

Zillur Siddiqui says Bureaucrats alone can't protect democracy

Education Adviser Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui on Saturday said bureaucrats alone should not be held responsible for protecting and safeguarding democracy in the country, reports BSS.

"It is a sacred duty of all to see that a democratic government is established through free and fair elections," he told a seminar on 'Democracy: Bureaucracy, Bangladesh' organised by the BCS (Administration) Association at BCS Academy auditorium in Dhaka.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Secretary General of the Association, presented a keynote paper entitled 'Democrat and civil administration: Bangladesh perspective,' while Prof Talukdar Moniruzzaman and Dr Selim Jahan of Dhaka

Free distribution of bidi worries lawyers

One hundred and two lawyers of Bangladesh Supreme Court in a joint statement on Saturday urged the government and political parties to prevent free distribution of bidi and cigarettes in the polls campaign, according to a Press release of Bangladesh Peace and Development Mission, reports BSS.

They mentioned that massive free distribution of bidi and cigarettes has already been going on in the election campaign.

Candidates of almost all political parties have been distributing bidi and cigarettes, among the people of all ages and sexes. They pointed out that if not prevented, this trend will

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THE DAILY STAR

'Shahabuddin violates Constitution'

By Staff Correspondent

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said that Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed violated the Constitution by holding two vital posts at the same time.

Referring Article 22 of the Constitution he said a man, according to the Constitution, cannot hold two posts like Acting President and Chief Justice at the same time.

He was addressing at the inaugural function of a video cassette at the National Press Club on Thursday.

He said that Acting President should resign from the post of Chief Justice immediately.

He said, the Presidential Advisers are following the orders of some political parties. The Advisory Council has lost its neutrality. It should be dissolved soon, he added.

Responding to the comment of Sheikh Hasina on Special Powers Act '74, Justice Rahman said there are so many laws to arrest former President Ershad.

Employees abstain from duties in Eden College

A meeting of the teachers, third class and fourth class employees of the Eden Girls University College Friday condemned the demand raised by certain quarter of the removal of the principal of the college, a press release said.

The third and fourth class employees of the college have decided to abstain from duties till the principal of the college was brought back, the press release added.

The meeting was presided over by Vice-Principal of the College, Begum Rabeya Khanam.

Acting Chairman of PDB

Syed Qamrul Alam, Member Distribution has joined as Acting Chairman, Bangladesh Power Development Board. He has succeeded Mr. Shamsul Islam who joined Parjatan Corporation as Chairman on transfer, says a press release.

Mr. Alam is a renowned Engineer with a career of long professional experience and training at home and abroad. He is in the service of WAPDA and PDB for more than 30 years.



Students of Badrunessa College on hunger strike on the Dhaka University campus.

Dateline Khulna Task Force to curb smuggling formed

KHULNA, Feb. 9: A Task Force has been formed to curb smuggling along 576 kilometre border belt here, reports UNB.

The Task Force at a meeting in Sathkhira Circuit House last week decided that local hats and bazars should stop working after sundown.

The meeting, chaired by task force chairman Divisional Commissioner AKM Fazlul Huq Miah, took the decision in view of the rising smuggling in the district.

It also decided to impose ban on issuing dealing licences for polyester cloth to local traders. Licences issued earlier to them were also seized.

Unabated smuggling has been adversely affecting the local industry.

Local sugar mills are facing problems as their produce can not compete with smuggled Indian sugar which is being sold at cheaper prices.

Mill sources said thousands of maunds of sugar have long been lying undelivered in their godowns.

Besides, VCPs, VCRs, polyester cloth, imported machinery parts and old garments are being smuggled out to India.

Valerian handicrafts

Another report adds: Due to abundance of raw materials in Khulna Division, 'Valerian

1960 tolas gold recovered at airport

Airport Customs recovered 1960 tolas of gold worth Taka 1.57 crore from two aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at Zia International Airport Friday night, according to a customs press release in the city, reports BSS.

Each of the 196 gold bars was 10 tolas in weight.

The airport customs searched the Biman aircraft which arrived at the Zia Airport immediately after midnight Friday night from Narita via Singapore and Bangkok and recovered 1000 tolas of gold from its rear toilet. The Customs authority also searched the second Biman aircraft which arrived in the airport at 2 am Friday night from Dubai.

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Dateline Chittagong Election camps causing inconvenience to traffic

CHITTAGONG, Feb. 9: Electioneering strongly geared up in the port city of Chittagong.

Hundreds of election camps have been set up mainly by Awami League and BNP candidates. Most of the election camps have been set up beside the roads causing inconvenience to traffic movement.

Indiscriminate posting of posters and wall-writing on the other hand presented a festive look to the port city and its suburbs indicating a sense of joy among the people hoping for a better tomorrow.

However, in some of the constituencies here, violence was expected but the people were expecting a violence free election throughout the country.

In Chittagong constituency-10 (Chandgaon-Boalkali) sporadic incidents were occurred recently when two processions were brought out by AL and BNP that left at least 25 injured. Another incident resulting from internal rivalry of AL here left five others injured. The electoral battle could be seen here between AL candidate Nurul Islam, a businessman and BNP candidate Strajul Islam.

Our Staff Correspondent

In Constituency-8 (Doubtlooming) Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP chief is contesting an AL candidate Ishaq Meah. One BNP activist was killed here in a clash.

A total of 138 candidates are in electoral battle in all 15 constituencies.

Rally calls for jihad against allied forces

BSS adds: Speakers at a big public meeting held at Laldighi Maidan here today called upon the United Nations (UN) and the OIC to take immediate and effective measures to put an end to the Gulf war in which human lives and property are widely destroyed.

They also called for bringing back Bangladeshi troops from Saudi Arabia.

The meeting held under the auspices of Saddam Samartak Goshit was presided over by its convener Liakat Ali Khan, was addressed, among others, by Awami League leader A B M Mohtuiddin Chowdhury, leaders of Saddam Samartak Goshit Moulana Habibur Rahman, Moulana Emad Ullah, Moulana Ayub Ali, Mohammad Yunus and Enamul Hoque Chowdhury.

Condemning genocide in Iraq by United States and Allied forces, they also called upon the Muslim countries to declare Jihad against the Allied forces.

After the meeting, a big procession was brought out, which passed through important city roads. The processionists chanted slogans "victory for Saddam and defeat for Bush," "America leave Arab lands."

Saddam Samartak Goshit also announced a week-long programme in protest against the Gulf war which includes hoisting of black flag formation of Saddam Brigade, rallies at different points and special prayer for success of Iraq on Friday next.

Concern over killing

Sammilito Peshajibi Sangsad, Chittagong Friday expressed grave concern over indiscriminate killing of people and destruction of properties in the Gulf area and demanded immediate halt of the Gulf war.

A conference of the sangsad, held at Zila Parishad hall in Chittagong with the sangsad convener Advocate Badiul Alam in the chair, called upon the warring nations to sit across the negotiating table to solve the Gulf problem, a sangsad press release said.

The meeting attended by Dr. Mohtuiddin Ahmad Khan of Chittagong University as the Chief Guest, was addressed by Chittagong District Bar Association President advocate Ahmad Hussein, Lekhok Samaj president Principal Nur Muhammad, Maulana Mufti Ezaharul Huq, eminent homeopath Dr. Kazi Muhammad Yusuf, Dr. Ekramul Huq, educationist Mahmudul Huq and journalist Manzur Morshed.

They called upon all concerned to abide by the code of conduct announced by the election commission to ensure a free and fair election on February 27.



N Matsuzawa (2nd from left), the outgoing Resident Representative of JICA was accorded farewell by Andrew J McBurnie (centre), General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel at a reception held recently. T Imazu (2nd from right), the new Resident Representative of JICA, Mrs Matsuzawa and Mrs Imazu are also seen in the picture.

36 Badrunessa students on token hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities did not take any step till Saturday regarding 36 students of the Badrunessa Women's College, on token hunger strike on the Dhaka University campus since February 6 last demanding their admission into the university.

The hunger strike is being observed on every working day from 9 am to 5 pm near the office of the DU Vice-Chancellor and it will continue till the demand is accepted, the striking students informed.

The students, who passed BA (Hons) in economics from the college under the DU in July 1990 (session 1987-88), were seeking admission as there is no Master's course in economics in the college.

No step was taken till now although the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Arts Faculty and some members of the Syndicate of the University visited the hunger strikers and agreed to the demand.

Badrunessa College was included among the institutions permitted to introduce Master's courses in 1987. But arrangements to start the courses at Badrunessa and some other colleges were yet to be done.

"We obviously have the right to obtain our Master's degree under the DU since we completed our graduation in Honours from the same."

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