Metropolitan

Here and There

Conscious people to stand against smoking

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a meeting, organised by 'life', an anti-drug organisation, expressed concern over the increasing number of smokers and drug-addicts and they called upon the people to create consciousness against these dangerous habits. The meeting, held Thursday at the Fazle Rabbi Hall of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) was addressed by Farhad Ali Khan, Vice-President of the Students Union of DMC, Abul Hasnat Millon, Secretary General of the Organisation, Shamsuddoza Manzu, Cynthia Sharmin, Faruk Ahmed and Mejbahuddin Selim.

Quamrul Islam Soni, Chairman of the organisation presided over the meeting.

Mechanics of Biman asked to work hard

The certificate-awarding ceremony at the graduation of the second batch of apprentice mechanics was held at Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre(BATC) in the city on Thursday, according to press release.

Biman's Managing Director, Mofazzal Karim was the chief guest to distribute certificates among the successful apprentice mechanics.

Presided over by Wing Cdr. Ruhun Nabi (Retd.), Principal, BATC, Capt. Ahadul Amin, Director (Administration), Biman also spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Mofazzal Karim emphasised the important role of mechanics in operating an airline and hoped that the second batch of apprentice mechanics graduated from this centre would work hard for Biman with utmost sincerity and devotion from the very start of their career.

Shamsuzzaman dead

Mr. Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, Senior Information Officer of Press Information Department (PID), died of cardio-respiratory failure in Dhaka Wednesday night. He was about 50, reports BSS.

While on duty at the PID newsroom Mr. Chowdhury was severely attacked with cardio-respiratory problem at 10-15 pm and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Mr. Chowdhury is the eldest son of late Doctor T.I.M. Nuruzzaman Chowdhury of Senbug, Noakhali.

President of the BCS Information Cadre Association Mr. Chowdhury left behind his mother, brothers, sisters and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Workshop on polls reporting concludes

The three-day workshop on election reporting ended at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in Dhaka on Thursday, a PID Press release said, reports BSS.

Mr Enamul Haq, Director General of the Institute, distributed certificates among the 25 participants from the daily and the weekly newspapers, news agency and radio and television.

As part of practical work the participants visited the Election Commission Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Constitutional Experts, Election Commission officials and senior journalists conducted different sessions of the course.

Representatives of each department of the Sonargaon Hotel seen with the award received at the International Tourism Fair in Madrid recently.

Armed Forces to help ensure democracy : Shahabuddin

Acting Presiden. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Thursday lauded the role of the armed forces in the recent democratic process and earnestly hoped that they would play their part to ensure the success of the nation's fresh endeavors to give democracy a solid foundation, reports BSS.

The Acting President said : "We are now on the road to democracy, a unique moment in our history. A government of the people, by the people and for the people would promote our common national goals with greatest commitment.

Our armed forces have so far shown great respect for this process. I earnestly hope that they would play their part to ensure the success of our fresh endeavors to give democracy a solid foundation in the country."

Speaking as the chief guest at the graduation ceremony of the 15th army, 9th navy and 11th air force staff courses of the defence services command and staff college at Mirpur in Dhaka this morning, the acting president also lauded the role of the armed forces during the country's war of liberation. Our nation was born through a bloody war of independence, fought by the armed forces and the civilians together.

We emerged as a new nation overcoming formidable odds because of that great unity among us. We have learnt through the bitter experiences in the wear and its happy ending that united we stand divided we fall.

The ceremony was attended by the members of the Acting President's Advisory Council, three Chiefs of Staffs, diplomats and high civil and military officials. Sixty student officers including 19 overseas students from Bahrain, Brunei, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Zambia participated in the graduation courses.

Mr. Justice Shahabuddin, who lauded the glorious role of the armed forces at the time of natural disasters, reminded them that they are the "extension of the civilian population."

He said "as you confidently go forth and engage yourselves in your professional task, always remember that national defence is greatly fortified with the civilian population alongside you. You are the sons of the soil, an extension of the civilian population. You must ensure that you always continue to enjoy the blessing, love and support of the whole population. It would make your task easier."

Sonargaon bags award in Madrid fair

By Staff Correspondent

The Sonargaon Hotel has received the 16th International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry at the International Tourism Fair in Madrid January 25.

The purpose of the award is to recognise and reward the concerned companies excelling in quality, prestige and service in the field of tourism. A total of 500 nominations were reviewed for this year's award by a panel of 12 judges.

Andrew J. McBurnie, General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel received the award. According to him, the award was a fitting tribute since 1991 is the 10th anniversary of the Sonargaon Hotel. "This award is the acknowledgement of the hard work and determination of over 500 employees and a strong commitment to service by our owners-the Bangladesh Government", says McBurnie.

While briefing the Press Thursday afternoon, McBurnie said that since its opening in 1981, Sonargaon had made an operating profit of Taka 807 million and has paid to the Government a total of Taka 388 million in fees and taxes.

Case against two BJMC ex-officials

Anti-corruption bureau has filed a case against two former senior officials of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and former manager of Arsim Press House Narayanganj, for abuse of power, violation of government order and providing false report causing loss of Taka 82,18,214 to the government, according to an official handout on Wednesday, reports BSS.

According to the proceedings of the case, it appears that by violating the ban on sale of jute at discount and without government approval for giving discount on BCR grade of jute former Director of Jute Corporation T.I.M. Hasan Imam, and General Manager T.I.M. Nurunnabi sold 2,777 bales of jute at 40 per cent discount to Messrs Abdur Razzak LTD causing a loss of Taka 11,52,482 to the government, the handout said.

Similarly, without government approval 8,332 bales of BWCB and 8,888 bales of BWR jute were sold to Sonali Ash LTD and Sonar Bangla PAT Baling causing loss to the government Taka 70,65,732.

Thus the accused persons either received financial benefit by themselves or illegally benefitted the concerned parties causing loss to the government of Taka 82,18,214.

Former Manager of Arsim Press House, Nuruzzaman Khan caused financial loss to the government by giving false statement that there was no stock of jute in the godown.

Investigation of the case was in progress, the handout added.

Qul Khwani

Qul Khwani of late Hosne Ara Ehsan, wife of Mr Abul Ehsan, former Ambassador to Belgium and High Commissioner to India will be held today (Friday) after Asr prayer at their Gulshan residence (house : 26, road : 119), reports BSS.

JSD candidate withdraws in favour of NDP

CHITTAGONG, Jan 31 : Nurul Azim of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal candidate for Chittagong-six Raozan Constituency in a statement here yesterday withdrew his candidature from the election race in favour of NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, reports BSS.

He said during his recent campaign he was convinced that Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury was the only popular candidate of the constituency and hence he decided to withdraw with a call to the voters to vote in favour of Salahuddin.

Meanwhile Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at Chakaria Constituency (Cox's Bazar) where he is also contesting said if elected, he would try to remove regional disparity. Held at Dulahazara High School field, the meeting was presided over by Mozammel Hoq a local leader.

Electioneering geared up in Narayanganj

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 31: The port town is in the grip of tripartite election show down by candidates of Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jatiya Party with 26 days left for the parliamentary polls on February 27, reports BSS.

The candidates of different political parties and alliances have already geared up their election campaigns backed by their supporters.

With hundreds of colourful posters, banners, festoons, placards, wall writing and life size election symbols and election arches, the town has worn a festive look. The posters, banners and portraits of the past and present leaders of Awami League and BNP have made appearance in a riot of colourful displays in different parts of the town.

About 50 make-shift election camps made of bamboo shaft have been set up for electioneering of election office sources said a total of nine candidates including one woman who are in the race in Narayanganj Bandar Constituency No- 5.

The candidates are Prof. Nazma Rahman, Bangladesh Awami League, Alhaj Khawaja Mohiuddin - Jaker Party, Alhaj Maulana Baki Billah-Bangladesh Islamic Front, Advocate Abul Kalam-Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Advocate Giasuddin Ahmed - Jatiya Janata Party, Tofazzal Hossain - Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob), Nasim Osman - Jatiya Party, Montu Ghosh - 8 and 5-party Jatiya Gonotantrik Oikya Jote and Advocate Nazrul Islam - Jammat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

The Awami League activist Prof. Nazma Rahman first contested the parliamentary polls in 1986 and was defeated by Jatiya Party candidate. This year she said she is confident of winning the election.

Alhaj Khwaja Mohiuddin, a social worker and a follower of Biswa Jaker Manzil first contested the parliamentary election from Awami League Mizan group in 1979 and was defeated. He considers BNP candidate as his rival.

Alhaj Maulana Baki Billah is contesting the polls for the first time on a Bangladesh Islamic Front ticket.

Advocate Giasuddin Ahmed of Jatiya Janata Party first contested the parliamentary polls in 1988 as a COP candidate but lost the election.

Tofazzal Hossain of JSD (Rab), a new comer in the parliamentary polls this year.

Transport strike in Khulna February 7

Dhakhinbangla Sarak Parbahan Sramik Union will observe a day-long transport strike on February 7, demanding an immediate peaceful end of the Gulf war, a union press release said Thursday, reports BSS.

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Dateline Chittagong

Parties urged not to patronise mastans

CHITTAGONG, Jan 31: The February 27 parliamentary election has generated great enthusiasm among people with the expectation that this time they would be able to exercise their franchise freely and without fear.

A cross-section of people right from day labourers to industrialists and office clerks to highest executives interviewed by a BSS Special Correspondent here expressed both optimism and doubt about the coming polls. Vast majority of them, however, are optimistic about a free and fair election for transition to democracy, but a small group is skeptic.

The majority group is of the opinion that when the people have demonstrated an unprecedented unity in ousting an autocratic government, they can also help hold a free and fair election for giving democracy an institutional shape. This group says the political parties will have to abide by the code of conduct announce by the Election Commission as well democratic norms in letter and spirit.

The later group is of the opinion that without recovery of illegal arms and rounding up of the known terrorist, election cannot be free and fair. The political parties will have to give up their patronisation of mastans, terrorists and illegal arms holders if they want to ensure a fair election, they said.

They suggested intensive and extensive police raids for recovery of illegal arms to ensure a terror-free parliamentary polls.

Industrialist Muhammad Musa of Double Mooring, when asked to comment on the coming polls said, "I expect a fair election under the interim government".

Abide by EC code of conduct : JP

Local leaders of Jatiya Party (Wednesday) urged all political parties to abide by the code of conduct announced by the Election Commission, party press release said.

Addressing a party workers' meeting at Jalalabad here, they said a congenial atmosphere was needed for holding the coming parliamentary polls fairly and peacefully. They called upon the party workers to remain calm in the face of any provocation.

The meeting presided over Syed Muhammad Abul Hashem, was addressed by Mr Harun-ar-Rashid Khan, a candidate for Chittagong -10 constituency, Abul Hayat Chowdhury, S M Serajul Huq and others.

CU probe body hearing

Persons called upon to appear before the Inquiry Commission on Chittagong University December 22 incident on February 2 will now have to appear before the commission on February 4, a press release said, reports BSS.

Oikyabaddha Nari Samaj (United Womenfolk) brought out a procession in the city demanding the end of the Gulf war yesterday. —Star Photo

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