

United movement for drug-free society underscored

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah, yesterday called upon all voluntary and social organisations to launch a united movement to help free society from the curse of drug abuse, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a rally on "drug abuse" yesterday morning at Shishu Park.

Organised by Lions Multiple District 315 Bangladesh, the rally was also addressed by the Council Chairman Ln Tauhidur Rahman, district Governor, district 315-A Ln Humayun Zahir, and Lieutenant Governor, District 315-B Ln Eng M Shahjahan Khadem. Past district governors Ln M Khaled and Ln Dr G Mayeed were present on the occasion. A procession was brought out from there and dispersed at the National Press Club.

The Vice-Chancellor called upon the people of all strata to come forward to create social awareness about the dangerous effects of drug and take a pledge to free the country from this menace.

Ln Tauhidur Rahman said, drug addiction is a social disease which destroys a family, society and a nation. "It is a social crime and the Lions community should come forward to create greater awareness among the general masses about its bad effects," he said.

District Governor Ln Humayun Zahir stressed the need for a greater role of the mass media to create awareness among the members of the public against drugs and other addictions. He said media could suggest ways and means as to how to get rid of drug addiction.

Speaking on the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Ln Shahjahan Khadem underscored the need for the united responsibility of all to build up the youth force as a helping force for the development of our society as well as the country. The Lions community are committed to continue their efforts for a healthy and drug-free society to help the future generation grow up, he said.



DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah leading an anti-drug rally in the city yesterday organised by Lions Multiple District-315. —Star photo

Minister seeks help to run country smoothly

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan Friday said that the present government had taken various development programmes including canal digging aimed at developing the country and making it self-reliant in food sector through increasing food production, reports BSS.

He was speaking while inaugurating the Satarikul Canal re-excavation programme at Satarikul here.

Local MP Major (ret'd) Quamrul Islam was present on the occasion.

Lutfur Rahman Khan also addressed a public meeting at Barura.

He called upon the people to give their utmost support and cooperation to the government so that the country can run smoothly and make it a happy and developed one.

Khan said, late president Ziaur Rahman had introduced the canal digging programme in the country for creating a development wave through out the country and he was successful.

The State Minister said the present government had reintroduced this programme with the same view. He expressed the hope that when the programme would be successful with the help and cooperation of the people, the country would not only be self-sufficient in food but also play a vital role in the field of fish production, water transportation and employment generation.

The Satarikul Canal, linked with the river of Balu, was six kilometre long. After completion of its reexcavation, about 1000 acres of agricultural land would be brought under irrigation facility and additional four thousand tonnes of food grain would be produced every year. The canal would also be helpful for discharging the stagnant and dirty water out of Dhaka city.

Later, the State Minister visited the construction work of six kilometre long 'Badda-Berail' road.

The construction work of the road is going on in full swing at a cost of Tk one crore and 53 lakh.

The State Minister directed the concerned authorities to work properly and complete the road within the stipulated time.

City BNP meet held

An emergency meeting of the Working Committee of Dhaka city BNP and Presidents, General Secretaries and Organising Secretaries of all thana units of city BNP was held at the city office of the party in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The meeting took all preparations for making the February 16 public meeting successful to be addressed by Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia at Dholairpar.

The meeting called upon all units to city BNP and its front organisations to participate the public meeting with festoons and banners.

The meeting condoled the death of Siddiqur Rahman, a BNP leader in Mirpur and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Presided over by city BNP President Lt. General (ret'd) Mir Shaukat Ali, the meeting was addressed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, Salahuddin Ahmed MP, Joint Secretary Kazi Abul Bashar and Organising Secretary Habibur Rahman.

'Some quarters out to grab power unconstitutionally'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Friday said the present government was pledge-bound to uphold people's hopes and aspirations in resolving various problems, reports BSS.

He said the government considers people's will as the supreme as it has come to power with their mandate after the ouster of the nine-year autocratic regime.

"People took the streets when their demands were shrugged-off by the autocratic regime. Now the government, established by the people will fulfil their demands through a systematic way," he said.

The Information Minister was addressing as the chief guest the annual general meeting and installation ceremony of the BCS (Information) Samity at the DFP auditorium in Dhaka.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda and Information Secretary Nuruddin Al Masood also addressed the function as special guests with the Samity's new president Faruddin Ahmad in the chair.

Additional Secretary and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan, outgoing president and general secretary of the Samity Rabinurath Trivedi and Nazmul Huda Khan, new General Secretary Abul Hashem Md Abdullah and Samity's member Zikur Reza Khanam also addressed the function.

Nurul Huda said the recent promotions were made impartially without any political or religious motivation. He said if there was any mistake in settling the recent promotion cases, it would be settled soon.

Despite resource constraints, he said, the government had settled 657 promotional cases of all cadres and would settle the remaining ones after studying cadres systems of other countries as soon as possible.

"We have to look first at the majority of the people who are living in utmost hardship and disease. Their condition must be improved first, if we want development of the country," he said.

At this stage, the State Minister said, the government had promoted these government officials which was a rare instance in the history of Bangladesh. "This has been possible only because of the personal initiative of Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia," he said.

Referring to the on-going strike of the non-government teachers, the State Minister said the government could, no way, manage 122 crore taka in the middle of year for meeting their demands of increased salary.

He said all demands could not be met by a government and this should be considered by all the sake of democracy, established after nine-year of autocratic regime.

He said, we are all soldiers of democracy and we have to work unitedly to consolidate democracy in all spheres of national life.

The Information Minister said some quarters were now out to create indiscipline in the country, bypassing the constitutional process to grab power. "Democracy will be at a stake, if we fail to uphold the constitutional process in the country," he said.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda said demands of all cadres were rational and the government would have been pleased if it could solve all those.



Shahadat's exhibition begins today

A 10-day long painting exhibition of artist Shahadat Hussain will be inaugurated in the city this (Saturday) afternoon, reports UNB.

La Galerie, a non-profitable art gallery promoting art in Bangladesh has sponsored the exhibition from February 16 to 22.

Prof Maniruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will inaugurate the exhibition today at the gallery. This will be the 10th in the series of shows at the La Galerie.

Shahadat, now residing in France, has earned many laurels for his painting from many countries.

His paintings have been exhibited in Norway, France, Germany, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, India and Taiwan.

Maulana Azad was more a philosopher than a politician

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq Friday said Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was one of the luminaries in the intellectual and political firmament of British India, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Maulana Abul Kalam Azad some personal glimpses' by Prof Shamsul Haque Shaidai in Dhaka in the afternoon at the auditorium of cultural centre of Iran.

Presided over by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah, among others who spoke on the occasion are Justice AKM Baquer, Iranian Cultural Attache H Ali Madadi, author Prof Shamsul Haque Shaidai, Dr Milha Khatun, Prof Azhar Hussain and Advocate Mujibur Rahman.

The Maulana received his deserved recognition as a gifted scholar, writer and thinker with a prodigious memory, the National Professor said adding some of his predictions had turned out to be true though not exactly in the way he had anticipated.

Within the limited space of some 200 pages, the author takes the reader along the trajectory of Maulana's intellectual, religious and political contributions, Prof Huq said.

The attraction of Prof Shaidai's book has been vastly enhanced by the incorporation of selected letters written by Maulana during his detention at Ahmednagar Fort (1942-45) and these letters are highly educative and provide a rare insight into the intellectually sensitive mind of the Maulana and his perception of the changing political scenario in British India, Prof Huq said.

Prof Miah in his unmixing eulogy to the Maulana said Azad was more a great philosopher than a great politician with the courage of firm conviction. The speakers wished a wide circulation of this attractively produced, readable and penetrating book.



Captain Azizul Islam, the doyen of the flutists of the nation, performing on Wednesday at the National Press Club specially invited by the club. He gave a memorable performance on Rag Shree. He was followed ably on the tabla by Kirti Bhushan Adhikari. —Star photo

JP demands fresh elections

Jatiya Party will announce its future plan of action on the last day of the current month in a bid to mobilise public opinion in support of its demands, including a fresh parliamentary election.

A charter of demands and future programme of the party will be declared from a grand rally in the capital on February 29, Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told UNB Friday.

Chowdhury said his party demands release of former President and party Chairman H M Ershad and election to Parliament as early as possible.

The BNP government has miserably failed to tackle the growing problems in economic and social sectors in last one year, he alleged, because of 'inefficiency and ineptitude'.

The JP leader said besides domestic problems, the government also proved itself inefficient in dealing with Bangladesh-Myanmar situation leading to continuous influx of Rohingya Muslims.

Asked as to why JP is demanding fresh election, Chowdhury said fresh verdict of the people is needed as the ruling BNP in the February 27 election did not seek mandate on restoration of parliamentary democracy.

People did not vote for BNP to change the system of government from presidential to parliamentary, he said. "It was the Awami League which campaigned for parliamentary democracy."

In reply to a question, Mizan Chowdhury said "We are moving slowly but steadily and gradually winning the hearts of the people."

He said his party won more than 60 per cent posts of chairmen in the just concluded Union Parishad elections.

The Jatiya Party is expected to hold its central council session in Dhaka sometime in May, Chowdhury said. He ruled out the possibility of former 'First Lady' Begum Raushan Ershad joining the JP politics.

Golam Azam

On renewed controversy about Prof Golam Azam following his formal assumption of the office of Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, the JP leader said Golam Azam entered the country with Pakistani passport during the rule of late President Ziaur Rahman.

"Since then, he (Golam Azam) has been staying in the country without lawful authority as his citizenship was cancelled for anti-liberation activities in 1971."

After the last parliamentary election, Mizan Chowdhury said BNP formed the government with Jamaat's support.

"So Golam Azam's assuming the office of the Ameer of Jamaat is the fruit of happy marriage between the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami," he observed.



M Mosharrat Hussain, Managing Director, Rapport Bangladesh Limited is giving certificate to a participant of the 7th Batch BRAC-RAPPORT Computer Training Programme recently completed in Dhaka.

HERE and THERE

Bangabandhu Parishad

Bangabandhu Parishad has organised an essay writing competition and a drawing competition for the children of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 72nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The competition will be held in four age groups and the participants will have to submit their essays and drawings by March 7 to Dr SA Malek at 118, Bashiruddin Road, Kakabagan.

Jatiya Sramik Party

Jatiya Sramik Party in a statement Friday condemned the statement of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman regarding four nationalised commercial banks.

Sramik party termed the statement as the sign of a conspiracy to transfer the nationalised banks, insurance and industrial companies to the private sector and demanded immediate realisation of the demands of the employees of the four banks.

Good Bangla handwriting competition

Bangladesh National Museum yesterday organised a 'good Bangla handwriting competition' on the occasion of 'Amar Ekushey', reports BSS.

According to a National Museum press release, over three thousand children and juveniles from nursery level to class ten participated in the competition.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum inaugurated the programme. Cultural Affairs Secretary Islam Uddin Malik was present on the occasion as the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Jahanara Begum paid tributes to the martyrs of language movement, independence war and anti-autocracy movement.

She said the children should know about those who embraced martyrdom for the language and the country.

The winners of the competition will be awarded on February 18, the press release added.

Feeder School

A feeder school was inaugurated at the Pandhoo village of Savar of Wednesday under joint initiative of the Jahangirnagar University Women's centre and the World Vision.

Noted social worker SA Latif inaugurated the school as chief guest while Shamsun-nahar Saleh, wife of the Vice-Chancellor of the University presided over the function.

The function was addressed, among others, by Abdus Salam, Samson Das, and Ratan Pal.

Science a must for promoting technology

PATIYA (Chittagong), Feb 14: Communications Minister Col (ret'd) OI Ahmed, said here today that dissemination of science education was a must for promotion of technology in the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the foundation laying ceremony of Muzafarabad Josoda Nagendra Nandi Girls College Science (B) Unit at Patiya.

Presided over by Principal Bhupal Chakravarty, the function was also addressed by local MP Shaheen Chowdhury Monzo and Barkatullah (Bhulo) MP.

NCBs waived Tk 7.6 crore as loans, interest in 1990-91

The Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) have exempted a sum of Taka 7,60,53,819 outstanding loans, including interest, during 1990-91. State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Raushan Ali (AL-Jessore), the State Minister said Janata Bank exempted Taka 5,22,93,786, Sonali Bank Taka 1,94,21,000 and Agrani Bank Taka 43,39,032.

বিক্রয়

প্রসিদ্ধ কবি রোড চারভাঙ্গা বাড়ীর সোতলা (১২০০ বর্গফুট), বোকাইল ৫০০৫৫৯।

Tender on Short Notice No. 39

Sealed tender in Form No. T-1 are hereby invited from 'A' & 'B' Class Contractor of BWDB for the following work under UPPER NAGOR VALLEY PROJECT during the year 1991-92.

Sl No.	Name and location of the work	Approximate Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1	Construction of Minor Sluice (0.91 M X 1.22 M) at Valur Chak in Upazila Dupchanchia, Dist. Bogra, in connection with UPPER NAGOR VALLEY PROJECT under EIP Financed during the year 1991-92.	Tk. 21,09,091/-	Tk. 52,727/-

The tender will be received by the undersigned, Executive Engineer, Water Dev. Division, BWDB, Natore/Executive Engineer, Naogaon Water Dev. Divn. BWDB, Naogaon/Executive Engineer, Bogra O&M Division, BWDB, Bogra/The Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka/The Sub-Divisional Engineer, Nawabganj O&M Sub-Division, BWDB, Nawabganj for 3 (three) consecutive days i.e. on 17.2.1992, 18.2.1992 and up to 12.00 hours on 19.2.1992 and will be opened at 12.30 PM on 19.2.1992.

The tender document and detailed information will be available at Sonali Bank, Shaheb Bazar Branch, Rajshahi/Court Branch, Rajshahi/Greater Road Branch, Rajshahi/Motihar Branch, Rajshahi Railway Complex Branch, Rajshahi/BSIC Branch, Rajshahi/WAPDA Branch, WAPDA Building, Motijheel Com. Area, Dhaka/Pubali Bank Natore/Agrani Bank, Naogaon/Nawabganj/ Agrani Bank, Bogra.

The Name and Address of the Advertiser:
Executive Engineer, Rajshahi O&M Divn. BWDB/Rajshahi.

PANI-537/91-92
DFP(G)2060-10/2
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