

Parties sell nominations to corrupt people

Prof Muzaffer tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday came down heavily on the political parties for nominating corrupt people for the general elections...

"Political parties are selling nominations and ministership to corrupt people. So, it is not possible for good people to become lawmakers in the present system..."

While the average expenditure of an election candidate in 1973 was Tk 2,000, the figure ranged between Tk 1 crore and Tk 27 crore in the last general election...

A parliament member who spent Tk 27 crore in the last general election gave Tk 8 crore to a 'particular Bhaban' and the same amount to the party that nominated him...

"This MP, who sits in the back row in parliament, again expressed his interest in contesting the election and now he wants to know from his party colleagues that how much he needs to spend to sit in the front row..."

Explaining why the candidates bribe the local administration in the run-up to the polls, he said, "Once I have asked a lawmaker why do you send envelopes to the deputy commissioner (DC), officer-in-charge (OC) and Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO)..."

"Should the people vote for those who were involved in looting money from banks and grabbing the lands of the people?" he asked.

Criticising the present system of filing cases regarding election disputes, he said only 26 cases were lodged after the last general elections, but defendants in 11 cases did not challenge those while the hearing of 13 cases did not take place.

He also said around Tk 100 crore was spent on the project to distribute identity cards among the voters,

but finally it bogged down.

Candidates now resort to intimidation to get votes instead of going door-to-door to seek votes, he said.

Criticising the present system of nominating commissioners for the Election Commission, Prof Muzaffer said if the government nominates even a 'mad man' for the post, he could become a commissioner.

Questioning the sources of funds for the political parties, he said: "As voters, we want to know where the money comes from and how the parties spend this money."

Earlier, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University, journalist ABM Musa and presenter of 'Hridoye Mati O Manush' Shaykh Seraj were awarded 'Gold Medal 2006' for their outstanding contribution to their respective fields.

Presiding over the seminar, BEA President Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said the BEA is an open forum and that it does not serve the interest of any political parties.

There are some people holding key positions in important institutions who are undermining the interest of the country and the Election Commission is one of them, he said.

Student politics banned at Dinajpur Medical College

UNB, Dinajpur

Student politics has been banned at Dinajpur Medical College to restore congenial educational atmosphere on the campus.

The landmark decision to banish the student politics from the campus was taken at a joint rally of Teachers, students and guardians at a joint meeting took the decision at the college auditorium yesterday with Principal Dr Saiful Bari in the chair.

The college reopened yesterday. However, no leaders of student organisations were present at the rally.

Dr Bari said the college opened yesterday peacefully and most of the students arrived at the dormitories. "The college administration would try to implement the Academic Council's decision regarding student politics," he said.

Meanwhile, the student organisations expressed their reservation over the decision of the college authorities. Mukur Chowdhury, vice-president of central Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and ex-president of the district JCD, said he was in the dark about the decision.

Imran Latif Setu, president of the district BCL, said, "The college administration has no power to ban politics." Afsar Ali Shah, town unit president of Shibir, said earlier student politics was also banned on the campus but the administration "failed to implement the decision".

The college was closed sine die following a series of fierce clashes between JCD and Shibir activists on July 29.

Top terror held in Narayanganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A notorious robber of Narayanganj was arrested with bullet wounds yesterday after four hours of frantic effort from the policemen at Kachpur union of Sonargaon upazila.

The robber, identified as Delwar Hossain Delu, is also one of the top terrors of the district. He was nabbed with one pistol with 24 rounds of bullets and a revolver. Earlier, police detained two of his accomplices Rokon and Saidur.

Police said, over 50 policemen conducted the drive. Sensing police presence, Delu dived into the pond and hid himself under water hyacinths. Police laid siege to the pond and at about 4:00am arrested him.

"Delu tried to commit suicide and hit himself with bullet", police claimed, "He did not want to be captured".

Delu is an accused of the killing of Humayun Kabir Bashar, the local Jubo League leader and agent of British American Tobacco Company.

Delu was shown sick at the bail order but soon fixed up a new gang of robbers and started dacoity dividing the district in four quarters, sources said.

In the last three months he was involved in 14 incidents of robbery.

Police Super Shahabuddin Khan said the crimes in the district drastically sped up in recent months and to curb the crisis, a special team was formed.

ROUGH BAY Six fishermen missing as two trawlers capsized

UNB, Bagerhat

Six fishermen remained missing as two fishing-trawlers capsized in the Bay yesterday, amid rough weather for depression.

Identities of the missing fishermen could not be known immediately.

Survivors said two trawlers, with 24 fishermen on board, were turned upside down in the deep sea by stormy winds.

Eighteen of them were rescued by another fishing-boat, while six others went missing.

Hundreds of trawlers have taken shelter in Dimerchar, Kachikhali and Pakshikhali char areas near the Sundarbans, as weathermen gave warnings about the sea being rough amid the depression.

Meanwhile, the low-lying areas of three coastal upazilas of the district were inundated under one-to-two-foot-deep tidal waters due to the impact of the monsoon depression over northwest Bay off Orissa-West Bengal coast.

Thousands of people in Mongla, Sarankhola and Morelganj upazilas have been reportedly marooned following the flash flood.



Jono Adhikar forms a human chain on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding repeal of Official Secrets Act.

JCD ATTACK RU Fine Arts students call strike from today

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students of Fine Arts Department of Rajshahi University (RU) were injured as cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) attacked them with hockey sticks yesterday noon.

The department students called indefinite strike on the campus from today protesting the attack. Among the injured, Anifur Islam, former RU Chhatra Union president, Ifi and Bishnu Podder Raju were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Others including Humayun Kabir and Hirok received first aid at RU medical centre. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station Ramzan Ali said that some 10 JCD men attacked the students as they were demonstrating demanding withdrawal of a teacher.

Students were furious with the teacher because he assaulted the department chairman on the other day in front of students. The attackers were led by Rajib, the OC informed.

The attack sparked angry protests by students who damaged window panes of the department. Later, agitating students staged a demonstration on the campus and laid siege to the administrative building.

3 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Narsingdi and Sirajganj yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj says: One rickshaw passenger was killed and rickshawpuller was injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Bhabbar area in Manikganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at around 10:15am when a Paturia-bound private car hit the jute-loaded rickshaw from behind. Passenger Mainuddin died on the spot. Mainuddin was going to a local market at Toraghat for selling jute.

Rickshawpuller Zobeid Ali was admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

UNB from Narsingdi adds: The owner-driver of a minibus was killed and 10 others were injured as his vehicle turned turtle on Dhaka-Narsingdi road in Khatohara area in the district yesterday.

The dead identified as Sumon Mia, 23, was driving his own bus.

Police said the minibus turned upside down on the road as the driver of the Narsingdi-bound bus from Dhaka lost control over the steering while trying to give side to a rickshaw. "Sumon died on the spot."

The injured were rushed to Sadar and district hospitals.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: A housewife was killed and her husband was injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Coddar Mor area, western side of the Jamuna bridge in Sirajganj yesterday.

The victim is Rabea Khatun, 20, wife of A Momin of Chunia Khali village in Sadar upazila.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound speeding truck ran over Rabeya, while she was going to a photo studio in the town at 6:30pm, police and witnesses said.

She died on the spot and her husband Momin was injured. Momin was admitted to Sadar Hospital. Police recover the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

'Israeli attacks on civilians a flagrant violation of HR'

Bangladesh Permanent Representative in Geneva Dr Toufiq Ali said Israel's brutal use of force against civilians in Lebanon is a flagrant violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws and that it must stop immediately.

He was speaking at the special session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Thursday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

"We are appalled and outraged at the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon. A thousand Lebanese civilians, many of them children, women and elderly, have been killed in Israeli attacks. Thousands more are injured or maimed, and millions displaced or marooned. Their homes and properties are destroyed or demolished," he said.

Dr Ali said, "The indiscriminate shelling of cities constitutes a foreseeable and unacceptable targeting of civilians. International humanitarian laws are clear on the supreme obligation to protect civilians during hostilities. International law also demands accountability. We must also arrange for the prosecution of those involved, particularly in positions of command and control, for personal criminal liability."

"As the Israeli atrocities continue in Lebanon, the world is faced with a grave humanitarian crisis. The situation is alarming. The victims are in desperate need of food, shelter and medical assistance. Aid workers find it extremely difficult to reach them under relentless Israeli bombardment. Israel must ensure unrestricted and secure passage of all humanitarian assistance."

The special session of the Human Rights Council was convened at the request of OIC members of the council, and some other countries.

CU officials' ultimatum to authorities

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) Officers' Association here yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the university authorities demanding implementation of its 14-point demand.

The demands include promotion of the officers from due date and extending their service limit to 65 years like the teachers, said a press release of the association.

They threatened to observe a daylong work abstention tomorrow if their demands are not met by this time.

They made the decision at a meeting of the organisation held at the association office with its President Zakir Ahmed in the chair.

Obituary

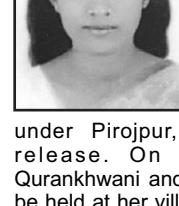


Dhananjay Mondol, 75, a high official of the central government of Pakistan and son-in-law of former minister Roshoraj Mondol passed away due to old age complications at the BIRDEM hospital in the city yesterday.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

His cremation will be held today at Postogola ground.

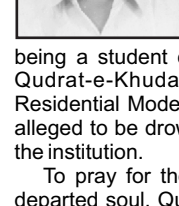
Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Nahid Sultana, daughter of late Dr Ashraf Uddin Ahmed of village Sutiakati at Swarupkati under Pirojpur, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her village home. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute. Similar programmes will be held at her workplace at Sonadanga in Khulna on August 18.

Tanveer Mahmud Rupak



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Tanveer Mahmud Rupak, says a press release. On August 13, 1999, while being a student of class seven of Qudrat-e-Khuda house at the Residential Model College, he was alleged to be drowned in a pond of the institution.



Bangladesh Economic Association awarded 'Gold Medal 2006' to senior journalist ABM Musa, left, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, third from left, and presenter of 'Hridoye Mati O Manush' Shaykh Seraj, fourth from left, at a ceremony at the TSCC auditorium in the city yesterday.

SELECTION OF 8 TEACHERS RU progressive teachers' memo to VC

RU CORRESPONDENT

Progressive Teachers Society of Rajshahi University yesterday besieged the university syndicate meeting protesting selection of eight teachers in the Department of Marketing against two advertised posts.

They also submitted a memorandum to the RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain against the 'illegal' additional recruitment in the university. RU VC received their memorandum and assured them to consider their demand, sources said.

Earlier, agitating students of Marketing department staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday wearing burial cloth.

Later, they staged a sit-in programme in front of VC house from 5:30pm, where syndicate meeting started at around 7:00pm. On the other hand, students of Motihar Hall formed a human chain at the same place demanding renovation of the hall.

IU Shibir cadres ransack office of TSCC director

IU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Shibir cadres vandalised the office of the director of Islamic University Teacher Student Cultural Centre (TSCC) at around 2:30pm yesterday allegedly for insulting IU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) president.

Campus sources said a group of Shibir leaders led by its President Abul Kalam Azad went to the office of TSCC Director Md Yakub Ali to hire the auditorium for an Inter-university debate competition scheduled for today.

The director told them to pay the due of last month's programmes. The Shibir men reportedly said to pay the money through the bank this morning. The director then got angry and allegedly scolded the ICS president as an impolite man and asked him to go out of his office.

14-party condemns Israeli invasion on Lebanon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning the ongoing Israeli invasion on Lebanon, the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday urged the international community for immediate implementation of the United Nations proposed ceasefire to terminate bloodshed there.

The demand came at a rally of the opposition combine at a rally of the opposition combine at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital. The 14-party organised the rally across the country to protest the Israeli invasion on Lebanon.

Addressing the rally, the opposition leaders blasted the prime minister for her stand at the OIC meeting recently. They said that the PM failed to play a significant role in favour of the Muslim community.

Fourteen-party coordinator Abdul Jalil, who is also the general secretary of the AL, demanded the government to implement the announcement of Palestine Day immediately. He also said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government always show their extreme fascination, but they have no feelings for the Muslims.

Jalil urged the countrymen to be alert so that the present government cannot cheat them and to elect a government that has a real feeling for the Muslims.

Presided over by Dhaka city 14-party coordinator Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Moja, the rally was also addressed, among others, by AL Presidium Members Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Obaidul Quader, MA Gani, Zakir Hossain and Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

WEATHER TODAY Light to moderate rain likely UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over coast regions of the county. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.4 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm and rises at 5:33am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)