



92nd anniversary of birth of Justice Devesh today

Today is the 92nd birth anniversary of Justice Devesh Bhattacharya, says a press release.

He was born in a Zamindar family of Ellenga, Tangail, in 1914. Various programmes have been arranged at Ellenga to mark the day.

Justice Bhattacharya is widely remembered for his involvement in defending democratic and human rights. He was an outstanding jurist and some of his verdicts had been historically precedent setting judgments.

The founder-president of Bangladesh Enemy Property Act Repeal Committee, he was also a presidium member of Bangladesh Peace Council and member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Nagarik Committee.

Justice Bhattacharya was also a member of Gono Adalat (people's court) set up to put on trial the war criminals of 1971. He was the chairman of the Citizen's Commission set up to investigate the Jagannath Hall tragedy of October 15, 1985.

He was a founding patron of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Puja Ujjan Parishad and Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee.

Justice Bhattacharya, who had donated all his law books to the Supreme Court Bar Association Library, had published four volumes of essays and a book of poems.

'Delete distorted Liberation War history from textbooks'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote submitted a memorandum to the chairman of School Textbook Board yesterday demanding deletion of distorted version of the Liberation War history from the textbooks and insertion of the correct history.

In the memorandum, Jote leaders said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government had intentionally distorted the history during its five-year rule and forced the teachers to teach the twisted version of history to millions of students.

The non-partisan caretaker government, who is now at the helm, should take steps to incorporate the true history of independence into the textbooks for the next academic year, they said.

Earlier at a rally, Jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf said the textbook board should form a committee of experts who would be entrusted with the task of deleting the distorted part of history and rewriting those.

Nasiruddin Yusuf, Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus, Ramendu Majumdar, Liberation War Museum trustee Mafidul Huq, Manzarul Islam, Subhash Singh Roy, Jamshed Ahmed Tapan, Rezaul Karim and Mahub Alam were present during the submission of the memorandum to the textbook board chairman at his office at Motijheel in the city.

Act with neutrality in country's interest

UK diplomat urges interim admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no place for violence under any circumstances and the United Kingdom (UK) is helping in promoting non-violent politics in Bangladesh, said a British diplomat in the city yesterday referring to recent political violence across the country.

"There is too much gossips and violence at the moment. Violence benefits no body. Lives of young Bangladeshis should not be lost in this way. It is tragic and it should not happen," said Deputy British High Commissioner Stephen J Bridges.

He was talking to newsmen on the sideline of a programme jointly organised by European Commission and Bangladesh Vision 2021 Forum at Sheraton Hotel.

"There is no place for violent factions to be engaged in political debate and differences on streets," he said, adding, "There has to be a better way. Let us find the leader-

ship and find integrity in politics to move forward."

Stephen said it needs leadership, it is the ability of political leadership to move beyond violence.

About the interim administration he said advisors have to be marked on their performances.

"My request to the interim administration is to demonstrate the leadership and act with neutrality in the best interest of the country," he added.

Stephen said election has to be free, fair and acceptable to all.

Voter list is a key element in the elections and a correct voter list is a pre-requisite for impartial election, he added.

The deputy high commissioner said, "As a friend of Bangladesh, we look to the interim administration to provide leadership, vision, framework and stability in order to achieve it."

"Now I look to those advisors and administration who will be acting and delivering to achieve the goal of

holding a free and fair elections. That is the end game to all of us," he added.

Stephen said though the EU observation mission will be very important, the UK government is providing a significant amount of funds for developing a domestic monitoring mechanism.

"We are not here to interfere in the political process. We think that we have a relationship close enough to help all political parties join hands for delivering a free, fair and successful election," he said.

"We want issue based discussion to get away from personality based one and deal with issues important for the country," he said.

"We are helping to facilitate public debate and public engagement with their members of parliament so that we can push economic, health, education, trade and future development policies forward," he added.

Free, fair polls CG's main task

Says Mahbulul Alam

BSS, Dhaka

Advisor for Information, Water Resources and Religious Affairs Mahbulul Alam yesterday said the main responsibility of the caretaker government is to hold a free, fair and impartial election in the country.

"We have to do a lot of works within a very short time giving top priority on holding next general election in a completely neutral manner," he told newsmen at his secretariat office.

Mahbulul Alam said the non-partisan caretaker government took the charge to consolidate the country's democracy through holding fair and smooth elections.

Holy Kathin Chivar Dan begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Buddhist community celebrates the Holy Kathin Chivar Dan (yellow robes offering ceremony) festival with due solemnity, dignity and religious fervour today and tomorrow.

This special ceremony of robe offering is held in the Theravadin tradition of Buddhism after completion of the Four months' Rain Retreat by the monks. This festivity is a ceremony of making great offerings on part of the lay community to the Order of monks.

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold Buddhist Religious Congregation '06 at 3:30pm at the International Buddhist Monastery, Dhaka today.

Former chief advisor to the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman will be present as the chief guest at the programme, presided by Sangharaj Dharmasen Mahathero, chief of the Buddhist community in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prochar Sangha President Venerable Suddhananda Mahathero, Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka Chai Xi, Thai Ambassador Suphat Chitranukroh, Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Krishnamoorthy, Vietnamese Ambassador Ngo Van Hoa, Myanmar Ambassador U Thane Myint, Bhutanese Ambassador Dasho Jigme Tshultrim and Rajuk Chairman Janab AKM Haroon will be present as special guests.

Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prochar Sangha has chalked out a two-day programme to mark the festival.

A discussion on Humanity in Buddhism will be held at 6:00pm at Dharmarajik Bouddha Bihar at Kamalapur today. The programme tomorrow includes worshipping Buddha at 10:00am and the main celebration of the ceremony at 2:30pm.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia talks to leaders at the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Form cell to monitor govt officials' activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Kendriyo Command Council yesterday called for forming a monitoring cell comprising eminent citizens to keep tabs on administrative officials in order to ensure that they act neutrally in the run-up to the general election.

"Transferring a few officials is a mere eyewash," said Council Chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury. "Once a monitoring cell is formed, it would surely assist in the promotion of impartial officials."

At a press conference at the National Press Club, the Council leaders placed an 11-point demand, saying that President and Chief Adviser of the caretaker

government Iajuddin Ahmed can prove his neutrality by meeting the demands.

The President's assumption of office as the caretaker chief is a clear violation of constitution, they said, adding that he, however, can prove himself to be neutral and thus be crowned as a 'hero' of the 9th Jatiya Sangsad election.

They called for removing the chief election commissioner, three election commissioners and the secretary of the Election Commission and preparing a new voter list in accordance with the High Court order.

They also demanded removal of officials appointed on political considerations in the administration and police department and 252

upazila election officers who were the activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The 11-point demand includes bringing corrupt ministers and lawmakers of the immediate past government and bureaucrats to book, ensuring the impartial role of Bangladesh Betar and BTV, banning all militant outfits and ensuring a congenial atmosphere for all irrespective of caste and creed.

Council Secretary General Mohammad Salahuddin, Monwarul Haque Khan Lavlu, Sultanuddin Ahmed Raja, former joint secretary Khan Mohammad Belayet, Nazmul Hasan Khan Pakhi, Abdul Mazid Chowdhury and Delwar Hossain Khan Rajib attended the press conference.

Reopen public varsities

Student bodies urge CG

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Sangram Parishad (CSP), a combine of seven student organisations, yesterday urged the caretaker government to reopen country's public universities immediately and to bring back a congenial atmosphere at educational institutions.

The CSP, led by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), placed a 10-point demand at a press conference at Asad auditorium of city's Topkhana Road at noon.

The other points of the demand included proving neutrality of Prof Iajuddin Ahmed as chief adviser, arrest of the armed cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on DU campus and release of the CSP workers arrested during the BNP-Jamaat government in the last five years.

The last date of submission of application is November 15 and the last date of admission is November 23.

The application form and prospectus will be available at Bangladesh Film Archive at 12 Gajnavi Road, Mohammadpur here.

told reporters at the press conference.

It also announced fresh programmes to meet their demand and in protest against the criminal activities of JCD-Shibir on DU campus and other educational institutions across the country.

CSP will hold a rally at 4:00pm on November 6 at Muktangan in the city and submit a memorandum to the chief adviser of the caretaker government on November 8 to press home their demand.

"Armed cadres of Chhatra Dal keep on carrying out attacks on our leaders and activists and still they are patrolling on DU campus with arms and lethal weapons," Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury Roton, general secretary of the BCL, alleged.

JSD BCL President Shariful Kabir Swapon, General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun, Chhatra Moitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Jatiya Chhatra Dharma President Bijoy Talukdar, Chhatra Samiti Convener Mustak Ahmed and Chhatra Andolon President Kanak Barua, among others, were present at the press conference.

PALTAN CLASH Injured Shibir man dies at city hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Shibir leader, who was wounded during the clashes between Jamaat-e-Islami and 14-party combine activists at Paltan on October 28, succumbed to his injuries yesterday at a hospital in the capital.

The deceased, Saifullah Mohammad Masum, 23, Islami Chhatra Shibir general secretary of ward-27, had been undergoing treatment at Ibn Sina Hospital in Dhanmondi. He was grievously hurt when the rival activists beat him with sticks and oars.

With Masum's death, six people have been killed in the fierce clash that took place near the north gate of Baitul Mokarram Mosque. Five of the dead were Jamaat and Shibir activists while the other was a Jubo Moitree leader.



Dr Stefan Frowein speaks at a debate on 'Bangladesh 2021: From vision to reality' at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh and Vision 2021 Forum jointly organised the debate.

PHOTO: STAR

CORRUPTION

'Publish white paper on previous govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Prakaushali Parishad, a pro-Awami League engineers' association, yesterday urged the chief advisor to the caretaker government and President Iajuddin Ahmed to initiate publication of a white paper on the corruption of the previous government and formation of a special tribunal to bring the corrupt people to book.

At a central convener committee meeting yesterday, the association also urged the chief advisor to remove all the commissioners, including the Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz, and replace them with trusted and neutral persons acceptable to all the political parties.

Association members Mohammad Ali, Khabiruzzaman, Monwar Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Wazed, Dr Habibur Rahman, Farhad Hossain, Dr Safdar Ali, Wassul Kabir and Mohammad Hossain spoke at the meeting, a press release said.

Justice Haq's remarks protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday expressed its frustration over the remarks by an adviser to the caretaker government Justice Fazlul Haq.

Duta in a statement said, "His remarks in an interview with the television channels on Wednesday frustrated us." He might have a political leaning but his aggressive and threatening speech not only questions the neutrality of the caretaker government but also indicates its evil plot, the statement added.

Duta urged President and Chief Adviser Prof Iajuddin Ahmed and other advisers to ensure a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election rather than expressing their personal opinion and philosophy.

Samaikj Protrোধ Committee also condemned and protested the indecent speech of Justice Haq.

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad demanded removal of Justice Haq from the government immediately.

In a joint statement, President journalist Akhter Ahmed Khan and General Secretary M Rezaul Karim Khan Reza said it is not possible to run a caretaker government with a politically affiliated man.



Sammilita Nagarik Andolon stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding resignation of the chief election commissioner and proof of the neutrality of President Iajuddin Ahmed as caretaker chief.

PHOTO: STAR