

Editorial institution

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speakers at the seminar said.
Former chairman of the Times-Dainik Bangla Trust M Obaidul Huq read out the keynote paper titled "The role of the editors in the development of newspapers and journalism."
Presided over by the Acting Editor of the Dainik Sangbad G Mustafa, the seminar was also addressed by the Editor of the Daily Star S M Ali, Chief Editor of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D P Barua, former Editor of the Newsday A B M Musa, Editor of the Dainik Janata Sanaulah Noori, BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir and Bangla Academy Director General Muhammad Harun-Ur-Rashid.
Obaidul Huq in his keynote paper observed that the news media had turned into a massive force recently because of the world wide information revolution and technological advancement.
Speaking on professional ethics, he said that the pen of a talented editor never went on hire.
An editor is a missionary, and not a mercenary, he said.
Huq, also the former Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, said that editorials reflected the extent of freedom of thought a newspaper enjoyed while the pledge of an editor rests on his own conscience and his idealism.
Obaidul Huq in his paper, however, raised the question on the role played by persons in positions like "chairman of the editorial board" in the newspaper in raising the professional standard of journalism.

S M Ali recommended a system to train the editorial staff as well as the column writers to develop their professional standard.
Professionalism, innovation and drive were the determining factors in the development of journalism in Bangladesh, he observed.
Commenting on the present professional standard in the country's newspaper industry, Ali said that editorial independence and trained editorial staff were needed to raise it.
A B M Musa said that an honest professional editor had become a "rare species" in the country now a days.
He commented "You cannot expect healthy journalism in the country where the joint secretary of the Information Ministry appoints or fires and editor."
Musa said that none other than the readers could judge the objectivity of the newspapers.
Amanullah Kabir in his speech called to develop editorial institution for raising standard of journalism.
He regretted that the country's newspaper industry was facing a peculiar problem in which all professionals in a newspaper were placed under a non-professional editor.
K G Mustafa in his speech said that an unwritten censorship was still in force even after the assumption of a democratically elected government.
Mustafa said that training was a must for the development of journalists and that the editors should make all-out efforts in this regard.



Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina flanked by the newly elected city AL President Md Hanif (right) and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Maya yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina

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ment had failed to give anything to the people. The rule of BNP resulted in intensification of the pauperisation process — number of the poor and landless increased — besides breeding corruption.
Because of the government's inefficiency and mismanagement, Hasina alleged, 80 per cent foreign aid was not properly utilised.
"The opposition is being made to shoulder the responsibility of the ruling party's failure and ineptitude in governing the country," she said, while it (opposition) is being barred from playing its due role under parliamentary democracy.
"The government wants to eliminate the existence of the opposition."
The Awami League chief said her party announced new economic policy to bring about the welfare of the people.

We don't want flattery

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ceive 'press advice' at midnight and there is no government guardianship," she said stating it to be the sign of in-ner-strength of our newly-earned democracy.
Recalling the role of journalists in the movement for democracy, the Prime Minister said, "we have seen them as determined soldiers with pen".
She expressed her government's firm determination to uphold press freedom and said, "freedom of press is the biggest guarantee of democracy."
The present government aims at setting up a transparent and an accountable administration, Begum Zia said adding that newspapers can play an important role in this regard. In this context, she said cent percent guarantee of press freedom has been ensured.
Pointing at the huge number of publications, the Prime Minister said, "It is a good sign and I welcome it. I believe that it will strengthen the foundation of our democracy."
Referring to her government's policy of free flow of information, Begum Zia said the vastness of thoughts and conscience would help forge the cherished national unity.
"Responsibility and rights are inseparable. Right is meaningless without the sense of responsibility," she said and added that journalism has a much greater responsibility than other professions.
The Prime Minister said free market economy and free flow of information are inter-related and mentioned her

Immersion festivity turns into tragedy

JAMALPUR, Oct 7: The festivity of immersion of Hindu goddess Durga turned into a tragedy with two people electrocuted and three injured in a beel this evening, reports UNB.
The dead were identified as Shiku Miah (40) and Banu driver (35) of village Sardarpara near Islampur Bazar, sources at the Islampur Health Complex said.
Witnesses said Shiku and Banu got electrocuted when they came in contact with a loose wire near Patharkacht beel in Islampur thana.
The bamboo-made electric pole was snapped by a rush of people who thronged the marshland to enjoy the evening mirth of the delayed immersion of Durga's image. Bijoy Dashami was celebrated across the country on Tuesday.
They were rushed to the complex where the two were declared dead by the attending doctors.

The Midnight File

Bomb explosion leaves three dead in Jammu

JAMMU (India), Oct 7: At least 13 people were killed today when a powerful bomb suspected to have been planted by Muslim guerrillas blew up a bus near this winter capital of Kashmir, police and witnesses said. Around 60 people were injured, more than 10 of them seriously, when the explosion devastated the bus at Digiana village, 13 kilometers (8.8 miles) from here. Inspector General of Police SS Wazir said, reports AFP.

Three killed as US military plane crashes

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W VA, Oct 7: A huge military cargo plane crashed into a house Wednesday, killing at least three people, authorities said. As many as six people were on board the Air National Guard C-130 cargo plane. A witness told Martinsburg station WYNN-TV that he saw a large, dark plane go down at 9.30 am (1330 GMT) about three miles (five kilometers) north of Berkeley Springs. Police radio reported that a fire ensued, the station said, reports AP.

Russia starts removing weapons from Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 7: Russia has begun removing weapons and ammunition from Georgia, where the government is trying to seize the materiel for its battle with Abkhazian separatists. Georgian officials said Wednesday. Georgian military officials in Sukhumi said they were expecting an attack by the separatists on the city of 150,000 people. Georgian troops captured the city, the Abkhazian capital, in August, reports AP.

Security forces kill 8 rebels in Tripura

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: Indian security forces shot dead eight suspected tribal militants in the far-eastern state of Tripura, two days after the rebels gunned down four policemen, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says AFP.
Security personnel shot and killed three suspects riding a scooter alongside the car of a senior police officer travelling to the site of a major shootout Tuesday night, the news agency said.
The trio were moving "suspiciously" and refused to halt when signalled to stop, prompting the officer's bodyguards to open fire. It quoted police sources in Tripura's capital, Agartala as saying.

China supports Pak proposal to make S Asia N-arms free

BEIJING, Oct 7: Premier Li Peng said here today that China supported Pakistan's proposal to make South Asia nuclear weapons free, state television reported, says AFP.
Li told his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif that Beijing wanted to maintain friendly relations with all of its neighbours in order to promote regional peace, the report said.
In line with that desire, he said, Beijing backed Islamabad's idea of imposing a ban on nuclear proliferation in South Asia. Long-time rivals India and Pakistan have so far failed to reach agreement on the issue, but regular talks are being held.

3 Kuwaiti troops injured in clash with Iraqis

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Three Kuwaiti soldiers have been injured in a clash with Iraqi infiltrators along the border, the interior ministry reported today, reports AFP.
An Iraqi was killed according to Al-Anbaw newspaper.
The ministry said the infiltrators used rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles in the clash Tuesday at the border post of Bahrat Hushan, without giving details.
Kuwait has reported several Iraqi infiltration bids since last year's Gulf war that drove Iraqi troops out of the Emirate.

32 Muggers kill

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workers took to the street to protest the killing. The processionists demanded punishment of the killers and security of the people at Hajarbagh.
Meanwhile the leaders of Bangladesh Finished Leather Exporters' Association in a statement condemned the killing and demanded punishment of the killers.
Our DMCH Correspondent reports: Fatally wounded Lokman was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries after admission.
The 32-year-old Lokman hailed from Noakhali and had left behind his wife and three sons who lived at his village Noyapur under Begunjan police station. Lokman lived in a mess at Hajarbagh in Dhaka.
Dhanmondi police said that a case was registered with them in connection with the incident but no arrest was made until last night.

Logang incident

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from fear of attack from the Shantibahini, the Ansars and members of VDP fired at the Chakma village while the Bangalees have already set fire to the hut.
Referring to a section of tribals and the Pahari Chhatra Parishad, the commission said they failed to come up with any evidence while the administration asserted that 11 Chakmas, one Tripura and one Bangalee died in the incident. Their bodies were found near the UP office on the day of incident.
The Commission recommended that the FIR lodged on behalf of the tribals should be thoroughly investigated by competent police officers or by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) so that the persons responsible for the incident may be tried and punished.
The commission found that Kabir was killed by Shantibahini to create a situation so that the Bangalee would take revenge upon the tribals who would leave the locality and proceed either to India or disperse to other locations outside the security perimeter of the army and that the insurgents could take shelter and get support from them.
To frustrate the design of the insurgents, the reports said, the primary objective of the local administration must be to maintain law and order and to deal with the tribals and the Bangalees alike and impartially.
The commission pointed out that some dishonest and crooked non-tribals harass or cheat the tribals with regard to the transfer or possession of land while some unscrupulous and crooked tribals also cheat Bangalees in transaction with tribals.
It suggested that land survey should be immediately started for preparation of records as to titles and possession of owners or claimants of

land." If land survey is made a substantial cause of tension and enmity between the two communities would be eradicated," the report said.
The Commission noted that for years the tribals and non-tribals lived like one people in peace and harmony and respected other's culture and tradition but the insurgency disturbed communal harmony and the Bangalees were blamed as infiltrators and they became the main target of the insurgents.
The cruelty committed upon the Bangalee community by the insurgents cannot be explained politically since they have settled in the CHT as citizens of Bangladesh like any other tribals who have settled and acquired properties in the towns of the plain districts.
In this context, the report mentioned that from 1980 to 1991 attack of Shantibahini resulted in 952 deaths, 652 injuries and 411 kidnappings of Bangalees. In the same period 188 deaths, 152 injuries, 205 kidnappings of tribals were committed by the Shantibahini.
The report said from the situation at present obtaining in the Hill Tracts it appears that the safety of Bangalee community is in danger.
While recommending that the insurgency should be checked and curbed by the army units as their primary duty, the commission said the civil officials of the districts should be left to do their duties without any hindrance or bottleneck so that the civil administration can deal with the tribal population in a more liberal manner.
It said the army units stationed in the hill tracts should not do any work relating to civil administration except those which are connected with the operation of counter-insurgency and added that "success of counter-insurgency will bring peace in the Hill Tracts".



Tannery workers hold a rally protesting killing of a worker by muggers yesterday (Inset) the victim, Lokman. — Star photo

AL supports Nirmul body programme

Leaders of the Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday met with opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at 29 Mintoo Road to discuss how to make the October 14 grand rally a success, reports UNB.
Syed Hassan Imam, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Col (Rtd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Abdul Matin, Mirza Sultan Raza and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were present on behalf of the Nirmul Committee.
The committee has called for the grand rally in the capital to press for the implementation of "Gano Adalat" verdict against Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam, now detained in Dhaka Central Jail under Foreigners' Act.
Hasina extended her party's all-out support and co-operation to the Nirmul Committee's programme and called for a greater unity of all pro-liberation forces for upholding the values of the Independence War against communalism and terrorism.

El Al jet had an engine fire 3 months ago

AMSTERDAM, Oct 7: The El Al cargo jet that crashed into an Amsterdam housing estate on Sunday, killing about 250 people, had an engine fire in mid-air three months ago, a spokeswoman for Schiphol Airport said today, reports Reuter.
Spokeswoman Mariona Van Der Goot said the Boeing 747-200F plane had reported an engine fire during an incoming flight to Amsterdam Airport in mid-July.
The fire had been extinguished by the aircraft's built-in fire-fighting system before the aircraft landed at Schiphol, she said.
"It was the same plane," she said, adding that any further information would have to come from the airline.
El Al's Amsterdam office was closed for the Yomkippur holiday today.
On Monday, El Al President Rafi Hariviv said in Jerusalem that the ill-fated cargo plane had no record of trouble other than a serious wheel fault on take off from New York several years ago.

Muggers kill

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workers took to the street to protest the killing. The processionists demanded punishment of the killers and security of the people at Hajarbagh.
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BDR foils attempt

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about 700 Bangla speaking people at Hakimpur of India near Sathkira border for pushing them into Bangladesh. BDR is alert to thwart Indian attempts while a tense situation is prevailing in the areas.
Our Jessore correspondent adds: The BDR thwarted 12 attempts by the BSF to push 235 persons into Bangladesh through different border areas of Jessore district from Tuesday night through Wednesday evening.
According to BDR sources, the BSF brought these Bangla speaking Indian people near the border and pushed them into Bangladesh through border areas of Sadipur, Gattipara, Raghunathpur and Baro Achra near Benapole. The BDR promptly foiled all the attempts and sent all back.
Sources said that the BSF brought large number of people to Madhupur village in India which is located opposite Moheshpur in Jhenaidah district. The BSF may take attempts to push these people into Bangladesh.
When contacted, the BDR sources said that 200 Bangla speaking Indian citizens were staying on the no-man's land near Benapole since Wednesday morning. The BDR is

Mother, child found dead in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent
MANIKGANJ, Oct 7: A mother and her 4-year-old child were murdered at the village Machaine under Hakimpur thana of the district this morning.
Yasmin Akhter Jharna was found hanging from a tree in her house while the body of her child Kajol was recovered from a pond close to the house.
Police arrested Jharna's husband Anisur Rahman Chowdhury and his father Habibur Rahman Chowdhury on suspicion.
A cousin of Jharna filed a case with Hakimpur police accusing Anisur Rahman and his father of murdering the two.

Two killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent
At least two persons were killed and another two injured in two separate road accidents in the city yesterday.
A businessman was killed and another two were injured when a speeding minibus knocked a rickshaw van at South Basabo near Buddhist temple at about 1 am yesterday (Wednesday).
The victims were identified as Mohammad Keramat Ali, 36, Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, 28, and the van driver Raza Miah, 30. Mohammed Keramat Ali died on the spot and another two were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.
In another road accident a pedestrian was killed when a speeding truck ran over him near Pongu hospital at Agargaon on Tuesday night.
The victim was identified as Mohammad Abul Hasem and he was about 40.
Fatally injured Abul Hasem was immediately sent to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries at about 10:20 am yesterday (Wednesday).
Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Kuwaiti cabinet

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related to his function until the new cabinet will be formed," it added.
"Our order should be notified to the parliament and executed from the date it is issued and should be published in the official newspaper," the decree said.
The election gave opposition groups 27 to 35 of the available 50 elected seats in the new parliament in the post-Gulf War emirate.
Information Minister Badr Jassim Al-Yaqoub said last week the Emir would form a new government within two weeks of the election results being announced.
The Emir said in a decree, reported by the official news agency KUNA, that the new parliament would sit on October 20.

Abul Ehsan

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Secretary of erstwhile East Pakistan government.
After liberation of the country, he served as the Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium from 1976-78 and as Bangladesh High Commissioner to India from 1978 to 1982.
Abul Ehsan also served as an advisor to the Observer Group of Publication for a short time.
He was known for his amiable behaviour and he was associated with many social welfare organisations.