long-term challenges ahead including basic infrastructure such as electricity and water supply and streamlining of regulations and procedures.

On Japan-Bangladesh relations, he said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in last July affirmed consolidation of economic relations between the two countries.

Long march toward Rajshahi today

Protest against power, diesel crises, price hike of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Oikya Mancha, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation will start long march towards Rajshahi today protesting power, water, fertiliser and diesel crises and price hike of essentials.

The long march will begin at 8:00am from the BDB president's Baridhara residence in the capital and end at Godagari in Rajshahi at 4:00pm via Tongi, Tangail, Sirajganj and Natore.

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain and BDP President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will lead the march.

On the occasion of the long march, BDB Secretary General Major (ret) Abdul Mannan at a press conference at the BDB central office in the city said they have planned to arrange similar programmes in all divisions.

Reading out a written speech, Mannan said the alliance government has failed to check the crises and price of essentials due to their corruption and misdeeds. The government has been using the budget allocations for party and personal interests, he said.

He urged the people of all walks of life to make the long march a success.

FM greets new Nepalese counterpart

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan yesterday greeted KP Sharma Oli for being appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Nepal.

In a message, he said, "Given your personal contribution and leadership in restoring peace and strengthening democracy in Nepal, I am confident that the bilateral relationship between our two countries and the regional cooperation among the Saarc countries will be further strengthened."



Prof Talukdar new VC of Eastern University

Prof Dr Rahim B Talukdar joined the Eastern University as its vice-chancellor on Tuesday, says a press release.

Earlier, Dr Talukdar served as the vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Business & Technology (BUBT). He was also the director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka.

A member of the Accreditation Council of Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA), Prof Talukdar did his MBA from Indiana University, USA and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, USA.

Nor'wester lashes Lalmonirhat village: One killed

BDNEWS, LALMONIRHAT

A woman was killed nor'wester lashed Belovita village under Lalmonirhat sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Shahidunnesa, 65, wife of late Azhar Miah.

5 shops gutted in Bandarban

BDNEWS, Bandarban

At least five people were injured and five shops gutted early yesterday in a fire at Aziz Nagar Bazar in the hill district of Bandarban.

Fire brigade sources said the fire was originated from a tea stall of the bazar at 11:00am.

On information, Fire Brigade unit from Chakoria rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze in cooperation with the locals.

At least five people were injured while trying to extinguish the fire. The businessmen claimed that valuables worth Tk 20 lakh were gutted in the fire.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Nazrul Islam speaks at a press conference on 'Save Shankhari Bazar' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.