

Media help for AIDS awareness sought

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day national seminar on AIDS and media concluded in Dhaka on Tuesday, seeking help of the media to create mass awareness against the killer disease AIDS.

The objective of the seminar was to orient the media personnel on various aspects of AIDS, its transmission, prevention and control measures.

Chairman of Prof. M. A. T. Siddiqi, Director of Health Services, the seminar was addressed by Prof. A. K. Shamsuddin Siddiqi, Director of Hospitals and Clinics, Dr. Abey Sundair, WHO Representative in Bangladesh and Jawadur Rahman, Assistant Editor of The Bangladesh Observer.

The speakers stressed the role of media in creating social awareness against AIDS and called upon its personnel to help promote anti-AIDS activities in the society.

In the concluding session the participants had identified some areas of cooperation for media coverage. They also put forward some recommendations on health promotion activities for the prevention and control of AIDS.

Role of NGOs underscored

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on "The role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the Democratic Movement for Socio-economic Development" said on Tuesday the NGOs in Bangladesh play a vital role in making the people aware of their rights.

Kazi Faruk Ahmed, Chairman of Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) said the NGOs are active for achieving social and economic democracy.

He said the NGOs should act as a pressure group for realising the needs of the people. He stated that the members of different NGOs are already working in over one hundred election centres to make the voters aware of their rights.

He said every year about two and a half lakh people are imparted primary education by the NGOs. This creates awareness, the base for democracy.

Dr. Aljar Rahman, meanwhile, criticised the NGOs and said these organisations often take up programmes in the interest of the advantaged section of society.

He alleged the NGOs played nearly no role in the mass upsurge.

He also alleged that the NGOs could not uphold the glory of the Liberation War because of their being foreign-based.

Art exhibition today

By DU Correspondent

A four-day long art exhibition of the children on "Stop war, save the world" will start today (Wednesday) at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University.

Consensus on national issues underscored

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on "Language Movement and Bangladesh of 1991" stressed the need for consensus on the basic national issues.

The seminar organised by Islami Chhatra Sena a students organisation, was addressed by Prof. Dewan Mohammad Azraf as chief guest.

Prof. Azraf said the history of language movement was being distorted this process must be stopped for the sake of proper knowledge of our next generation, he added.

The meeting presided over by Abdu Samad was addressed, among others, by BPUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DR. A. N. M. Raisuddin and Masud Nizami, Principal Harunor Rashid read out the keynote paper of the seminar.

Secretary General of Federal Union of Journalist Amanullah Kabir said the Language Movement was launched not for the language only it was the first protest of the people of this land against disparity and deprivation, he added.



The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship, Dhaka Liaison Office, Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS) and Chattagram AOTS Alumni Society (CAAS) jointly hosted a farewell reception in honour of the outgoing Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Takeo Iguchi Monday at Sonargaon Hotel.

Japanese observer mission to monitor polls

The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Takeo Iguchi, said in Dhaka on Monday that a six-member parliamentary observer mission from his country would be visiting Bangladesh from February 26 to oversee parliament elections, reports BSS.

Iguchi was addressing a farewell reception, accorded in his honour jointly by the Japanese Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS) and Chattagram AOTS Alumni Society (CAAS) at hotel Sonargaon Monday afternoon.

The reception was also addressed by AOTS representative in Bangladesh, Dr. Moazzem Hussain, BAAS President, Moynul Hasan and CAAS President, Nurul Islam while A.M. Kamal conducted it.

Polls can't be fair without Ershad's release: Prof Salshabil

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party candidate in Dhaka-9 constituency Prof Umme Kausher Salshabil Hena told a projection meeting on Monday that the ensuing polls cannot be fair without release of former President H.M. Ershad.

The meeting, presided over by Md. Ali, was addressed by Mrs. Shahana Begum, Harunor-Rashid, Fazlul Huq and election agent S.M. Jamal Uddin.

Dateline Khulna

Election violence triggers tension

From Syed Isa

KHULNA, Feb 19: Tension has gripped this port city since Saturday when a number of Awami League campaign offices in Khalishpur were ransacked. Three BNP activists were arrested in the wake of the violence.

Both the Awami League and the BNP have protested the incidents. Earlier on Friday, workers and supporters of both the parties clashed in the Manikla area of the city. At least 25 persons were injured in the battle.

Meanwhile, on Saturday a BNP rally at Daulatpur denied an attack on the party procession by what it said Awami League supporters.

Held at Mohsin School crossing and presided over by Rafiqzaman the meeting was also addressed by Ashraf Hossain, the BNP candidate for Khulna-3 constituency, Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim, General Secretary of Khulna City BNP, Abdul Malek, a labour leader and Abul Kashem Azad, a JCD leader. They called for vote for the BNP candidate to eradicate terrorism.

In Khalishpur, Awami League also held a meeting on Friday. Awami League candidate from the area Mrs. Mannujan Sulian addressed the meeting presided over by Khan Ibn Mizan, the convenor of AL election conducting committee. The meeting blamed BNP for poll violence.

BNP has demanded immediate release of its activists arrested after the violence.

Islamic Oikya Jote

Speakers at a public meeting held on Thursday at the Khulna Shaheed Hadis Park under the auspices of Islamic Oikya Jote, reiterated their determination for the establishment of Islamic rule of law in the country on the basis of Quran and Sunna.

Presided over by Al-Hajj Moulana Rafiqur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Islamic Oikya Jote leaders including Moulana Azizul Huq as the chief guest who is also chief coordinator of the party, Mufti Moulana Sakwat Hossain an. Moulana Ali

Ahmed.

Moulana Atzul Huq while addressing the meeting stressed the need for wiping out corruption from the society so that a Islamic welfare state could be established. He urged the people to vote for Islamic Oikya Jote in the coming polls.

Basanta Mela

A week-long Basanta Mela under the auspices of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, Khulna was formally inaugurated here on Thursday for the expansion of cottage and handicrafts products.

Industries Secretary, Shaiful Alam inaugurated the mela at the local Zila School premises. The chairman of BSCIC, A. K. M. Fazlul Huq Mia also spoke at the function.

Ekushey blood donation

Lions Foundation will observe "Amar Ekushey" through donation of blood in co-operation with Shandhani, says a Press release.

AL candidate alleges terrorism in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Feb 19: Mr. S.M. Yusuf, Awami League candidate for Chittagong-Constituency today alleged that armed workers of his opponents had resorted to widespread terrorism, setting on fire or damaging at least ten of his election camps and injuring several of his party workers during last few days, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club here today Mr. S.M. Yusuf blamed his opponents of hiring criminals to disrupt his election activities. He said a number of cases were filed with the Patiya Police against the terrorist activities. Awami League election camps at Kazirhat, Kartala, Dhahat, Mukutnighat, Gollala and Fakira Masjid areas were set on fire or damaged, he said. A large number of election symbols were also damaged, he added.

At least ten persons including Abdur Rahim, Dhahat Union Awami League President were injured and a party procession was attacked at Alandapara.



A scene from drama Mr. Hunjaye Manusherā, staged by Samay Sangkritik Gosthi at Central Shaheed Minar on Sunday. The artistes are Biman, Shohag and Lotus. —Star photo

Dateline Chittagong

59 Burmese convicts freed from Ctg jail

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 19: Fifty nine Burmese convicts were released from Chittagong jail Sunday and sent back to Burma through Teknaf border check-post.

The Burmese nationals, who were convicted by Chittagong Court on charges of illegal trade and fishing in Bangladesh territorial waters, were released before completion of their two-year jail terms under an amnesty declared by the government following a jail riot on December 31 that left three prisoners dead and over one hundred including jail guards injured.

About 300 prisoners including the 59 Burmese convicts were granted amnesty.

Meanwhile, an official source said, ten Burmese nationals were recently captured with smuggled goods worth about Taka 13 lakhs by BDR personnel from a point along the Bangladesh-Burma border.

Many other consignments of smuggled goods were seized on various occasions by security personnel from different places.

Informed sources said, illegal trade through Bangladesh-Burma border had been continuing unabated involving smugglers of both countries.

The illegal trade is mainly carried out in a dubious barter system. Under the illegal trade rice, spices, betelnuts, plums, fancy goods, opium and other drugs

are brought into Bangladesh from Burma while expensive medicines, motor parts-both old and new, electronic goods, cloth and chillies are taken into Burma from Bangladesh across Naf River dodging the eyes of the law enforcing agencies.

Security sources believe, illegal trade is carried out in connivance with some Burmese infiltrators who have already settled at Teknaf and other parts of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong city.

Some influential smugglers reportedly stay in busy trade centres and big hotels in Chittagong city to carry out their illegal deals, the sources added.

Women Forum wants 100 seats reserved

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Women Forum has announced four-point recommendations and seven-point demands for ensuring women's participation in coming elections and for improving the condition of the women.

The recommendations announced at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday include: launching motivation campaign in radio and television highlighting importance of women's participation in voting, ensuring security to women in polling booths and taking stern action against bullies.

Withdrawal of warrants against Rab demanded

The President and General Secretary of the JSD(Rob), Mr. Nur Alam Ziku and Prof. Humayun Kabir Hiru Tuesday demanded immediate withdrawal of a false and conspiratorial case and warrants of arrest against the Secretary General of the party, Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rob, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, the JSD leaders said that the revival of a case dating from 1986 and settled in the courts raised the question of neutrality of the present government.

They alleged that the case had been revived to blacken the image of Mr. Rob, the man who first hoisted the national flag, demanded that Mr. Rob should be given full chance in making campaign in the coming parliamentary elections.

The seven-point demands put forward to the party or alliance which will form the next government included: increasing reserved seats in the parliament for the women to 100 and introducing direct voting by women in those seats, enacting more strict laws against torture on women, allocating more money in the national budget for improving women's conditions, introducing free and compulsory education for women up to S.S.C level, increasing women's quota for services and raising age-limit for women for entry into government services to 32 years.

Advocate Ferdousi Sultana, President of the forum, Roushan Ara Asjad, vice-president Selma Begum, treasurer and Tawfiq Mallick and Jahannara Rahman joint secretaries were present.

Human rights organization to monitor elections

Liberty International, a Bangladesh based International Human Rights Organization having consultative status with the United Nations will observe the upcoming parliamentary elections in the light of major Human Rights declarations and conventions, reports BSS.

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