

DU observes 'Black Day'

VC holds 'unelected govt' liable for 2007 attack on teachers, students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman yesterday said the then un-elected and undemocratic government was responsible for the condemnable, unprecedented and inhuman attack on the teachers and students of the university on August 20-23, 2007.

He made the remark while speaking at a virtual discussion organised marking the 'University Black Day'.

The Black Day is observed on August 23 every year, to protest the assault on and mass roundup of students and teachers by army personnel in 2007.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman presided over the function.

Praising the role of DU teachers and students, the VC said the anarchy by then military-backed interim government was contradictory to the spirit of the Liberation War and democratic values.

Urging everyone to remain alert against any such ill-attempts, he further said anti-liberation war and undemocratic forces had always chosen the month of August to unleash attacks on the spirit of the country and to materialise their evil dreams.

On August 20, 2007, students protested against law enforcers' assault on some students and teachers on the university playground. The protest continued till August 23.

Scores of students were wounded in police action during the incident, and four senior teachers and seven students were also put in jail.

Teachers, officials and staffers of the university yesterday wore black badges in remembrance of the violence.

Among others, DU pro-vice-chancellor (Admin) Prof Muhammad Samad, pro-vc(education) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, University Grants Commission member Prof Anwar Hossain, DU Teachers' Association acting president Lutfur Rahman and general secretary Prof Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan also took part in the discussion.



These two zebras at Sylhet's Tilagarh Eco Park and Animal Conservation Centre are roaming around the compound without a worry in the world, as they've mostly been left alone since the coronavirus outbreak prompted closure of tourist spots. They were brought in alongside a few deer, snakes and foreign breeds of birds last year, but some have died due to lack of proper care.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

INFLATED POWER BILLS

CAB serves legal notice on authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday served a legal notice on authorities, asking them to stop collection of inflated electricity bills of the last three months from consumers.

Lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua sent the notice on behalf of architect Mubassar Hussein, convener of CAB, requesting authorities to act against officials and staffers responsible for preparing the inflated bills.

The notice was sent to energy and power ministry secretary, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission chairperson, and representatives of Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka Power Development Company and Dhaka Electricity Supply Company.

They were asked to take necessary steps in five days.

In the notice, they requested respondents to correct bills by examining meter reading, delay collection of fees from consumers, and publish how many inflated bills were prepared and how much extra money was collected.

RECREATIONAL SITES IN CTG

Visitors scarce upon reopening

ARUN BIKASH DEY, CTG

Recreational destinations of the port city were reopened on Saturday after five months, but visitors were few and far between as fear of infection still remains. Moreover, the weather has not been favourable.

All tourist sites were closed on March 18 by Chattogram District Administration due to the coronavirus outbreak in the country. It decided to open the sites on August 22 as the "pandemic situation in the city has improved."

The administration, however, imposed 16 conditions on the sites' management with adherence to health guidelines, according to officials of Chattogram District Administration.

On the spot yesterday, it was seen that some twenty visitors were in Foy's Lake Amusement Park in the morning. The staff of the park were seen instructing visitors to follow health guidelines.

Visitors had to wash their hands at a basin at the entrance of the park and wearing a face mask was a must for everybody.

"We emphasised on maintaining health guideline as per the government's instruction," said Bishwajit Ghosh, deputy manager (marketing) of Concord Foy's Lake Amusement Park.

"Although the park has opened after five months, turnout of visitors is still very low due to incessant rainfall," he said, "Only 50 people visited the park on Saturday."

Shamsunnahar came to the park with her seven-year-old daughter and younger sister yesterday.

"We were bored staying at the house for months. As the amusement



A little girl excitedly interacts with a pair of macaws at the Chattogram zoo, elated at the sight of birds coloured as bright as her yellow outfit.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

park has opened, we have come here for recreation," she told The Daily Star.

Turnout of visitors was also very poor in Swadhinata Complex, another tourists' site in the city, which is popularly known as Mini Bangladesh.

The park also put emphasis on maintaining health rules, with a sign saying "no mask, no entry" displayed at the entrance.

Staff of the complex were seen checking the body temperature of visitors with infra red thermometer at the entrance.

Trisha Dey and her husband Mukul Dutta visited the park yesterday. "I feel very relaxed to be here after five months," said Trisha. She said she was happy to see the

precautionary measures taken by the park authority.

"Turnout of visitors is very low in first two days due to rough weather and risk of infection," said Mohammad Ali, manager of Swadhinata Complex.

"All the health guidelines are strictly being followed in the park," he said, "We check the body temperature of every visitor and make them sanitise their hands."

"We also sanitise all rides after every round to ensure safety of visitors," he added.

Ali expected an increase in the number of visitors in the days to come.

Same situation prevailed in Chattogram Zoo. The zoo opened yesterday (Sunday) after five months but turnout of visitors was very low.

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'He never depended on anyone's mercy to get out of prison'

Law minister on Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was detained and sent to jail for several times in his life, but he never depended on anybody's mercy to get released from custody.

"Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman got released from jail after winning legal battles in court, as he believed in the rule of law," he said while speaking as a guest at a discussion organised by International Mother Language Institute, on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Bangabandhu and National Mourning Day, observed on August 15.

"The big instance of Bangabandhu's respect to rule of law is that he gifted a constitution to Bangladesh in 10 months, and under that constitution, an independent judiciary was established and a national election was held in the recently-independent country in 1972," he said.

Bangabandhu had ensured the legitimacy of rights of people of Bangladesh through lawful way, he said.

The minister, who is also the principal state counsel in Bangabandhu murder case, said the trial proceedings of the case filed over assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have been completed following all due procedures of law at the trial court, where statements of 61 witnesses were recorded.

The offenders have been convicted and sentenced to death on legal documents, evidence and statements of witnesses, he said, adding that the trial of Bangabandhu murder case was held like that of a murder of any common man.

Diplomats share views on Bangabandhu's leadership, values

UNB, Dhaka

Diplomats stationed in Dhaka at a discussion on Saturday highlighted the values set by Bangabandhu and the importance of following his ideology.

Speaking at the event, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen called on the friendly nations to work with Bangladesh to achieve Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla".

British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson said the United Kingdom was the first nation Bangabandhu visited following his release from captivity where he was greeted by then British prime minister Edward Heath.

He said this laid the foundation for the successful relationship between the two nations.

Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming spoke of the two visits by Bangabandhu to China in 1952 and 1957; and reminisced the warm welcome Bangabandhu received from the Chinese people.

He asserted that the visionary leadership of Bangabandhu set the values of current Bangladesh and stated Bangabandhu's legacy is being carried forward by his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

German Ambassador Peter Fahrenholtz talked about the visionary leadership of Bangabandhu and the moral values of the Father of the Nation.

He said that all relevant stakeholders should work together to bring to reality his ideology of secular Bangladesh and social rights for all.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner DPSN Dayasekara said Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to establish a relationship with Bangladesh following their liberation.

He said everyone should follow the values set by Bangabandhu to ensure equal rights for all.

UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo said the values of Bangabandhu of freedom for all, ideals of leaving no one behind and equality amongst all match the foundations of sustainable development, which are critical values of the UN as well.

Swiss Ambassador Nathalie Chuard said she was deeply moved after hearing the narration of the brutality of August 15. She shared that Switzerland has been a robust ally to Bangladesh and was delighted to hear that it was Bangabandhu's vision that Bangladesh be the "Switzerland of the East".

Earlier, the foreign minister highlighted the impact of Bangabandhu on founding of the country, and also on its journey as an independent state. He spoke of Bangabandhu's sacrifices, incarceration, his dream, and vision of an independent nation and the undying love for the people.

Dr Momen highlighted the turnaround that the country experienced

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6 RMG workers go on hunger strike in Savar

Say they were forced to resign unlawfully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Six workers of Goodrich Sweaters Ltd, a factory of Skyline Group in Ashulia, started an indefinite hunger strike in front of Ashulia Press Club yesterday, after they were allegedly forced out from their jobs.

They started the strike around 10am and continued till filing of this report around 4pm.

Workers alleged that without any specific reason, factory authorities on July 30 forced six workers to resign, after taking their signatures on blank papers and collecting their factory identity cards.

After the incident, they filed written complaints

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ERRATUM

In the report -- Release 225 returnee migrants from jail -- published in page 3 of this newspaper yesterday, the number of returnee migrants should have been 255 instead of 225. We regret the unintentional error.



Overhead lights on the capital's Airport Road barely illuminates the road, forcing vehicles to rely solely on their headlights, which only gives drivers a narrow field of view. On a major road that has a high-volume and high-speed traffic, including buses and trucks, such insufficient lighting can only spell danger. The photo was taken around 5am on Saturday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAK

SC upholds HC stay order on four arson cases against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that stayed the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in four separate vandalism and arson cases filed in 2015.

The apex court, however, asked the HC to hear and dispose of the issues in connection with the cases. It asked Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to take necessary steps in this regard.

A six-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the orders after virtually hearing four leave to appeal petitions filed by the state seeking stay on the HC orders.

Mahbubey Alam appeared for the state while lawyers AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Bodruddoza Badal represented Khaleda.

Bodruddoza told The Daily Star that the HC stay orders on the trial proceedings against Khaleda Zia will remain in force following the apex court orders.

The High Court will hold hearing on the rules for their disposals, he said, adding that Khaleda is on bail in these cases.

Khaleda Zia is accused in total 37 cases and she is on bail in 35 cases and has been convicted in two (Zia orphanage and Zia charitable) cases.

The BNP chairperson got released from jail following an executive order issued by the government on March 25.

Following four separate petitions filed by Khaleda, the HC in May 2017 stayed the trial proceedings against her in four vandalism and arson cases and also issued four rules asking the government to explain as to why the case proceedings should not be scrapped.

On August 17, the SC upheld HC orders that stayed the trial proceedings against Khaleda in four other vandalism and arson cases filed in 2015.