

### JS body asks BTV to improve its programmes

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Information yesterday advised Bangladesh Television authorities to take effective measures to improve the quality of TV programmes to make it more popular among the people, reports BSS.

The committee at a meeting held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday also laid emphasis on improvement of the quality of television reporting and telecast of different development activities in the country.

The meeting was apprised that remarkable progress was achieved in the BTV after installing modern equipment through BMR. It also apprised that the Chittagong relay centre of BTV was upgraded as a full-fledged television centre and another new relay centre had also been set up in Patuakhali.

Manpower, BTV's recruitment policy, autonomy and budget allocation of the government owned television were also discussed in the meeting.

Chairman of the committee Abul Kalam Azad presided over the meeting.

Members of the committee State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Begum Shaheen Monara Huq, Adv NK Alam Chowdhury, Afzal H Khan and Gazi Mohammad Shajahan attended the meeting.

### Attack on reporter condemned

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed their deep concern and condemnation over assault on a working journalist by some doctors Saturday night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

It was alleged that Bakibillah, medical correspondent of the Daily Sangbad was assaulted by three doctors on duty at DMCH for publishing a report concerning physicians' lapses in timely treating a patient.

In a joint statement BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad and secretary general AKHter Ahmed Khan and DUJ acting president Suva Rahman and general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan said, "we have no language to condemn such unethical action by the members of a dignified profession."

They termed such action as an infringement on freedom of press and expression and opinion. The journalists leaders urged all to be respectful to others opinion.



Ananya conferred seven women litterateur with "Special Honourary Award" at a ceremony at the National Museum yesterday. The recipients are Dr Manjushree Chowdhury, Mazeda Khatun, Dr Maliha Khatun, Zaman Ara, Taibunnahar Rashid, Syeda Lutfunnessa and Saima Chowdhury. Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Editor of Ananya Tasmima Hossain, MP, are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

## PM urges newsmen to report objectively

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon journalists to report objectively the social problems and public issues so that the government can give due attention to their solution, reports BSS.

Newspapers are the mirrors of society she said, adding that newsmen should give true and objective version of the happenings with honesty so that people are not misled.

The prime minister was talking to the office-bearers and members of the newly-elected executive committee of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) who called on her at her office.

The 20-member DRU team led by its president Shajahan Sarder, earlier apprised the prime minister of various activities of the organisation, some professional hazards of newsmen and certain demands of DRU members.

DRU vice-president Rashed Chowdhury and general secretary Muhiul Islam Raju also spoke on the occasion. Expressing her government's vow to eradicate poverty, the prime minister said, "Without democracy poverty could not be alleviated while democracy could not be established without removing the curse of poverty."

She said, her government had launched a long and arduous movement to institutionalise democracy and had finally succeeded in establishing the voting rights of the people through constitutional guarantee. Now certain quarters were

again out to capture power through killing, conspiracy and other undemocratic means.

She called upon the opposition to be patient for the shake of democracy. "You have to wait till people's verdict to go to power — in democracy there is no short-cut to capture power," she added.

The prime minister also talked about various problems like power and water shortages. "We are working to establish a system in the country and overcome all problems thereby", she said.

"We are also working to bring socio-economic emancipation of the down-trodden," she said and sought cooperation of all including newsmen to mobilise people and make them aware in this regard.

During the meeting the DRU leaders requested the Prime Minister to help arrange its welfare fund and housing plots for its members.

Hasina assured that her government would look into housing problem of reporters working for national news agencies and newspapers.

## Zillur seeks cooperation for rural dev programme

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman yesterday sought sincere cooperation for the rural development programme undertaken by the present government to make Bangladesh a happy abode for all, reports BSS.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government had undertaken a broad-based rural development programme to establish Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We should all contribute our best to this multifarious programme to make meaningful our independence earned at the cost of huge blood of innumerable martyrs," he told a conference of the newly elected Women Chairmen and Members of the Union Council here.

The minister said Union Council was made more powerful, dynamic and effective in the new perspective and the government firmly believed that it would be able to contribute its best toward rural development in Bangladesh.

"We will provide possible monetary assistance to Union Council from our limited resources and side by side we are considering increase in facilities as well as more power for this institution keeping in mind its important role in rural development, he said.

Referring to the women's participation in the lowest tier of the local government in 1997, he said their direct contest in that polls had in fact identified Union Council as a ground for democratic culture in the country.

Zillur Rahman spelt out various steps of the government for helping these elected women representatives of the Union Council lead in different development activities in rural Bangladesh.

He said these elected women chairmen would lead one-third of the thana level development projects while the elected members would have a considerable stake in the union level development programmes in the country.

The minister said present government for the first time gave the scope to the country's

women to directly take part in the lowest tier of the local government elections.

"This direct election has created scope for their direct representation and social dignity which can be seen as an epoch making step of the present government," he said.

To facilitate the elected women representatives of Union Council he said the local government division had created 12 standing committees instead of seven under the relevant clause of the local government (union parishad) of 1983.

As a result, he said, women's direct participation in development programmes has been ensured with the elected women chairmen being the heads of one-third of these committees at the union level.

## Sher-e-Bangla's anniversary of death tomorrow

Bangladesh Awami League will observe the 37th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq in a befitting manner tomorrow, reports BSS.

Wreaths will be placed at the *mazar* of the late leader on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League at 8 am.

Awami League general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has requested leaders and workers of the party to make the programme a success.

## DU Journalism Dept cultural week ends

The Cultural Week 1998-99 of Department of Mass Communication Journalism ended yesterday at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) auditorium of the Dhaka University.

The programme, was held to welcome the freshers and bid farewell to outgoing students of the department.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the university distributed the prizes among winners in the annual cultural and games competition, as the chief guest.

He also gave away the 'Habibullah Bahar Memorial Award' to Nadir Zameed and Novera Dipeta, who secured First Class First in the Honours examinations in last two academic sessions.

Dr Sitara Parveen, Chairperson of the department announced a new award 'Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia Memorial Scholarship' to three students each year for outstanding academic results.

Presiding over the programme, she said, "It has already been passed by the DU Syndicate and will be implemented from this year."

Pro-VC Prof Md Sahadat Ali, Dr Kazi Sahidullah, dean of Arts Faculty and Selina Habibullah were present as the special guests while teachers and students of the department attended the programme.

The programme was followed by a cultural function.

## CARH seminar at DU today

A seminar on "Reading R K Narayan Postcolonially" will be held at the Lecture Theatre on the Dhaka University campus today afternoon.

Prof Faqur Alam will present the keynote speech while Prof Syed Mansurul Islam and Prof Kaiser Md Hamidul Haq will also discuss on the topic.

Organised by the Centre for Advance Research in the Humanities (CARH), the programme will be presided over by its president Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman.

## BCL rally on DU campus today

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) student wing of ruling party, announced that it will again bring out procession and organise a rally on the Dhaka University campus today in protest of a violent incident allegedly carried out by the activists of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday.

The BCL has already brought out a procession and held a rally on the DU campus yesterday noon.

At the rally, BCL leaders said that the opposition alliance is violating democracy and creating anarchy across the country in the name of democratic rights.

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One two-storied house built on one bigha of land located in Gulshan (House # 22, Road # 56, Block NWD, Gulshan) to be rented for 20 months (up to 31-12-2000). Further extension of contract on negotiation may be considered in due course. The house can be inspected and Mr A K Biswas may be contacted over phone: 9883812, 9887373 and 883056. Preference to be given for office. D-231

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**Tender Invitation Notice**  
No. 195/1998-99

Tenders in sealed envelopes in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 on item rate basis are invited from the special first class, first class and 2nd class contractors enlisted with the Public Works Directorate for electrical/mechanical work who have the valid ABC/BC categories of contractorship and supervisory licences issued by the Bangladesh Electrical Licensing Board, Dhaka and registration certificate from Value Added Tax Department and TIN certificate for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received till 23.1.1406 Bangla/6.5.99 at 12:00 Noon in the tender box kept at the offices of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/E/M Workshop Division/Timber Workshop Division; Dhaka, Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka and will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).

Tender form, schedule of items, terms and conditions and rules and regulations etc can be purchased till 22.1.1406 Bangla/ 5.5.99 on payment of Taka 425/- only in cash (non-refundable) during office hours from the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, Dhaka Public Works E/M Workshop and Timber Workshop Division, Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka. Contractor himself or his representative authorised by him can purchase the tender form by producing necessary papers including the registration book.

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