

Media urged to help curb domestic violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday called on the media to play an important role in curbing domestic violence.

The media should be careful about showing scenes of violence against women as such scenes in plays and movies help aggravate the situation, they said.

While the media is playing a significant role in building our mindset, rape scenes are being frequently shown in films to satisfy the desire of a section of audience, said Prof Dr Geeti Ara Nasreen of Dhaka University.

Action Network to Combat Violence against Women organised the 'National dialogue on the role of the media in resisting domestic violence' at Cirdap auditorium in the city, with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as the chief guest.

ANM Imam Hasanat, executive

director of the MSS, presided over the dialogue.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed called on the media not to portray any such things that exaggerate or encourage domestic violence.

"The issue of domestic violence should be handled judiciously. The media should not broadcast such incidents only to serve its own interest," he added.

He also urged the media to raise awareness about the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act so that it cannot be used as an instrument of blackmail, exploitation and extortion.

The minister also stressed the need for raising awareness about Legal Aid Services Act-2000, which was aimed at providing financial assistance for underprivileged women.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr Mahbub Hasan said 54,954 women were physically assaulted last year

and 3,043 of them were killed, mostly by their husbands.

As women, in most cases, are reluctant to disclose the incidents of violence due to various reasons, enactment of a law is needed to create an environment conducive to bringing the offenders to book, said Syed Nurul Alam, chairperson of Action Network to Combat Violence Against Women.

The speakers also stressed the need for more awareness programmes such as Meena cartoon in the electronic media, showing awareness messages during the intermission of films and adopting gender policy in all media houses.

Salam Saleh Uddin, assistant editor of the daily Ajker Kagoj, Shah Alamgir, chief news editor of Channel i, and Nasimun Ara Haque, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, also spoke at the dialogue.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed addresses a dialogue at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Nasimun Ara Haque, Dr Shahera Khatun Bela, Dr Mahbub Hasan and Prof Dr Geeti Ara Nasreen.

SC Bar to boycott court of Justice Joynul today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) lawyers will boycott the court of Justice Joynul Abedin today protesting issuance of a contempt rule to 11 lawyers on Monday and not showing respect to SCBA and its president.

SCBA yesterday took the decision at an emergency meeting and condemned the quarter responsible for lodging the contempt suit in an attempt to degrade the unity of the lawyers in the association.

The High Court (HC) Bench of Justice Joynul Abedin on Monday issued the rule on 11 Supreme Court lawyers asking them to explain why proceedings of contempt of court should not be brought against them for violation of the HC's suo moto ruling on May 23, 2005 and also for committing other contemptuous acts.

The SCBA meeting yesterday decided not to attend in any activities of the bench of the said Justice for a whole day.

The emergency meet, presided by its President Amir-Ul Islam, demanded for formation of bench for hearing of Bangabandhu murder case immediately.

The lawyers also demanded form an appropriate bench in a week for admission of appeal petitions against the order and hearing for the bail petitions of under-trial criminal cases.

The SCBA lawyers also expressed disappointment over the Israeli attack on Lebanon and concern for the war victims.

Former SCBA president Shafigue Ahmed, Ozair Farooq, Rokanuddin Mahmud, Mahbubey Alam, SCBA Secretary AM Amin Uddin, advocate Rahmat Ali, Humayun Hossain Khan, KM Saifuddin Ahmed, Abdul Matin Khasru, Sahara Khatun, Bashir Ahmed and Enayetur Rahim were also present in the meeting.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Alhajj Abdul Mannan, former regional manager of House Building Finance Corporation and chairman of Madhabi Group, will be held at his residence at Royal Academy Bhabhan at 158/2 Arambagh in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

He passed away on June 30 at the age of 65 due to a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

On occasion of his chehlum, quran khwani and milad mahfil will

Tension mounts at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Tension mounts high at Jahangirnagar University (JU) as both the feuding factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday continued gathering more firearms at dormitories coupled by the university authorities' unprecedented reluctance of taking actions.

Most of the rooms of Shaheed Salam Barkat (SSB) and AFM Kamal Uddin (KU) hall were found vacant yesterday morning as a considerable number of general students left their dormitories seeing naked reservation of fire arms and lethal weapons in the dormitories.

As a general student named Farhad, a fresher enrolled under 2005-2006 academic session and resident student of KU hall, was injured on Tuesday night, uncertainty over safety on campus gripped both teachers and students.

General students and teachers hoped for a raid or a drive shortly after the incident but the university authorities rejected the idea saying it might bother general students and the congenial atmosphere at the dormitories. A huge contingent of police has been deployed in front of both the dormitories.

A five-member probe-body, headed by pro-VC Prof Enamul Huq Khan, was formed yesterday to investigate into the incident.

Meanwhile, president and general secretary of JCD JU unit have been ordered to show cause in three days by the central committee.

With the battle on Tuesday night between two JCD factions that left 25 injured including 5 bullet-hit, the number of bullet-hit students in the last year climbed to ten.

"I wonder how teachers can expect us attending classes and examinations when residing in our hall means staying at gun point?" said a student of SSB before leaving dormitory yesterday morning.

"I have seen JCD leaders in our hall lifting up boxes full of firearms while my friends in KU hall saw the same," he added, seeking anonymity.

"University authorities are concerned about the incident. Actions will be taken after we have the probe-body report," said Proctor Sayeed Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan.

Security guard shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals shot a security guard at the city's Ramna area yesterday night.

Mohammad Labloo, 32, a security guard of a private house at Boro Moghbazar was shot in front of the house at around 7:00pm by three youths.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The criminals fled the scene without stepping into the house or taking any valuables, police said.

Police are suspecting the criminals might have sprayed bullets due to previous enmity or to create panic in the locality.

Rights activists condemn threat to Jamat Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists and environmentalists yesterday condemned the alleged threat to kill Convener of Rajshahi Protection Action Council Jamat Khan in 'crossfire'.

Expressing grave concern over such a threat issued allegedly by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Rajshahi, the activists urged the government to ensure the security of Jamat Khan, an environmentalist who has been involved in various social movements to protect the environment and rivers.

They also demanded proper investigation into the incident and action against the persons responsible.

In a statement, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said that Jamat Khan continued to speak out against the unauthorised clinics and diagnostic centres who are cheating the patients every day. He is also trying to raise awareness in order to improve the healthcare facilities at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Bapa said it is a shame that a social worker and environmentalist like Jamat Khan is given such a threat.

In another statement, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) condemned the death threat and urged the government to prevent the law enforcers from resorting to human rights violations.



Visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher talked to the media after a meeting with Imams at Haji camp at Ashkona. US Ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A. Butenis accompanied him.

3RD KARNAPHULI BRIDGE China Major Bridge starts preliminary work

CU CORRESPONDENT

China Major Bridge (CMB), a company entrusted to construct the third Karnaphuli bridge, has started its preliminary work.

A team of the company, accompanied by officials of Roads and Highway Department, visited and inspected the site for the bridge yesterday morning, sources said.

As part of the project work, more than 100 structures are being demolished to make room for the ends of the bridge.

On Tuesday, a four-member team of the CMB also visited the site and took measurements, the sources added.

The government took up the project involving Tk 336 crore after Kuwait Development Fund agreed to provide the funds for the bridge.

The construction work is scheduled to be completed in 38 months' time.

KAMALUDDIN MURDER Ittefaq staffs continue hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Staffs of the daily Ittefaq observed a token hunger strike for the sixth consecutive day demanding trial of the killing of Ittefaq staff Kamaluddin and compensation to his family.

Dainik Ittefaq Karmachari Steering Committee called on the token hunger strike that is observed round the clock by turn.

Speaking at the programme, the committee leaders urged Ittefaq authorities to grant due compensation to Kamaluddin's family.

To express solidarity with the programme, Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Parishad Co-convenor Mojammel Huq, Member Secretaries Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Fazle Imam, Joint Member Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Members Maitur Rahman Talukdar and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, former co-convenor of the Parishad Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and other journalists participated at the hunger strike yesterday.

'World environment affected for unplanned dev of rich countries'

BSS, Dhaka

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf yesterday said loss of lives and assets can be reduced by using modern technology in facing natural disasters.

Disturbances are created in the atmosphere due to climate change, he added.

He was speaking at a daylong seminar on "Climate change: Option for adaptation and mitigation in Bangladesh" at a city hotel with Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui in the chair.

At least 50 representatives from different government and non-government organisations attended the programme, organised by Globe Bangladesh, a non-government organisation.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Rowshan Ershad, MP, Col (retd) Faruque Khan, MP, water expert Dr Inun Nishat and Globe Bangladesh

Advisor Hasna J. Moudud also spoke on the occasion.

Kamal Ibne Yousuf said natural disaster related to global warming is now a hard reality of life and no more an idea of scientific research. As a land of low coastal belt, Bangladesh might have to face a huge loss of life and property due to climate change, he added.

Moudud said the world environment has been affected due to unplanned development activities of the developed world and the developing countries like Bangladesh are becoming victim of the circumstances.

He put emphasis on coordinated regional water management as 90 per cent of water comes from neighboring countries.

Jafrul Islam said the government has implemented massive programmes to protect the country's environment.

Akhter Hamid Siddiqui said public awareness is a must to save the environment.

RU recruiting six teachers on 'political considerations'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have allegedly taken political background into consideration and gave preferential treatment to their relatives while selecting six recruits for three advertised lecturer positions in the Statistics Department.

The selection committee of Statistics Department in a meeting on July 4 recommended recruitment of the six candidates and the recruitment will be confirmed by the Syndicate in a meeting on August 10, sources said.

Four of the newcomers are loyalists of Jamaat-e-Islami and two are relatives of RU teachers, added the sources.

The teaching staff of Statistics Department said the selection committee was biased and it ignored candidates with outstanding achievements and they would submit a memorandum to RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain protesting the recruitment.

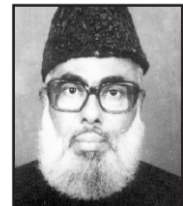
According to the sources, 14 out of the 32 lecturer candidates have four first classes and two had their research articles published in international journals.

Even though the advertisement mentioned that applicants with thesis in international journals would be given preference, RU authorities overlooked more competent candidates and preferred the three inferior Jamaat candidates instead -- who only have three first classes and have no thesis or publications in international journals.

Statistics Department Chairman Nurul Islam confirmed the selections, but made no further comments.

VC Prof Altaf Hossain said he would not make any comment without seeing documents. He however denied any irregularities in the selection process.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Barrister M u h a m m a d Korban Ali, a politician and Islamic thinker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion on his life and works will be held at the National Press Club at 4:00pm.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed will attend the function as the chief guest while Industries Minister Maitur Rahman Nizami and Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed will be present as special guests.

Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Shahjadpur in Shirajganj and at his residence at Patan in the city.

Prof Mohammad Faruque



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Professor Mohammad Faruque, former chairman of Bengali Department of Jahangirnagar University and former head of Bengali Department of Karachi University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed in orphanages and among the destitute.

Relatives, friends, admirers and students of Prof Faruque have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

PHOTO: STAR

UNB, Dhaka

Construction work on the proposed Padma bridge will begin by 2008 depending on the availability of funds, said Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

The minister said this at a review meeting on land acquisition, rehabilitation plan and environment management for the proposed bridge yesterday.

He told the meeting that proper compensation will be given to the

people to be affected due to land acquisition for the bridge and asked the officials concerned to quickly complete the acquisition process.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary M Shaiful Islam, Jamuna Bridge Authority Executive Director Ibrahim Hossain Khan, deputy commissioners of Shariatpur, Madaripur and Munshiganj districts and other high officials were present at the meeting.



Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) AK Khandaker speaks at a meeting of the representatives of Nagarik Andolon at the Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday. On his left are Justice KM Sobhan, Vinod Bihari and Major General (Rtd) KM Shafulallah.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places over the southern part of the country. Met Office said predicting that day temperature may nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 23.6 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.1	27.5	61	60
Chittagong	34.0	26.6	65	74
Rajshahi	33.6	25.5	79	65
Khulna	31.7	26.0	76	73
Barisal	32.0	27.2	74	76
Sylhet	35.3	27.8	76	61
Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.5	67	79



Form seekers crowd the Agrani Bank, Press Club branch yesterday in order to collect the teachers' registration forms under non-government school, college and madrasa.

PHOTO: STAR