

Allow condemned JMB militants to speak with media

S Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called on the government to allow seven condemned militants of Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to speak with the media before their executions so that they can disclose the names of their godfathers.

They alleged that the government is trying to execute the death sentences of the seven top militants hurriedly within its tenure only to save their patrons.

The South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism & Communalism and Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance government is afraid that if it does not execute the militants, they

would reveal the names of their patrons who are in the government, said said Union General Secretary Shahriar Kabir.

It is not possible for only a few illiterate and half-educated people to build such a huge network without the patronisation of the government and the administration, he added.

He also reiterated the demand that the government make public the sources of financial and arms supplies to the militants.

If the government really wants to curb militancy, it should allow the militants to speak with the media to reveal who are patronising them as they committed crimes against the state, Kabir said in a written statement.

He also demanded that the information the militant leaders gave to the intelligence agencies is

made public through the media. "We don't think that secular and democracy-loving people will be safe and militancy will be rooted out if only seven condemned militants are executed. We want their executions, but let them speak with the media," he said.

Referring to the militants' statements, Kabir said they admitted their involvement in the attacks on poet Shamsur Rahman, British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury, Udichi, Chhayanaut, CPB rally at Paltan, Awami League rally on August 21 and in Baniarchar Church and Kotalipara. They have more than one lakh workers whose targets are some leading political leaders and intellectuals, he added.

Kabir, also acting president of the Forum for Secular Bangladesh, said the country saw an alarming

rise in militancy after the BNP-Jamaat alliance government assumed the office. More than 100 militant organisations are now active in the country, he noted.

Asked about the law minister's remarks that the executions cannot be carried out during Ramadan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury said such remarks are aimed at creating confusion among people.

"There is no law that death sentences cannot be executed during Ramadan," he said.

On the armed attacks on Prof Dr Aftab Chowdhury, Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the way he was attacked is alarming for the intellectuals of the country. "We must protest it."

Prof Muntasir Mamun, Ajoy Roy and poet Syed Shamsul Haque were also present at the press conference.



Bangalee Sangskriti Mancha forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding ouster of the 4-party alliance government.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, a civil society leader from India, speaks at a public lecture titled "Democratic processes, national elections and civil society initiatives: Indian experience" organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at Brac Centre in the city yesterday. Sitting from right are former chief election commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena, CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, former CEC Justice Abdur Rouf and CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

PM takes iftar with civil, military officials

UNB, Dhaka

On the second day of holy Ramadan, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia took iftar with government civil and military officials yesterday.

She hosted the iftar at Proddhan Mnty Bhaban where chiefs of the three services of armed forces, secretaries, joint secretaries, vice-chancellors of different universities and chiefs of various government organisations attended the function.

The PM exchanged pleasantries with the guests. A munajat was offered seeking divine blessing for peace, progress and welfare of people and the country.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Halida Shamsul Haque Khan, wife of late AKM Shamsul Haque Khan, will be held at her son's residence at House No. 13, Road No. 126, Gulshan-1 in the city after Asr prayers today (Wednesday), says a press release.

She passed away at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok on September 23 due to cancer at the

World Tourism Day today

BSS, Dhaka

World Tourism Day will be observed today in the country, as elsewhere in the world, with a call for attracting more foreign tourists and creating more jobs in the tourism sector.

This year's theme of the day is "Tourism Enriches". President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the eve of the day.

The President in his message said tourism is a multi-dimensional industry and it is playing an important role in the world economy.

He stressed the need for expansion of tourism industry by projecting the scenic beauty, bio-diversity, ancient and glorious history and heritage of the nation, and by flourishing the culture of Bangladesh.

Iajuddin said the country could achieve progress, earn foreign exchange and create employment opportunities through united endeavours.

Khaleda in her message said Bangladesh is an attractive destination for decades of the world tourists due to its natural beauty with archaeological tradition and resources.

She called upon all concerned to work together for taking a necessary plan and for its implementation in developing the tourism industry in the country.

The prime minister underlined the importance of united efforts of both the public and private sectors for harnessing the tremendous tourism potential of the country to attract more foreign tourists.

To observe the day, the government and different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out programmes, including discussions, documentary film show, cultural functions and river cruise.

The national dailies will bring out special supplements while radio and television channels will air special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Dhaka University Tourists Society will bring out a colourful procession from the TSC at 10.00am. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz will inaugurate the rally.

HOARDING FOOD ITEMS 3 Ctg traders fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here yesterday fined Tk 2.75 lakh to three businessmen at Khatunanj and Asadganj for stockpiling date-expired food items at their godowns and cold storage.

The court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Munir Chowdhury also seized a large quantity of stale meat and fined five meat-sellers at city's Karnaphuli Market in Agrabad area.

Sources said the owners of Abedin Traders, Yeasin Brothers and East Asiatic Trading Company had long been storing different date-expired food items including dates to sell them during the Ramadan. The magistrate found the godowns and cold storage very unhygienic and dirty too.

Earlier on Monday, Magistrate Munir in a daylong drive at city's biggest kitchen market Reazuddin Bazar seized five metric tons of date-expired and rotten dates.

1,148 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,148 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized six firearms, four other weapons and 14 bullets, said a police headquarters release.

MOVE TO AMEND ABSORPTION RULES Govt college teachers' strike from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of the government colleges under the banner of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) General Education Association will go for an indefinite work abstention at all government colleges, Teachers Training Colleges (TTC) and in all Alia madrasas across the country from tomorrow.

They will refrain from work demanding steps to stop the move to amend the Absorption Rules 2000.

They announced their programme at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) in the city.

Addressing the press conference, the speakers said they did not get any kind of assurance from the government despite repeated appeal regarding the Absorption Rules.

A Statutory Regulation Order (SRO) on the rules would be issued any time, they added.

The association members alleged that the teachers, who were recruited through the Public Service Commission (PSC), would be deprived if the absorption rules were amended.

The government has made some

non-government colleges the government universities where all the teachers in those non-government institutions were adopted as the government teachers. Most of the adopted teachers will be seniors to the teachers who were recruited through PSC if the amendment goes through, said Masum Rabbani Khan, secretary general of the Association.

"Though we have been demanding for not making any government college a university, the government is planning to make Karmichel College a university," he said.

The association members strongly protested the move and demanded immediate cancellation of the decision.

Masum also urged the government to give promotion to the deserving lecturers as their promotions have been held up for the last 16 months.

Association President Prof Iftekhar Ahmed Khan, Vice President Fahima Khatun, International Secretary Mahub Alam, Information Secretary Morsedul Hasan and Publicity Secretary Mahub Sarfaraj Khan Nilim were present at the conference.

Moyezuddin's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Shaheed Moyezuddin, an organiser of the Liberation War and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A former lawmaker, Moyezuddin was also vice-chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and secretary general of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 7 Shiddheshwari Lane after Asr prayers.

A memorial meeting, doa and milad mahfil will be held at Noapara Shaheed Moyezuddin Ideal High School in the morning. Discussions and iftar parties will also be held at Shaheed Moyezuddin Welfare Trust Office and in Deopara area in the afternoon.

Moyezuddin, a renowned social worker, was killed while leading a procession in Kalganj during the movement against Ershad in 1984.

Ruhul Quddus

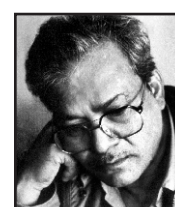


Tomorrow is the fourth death anniversary of Ruhul Quddus, founder of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), says a press release.

On the occasion, ICMAB has arranged a doa mahfil at its Bhaban at Nilkhet after Asr prayers tomorrow.

The institute members, students, employees and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Shraddha of Nitun Kundu today



Shraddha of Nitun Kundu, a noted artist, freedom fighter and entrepreneur, will be held at 9:00am at Dhakeshwari Temple in the city today, says

a press release. He passed away at Birdem Hospital on September 15.

All have been requested to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Fazlul Haque new provost of RU hall

RU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Muhammad Fazlul Haque, a teacher of Islamic History and Culture Department, was made provost of Rajshahi University Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall yesterday.

Earlier, he acted as the house tutor of Mother Hall of the university.

In 2004, he obtained a Ph.D degree. He was born at Latifpur village of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail.

MURDER CASE AGAINST LISTED CRIMINAL Hearing on petition for case withdrawal Oct 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hear on October 3 a government petition for withdrawal of Abdus Salam murder case against a listed criminal and six others.

The accused are listed criminal Mohon, Abdur Rouf, Abdul Aziz, Mojib Babu, Adel, 'Gol' Taiju and Mosharrif Hossain. They are among 23 accused in the case filed on November 9, 1998.

Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hassan submitted the petition on April 29 in 2004 along with a home ministry letter that recommended withdrawal of the case, terming it 'politically motivated'.

Judge SM Mojibur Rahman of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday set the date for hearing on the issue.

However, the trial of the case against 16 other accused, including two listed criminals - Ishaq Sarker and 'Chapati' Shamsu, will continue.

According to the prosecution, a gang of criminals fired gunshots at on-duty policemen in front of the BNP office at Bangshal in Dhaka on November 9, 1998. At one stage, Ishaq Sarker and Abdur Rouf, who is now at large, fired gunshots indiscriminately at the policemen, leaving Abdus Salam, a pedestrian, dead on the spot.

The victim's wife Bilkis Begum

filed the murder case against 23 people the same day.

The investigation officer pressed charges against a total of 23 people on February 28, 2001, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

On April 13, 2004, the home ministry in a letter informed the district magistrate of Dhaka that it had decided to withdraw charges against the seven accused because the charges were 'politically motivated'.

The ministry also asked the magistrate to hand over the matter to the metropolitan public prosecutor, who would arrange withdrawal of the case with permission from the trial court.

Case against Mirza Khokon

The same court yesterday fixed October 3 for hearing on another government petition regarding withdrawal of rickshawpuller Asadul Haq murder case filed against Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Mirza Khokon in November 1998.

PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan submitted the petition on July 17 this year along with a home ministry letter that recommended withdrawal of the case terming it 'politically motivated'.

However, the trial of the case against five other fugitives --

Kashem, Swadhin, Swapan, Masum and Maichcha -- will continue.

According to the prosecution, a procession led by Khokon was brought out in support of a hartal called by the then opposition BNP in front of Khilgaon Bazar at about 2:45pm on November 10, 1998.

At one stage, several bombs were exploded that left rickshawpuller Asad, who waiting on the roadside for passengers, seriously injured. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries the next day.

Sub-Inspector Shahjahan Kabir of Khilgaon Police Station filed a murder case against Khokon and five others in this connection. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on September 21, 2001 and the court framed charges on July 25, 2002.

On June 19 this year, the home ministry in a letter informed the district magistrate of Dhaka that it had decided to withdraw charges against Khokon because the charges were 'politically motivated'.

The ministry also asked the magistrate to hand over the matter to the metropolitan public prosecutor, who would arrange withdrawal of the case with permission from the trial court.

'Cancel strategy paper on higher education'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) of Rajshahi University (RU) unit yesterday formed a human chain and held a rally in front of the Central Library premises demanding cancellation of 20-year strategy paper on higher education that was adopted by University Grant Commission (UGC) reportedly for the pressure of World Bank.

Speakers said the strategy paper was prepared to impose additional education fees on the general students.

They threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demand is not met.

SCF leaders also demanded immediate withdrawal of the increased price of admission forms.

RU authorities have increased the price of admission form from Tk 90 to Tk 100.

The rally was presided over by RU unit SCF President Susanta Singha.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49am today and rises at 5:49am 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	32.0	26.0	74	79
Chittagong	34.3	25.8	80	78
Rajshahi	32.4	25.4	92	83
Khulna	34.3	25.5	78	75
Barisal	33.0	24.8	83	88
Sylhet	34.5	25.7	94	71
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.8	76	76