

'People's participation a must for free, fair elections'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The omnipotent authority for holding a free and fair election now rests solely on people, said the speakers at a view-exchange meeting yesterday.

Termining the situation utterly depressive and disturbing, he said the blockade or counter-blockade are not the means to forge a battle, rather vigil will have to maintained on the activities of all government officials to protect people's rights to franchise.

Andolon, presented by the keynote speaker Waliur Rahman, former ambassador, showed that rejecting the annual confidential report (ACR), 70 secretaries, 200 additional secretaries, 450 joint secretaries and 800 deputy secretaries were promoted on the basis of their political affiliation.

Prof Zillur Rahman said the unwillingness of Election Commissioner SM Zakaria to go on leave with the strong support from the four-party alliance proves his incompetence.

BEGUM ROKEYA DAY OBSERVED Call to stop political violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday observed Begum Rokeya Day, paying glowing tributes to the memory of the legendary woman who had played a pioneering role in establishing women's rights in the subcontinent.

Shirin urged all to launch a movement being imbued with the spirit of Begum Rokeya in order to establish the rights and freedom of women.

Nurjahan Begum, editor of the magazine 'Begum', attended the programme as chief guest.

Muktijoddha Kendrio Command Council President Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Secretary Golam Quddus and Nari Sangram Committee Convener Shirin Akhtar also spoke on the occasion.

To mark her 127th birth anniversary, different socio-cultural and women's rights organisations arranged various programmes including discussion, rally, human chain and cultural function across the country.

Bachte Shekha Nari, another organisation of women, held a discussion at its office in the capital with its President Firoza Begum in the chair.

Representatives of different educational institutions including Pairabondh Begum Rokeya Smriti College of Rangpur, Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Bogra Govt Girls' High School, Nawab Faizunnesa Govt Girls' High School of Comilla, Vigarunnisa Noon School and College and Badrunnesa College of Dhaka attended the function.

Speaking as the guest of honour, Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Barbara Richardson highlighted the importance of people like Begum Rokeya in the advancement of society.

HR commission

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Commission to check human rights violation. During its 5-year tenure, the alliance government drafted a bill to form the commission, which is now gathering dust in the law ministry, sources said.

Yunus, Telenor boss talk

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process conducted in a responsible manner. I look forward to further fruitful discussions with Professor Yunus and Grameen Telecom and I am very optimistic that we will find common ground for continued and strengthened dialogue to the best for Grameenphone and Bangladesh. As for today, I want to pay tribute to Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank," said Baksaas.

the first six years of the deal. He said Telenor had not given details of the agreement earlier as it was not public.

Telenor said the shareholders of GrameenPhone had shown that they agreed Telenor should be the majority owner by letting the company make loan agreements with, among others, the World Bank, which required that Telenor retain the majority.

WEATHER TODAY Rise in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours until 6:00pm today.

Lobby out

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Given these facts, former state minister for power Anwarul Kabir Talukder had stalled a plant rehabilitation loan negotiation with Italy and Czechoslovakia. Talukder had initiated steps to channel the loan to procure a brand new 50 MW Italian hydropower unit.



TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a seminar titled 'Corruption and Parliamentary Oversight: Primacy of the Political Will' marking the International Anti-Corruption Day at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city yesterday.

Tigers complete Zim-wash

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Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It appeared to be another stroll in the park for the Tigers after their eight-wicket thrashing at the same venue on Friday when they restricted a moribund Zimbabweans to a modest 193-8 and then raced to 86 for no loss by end of the 19th over.

The 5-0 victory not only completed Bangladesh's third clean sweep in the abridged version of the game after their 4-0 and 3-0 thrashings of Kenya earlier this year, but also exacted sweet revenge for their heartbreaking 3-2 series defeat in Zimbabwe in August.

In-form Shahriar Nafees, who got the man-of-the-series award for his splendid run spree with a hundred and a fifty, and Mehrab Hossain gave the hosts another bright start in chase of a modest total before Brent broken the 86-run opening partnership.

War heroes offer 10 proposals

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election commission and preparing a flawless voter list for holding free, fair and peaceful elections acceptable at home and abroad are a couple of key points in their proposal.

fighters might have different political affiliations, but they all are united when it comes to the spirit of liberation war.

Asked about how long their unity would last, he said, "The freedom fighters are united with the bond of their spirit and ideology."

Black money, muscle power 2 major hurdles

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The speakers sought pledges from the political parties in their manifestos that they will form parliamentary committees on the first day of parliament session and avoid boycott of its sessions, absenteeism and delayed attendance in parliament, adopt a parliamentary code of ethics and enforce it.

relevance and must be reviewed to ensure objectivity and integrity of parliamentary practices.

muscle are not used as a means of going to power," he stressed.

ESSAY, CARTOON CONTESTS TIB distributes prizes among winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday distributed prizes among the winners of anti-corruption essay and cartoon competitions.

The cartoon competition was divided into three categories -- group 'Ka', 'Kha' and 'Ga'.

To make the anti-corruption movement a success, TIB organises various programmes across the country through 36 conscious citizens' committees in the six divisions. The programmes include discussion, signature campaign, street rally, cycle rally, debate, drama, extempore speech competition and publication of leaflets and wall magazines.

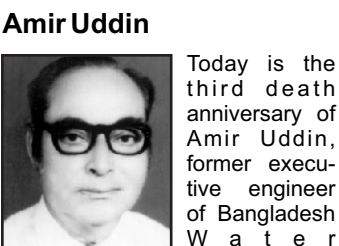


Death anniversary of Sirajuddin Hossain today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 35th death anniversary of eminent journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, a martyr of the War of Liberation.

He remained missing since the Pakistani forces and their collaborators, Razakars and Al-Badr, took him away from his Chamelilbagh residence on this day in 1971.



Amir Uddin

Today is the third death anniversary of Amir Uddin, former executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development